

SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY GOVERNOR JOHN NYAGARAMA DURING THE DISTRIBUTION OF TEXT BOOKS TO SELECT SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN NYAMIRA COUNTY ON JANUARY 10, 2018

Ministry of Education officials present,

Officials from the Kenya Literature Bureau,

The Leader of Majority, Nyamira County,

The Area MCA, Manga Ward,

County Officials,

Students and members of the public,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am honoured to join you the Kenya Literature Bureau Board members, Ministry of Education officials and other education stakeholders in witnessing the distribution of text books to select schools in Nyamira County.

This initiative which I join in support of the national government's commitment to provide free secondary education through the provision of learning and instructional materials will ultimately lead to the improvement of learning outcomes across our schools countrywide.

That is why today marks an important milestone in the transformative education reforms for our nation. As a County government, we do applaud the Ministry of Education for this initiative.

This initiative starts with the distribution of books to Form One Students of Nyambaria Boys National School, Sironga National School and Tombe Secondary School, who are reporting to school for the first time.

As a County Government, education is one of many areas of focus. As a Governor, everywhere I go, I do remind our people to take their children to schools. When you educate a child, you set your homestead on a journey away from poverty.

Although education largely remains a national government function, as a County Government we have continued to support the education of our children. In my

first term in office, we issued bursaries worth over Sh100 million to thousands of learners from needy families.

I wish to announce that we will expand the Nyamira County Education Bursary Scheme so as to reach more needy families.

To the students gathered here today, both the county and national government continue to invest in your education because soon you will become our innovators, creators, academicians, doctors, lawyers, engineers, social workers, teachers and etc.

I do applaud the academic performance of our schools both in the 2017 KCSE and KCPE. Primary Schools like Tonga Omonori, Eronge Adventist and St. Andrews Kaagwa made us proud as a County in their KCPE performance.

I also wish to congratulate Nyambaria National School, Sironga National School, Gekomoni and Nyakemincha Secondary Schools for their exemplary academic performance in the 2017 KCSE results.

I also congratulate the school management of Tombe Girls through whose effort eight students qualified to join university in the 2017 KCSE results.

However, the performance of our schools remains worrying. We are not doing enough to send more students to universities. I challenge all the education stakeholders to come together with the aim of finding a winning formula in boosting the academic performance of our students.

Good performance in education calls for all of us to work together.

I am happy that the new school principals posted to schools in Nyamira County just to mention a few, Madam Rose Waswa the new Principal of Sironga Girls and Boaz Owino who has taken over as the head of Nyambaria National School have smoothly reported to office. I urge all of you to offer them support.

As a County Government, we will continue to support education reforms.

As you might be aware, the County Government of Nyamira has employed many teachers to various positions. We truly remain a partner in furthering the development of teachers.

To the Kenya Literature Bureau and other publishers, we look forward to partnering with you in improving the education standards in our county. We also hope that in the future you can donate books to our county library.

Lastly, it's my sincere hope the academic performance in both KCSE and KCPE examination results for our schools in Nyamira County will improve this year.

So as to help in creating a more conducive learning environment for the students of Tombe Girls Secondary Schools, I will donate two water tanks to the institution to help them in dealing with water shortage problems.

I leave you with the words of Nelson Mandela "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Thank You.