



COUNTY GOVERNMENT NYANDARUA

OFFICE OF H.E THE GOVERNOR



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**SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY FRANCIS KIMEMIA, E.G.H, C.B.S,  
GOVERNOR NYANDARUA COUNTY, DURING CONFERMENT OF THE  
MUNICIPAL CHARTER AND INAUGURATION OF OL'KALOU  
MUNICIPAL BOARD HELD IN OL'KALOU TOWN ON 20<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST  
2019**

**Her Excellency the Deputy Governor, Cecilia Mbuthia;**

**Speaker of the County Assembly of Nyandarua, Hon. Ndegwa  
Wahome;**

**County Executive Committee Members present;**

**Members of the County Assembly present;**

**Distinguished Guests;**

**Ladies and Gentlemen:**

It is a great honor for me to preside over this historic inauguration of Ol'Kalou Municipal Charter and the Municipal Board.

This is a great milestone in the transformation of our urban areas and the continuing upgrading of towns and trading centers across the County.

Urban areas, all over the World, play a key role as engines and centers of economic development, innovation, transport and communication, and as reservoirs of culture and community identity.

Ol'Kalou town, as the Headquarters of Nyandarua County, will require focused infrastructure development and high-level service delivery not only to support the urban structures but also attract investments which create and open employment opportunities.

The transformation of this town into a Municipality is the culmination of major works and developments which have changed the face and value of this town.

For example, in the last two years, we have witnessed major policy and infrastructural developments in some of the following areas:

- 1) Works on the Ol'Kalou Stadium have progressed on well and the dais, the running track, perimeter wall and other amenities are at various levels of completion; two weeks ago, I inspected the ongoing developments in the stadium and I can report that they will be completed in the near future, granting our Municipality another feather of pride;
- 2) Development of Walkways: For many years, citizens seeking services and visiting the Government offices, including my office, have had to bear the risk of walking along the main road. Some, sadly, have lost their lives and others maimed in accidents which would have been avoided. Under the Kenya Urban Support Programme – the Urban Development Programme – major works on our walkways, including

to my office, the County Assembly, and the Government Square (The High Court, the Land Registry and upcoming government offices - are at advanced stages of completion;

- 3) These walkways, besides providing safety to pedestrians, will also provide business opportunities for our micro-traders who will, in partnership with the County Government, erect modern stalls and candy shops, especially within the town. Importantly, a census of the kiosks in our town has been done and a phased transition to the modern kiosks/ candy shops is set to start soon as the new market stalls and the candy shops are completed;
- 4) Under the Urban Recreation Project, already works on 120 solar-powered street lighting project, across the municipality, has commenced; this will enhance security and promote the 24-hour economy whose net effect will be creation of jobs, increase in County revenue and creation of wealth for our citizens. In addition, the earmarked recreation park within the town, and the arboretum, will be equipped with street furniture and public health utilities. Also, two kilometers of landscaping and beautification into and out along the highway leading to Ol'Kalou will be done to give our town a new face while at the same time promoting environmental conservation;
- 5) Further, in order to keep our new Municipality clean and attractive for investments, we have designed and commenced major works on storm water drainage system, erection of waste bins and already purchased a 15 metric-tonnes refuse truck with four 20-cubic meters

- waste bins strategically placed to serve the residents of the Municipality; this is in addition to the existing refuse trucks available;
- 6) In partnership with the Rift Valley Water Services Board, the Ol'Kalou Town Sewerage Project, costing over Ksh. 400 million, is at the tendering stage and will greatly improve our storm drainage and sewerage systems. Works on the project are expected to commence by December this year;
  - 7) In June, the County purchased a modern fire-fighting truck which is part of the wider strategy on disaster management and preparedness. As the Governor, it is my assurance that the Government will purchase more equipment to ensure every part of our County is covered and disaster-prepared. Accordingly, it is the responsibility of this new Municipal Board to move with speed and ensure that a Fire Station and a functional fire department is established without any further delay;
  - 8) Last month, after a thorough exercise of vetting and verification of documents, the County Government was able to unfreeze close to 1600 plots hence opening them for immediate development. This plots' cleaning exercise is ongoing and is aimed at ensuring the perennial problem of land ownership wrangles, in Ol'Kalou, which hinder development in the town, is solved once and for all. Towards this end, I call for support of all actors involved, including those holding on illegally acquired plots and documents to surrender them and allow the Municipal to fast-track this new phase of transforming the County headquarters. Already, my Government is working with

the National Land Commission to ensure that all unscrupulous land deals and transactions are stopped and perpetrators punished to protect innocent buyers;

- 9) Under the Kenya Urban Support Programme, the County Government is already constructing a modern wholesale market, near the Ol'Kalou bus park, which will create a platform for more traders and make the town a trading hub for both farmers, vendors and grocers from the County and beyond;
- 10) As part of finding a lasting solution to the constant problem of the county-owned abattoir, and in order to promote sustainable private enterprise, the department of lands has invited the Association of Butchers to come together and apply for a parcel of land for construction of a modern abattoir which will enable expansion, unlike what is available in the existing one at Ol'Kalou town;
- 11) A new cemetery has been earmarked at Mahinga area and plans are underway to put up a chapel, public toilets and other social amenities for users. Consequently, this will see the old cemetery closed and the new one operationalized before the end of this year;
- 12) The Youth department has already procured and delivered equipment for the proposed digital recording studio which are awaiting installation. I call upon the department to fast-track this process and ensure that our new Municipality also becomes a capital for music, culture, performing arts and promotion of youth talents;
- 13) Finally, the potatoes processing plant is finally taking off with our strategic partners having completed the Environment and Social

Impact Assessment and detailed designs are also complete. This project will not only make our Municipality an upcoming industrial hub, but a center of investments and jobs creation;

14) The County government has enforced the requirement that all building designs are compliant with the needs and user-friendly to Persons Living with Disabilities;

15) Further, as part of incentives to investors putting up buildings in the County, approval fees have been reduced on all buildings with floors exceeding three and above.

Importantly, I also wish to announce that the UN Habitat is formulating an integrated sustainable urban development programme for Ol'Kalou Municipality at a cost of \$418,940 (equivalent to Ksh. 42 million).

**Ladies and Gentlemen:**

Ol'Kalou Municipality alone cannot support the new urban agenda in the County. Other towns must be supported and developed to be on the same development trajectory.

In Engineer town, within this financial year, a modern bus park and market will be developed; I call upon the department of urban development to move with speed and acquire the land meant for this expansion and town development.

Closer in Magumu, and surrounding areas within the 10 Kms radius, together with the UN Habitat, the new Commercial capital of Nyandarua is under planning. As evidence of this, two weeks ago, the UN Habitat team completed a socio-economic survey and are now moving into the next

phase of land use, development control policies and zoning regulations to actualize the dream of this strategically placed town – only a few minutes to Nairobi and along the critical regional transport artery – Nairobi/ Malaba highway - connecting Kenya to the Eastern Africa region.

In Mairo Inya, plans to construct a modern market are ongoing and an alternative land is being sought. I urge the respective Departments of Land and Trade to move with speed and ensure this is finalized without any further delay.

I also note with appreciation that Njabini town will benefit from a sewerage project under the Athi Water Company, who are the managers of the Sasumua Dam. This project, when completed, will also see the town enjoy massive upgrading in infrastructure development and attendant utilities.

The Department of Lands, Housing and Physical planning should move with speed and ensure that all urban re-planning and development regulations are enforced to ensure sustainable development in every designated urban center within the County.

**Ladies and Gentlemen:**

It is therefore my call on the new Board to take up these projects and show leadership by ensuring their speedy implementation.

The expectations of the public are of a Board which will create and promote a conducive business environment for investments. The function of this Board, and its success, will be measured by how much it is able to transform the lives of those who depend on it; the small traders requiring public utilities; the big players looking for expansion; the other County and

National departments and agencies requiring service support to fully discharge their mandate and all actors who have a stake on the development of this town. I have no doubt in your capacity to deliver.

In conclusion, I urge our people to turn out in large numbers for the National Census 2019. Resources allocation are dependent on population, and we cannot afford to disadvantage ourselves by taking this exercise casually and be swayed by politics which only seek to deny us what is rightfully ours; come home and register, for this is your land and it is in our collective interest to get a fair share of what belongs to us.

It is therefore my honor to sign and hand over a copy of the gazetted Ol'Kalou Municipal Charter and inaugurate the Municipal Board.

God bless you and God Bless Nyandarua.