



**COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NYANDARUA**



**OFFICE OF H.E. THE GOVERNOR**

Email: [governor@nyandarua.go.ke](mailto:governor@nyandarua.go.ke)

---

**SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY GOVERNOR FRANCIS KIMEMIA, E.G.H., C.B.S., ON THE OCCASION OF COUNTY YOUTH DAY (PRESENTATION OF YOUTH EMPOWERMENT EQUIPMENT AND TOOLS, ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES OF INCORPORATION TO YOUTH GROUPS, TRAINING OF BODA BODAS, ISSUANCE OF SPORTS EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS TO TEAMS, ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES TO REFEREEES, KICKING OFF GOVERNOR'S TOURNAMENT AND FLAGGING OF KICOSCA TEAM)**

**The Deputy Governor,**

**The Speaker of the County Assembly;**

**County Executive Committee Members;**

**Hon.Members of the County Assembly;**

**Representatives of Youth Groups;**

**Distinguished Guests;**

## **Ladies and Gentlemen:**

One year ago, 202 youth groups benefited from our County-funded Youth Empowerment Programme. This programme is one of our transformative flagship projects aimed at empowering a critical constituency in the County, at close to 70% of our total population.

Today, again, we gather to empower another lot of beneficiaries drawing from the successes and lessons of the last disbursement.

In the Financial Year 2018-2019, and from the lessons learnt, 127 groups presented successful proposals from a total of 250 that participated. These groups add to the growing list of young persons whose lives have been changed to become active players in the County and National economy, and are now wealth creators.

Successful cases from the last batch of beneficiaries inspire my Government to further foreground and anchor the youth component, and agenda, in every department and in every County intervention.

The story of Aberdare Youth Group in Njabini-Kiburu is a constant reminder of the untapped potential of our youth. Gifted with a greenhouse from where they started growing Capsicum (Hoho), the group has made sales of over Ksh. 300,000 and diversified their investment by purchasing a public address system with 10 speakers. This group, of young men and women, is a testimony of the success of this empowerment programme.

Across in Mirangine, another group – Mathakwa, equally sold tomatoes worth over Ksh. 500,000 from their greenhouse.

Closer in Kanjuiri ward, Gathundia Youth Group, empowered with a knitting machine, has been able to access procurement for pullovers from nearby schools and used the proceeds to purchase a commercial plot, and has currently diversified to potatoes growing in a 5-acre piece of land they have leased.

Nothing gives more satisfaction than these stories of hope and transformation. Real stories of real people, our brothers and sisters, who hitherto didn't have much hope but are today employers and movers of the economy, in their own small and big ways.

Undoubtedly, these few examples, including the successful cases in Kaka Self-Help Group which has sold over 5000 chicks from its incubator, Kahuruko Youth Group with sales of KSh. 400,000 from tomatoes, and many others dotting our villages and town centers, are the constant reminder that our youth are the drivers and future of our economy; all they require is support from those entrusted with leadership positions.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen:**

Today we open another page of hope and successful transformation of lives of our youth – our future.

The 127 groups benefitting today draw from the experience of their predecessors. From their proposals, informed by market demands, the groups will benefit with tools and equipment are as follows:

- a) 6 Green Houses
- b) 13 Gliding Choppers
- c) 12 Vibrators
- d) 26 Incubators
- e) 5 Public Address
- f) 9 Knitting Machines
- g) 7 Welding machines
- h) 4 Brisket Machines
- i) 8 Car-wash machines
- j) 8 Salon and Barber Equipment
- k) 2 Embroidery equipment
- l) 5 Concrete-mixer
- m) 2 Ballast crusher
- n) 8 Posho mills
- o) 1 Tuk Tuk
- p) 16 Barber chairs
- q) 1 Stitching nettle machine
- r) 1 Gas welding
- s) 4 Water Pumps and Tank
- t) 1 Catering equipment
- u) 1 Multipurpose Woodwork Machine
- v) 1 Glass Cutting Machine

Further to the above, in the last Financial Year, we managed to register about 100 Youth-owned companies to enable them comply for government procurement opportunities under Access to Government Procurement Opportunity (AGPO).

Towards this, I call upon our financial sector players to support these groups - owned by our children, brothers and sisters - access affordable credit to compete for available business opportunities.

At the County Government, I have put in place mechanisms to enable the youth access the Trade Fund at affordable terms and with less bureaucratic red tapes normally common in the commercial sector. I call upon the relevant departments to fast-track this programme to enable our youth benefit from these resources.

**Ladies and Gentlemen:**

As contained in my Manifesto, and anchored in the CIDP 2, youth are critical actors in governance and the economy of a region, and Nyandarua is no exception.

However, limited resources may not allow the government to do everything on its own. As promised, my Government has partnered with other external actors to ensure that our youth benefit from both local and national opportunities.

Already, together with the GIZ, we have trained 100 youth groups on dairy farming and we are lobbying to have this programme escalate to even more youth groups.

Again, together with the United States International University – Africa, we have jointly incorporated several youth groups and persons under the GAME (Global Agribusiness Management and Entrepreneurship center) programme which has created a perfect platform for agribusiness learning and market linkages. Tens of young people have been selected for the pilot programme which will be escalated to the whole county.

Still, with the same university, we are working together to train our youth under the Kenya Youth Employment Opportunities Programme (KYEOP). These are skills intended to equip our youth with critical digital skills for the national and global market. Only last month, we launched the County Ajira programme which again seeks to create digital employment for our youth.

On Internship Programme, I am pleased to inform you that my governments policy proposals have been agreed on with the County Assembly and that the roll-out of the programme will commence in September, 2019. Under this programme, 200 interns comprising of degree, diploma and certificate holders will be absorbed in various county departments for a period of one year.

All these interventions, targeted at the most critical stratum of our population, are part of our County's Economic Transformation agenda which has the youth as principal actors and agents of transformation.

Therefore, as each one of you depart from here today, with these tools and equipment, let them be launching pads of great success and replication by those close to you. I call upon you to be the true ambassadors of this transformative programme in our county.

**Ladies and Gentlemen:**

Beyond these empowerment interventions through provision of equipment and registration of youth-owned companies, it gives me great pleasure to join you, the youth of our county, in promotion of sports and talents.

Today, I am proud to issue 25 teams with uniforms and 300 balls as part of sports promotion and talents' development. Sports, as we have seen, is another platform of youth empowerment which has developed into a multi-billion-dollar industry. Use these kits provided to further your skills and harness your talents. Further, in collaboration with football Kenya federation (FKF) the county government has trained 77 referees who we issue with certificates here today. These referees are part of a team of 100 who trained.

For a long time now, one of the most rapidly growing sectors is the boda boda. Thousands of our, mostly, young men and women depend on it for a living.

However, it has become a leading killer and a major cause of accidents on our roads. This sad state of affairs is occasioned by incompetence of the riders and many lack the very basic training, let alone legal document.

To mitigate against these incidences, which leave the victims vulnerable to both law and physical health, my government will train 200 riders to acquire licenses and riding skills critical for their trade. These riders will be drawn from each ward, with each getting eight candidates.

Finally, I wish to hand over the county flag to our team representing us in this year's KICOSCA games in Kericho. Walk there in pride as the trend setters in development, in accountability and this year's winner of the World Bank ranking as the best county. This, as your team leader, is our collective victory. I wish you the very best in this sporting festival. Back here, preparations for Kenya Inter-County Youth Sports Association (KYISA) kicks-off with the launch of the governor's tournament which will be played across all wards. Again, my very best wishes to the players and may sportsmanship prevail as you compete.

I wish you the very best and success in the different ventures you embark on from today.

Thank you and God bless you; God bless Nyandarua and God Bless Kenya.