

**STATE OF THE COUNTY AND ADDRESS BY H.E. JACK RANGUMA, GOVERNOR, KISUMU COUNTY, ON 9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2016 AT THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY**

**Honourable Deputy Governor,  
Honourable Madam Deputy Speaker,  
Honourable Majority and Minority Leader,  
Chair-Persons of Various House Committees,  
Honourable MCAs,  
Invited Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen**

Good Afternoon!

I'm greatly honoured today as we gather to mark our key milestones, nearly three years after the advent of devolution. I would like to begin by thanking you Madam Deputy Speaker, and all our County Legislators for hosting this important session of our calendar. In the same breath, I also appreciate the presence of my colleagues in government thank all of you who accorded this day its merit of importance and spared your time to congregate with us. I warmly welcome you all.

At the outset, allow me to recognize our gallant soldiers who recently shed their blood in Somalia as they protected our beloved country from acts of terrorism. On behalf of a grateful nation, I thank them for their service and dedication. Let us now rise and take a moment of silence in honour of the heroes who lost their lives in the line of duty.

Thank you.

**Madam Deputy Speaker**, as I have always stated in the past, devolution is the best thing that ever happened to this country. More than ever before, the government is now responsible and closer to the governed; decision-making is participatory; and economic and social development in the whole country is being balanced. I thank the gallant fighters of the second liberation, and the framers of Kenya's Constitution 2010, which embraces in detail the people's participation through the devolution of power; respect for ethnic and

regional diversity and communal rights, including the right of communities to organise and participate in cultural activities and the expression of their identities.

There is no doubt that over the last two years, the County Government has made notable strides aimed at propelling Kisumu to the highest level of development given the minimal resources. It is, therefore, my pleasure to share with you this afternoon the key milestones, as we also focus on the future.

Just in a nutshell, many of you will aver that the devolved system of governance has unlocked great potentials and presented a lifetime opportunity to the people of Kenya, including Kisumu County. However, devolution is being fought by many including the National Government, the National Assembly, and surprisingly, the Senate whose single responsibility is to protect it. In different ways, honorable members, we have also become enemies of devolution.

**Therefore, Honourable Members**, we cannot afford to rest on our laurels even as we enjoy the fruits of devolution. It is not lost on us that there are enemies of devolution who are working day and night to scuttle the system. It all began with the assassination of Dr Odhiambo Mbai, Chair of the Devolution Committee during the Constitutional Review Process. Still, the naysayers are hell bent on frustrating equitable sharing of our country's resources and continue to misinform the public that so much wastage is going on in counties, and that devolution is not working and should be abolished. To them, we say "you cannot stop an idea whose time has come". Despite numerous appeals, the National Government continues to delay disbursement of funds to counties, thereby slackening development activities.

Though facing a myriad challenges, devolution represents a major transformation of the state and undoubtedly, in course of time, society. It is beginning to reverse the oppressive system of control and authority established by the colonial powers and perpetuated by successive regimes. Attempts have been made to further perpetuate

this control by deploying inefficient financial controls through certain components of IFMIS.

**Madam Deputy Speaker**, I have been clear from day one that my vision was, and continues to be, to make Kisumu an even better place to live, work and raise a family. This is also the vision for ODM Party – better vision for all. Just as our parents struggled to provide a better life for us, my team and I are intent on providing a better County for the next generation. I want our children, and our grandchildren, to desire to call Kisumu their home. But this doesn't come easy. It calls for hard work, reform and the ability to identify challenges and present bold solutions. I count on you, honourable members to help us achieve this dream.

We are addressing this objective by fostering a strong economy that creates jobs, and providing a safe County with a financially secure government, delivering efficient services. I'm proud to report that we have made significant progress in each area, not by throwing money at the problem but rather by launching innovative out- of- the box solutions, working with partners, and by involving citizens in advancing problem -solving solutions.

We have set a high bar in all sectors, strategies and initiatives to achieve them. Some of our marquee initiatives confirm that we can achieve all if we work together. They include food security, revamping of tourism and trade, promoting a suitable environment for industries to relocate, promoting art culture and talent, promoting education and health as important social pillars. However, we recognize that there are critical enablers that will make our county successful; they include security, energy and IT to mention but a few.

**Honourable Members**, the law demands accountability from the County Government and leaders, and therefore it is important to share some of our achievements and challenges.

## **Security**

The foundation of our quality of life is safety. I made this a priority and I am proud to announce that through collaboration with the

National Government's security agencies, the crime rate in Kisumu has now gone down. You all remember that at one time it threatened to spiral out of control but now, it is at the lowest. I commend the brave, dedicated, and well trained men and women of the National Police Service Commission for their tireless efforts to combat crime. Special recognition goes to our QRT for their success in apprehending dangerous criminals. We recognize that security is an important determinant in securing investments. The challenge still exists in negative behavior of our people, but indeed getting better.

In September last Year, the murder cases were plus 2 up, robbery cases were also plus 2 up, and kidnapping were also plus 2 up. Most of the other crimes were plus 10 up. As from January 10<sup>th</sup> to date, however, major crimes are down to zero, and only assault and burglary still continue. The street and flood lighting projects has played a significant role in transforming the security situation in the city and its environs. There is still need to cover the entire county with lighting, particularly the areas around the lake, where smuggling and narcotics vices run unabated. The good news is that our lake front development project has taken off. We are partnering with UN HABITAT to transform the lakefront into a beautiful tourist city. We have also undertaken to build a police post in Kibigori to boost security and thereby reduce the tribal conflicts along the border. Moreover, we are improving lighting in the border areas to augment other security measures we are undertaking to curb cattle rustling along the borders.

### **Food Security, Livestock and Fisheries**

**Honourable Members**, Kisumu County has the potential to produce sufficient food for her projected population of 1,073,066. The county has 149,983 farm families engaged in production of crops, livestock and fish. Production figures of major agricultural enterprises are still below the demand; however, there is deliberate effort, by the agricultural sector to improve output and productivity of products through introduction of new programmes and projects, including maize, sorghum, rice, beans, cassava and sweet potatoes. And also dairy products including milk, eggs, mutton, honey, chevron, poultry, meat, fish and several horticultural crops.

The role of agriculture in sustaining people's livelihoods cannot be overstated. Taking cognizance of this, we are aggressively involved in promoting sustainable land use, environmental conservation and climate change through soil conservation works in catchments of Oroba in Muhoroni, Wang'ang'a in Nyando, Katuk Odenyo in Nyakach and Got Nyabondo in Kisumu East.

My Government has also increased agricultural productivity and output through: extension services to more than 35,510 farmers in the County, organizing for aerial sprays in the rice schemes, continued livestock disease surveillance and surveillance of fishing grounds, as well as launching agriculture sector development and support projects.

Besides, we have been engaged in the promotion of market access and product development through meat inspection in the County's abattoirs, quality assurance of Lake Victoria fish stocks and licensing of traders.

My government has introduced and distributed rain fed rice seed variety to farmers besides initiating dairy cow and goat improvement projects in Central Seme and North West Kisumu, thereby increasing milk production and earnings for farmers, as well as invested in irrigation systems in East kano/Wawidhi.

In addition, we have acquired tractors that are being used in the mechanization of agriculture. This increased access to tractors has enhanced better land preparation, consequently increasing crop yields. My government is committed to increased investment in mechanization and has undertaken to increase the number of tractors to be stationed in each sub county to improve access.

My government in collaboration with partners is also promoting several projects including tissue culture bananas, yellow passions, poultry and dairy value chains, alongside rabbits and bee – keeping and other emerging crops.

## **Commerce, Tourism & Heritage**

**Honourable Members**, in order to boost Kisumu's economy, we have constructed markets and shades for traders in the region, ensuring that business is transacted in an orderly environment, with traders being shielded from the harsh weather extremes.

**Honourable Members**, through this honourable Assembly, the department has successfully enacted the following legislations:

1. Kisumu County Trade Fund Act, 2015
2. Kisumu County Trade and Markets Act 2015

In our quest to promote small-scale businesses in the region, small – scale traders drawn from the seven sub- counties, have been issued with loans. The Economic Stimulus Markets of Tamu, Katito, Awasi, Dago and Holo were handed over to their various local market committees for use by traders. Various markets in Kisumu Central & Milimani Market are currently being upgraded.

As a County that remains proud of its heritage, we have engaged in the promotion of cultural heritage by spearheading the revival of cultural heritage through exposure, training and facilitation. Together with Siaya, Homabay and Migori, Kisumu hosted a very successful cultural event that will be hallmark of our county's talent display. This event will be rotated in the four counties.

In another development, we signed an MoU with the Kenyatta International Convention Center (KICC) for the promotion of MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, Exhibition/Events) tourism on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2015. MICE tourism is about economic development and promotes professional and business development as well as empowering communities in terms of economic enhancement and exposure. The memorandum is expected to benefit the county through construction of a Convention Centre and promoting more meetings and conferences in Kisumu. Though the National government progresses are slow, we believe that MICE will pick up to become one of the largest employers of the youth.

Besides, through the annual Miss Tourism contests that have been organized, the crowned beauty has been the County's tourism ambassador, presenting and promoting the County's tourism agenda at various platforms.

## **Industrialization, Energy & Enterprise Development**

Kisumu County has lost hitherto vibrant industries, just because of politico-economic marginalization that resulted in massive unemployment and environmental turmoil arising from negative youth behavior.

As a County Government, we are committed to creating a conducive environment for businesses to relocate or come to Kisumu to compete globally through innovative policies, vibrant technology driven, liberalized and competitive trade and industrial sector that significantly contributes to economic growth & employment opportunities.

To promote enterprise development, we purchased coolers for Asat & Kaloka fishing co-operative societies and established a Jua Kali artisan Centre at Kowiyo market in Kisumu West Sub-County. And in order to enhance security and move the County towards a 24-hour economy, we have installed and commissioned high mast flood lights at Kisumu city, Huma, Riat, Kombewa, Orongo, Daraja Mbili, Akado, Korowe, Rabuor, Ahero and Tamu markets, enabling traders to extend their operational hours and in turn enhancing the economic status of the County.

As is, we have also commenced the Mining Inventory/GIS mapping for Kisumu County which will help identify potential new mineral deposits in the County. With regards to solar lamps, we have launched Operation "Nyangile out," a project that is in partnership with GIZ/Endev that will enhance the health & economic wellbeing of communities by facilitating equitable & sustainable access to solar lamps, reduce instances of respiratory diseases and improve the education status in rural households.

On electrification, we have done this to Andingo Rongo, Cheptuyet and Jaber dispensaries, which will enable these dispensaries store vital vaccines & attend to emergencies brought forward, no matter the time of the day. We have also successfully completed the electrification of Rae Rice mill, which will enable rice farmers to mill their paddy rice and enhance food security.

The county, together with KCA University, has also initiated an entrepreneurial training programme that is intended to train at least 7000 youth employers. The selection process has began; currently 400 have been selected in four sub counties but the exercise continues this semester.

### **Education, Youth, Sports & Culture**

Honourable Members, todate the county has secured funding for the construction of primary and secondary schools, under the KUP programme and the German Government for the construction of fully functional schools totaling fifteen (15). In addition, a total of 50 classrooms and Youth Polytechnics have been constructed with funds from the County Government of Kisumu. We have also constructed workshops at Kusa, Kigoche, Nyang'oma, and Alara Youth polytechnics. Currently, the construction of libraries and laboratories is on-going in various schools and youth polytechnics throughout the County.

Honourable Members have witnessed the impact of the continuing bursaries and scholarships programme that has enabled the county to support needy children and families. I want to count on your support for this programme as we seek to expand its reach.

Honourable Members, the County Government has also launched a recovery center for Gender Based Violence at Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Referral & Training Hospital. Further, we have launched a child protection unit at the Central Police Station. We have also initiated a disability-mainstreaming program in the County.

As regards to culture, the county has spearheaded the first phase of nomination of Practices associated with Kit Mikayi to the UNESCO



list of intangible cultural heritage in urgent need of safeguarding. In addition to this, we have initiated a mapping of cultural sites and products in Kisumu County including Luanda Magere, among others. The first phase of this programme has been completed, and a profile of the same produced.

To support talent development, the construction of an auditorium at the Kisumu Cultural Centre in Kanyakwar, at a cost of Kshs. 10million, is complete and the auditorium has been furnished.

We take pride in our youth as the future leaders of this country and continue to sensitise them on enterprise development, taking advantage of 30% AGPO and strategizing for devolved functions. We also continue to identify talent among the youth and developing them for economic gain. In this regard, my government last year partnered with KCA University's Centre for Entrepreneurship and Leadership, and the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, to launch an Entrepreneurship Mentorship Programme, which will benefit over 7000 youth and women. The on-going programme is aimed at accelerating economic empowerment and enterprise development through capacity building in entrepreneurship activities and the promotion of agribusiness.

As regards sports, we have refurbished the Kisumu Moi Stadium to international Standards and currently the facility is being used to promote sports and develop talent. We have also offered financial support to various sporting clubs particularly in football, scouts clubs and the disabled. The County is working on a continuous talent search through sports activities and other areas of talent.

## **Health & Promotion of Health Services**

**Madam Deputy Speaker,** Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the Indian independence struggle, once said, "It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver." As a County Government, health remains our top priority for we believe that it is through the provision of effective health services that we shall have a healthy workforce to spearhead the attainment of sustainable development goals.

Consequently, our main strategy in this sector is to strengthen the health facilities outside Kisumu, at Ahero, Pap Onditi, Muhoroni, Chulaimbo, Kombewa, Migosi, Lumumba, etc. to achieve the gains made in health. Already Ahero sub-district Hospital and Muhoroni have in place theatres to cater for casualties, and plans are underway to do so in Kombewa, Pap-Onditi, and Chulaimbo.

Taking cognizance of our shoestring budget and skills gap in this crucial sector, we have prudently fostered public private partnerships that will go a long way in reversing poor health indicators that currently dog the County.

It is against this background that we wish to record our appreciation to the US Agency for International Development (USAID) for their recent donation of Sh 20Million worth of medical supplies to be delivered to all public health facilities within the County. We are equally grateful to DANIDA, General Electric, KCB among others, for the support in health delivery systems. On its part, the County Government distributed linens and blankets to all the hospitals with in-patient services within the County. Besides USAID, we are equally grateful to the Japanese Government, which has generously supported us in the areas of maternal and neo-natal healthcare.

As a County that is keen on deploying cutting edge enterprise solutions, we are currently training over 50 County Records & Information Officers on health information systems. This is a precursor to the impending digitisation of health records across the sector.

In our quest to decongest Kisumu County Hospital and Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital, we are actualizing the operations of other Health Centers by stocking them with drugs and allocating funds to cater for the communities living around these areas.

It is also noteworthy that Sub-County health facilities have been upgraded to reduce maternal mortalities. Some of the upgraded

facilities are Olasi, Nyang'ande, Manywanda, Gita and Masogo. Drugs are being supplied regularly and medical personnel deployed to these facilities in line with our community strategy for health. Significant outcomes have been reported.

Other notable milestones in the health sector at a glance include:

- Purchase of 8 ambulances, launching and operationalization in all the seven sub counties. We hope to add more to this number this year and operationalize their efficiency through IT.
- Successful launch of the Beyond Zero campaign in the seven sub counties, where about 10,000 residents have received treatment so far. We have also provided shoes to schools. These are continuing programmes.
- Improved hospital deliveries and fully immunized children raised to 70% and 76% respectively in 2015 from 65% and 69% in the year 2013.
- Budgetary increment for health products from 88 million in 2013/2014 to 170 million in 2014/2015.
- Improvement of health infrastructure, including:
  - Construction and opening of 5 new maternity units, latest being Ramula Health Centre.
  - Completion of 8 bed ICU at JOOTRH with support from General Electric and the Council of Governors.
  - Completion of comprehensive care centre and Kombewa Hospital
  - The county has purchased maternal health equipment worth 21 million to support newly established facilities.
  - Distribution of maternal health equipment worth 10 million including infant resuscitators to all sub counties with support from development partners.
- Installation of IT equipment to enable them keep electronic medical records as well as perform electronic billing has been done to 15 health facilities.
- The employment of 320 assorted health personnel including clinical officers, nurses, pharmaceutical technologists and laboratory technologists who were distributed equitably among the 7 sub counties.
- Training of 200 health workers in sign language

- There is an undergoing process to recruit 300 more health workers.
- Promotion of 700 health workers from 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016 and Redesignation letters ready for collection. Honourable Members, you know why we have never had health workers go on strike! We are continuously engaging as we seek to improve their working conditions.

## **Infrastructure**

**Honourable Members,** due to the role of transport and infrastructure as a key enabler to economic development, the County invested significantly on the opening of new roads and improvement of the existing road network. A total of 575 km of roads has been constructed in all the seven sub-counties. Other ongoing works include roads, sewerage, drainage and floodlights.

**Madam Speaker,** it is not lost on us that water is life. To ensure that residents have access to safe and clean water, we have commissioned major water points scattered in various parts of the County from Muhoroni to Nyakach. Some of the water points are solar powered and will provide for a constant supply of water to residents who previously had a hard time sourcing for water.

The extension of the water pipeline in Nyakach, Sigoti, Usoma, Ang'ogo, Rakwaro, Kibigori, Olembo and other parts of the County has ensured that clean and safe water is brought closer to households in the said areas. Further, we have successfully drilled bore holes in Lela, Nanga, Bolo, Angoro, Nyangande, Oriwore, Korwenje and Kamwigambo. We have also completed the Spring Protection of Kajwang & Kambola Springs and the de-silting of Othombe Alogo Pala dam. We have identified the need for additional boreholes and water reticulation in Olasi, Awasi, and Kisumu North which have started in earnest.

In conjunction with the National Government through Lake Victoria Water Services Board, we have mobilized water tanks and distributed them to areas mostly affected by drought. In addition, funds have also been availed for the construction of water pans for storage of

water, especially during flash floods at Ayier Gweng dam in Nyando, Obambo in Kisumu West and Muhoroni Dam.

And through partnership with Water and Sanitation Services Improvement Project Additional Financing (WASSIPAF), we have delivered 10m<sup>3</sup> Capacity Plastic Tanks to Senior Chief Onunga School for the deaf, Okore Ogonda Primary School, Ragen M.H. Primary School, Nyalenda Girls Primary School, Obumba Secondary, Nyamarimba Health Centre, Kamagore Primary School, Rae Kajulu Primary School, Ahero Sub District Hospital and Kanyagwal Dispensary.

**Honourable Members**, provision of clean water is mandatory in this day and age. My government is committed to provide clean water in all areas. To achieve this, the county has signed an MoU for a partnership with Living Waters International that will go a long way in meeting the needs of our people.

### **Special Programmes**

**Madam Speaker**, as you may know, this is a department that is very crucial to my government. Through it, we undertook projects with socio-economic development impact, mainly for:

- 1) Flood control
- 2) Reclamation of swampy land for food security and habitation

As a result we have de-silted streams in various sub-counties and continue to mitigate the effects of El Nino rains. Affected residents have been assisted with medicine and foodstuff. Besides, I am inspecting various road projects and will send out engineers to assess the impact of the El-Nino rains on the road network in various parts of Kisumu County, and seek support from the National Government to help in maintaining the road networks, bridges, and other developments affected by el-nino.

### **Communication Information & Technology**

**Honourable Members,** the County Government of Kisumu recognizes the key role played by Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I) in wealth creation and building human capital required for the transition to a knowledge driven economy. As a result, my Government is implementing the ST&I policy framework through the identification, acquisition, transfer, diffusion and application of relevant ST&I knowledge in all sectors of the economy.

For sustainable growth and poverty reduction to take place in African countries specifically in Kenya and more so in Kenyan counties, it is essential that a coherent, dynamic and domestically driven capital accumulation, intermediation and computerization process take root.

As a County Government, we have implemented various ICT related projects aimed at enhancing service delivery, improving accountability and ensuring business continuity. Just to mention but a few, we have automated revenue collection. All unstructured revenue streams have already been automated in Phase 1. Phase 2, which will see the automation of structured revenue streams is currently underway. All sub Counties are also included in this development.

My Government has also increased the bandwidth capacity from 5 to 30Mbps. This will ensure multi users environment for various county integrated systems. We have also deployed a Virtual Private Network (VPN), between Huduma Centre and City Hall, to decentralize pay points from City Hall. We have also completed the development of our website [www.kisumu.go.ke](http://www.kisumu.go.ke). This website is extendable to the County Assembly.

The County Government has also facilitated the installation of IFMIS, E-Procurement Internet Banking, LAIFOMS, E-Revenue System, PPD and Inventory Management System to ensure PFM, efficient payroll system and controlled inventory system.

We have also set aside funding to connect all sub county headquarters to the county headquarters in terms of remote accessibility and internet provision. And to enable centralized information connectivity and sharing, my Government is keen to install structured LAN cabling. This is ongoing, with 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> floors of the Prosperity House already connected.

These are necessary building blocks to launching free Wi-Fi connectivity within the Kisumu metropolis, which I reported to you last time.

**Madam Speaker,** the future outlook of Kisumu is even brighter. Late last year, I signed an agreement with UN-Habitat, which is set to elevate Kisumu city to global standards. The agreement—to be implemented under a project dubbed Lake Front Development Initiative—entails a partnership between UN-Habitat and the County Government, to source for funds for the re-designing of infrastructure and other development initiatives along the shores of Lake Victoria. I am upbeat that the redesigning of the lakefront will lead to faster development of Kisumu, with the creation of more job opportunities. The county is already working closely with UN HABITAT to achieve this goal.

### **Kisumu City**

A key milestone at the City, has been the automation of construction permits. Through our Transform Kisumu agenda, we have committed to reduce the cost of doing business, with a view to attracting both local and foreign investors to Kisumu. The automation of construction permits will increase our efficiency, transparency and service delivery in the County. It will also increase public safety as the system will increase compliance with good practices and standards by property developers. This project was co-funded by the World Bank and the County Government of Kisumu, with the cost implication to the County being Kshs. 5Million.

The ongoing implementation of KUP projects is now moving fast, and today's mission visit confirms this position. However, the process of

obtaining letters of no objection are sometimes very slow because of the need to secure expert opinion.

**Honourable Members**, my address would be incomplete if I did not mention the appointment of our global roving ambassadors from the private sector, who I brought on board to put Kisumu's socio-economic agenda on the global scene and sell the County as a preferred investment destination. These men and women of honour are high achievers and champions in their respective industries with global recognition. More importantly, however, they have agreed to dedicate their time to serve on *pro-bono* basis towards transforming and changing Kisumu to be on the map of Human Index Development Quotient. When you think investment, quality of life and the place to live in Africa, the place to be is Kisumu. I am happy to report that through our Economic Advisory Ambassador, we have already secured a grant of 1.5million Euros to spearhead local economic development in consultation with the people of Kisumu.

**In conclusion**, Honourable Members, I have no iota of doubt that the last Financial Year has been a very busy and productive one. When you leave here later this evening, I hope you will walk out with the feeling that you are living in a well-managed County and that the monies you pay in the form of taxes are carefully invested and scrupulously monitored throughout the year.

Again, I'd be less than honest if I didn't give credit where credit is due: to my great staff and Cabinet and to you Honourable Members, who made this possible.

**Madam Deputy Speaker**, I am aware that my Government is highly dependent on this respectable House for support, especially in streamlining the legislative agenda in order to facilitate development. Today we have enacted more than 15 pieces of legislation in addition to those originating from the Assembly. And now that the Council of Governors has agreed on the standardization of certain legislation, the assembly will have a fairly busy calendar this season. I can assure you that we shall continue to nurture this spirit of collaboration.



Honourable Members, I had directed the Treasury to grant full autonomy to the Assembly, to which they have complied through the regular monthly allocations. The Assembly is therefore expected to operate smoothly without any hitch. I therefore don't see any reason why members should not be inducted properly because there is enough money for training. Members need to enjoy all privileges including bench marking with international institutions. However, I plead with members to always remember the challenges the exchequer releases that we continue to face.

**Madam Speaker**, I have always reiterated at various fora that my Government remains committed to zero tolerance to corruption. Consequently, I have warned and continue to warn any of my Executives and officers who may be engaged in corruption that their time is up. Those caught with their fingers in the till will carry their own crosses. Similarly, my Government will not do business with cowboy or corrupt contractors.

God bless you all,  
God bless Kisumu County,  
God bless Kenya.

I thank you.

