

GOVERNORS GENDER ROUND TABLE REPORT

Title: Enabling Gender Responsive Devolution through quarterly
Governor's Gender Round Tables-GGRT's

11TH NOVEMBER 2015, KERICHO TOWN



ORGANIZED BY

COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS, KERICHO COUNTY GOVERNMENT & NATIONAL WOMEN
STEERING COMMITTEE (NWSC)

Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND CONCEPT	4
INTRODUCTION	5
ABOUT NWSC	5
THE CONCEPT	Error! Bookmark not defined.
ANTICIPATED KEY RESULTS	7
THE LAUNCH OF THE GOVERNORS GENDER ROUND TABLE (GGRT)	8
PART I: PRELIMINARIES.....	8
PARTICIPANTS TO THE LAUNCH.....	12
APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY TO GGRT	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Reflect Approach	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Guiding principles of Reflect Approach	Error! Bookmark not defined.
The essence of Reflect Approach and GGRT	Error! Bookmark not defined.
ABOUT HOST- KERICHO COUNTY (PROFILE).....	12
PRESENTATIONS BY KEY INVITED GUESTS	12
TESTIMONIALS BEST PRACTICES, SUCCESS STORIES FROM KERICHO COUNTY.....	14
SPPEECHES BY DEVELOPMENT ARTNERS.....	16
COUNTY ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVES (MCAS).....	18
SPOUSES OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT	18
COUNTY COMMISSIONER-KERICHO COUNTY	19
DEPUTY GOVERNOR-KERICHO COUNTY	20
HOST GOVERNOR: H.E. Prof. Paul Kiprono Chepkwony	21
INVITED DEPUTY GOVERNORS.....	21
KEY NOTE ADDRESS BY H.E. Prof. P. Chepkwony	25
VOTE OF THANKS.....	27
CLOSING PRAYERS.....	27
LUNCH SERVED AND DEPARTURE.....	27

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We at the National Women Steering Committee (NWSC), would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the Council of Governors; we would also like to thank the Chair of the Gender Committee in the Council of Governors His Excellency Professor Paul Chepkwony, the Governor of Kericho for hosting the lunch of the Governors Gender Round Table (GGRT) in his County of Kericho. We would also like to appreciate the team from the County Government of Kericho under the able leadership of Ms. Hellen Chepkowny, the CEC Gender who worked tirelessly to make the launch a resounding success. We would also like to acknowledge and appreciate the CEO of the Secretariat of the Council of Governor's Mrs. Jaqueline Mogeni and her team for their continued support. We appreciate also the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) who have been our ally and partner in women empowerment programs and we will continue to work with them to realise the constitutional principles on equality and gender parity.

We greatly appreciate the support from our partners Action Aid International (Kenya) for availing the resources towards this initiative. Their continued technical and financial support has immensely empowered women of Kenya in the political and economic spheres. We thank all security officers who ensured the day was peaceful and uninterrupted by securing the town of Kericho.

This initiative would not have been possible without the Civil Society Organizations that make up the membership of NWSC. Their valuable contributions, collaboration and solidarity in our continuing efforts to build a vibrant women's movement that amplifies the voice of women on critical issues affecting women, youth and PWDs in society cannot be overstated.

For the many volunteers, ushers, caterers, service providers, and those who contributed in one way or the other, we duly appreciate you. Thank you all.

Media will always be our strategic partners in our advocacy work, we appreciate the coverage you gave us, The Kenya Red Cross, who stood by for any emergency situation; we duly acknowledge your important role in society and being a good partner during the Launch.

Our Master of Ceremony Mr.Charles Kirui did a wonderful work, thank you.

Above all else we thank Yahweh for His continued favour and mercies in all our endeavours without whom none of this would be possible.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND CONCEPT

The promulgation of Kenya's Constitution 2010 was a decisive moment in the country's democratic development. It lays out sweeping changes to Kenya's processes and structures for decision-making in an effort to foster inclusivity and citizen participation in governance processes. Among the most notable changes resulting from the 2010 Constitution is the shift from highly centralized decision-making to a devolved system based on the division of the country into 47 counties. County governments are responsible for functions that impact people's daily lives, including community health services, basic and tertiary education services, and county public works including water supply and sanitation services.

Devolution aims at enhancing the participation of citizens in planning and strengthening through various means, the voice of citizens in influencing service delivery providers. This however demands that part of political and economic decision making is transferred to the people through locally established units. While in theory this is taking place, in practice, the engagement of women, youth and persons with disabilities-PWD's has been wanting.

Despite the Constitution of Kenya 2010 guaranteeing the equality of men and women in the Bill of Rights and in several provisions outlawing discrimination on any basis including gender or cultural, in practice, the issue of gender equality has not been resolved satisfactorily, and there still remains the need for active intervention to ensure the meaningful participation of women, youth and persons with disabilities in public participation, leadership and decision making. Furthermore the lack of consolidated, organized and structured platforms for them to collectively identify their issues and interact with duty bearers to push their agenda has caused their concerns to be relegated to the periphery of development within the society.

The approach and methodology

It is against this backdrop that the National Women's Steering Committee-NWSC saw the need to establish platforms that brings together women, youth and PWD's networks in an organized manner to dialogue and collaborate with the leadership at the County level. The platforms are a collaboration between the NWSC and the Council of Governors-CoG that will address issues of critical concern to women, youths and PWD's in their respective Counties in an all-inclusive manner towards establishing gender responsive public service delivery through the formation of quarterly Governors Gender Round Tables (GGRTs).

Reflect method

The NWSC will use the "Reflect Action Circles" approach to ensure effective citizen participation in the Governor's Gender Round-Tables. Reflect is an approach to learning

and social change that works to create a space where people feel comfortable to meet and discuss issues relevant to them, their lives and their community. They learn how to identify the issues, prioritize them and engage duty bearers so as to negotiate for their issues. Using simple participatory methodologies to help the groups understand their issues in the community better and define the change they would like to see in terms of basic service provision e.g education, health, water etc; reflect circles aim to improve the meaningful participation of people in decisions that affect their lives, through strengthening their ability to communicate.

Characteristics of reflect action circles include People power and voice, Political process, Democratic space/public participation grounded on existing knowledge, linking reflections and action. It also incorporates the use of participatory tools e.g social map and problem tree to create power awareness and self-organization

The Issues

The NWSC addresses issues related to Governance, Human rights including Women leadership, Economic empowerment, GBV and Peace among others. We advocate for responsive policy change.

The launch, Participation and representation at the Launch

The Launch of the Governors Gender Round Table (GGRT) was held on 11th November 2015 at Kericho Teachers training grounds in Kericho County, graced by H.E. Prof. Paul Chepkwony, The Governor of Kericho and Chair of the Governors Gender Committee. It brought together over 1, 700 participants. It brought together elected leaders, County Government Officials, Civil Society Organizations, Citizens Men, women, Youth, people with disability and Business community.

The meeting brought together over 2,000 participants drawn from different parts of the country and the county of Kericho including representation from The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC), Development partners including Action Aid International (Kenya), CIDA-Canada and the Council of Governors

INTRODUCTION

ABOUT NWSC

The National Women's Steering Committee (NWSC) is a consortium of over 50 organizations, networks and affiliate groups spread across all 47 counties committed to addressing women's concerns and advocating for gender equity and equality in the political, economic and social sphere. The NWSC brings the organizations from the county to national level together onto a platform united to bring voice, value and strength to our work in governance, empowerment and development. The NWSC platform is hosted and coordinated by CRAWN Trust. The Vision of the NWSC is a Kenya

whose institutional structures and processes protects, promotes and secures the rights and opportunities of women and communities. The Mission of NWSC is to build a strong, sustainable and vibrant women's movement that advocates and promotes women's equality and human rights.

Over the years the NWSC has worked towards building a unified voice on issues of critical concern to women and communities while also advocating for policy and legislative frameworks that promote gender equity and women's advancement. Some of the key achievements include but are not limited to securing and safeguarding women's gains in the Constitution of Kenya 2010, promoting women's participation in leadership and decision making, advocacy and implementation strategies for the establishment of gender responsive budgeting tools and programming around women's economic and political empowerment. The NWSC has established a good and successful working relationship with the Council of Governors. This collaboration saw us host the Devolution and Women Conference held in Naivasha at Sawela on 8th -9th May 2014. The main thrust of the Conference was safeguarding devolution and gender gains in the Constitution of Kenya 2010. This collaboration has birthed the Governor's Gender Round-Tables which will further strengthen the relationship.

The need for the Governors Gender Round Table (GGRT) Forums were informed by a move by a section of members emphasising that Devolution aimed at enhancing the participation of citizens in planning and strengthening their voices in influencing service delivery by duty bearers. This however demands that part of political and economic decision making processes be transferred to the people through locally established mechanisms. While in theory this is taking place, in practice, the engagement of women, youth and persons with disabilities-PWD's has been limited.

The challenge then was that despite the Constitution of Kenya 2010 guaranteeing the equality of men and women in the Bill of Rights and in several provisions outlawing discrimination on any basis including gender or cultural, in practice, the issue of gender equality has not been resolved satisfactorily, and there still remains the need for active intervention to ensure the meaningful participation of women, youth and persons with disabilities in public participation, leadership and decision making. Furthermore the lack of consolidated, organized and structured platforms for them to collectively identify their issues and interact with duty bearers to push their agenda has caused their concerns to be relegated to the periphery of development within the society.

Subsequent meetings and dialogue on devolution and gender has therefore enhanced the need to establish platforms in 47 counties that brings together women, youth and PWD's networks in an organized manner to dialogue and collaborate with the leadership at the County level. The platforms will be collaboration between the NWSC and the Council of Governors-CoG and will seek to address issues of critical concern to women, youths and PWD's in their respective Counties in an all-inclusive manner towards establishing gender responsive public service delivery through the formation of quarterly **Governors Gender Round Tables (GGRTs).**

The approach and its activities will further assist communities and citizens in driving issue-based engagement with duty bearers where the citizenry is better able to understand their roles and responsibilities as well as the roles and responsibilities of the duty bearers. The willingness of the duty bearers, through the Council of Governors to actively engage with this process provides a perfect opportunity to forge an amicable working relationship that will better enhance citizen engagement with the leadership.

The key outcomes of the Governor's Gender Round Table are to:

- Enhance women and youth participation in decision making at County levels
- Promote gender responsive leadership and development
- Create organized and operational platforms for women and youths to dialogue with the County leadership
- Have a more organized platform that ensures uniformity of message around gender issues
- Address Economic exclusion of women
- Civic education platforms targeting women
- Develop citizens responsibility, capacities and skills

The project Location(s): All the 47 Counties in Kenya

The key target groups: County governments (particularly the Governors, the County Executive Committees and the County Assemblies Members).

Project Beneficiaries: Women, youth, persons with disability and civil society groups

Project goal: A society founded on informed people, promoting inclusivity and participation of all

ANTICIPATED KEY RESULTS

Result area1: Organized and functional platforms for women youth and persons with disabilities at the county level pushing development agenda

Result area 2: Enhanced participation of women, youth and persons with disability in County Governments decision making processes

Result area 3: Gender Responsive policies and development realized by County Government

SUSTAINABILITY

This project has an in-built mechanism for ensuring sustainability. The project aims at establishing platforms and structures that are county level owned by the local communities and duty bearers in the Counties. The project will build the capacity of the network members on advocacy which will equip members with skills to effectively push their agenda. The participatory approach will be used throughout the implementation of the project; this ensures ownership of the project by primary beneficiaries. The approach also empowers participants with knowledge and skill which enables them to manage their affairs with very little outside interventions. The project activities have been designed to engage various groups of people; Women, youth, persons with disability and county leadership with representation from different geographical coverage which ensures inclusivity and ownership. NWSC will provide back-up support to the GGRTs Committees, who are themselves members of the network and the communities, so that they are able to work with the beneficiaries to strengthen them and help them become sustainable at the end of the project

THE LAUNCH OF THE GOVERNORS GENDER ROUND TABLE (GGRT)

PART I: PRELIMINARIES

1.1. Registration of participants (ushers, clerks) by Sub-county, officials

With over twenty clerks and forty ushers, the registration process was well organized. Each Sub-county had a separate desk; separate registration desks were set up for officials and other invited guests. Upon registration, each participant was given assortment of IEC materials, meal cards and a soft drink of their choice. The venue had several tents for registration, guest sitting, and separate meals for guests and other participants.



1.2. IEC materials and program

National Women Steering Committee jointly and in collaboration with The Governors developed Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials. The Materials included, high quality branded T-Shirts, scuffs, banners, Programs, among others that was distributed to every participant.



1.3. Activistas and Media

All media houses were invited to the launch to ensure coverage and highlighting of key issues and messages from the inaugural launch of the Governors Gender Round Table (GGRT). The role of Activistas was to use social media and other intranet and internet platforms to share messages from the site of the launch and create visibility, create awareness and amplify the voices of women on key gender agenda.

1.4. Red Cross

The Red Cross provided Ambulance Vehicles with seven (7) Paramedics on standby in case of any emergency.



1.5. Sign Language translation was provided during the proceedings



1.6. The Venue



The venue of the Launch was the football playground for Kericho Teachers Training College. The

ground could comfortably accommodate the anticipated two thousand (2,000) guests.

1.7. Security

All County and National command were present headed by Abdi Mukhtar and Mrs. Rose who is the County Police Commander and private security for the College patrolled and strategically ensured the venue was secure.

1.8. Entertainment



1.9. Media



PARTICIPANTS TO THE LAUNCH

The launch was attended with over 2000 participants. This was a great success. The Meeting was a mixed open public forum comprising of elected, nominated political, administrative leaders and general public. The launch was attended by youth, women, and people with disability, civil society groups, media, and business community and development partners.

ABOUT HOST- KERICHO COUNTY (PROFILE)

Kericho County played host to First ever (Inaugural) Governors Gender Round Table (GGRT). The Governor of Kericho, H.E. Prof. Chepkwony is the chair of Gender Committee among other committees of Governors. Kericho has six (6) sub-counties namely, Kipkelion West, Kipkelion East, Belgut, Ainamoi, Soin/ Sigowet, and Bureti constituencies. Kericho County has 30 Administrative Wards. Kericho is home of tea and hosts to multinational companies such as Williamson and Uniliver. Kericho has numerous indigenous companies trading in Tea products.

PRESENTATIONS

Daisy Amdany- Chair of National Women Steering Committee



Ms. Amdany started by thanking the Governor of Kericho for taking the first step to host the first ever such kind of Governors Gender Round Table, Daisy, in her remarks she noted that “Today is a key milestone – celebrating women, youth and people with disability. It marks a decisive efforts to ensure inclusion, participation of the marginalised into mainstream

development discourse.

The national Women Steering Committee has national networks that permit wider reach. Our objective is to amplify the women’s voices and create platforms for women engagement with duty bearers. Its core business is in four thematic areas namely: Trade and Economic Empowerment of women, youth and PWDs, Leadership development for elective representatives; that focuses on accountability and strengthening peoples voices in development, The third area is Agriculture and lastly fourth is Health.

She reiterated the need for citizen participation and making devolution work for the citizen.

She emphasised the fact that numerous planning meetings have taken place between development partners, NWSC and Council of Governors (CoG) to make this day successful.

By the leaders present adopting the GGRTs, it sets in motion an implementation mechanism that has a robust structure of engagement between citizens and duty bearers.

The approaches to engagement will involve:

- Bringing together local community members in meetings where they will first identify key challenges, ideas and priorities within their wards. The method of engagement at the meeting should be participatory in nature using reflect approach.
- Secondly, the members will negotiate on a best mechanism to address the issues identified and bring them to the attention of the County Assembly (CA) and the executive i.e. Governors in an effort to influence policy formulation, planning and resource allocation.
- The community members will then develop best practices and show case their results and work
- Address the economic exclusion of women

Daisy applauded the Governors willingness to listen to Women, youth and people with disability and initiating the dialogue to make each county gender responsive under devolution. She noted that such leadership will realise the dreams and aspiration of the marginalised in society toward an inclusive and progressive gender agenda in the country.

Lastly, Daisy introduced members of the national steering Committee present and highlighted the works of NWSC and its core mandate and objectives.

She thanked all present and recognized the critical role played by Rose Ruto the NWSC point-person in the County who played a key role in mobilizing and organizing logistics on the ground.

She thanked the development partners present for their continued commitment on gender, governance and Devolution, without their support we in Kenya could not have achieved such significant milestones.

TESTIMONIALS BEST PRACTICES, SUCCESS STORIES FROM KERICHO COUNTY

Naomi Rono



Naomi is the chairlady of the Youth Bunge Sacco Kericho branch. The SACCO started in 2012 as a Pioneer lady in rift valley to lead a youthful SACCO. Initially the group used to meet every Saturday to make contributions. They learnt record keeping and put in place systems and structures for smooth operations. Through the support

of Yes Youth Can programme through USAID support the group got support for capitalization. The group further got trainings on getting products through environmental scan and youth financing products. This incubation and business modelling has worked for the group.

In 2013, the group disbursed first batch of loans to six (6) members worth Kenya shillings 185, 000 and using a multiplier of 3, the loan interest was pegged at 12% Pa. The initial challenges was managing the SACCO, thus acquiring managerial skills, entrepreneurial skills, capitalization and collaterals in the case of loans.

Some of the lessons learnt include:

- Developing the cooperative movement and entrepreneurship for women. This has seen the group give out 73 motorcycles known as “ boda boda” worth 7 million shillings to young persons to improve livelihoods,
- Through the UK based Youth Balloon Kenya program UK volunteers train in country entrepreneurs on business design, loan repayment models and good business idea development. This enhances skills, knowledge and technical know-how and transfer of much need capacity through skills.
- The SACCO has transformed mind sets toward Self-employment
- 19 million has been disbursed through the SACCO hence creating new opportunities and capitalization for small business entrepreneurs
- Women have demonstrated a 100% loan repayment (Zero default), a good success story on how women are not only good managers of resources but keen on developing from small to medium size business entities within the county.

Rev. Joyce Tonui



Reverend Joyce Tonui is the First women to head Africa Gospel Church in south rift valley region. She was ordained senior pastor and has served a congregation of over 2,500 per every Sunday for the last five years. She is also a Director at Kabianga Tea Factory representing community, she is the chair Chepkoin Girls High school sitting

at the Board of Management (BOM), and she also sits on a Trust that gives scholarships to girls. Some of the challenges she has faced include the struggle for women to be ordained in religious institutions. Labelling of women and stereotyping is common with languages such as “Is there no man, that they can put in this big church”. Lastly culture that perceives women as children is discriminatory for women. She is nicknamed “Man of God”. One of the key lessons is that language is used to discredit or discourage aspiring women to leadership; women need to be steadfast and remain assertive in their quest for space and voice in society. A second lesson is derived from personal attitude, to remain humble and gentle, slowly learning the ropes of leadership as you get accepted in society for your abilities. It is necessary to get support of your family and friends, parents and spouses alike.

She has learnt never to cry in the boardroom, but rather remain resilient. In her accounts she avers that one better lesson is to share information with other women, encouraging them to soldier on, in this fashion women empowerment will take root. She reiterated that education is key for the empowerment of girl child. She confirmed that the County leadership is ready to mentor and help women, youth and disabled to become, to realise their dreams.

Becky Koskey (Right) and her fellow contractor



She is a road contractor. She has built the best road link in the county. She is a testimony that the fruits of devolution are nigh and ripe and can be felt both in urban and rural areas. She

is a beneficiary of the 30% preferential policy on public procurement. She emphasised that during such meetings all local languages should be used so that women who did not have an opportunity to go to school can understand and contribute to development debates. She affirmed that County Governments are today utilizing locally available skills in creating job. This has increased accountability through open tendering processes.

The benefits that have accrued under devolution to communities include:

- Opening up of roads that hitherto since independence were only paths and existed only on paper, yet transportation was hampered,
- Improved infrastructure including schools, hospitals have been developed,

Some of the challenges she has faced include:

- Challenges of adopting and integrating E-Procurement (IFMIS) system to business contracting
- Natural calamities such as bad weather
- Local politics in development
- Need for increased public participation in deciding on development priorities

In conclusion, Mrs Becky Koskey reiterated the need for open, transparent tendering processes to enhance accountability and fast tracking development.

1. Hellen Chelembo



Hellen is a small -scale businesswoman who sell groceries outside a known supermarket in Kericho. She lauds the support of the County administration for allowing her business without interferences. Despite her disability, she makes

30 kilometres to and from home to her place of business every day. Through the support of County Government, today her business has taken her children to school, her live has changed for better. She encourages other women in her position not to give up but seek support of the County Government and they will too succeed.

SPPEECHES BY DEVELOPMENT ARTNERS

1. NGEK



On behalf of the Commission and representing Chair madam Winfred Lichuma, Ms Tabitha read her speech. In sum, her speech highlighted the fact that NGEK is a constitutional commission established under an Act of Parliament. Its mandate allows her to partner with the Council of Governors (CoG)

2. Action Aid International (Kenya)



Pascaline Kangethe who is the Governance advisor to Action Aid made compelling case for women transformation through economic empowerment and participating in elective leadership. She reiterated their commitment to supporting initiatives

geared toward these goals. The partnership between NWSC, Action Aid and Council of Governors was a first step in the right direction toward full implementation of the Constitution and more so, on women's rights to inclusion, representation and participation in governance processes. She lauded the Governors for making devolution work for Kenyans.

CIDA



CIDA was represented by Patricia Munai who is the Gender Advisor to Cooperation Development Office in Nairobi. She reiterated the need for including women in development, leadership and entrepreneurship. Her Organization deeply supports women empowerment to realise

self- economic independence and they support education too. She thanked the five women deputy Governors for supporting women at the County level through table banking. CIDA will continue to support the initiatives by NWSC and CoGs to realise GGRT results.

COUNTY ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVES (MCAS)



This section was chaired by none other than the Chair of Women MCAs in Kericho Lilian Cheruiyot. She is an elected MCA for Leiten Ward. Her implementation committee plays an oversight role over the executive arm of the County Government. She started by saying that “This is the day that the Lord has made, A great day for County of Kericho and women of

Kenya. She noted that it was a congregation of all leaders in society gathering at Kericho Teachers Training grounds. She affirmed that it was a day for many rural women within Kericho County to learn from others and share experiences. She affirmed that she was elected not because she was a woman but because she was a leader. “ I was capable, I am proud to have been given an opportunity by the people of Leiten to lead a ward and represent then in the County Assembly of Kericho”.

The Kalenjin Community is very gender sensitive. In the past we have elected women to high positions of political power especially parliament. We encourage the community to continue setting the best practices in gender mainstreaming by electing more women. Women have the capacity to lead together with men. She thanked the Governor for his bold steps in implementing the constitution and making devolution work and deliver for women and youth. Lastly, she introduced her MCA colleagues present. In total six (6) women MCAs and twenty three (23) male MCAs introduced themselves and their respective wards their represent.

SPOUSES OF KERICHIO COUNTY MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT



The three spouses representing wives of MPs present were Mrs Limo, Mrs Rop and Mrs Kimei. They are leaders in their own right. They currently engage women at the sub-county level in table banking to uplift the economic welfare of women. At the launch they emphasised the need for inclusive processes and equity for all in society regardless of gender or sex. They emphasised the need for women to come together in organized groups such as SACCOs.

In Kipkelion East, table banking started three years ago and has moved from mere table banking to small scale business entrepreneurs transacting over 140 million shillings from over 6000 members.. The SACCO has over 4,500 members in over 280 groups. Kipkelion Rural SACCO trades in agribusiness planting graded passion fruits and this has helped them get income to take children to school. On some ideas to build on, they emphasised the need for women coming together to share ideas and exchange information.

They encouraged women to take up the culture of savings as little as Kenya shillings one hundred (100) a month.

The issue of Peace and conflict management was emphasised by the women leaders representing spouses of MPs. They averred that lack of peace hampers development. She encouraged more women to join SACCOs and enjoy the benefits of table banking.

On the other hand Mrs Limo emphasised the need for continued mentorship and even encouraged trainers to carry out trainings three times so that women can grasp the concepts. She lauded women in Kipkelion who wake up at 4 am in the morning to take their produce on the market using donkeys. She noted the role of 160 women groups in her constituency with over two thousand and seventy (2,070) members transacting 22 million shillings at present as a great achievement in the community.

Mrs Keter (spouse to the Senator) encouraged the value addition in the chain of products within the County to ensure women gained more profits.

Mrs Cecilia Rop (Kipkelion West) challenged women to step forward, support fellow women in business and jointly reap the fruits of devolution under the new constitution.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER-KERICHO COUNTY



The County Commissioner, Mr. Abdul Muktar, who heads County Security Committee, coordinated by Mrs Rose for Regular, CID, KWS, Prisons and Administration police units.

The Administrator started by highlighting the fact that many of the concepts used in

development should be simplified for ease of understanding. There should be no confusion to say gender issues are women issues, they relate to both men and women in society. He noted that gender is about development and is about inclusion of men and women in development discourse.



The County Security committee meets at least twice a month with representatives from all the sub-counties. **Some of the challenges we are facing include:**

- Prevalence of Gender Based Violence
- Changing dynamics of security and changing scenarios including organized crimes, internal conflicts and international terrorism
- The need for public sensitization among communities on embracing Nyumba Kumi
- Understanding gender dynamics by all leaders for example child defilement and the need for dialogue to reduce stigma, find justice for the victims and how to prevent domestic violence
- Role of leaders in GBV mitigation and security, the challenge of cross county border conflicts and smuggling of bhang and other small crimes
- Perpetual vigilance by all citizens, it is not just the work of the police, but collaboration with the public is important in ensuring security for all,
- Corruption in public offices e.g. colluding with illegal brewers
- Lastly, he indicated to residents that the opening of Huduma centre in Kericho will increase service delivery and that soon the entire building housing the new Huduma centre will be connected to electricity.

DEPUTY GOVERNOR-KERICHO COUNTY



“Kericho is honoured to host and mark the first ever gender equality forum to launch Governors Gender Round Table (GGRT), Thank you all for turning up in large numbers”. We are willing and ready to collaborate with partners to enhance women’s empowerment both in leadership

and economic spheres. Participation is key in governance and development agenda of our counties.

The Testimonies here today are a good indicator of good success stories and best practices. In Kericho, 10 members of the County executive Committee are women, 2 are CEC. In the County Assembly we have 17 out of 47. We have chairs and vice chairs of several committees. Governance processes at the county are competitive and requires women leaders of high integrity.

Kericho has some of leading entrepreneurs including supermarkets, Chipseon maendeleo stores, heads of county administration has women represented and 52 % of the County employees are women with 48% being men. In education, 98% of all ECD teachers are women.

There is urgent need to foster and create linkages between the County Governments and stakeholders in strengthening public participation. Counties should continue showcasing successful and best practices. Counties should continue sharing knowledge and strategies that effectively steer development. We need to encourage involvement of PWD, Youth and Women. It is important to invest in skills that help women entrepreneurship and identify sustainable income generating activities. She thanked everyone for their support.

HOST GOVERNOR: H.E. Prof. Paul Kiprono Chepkwony



He started by greeting the participants in local vernacular twice as is the tradition of the community. He congratulated the organizers of the meeting and thanked all present for finding time to attending. He confirmed inviting other leaders among the First Lady, the Deputy President but due

to her disposition she could not manage to come and therefore send her apologies. In order of seniority he invited all deputy governors present to address the congregation.

INVITED DEPUTY GOVERNORS

- 1. H.E. Dorothy Ndit, Deputy Governor Embu and Secretary of the Deputy Governors of Kenya**



In her message, and drawing analogy from the Bible, she gave

the story of Mary Mother of Jesus and how Joseph doubted, with little believe and conviction. She summarised by saying that always women are faithful to a good cause. Women have something to bring to the table (decision making). She said that the crafters of the constitution were keen on ensuring that equity, inclusiveness and participation are key principles that will ensure Devolution delivers. Devolution is a good idea for Kenyans. It has transformed society. More development can be witnessed everywhere- it is working. We need to support devolution. In supporting devolution we shall overcome most challenges facing our communities today. We need to do what needs to be done and bring development to the people. Before, the debate on gender was about basic literacy. Today we are shifting toward economic empowerment for women.

2. H.E. Dorothy Chepkurui, Deputy Governor, Narok



In her message, she thanked H.E the Governor for chairing and presiding over the launch of the GGRT. She noted it is a critical step in implementing gender and devolution principles. She affirmed that, the roles of all First deputy Governors should and must make a difference in

business, trade, peace and representation. Reiterating President Obamas message to Kenyan leaders, she said it was important for all county governments to recognize the role, place and work of women and youth –their contribution adds value and meaning to life, they form the other half of the team. In her support of the initiative on GGRT, she affirmed that all the 47 County Governments are for the idea of GGRT. And therefore all are committed to this cause. She emphasised the need to debunk the myth that women are their own worst enemies, it's a lie. She further encouraged women to join table banking to uplift their lives, women are now minting money and realising economic independence, more and more women are taking up entrepreneurship projects. However, she noted that still the participation of women, youth and people with disability needs to be firmed up by County Governments so that no one is left behind. For this initiative to be sustainable, for devolution to work, a continued process of partnership and collaboration with all stakeholders must be encouraged and practiced.

3. H.E. Hazel Kitana Deputy Governor, Mombasa



She stirred the crowd to sensational applauding by her style and perfect Swahili. She contends that, all Counties that have Women and deputies have clearly demonstrated maturity in democracy and have developed faster and are more effective in service

delivery than those without. All these counties have prudent management systems of their resources, because women are good planners, they care about society first. Women leaders are not interested in power games, they are interested in development agenda of their communities.

She noted that 2016 will mark another heightened environment characterised by political campaigns. "Today you do not see the male politicians here, supporting this cause, yet women are their biggest voting bloc, this time round we are waiting for them"

She introduced and acknowledged the leadership of Rose Ochingwa Muchuma, The County police Commander for Kericho, who has served through ranks for over 40 years. She is an outstanding leader in society.

She spoke of her County No. 001 Mombasa headed by H.E. Hassan Joho, and boasted that her county has three outstanding women deputies in Mombasa, Kwale and Taveta. She encouraged women to celebrate each other and collectively so in their achievements. She applauded her County as being the First in establishing and having representatives of PWDs, develop a charter. She affirmed that devolution has significantly improved infrastructure and physical facilities across the country and these efforts must continue.

4. H.E. Ruth Odinga , Deputy Governor, Kisumu and Chair of Deputy Governors of Kenya



As the chair of Kenya Network of Women Governors, she emphasised the need for Executive and County Assemblies to work together to ensure improved service delivery

to the people. She said H.E. Chepkwony was an exemplary leader, who has demonstrated the true spirit of gender equality and equity in his administration, his development record is above others. He has a deputy governor for a women, this is walking the talk!

In her County of Kisumu, she introduced Faridah Ahmed Salim as one of the beneficiary of devolution and gender principles in the constitution. She noted the commendable work of mentorship by the likes of Jane Godia and Daisy Amdany who through the women's movement have helped other women realise their dreams.

H.E. Ruth Odinga, reinforced the need for sound policy and enabling legal frameworks at the County level to be able to help our people. She noted that development agenda cannot be politicised, it know no political party and that is why confidently she know H.E Chepkwony will be re-elected Governor of Kericho come 2017. She thanked the host Governor in his efforts and leadership for taking the first step to host has a huge forum. These steps will go a long way in implementing core principles of devolution and gender equity.

She insisted that there are many best practices, and we need to replicate them, share them, because it's not about competition but creating learning platforms for information and knowledge transfer among communities. She said the nine (9) deputy governors are a role model for many aspiring women leaders and today's meeting in Kericho is a better learning platform on practical lessons in leadership strengthening and entrepreneurship development. We have many products, but we need to ensure value addition to get the best price, here we have tissue cultured bananas, and tomatoes and more interesting is that the beneficiaries of our Kisumu International airport are business people from Kericho who export sweet potatoes. Therefore, we need to foster regional partnerships among counties to form economic blocs. Further, we need to provide seed money as subsidies to our famers and business people. She referred to the Kericho model of "One ward, one product" as the most viable development model that other counties should emulate. In our development, our actions should speak about results Based management by County Governments as an approach to better service delivery.

She encouraged more women to vie for Governorship come 2017 in some counties where the women are not deputies whilst the current deputies should be encouraged to stay and vie on later dates like 2022. There is need to debunk the propagandas around women leadership and allow more women to seek elective positions at all levels of government. We should continually replicate best practices form the counties and showcase our best. We must all endeavour to sustain peace in the country because women are the most affected in situations of conflict.

She affirmed her commitment and those deputies present that at the county level, implementing the constitution on gender, women empowerment will continue to support good and progressive ideas and interventions such as this on GGRT. In her vision, soon through devolution Kenya will be ripe for a female President.

Lastly, she emphasised the need for inter-agency collaboration and lauded the current arrangements between Civil Society under NWSC, Council of Governors and development partners. This is the way to develop our communities. She took the opportunity to invite H.E. Susan, Deputy Governor for Kericho to invite the key speaker.

KEY NOTE ADDRESS BY H.E. Prof. P. Chepkwony



“I thank you all for participating in this powerful, meeting. I total support the idea of GGRT. I personally commit to listen and work with all stakeholders to make it work. First let me share a few facts with you”:

- The Garden of Eden is right here in Kericho County, in Kipkelion at Fort Tenon where once

upon a live lived Kenyapithecus,

- The cooperative movement started over 100 years ago in Kericho town demonstrating the most organized table banking is in Kericho
- Here is where you find the most democratic community in Kenya, whereupon no ceremony can start without the participation of women, women must make up the quorum, be represented and their issues are taken seriously,
- The true meaning of the name “Chepkwony” is a man who once was a women and reincarnated into a man
- Kericho is like USA of Kenya. It is cosmopolitan, rich in diversity of its cultures and people resident in the county, It has the most high number of multinational companies,
- It is the second home of the temple after India is in Kericho in Africa. It is home for Christians, Muslims, Hindus for over 100 years,
- At independence Kenya Government was broke, Kericho supported the national government, and even lend money to Zanzibar,
- On average Kericho County contributes 5Billion USD to the GDP of Kenya (1.3 Billion USD) and is bigger than Mombassa which has a port,

- Insecurity in Kericho is at zero, no single shot has been fired by police officers since the 2003 general elections, harmony continues to prevail

A few weeks ago we were in a meeting and a few meters away a cow gave birth to twin calves, they were named in my name and that of my deputy respectively since they were male (1st) and female (2nd). Our purpose is to make a commitment to support the cause for women in society.

As a professor teaching, history dictates that no man has ascended to power without the support of women. The welfare of women is a priority for a country to progress. The Governors commit to defend and comply with the Constitution. Some statistics will give a good pointer

- Representation in the county is at 50-50%
- Chief Executives County (CECs) have 60% women and 40% men
- All employees of the County public Service Board have 43% men and 57% female
- For financial year 2014/2015 -39% of traders we finance are women, youth and people with disability got 535 million shillings, we have created 500 millionaires (gross) in the past one year
- Next month 2,500 youth will be employed at the ICT centre working for American Companies in the Public Business Outsourcing (PBO) and 40% will be women and 60% men. This is the route taken by India, providing free Wifi slotted for the launch on 11/12 2015 (and all are invited)
- We have given out 100 million in bursaries constituting 46% boys and 44% girls totalling to 20,405 students,
- We have disbursed 100 million to 3000 business people 1% of whom are women, 36% men and 32% both youth and PWDs
- Key milestones in infrastructure development indicates that 1,300 Kilometres of new roads have been constructed opening up the county (equivalent to distance from Kigali to Mombasa)
- 330 ECD classrooms have been constructed
- On 24th December 2015, we will commission an ICU and HDU with 6 beds for emergencies
- The national average of deliveries is at 56% of hospital deliveries, Kericho County has 79% and we aspire to reach 100% by 2017
- We have a cervical cancer diagnosis and treatment at all District hospitals
- HIV/AIDS, Kericho County Government is partnering with National Government through the First Lady Margaret Kenyatta initiative “Beyond Zero Campaign” we have acquired Ambulances, One Machine and infection has gone down 3.4%
- The First Lady of Kericho is working with partners in free maternity and below five years immunization and vaccination campaigns

- Kericho Prisons has lowest inmates and most criminals are from outside Kericho County

The greatest security in a leader is having women have trust and faith in you. As we negotiate, as we dialogue, I will listen, I commit to my full support on GGRT, We in the County leadership will foster cross county collaboration on devolution and gender Equity. It has been a good experience hosting you, listening to the leaders and stakeholders. I invite you in the upcoming forums in the Kericho County namely, Youth Expo bringing together 6000 participants on 24th December 2015. I now declare, The Governors Gender Round Table Open and operational.

VOTE OF THANKS

Mrs. Rose Ruto of the NWSC Kericho County gave the vote of thanks



CLOSING PRAYERS

Pastor Kizito closed the meeting with a word of prayer.



LUNCH SERVED AND DEPARTURE



PHOTO GALLERY











