

A SPEECH BY H.E HON. JOHN OBIERO NYAGARAMA, GOVERNOR-COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NYAMIRA WHEN HE JOINED THE PEOPLE OF CZECH REPUBLIC ON THEIR IMPORTANT OCCASION THAT MARKED THE NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION ON 29TH OCTOBER 2015.

Ladies and Gentlemen

As we mark this day, let us continue to remind ourselves of the deep friendship and cooperation between Kenya and Czech Republic.

Nyamira County, where I am Governor knows this too well. Indeed, we will be forever grateful and proud to be associated with the brotherly Government of The Czech Republic for their support and partnership in bridging some of the health resource gaps we face in Nyamira County.

The Government of the Czech Republic through the ADRA-Czech Republic Organization has over the last ten (10) years supported the upgrade of the model Itibo SDA Health Centre in Nyamira County.

The facility has a functional and fully equipped outpatient department, minor-theatre, inpatient wards, delivery room, maternity wards and dental unit.

On top of that, Czech Republic has constructed a new in-patient service block which also houses the main operation theatre and the Intensive Care Unit department and equipping is currently underway.

This extremely important project has seen tens of highly trained and experienced medical experts from the Czech Republic come to Nyamira each year to offer specialized clinical services.

Czech Republic and my Government have initiated a pilot programme of extending the services offered at Itibo Hospital to the Nyamira County Referral Hospital.

We are excited and looking forward to the success of this project. Together with ADRA-Czech Organization, my Government is also exploring opportunities in delivery of used but functional medical equipment and devices to Nyamira County health facilities.

We are also seeking a further partnership in student-exchange programmes and specialized training for our medical personnel.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The health sector is so far the most devolved function. On average 40% - 60% of county workers are in the health sector. The Constitution of Kenya 2010 assigns to the County Governments the function of delivering quality, affordable and accessible health services and the management of all health facilities excluding the national referral hospitals. Despite this humongous responsibility, counties are struggling to secure the health of their people under extremely limited financial circumstances amongst a myriad of other challenges.

Despite these, tremendous progress has been made towards the improvement of health care delivery in the counties. On a quick glance around the counties, new health facilities are being constructed, unfinished ones are being completed and run-down blocks are being rehabilitated. Elaborate and working county medical referral services have improved outcomes of medical emergencies, dialysis and complex imaging services are now within reach and the cost of travelling to far-flung urban centres is now history. More staff have been recruited to bridge the critical health worker: population ratio persistent previously.

Towards this end, I assure the people of The Czech Republic that my Government is willing, committed and ready to strengthen this cause and warmly welcome more Czech health entities to Nyamira.

Ladies and Gentlemen....

During Ambassador PAVEL REZAC visit to my county, we discussed a number of issues that are of great importance.

We welcome investors, donors and the Czech Republic Government to Nyamira County which has fertile opportunities in the Agricultural sector, business, education, ICT and tourism.

Agriculture remains to be the backbone of my county's economy. Modern technology and methods used in the Agricultural sector are key in unlocking the huge potential my county has. We therefore welcome an extended partnership in this area.

Indeed, from the vast lands of Mandera to the fishing villages of Homa Bay, from the original beaches of Kwale to the highlands of Nyamira and from the Lake

Basin hub of Kisumu to the coffee farms of Kiambu, success stories are being built each day and ordinary Kenyans are for sure realizing the aspirations for which they so overwhelmingly celebrated upon the birth of a new Kenya during the promulgation of the constitution in August 27th 2010.

As I Conclude,

We as Governors recognize that we still have a long way to go in ensuring the tenets of the Constitution as espoused in Article 43 are progressively realized. But we remain committed and focused in achieving the dreams of our forefathers.

We hope for a more and deeper partnership between the Czech Republic and the County Governments in achieving some of these dreams. On behalf of the people of Nyamira County, May I take this opportunity to wish you a happy National Day.