

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

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COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NYAMIRA OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



**HIS EXCELLENCY HON AMOS NYARIBO'S INAUGURAL SPEECH
DURING THE SWEARING IN CEREMONY HELD ON DECEMBER 29,
2020.**

The Chairman, Council of Governors,

Your Excellencies Governors and Deputy Governors Present,

The County Commissioner,

Senior national government officials present,

Honourable Senators, MPs and MCAs,

The Speaker of the Nyamira County Assembly,

Members of the Judiciary, clergy and Fourth Estate,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- 1) First and foremost, I take this opportunity to thank God for granting us life and enabling us to hold this function.
- 2) I am humbled to stand before you as the Second Governor of our great County of Nyamira having taken the oath of office following the demise of our dear Governor, His Excellency John Obiero Nyagarama.
- 3) *Before I proceed, let us kindly stand and observe a minute of silence in honour of our late Governor, His Excellency John Obiero Nyagarama.....Thank you and May his soul rest in eternal peace.*
- 4) It's unfortunate that we are holding this ceremony in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic that has ruined lives of people and crumbled our economy. Kindly let us continue observing the Covid-19 health protocols.

Ladies and gentlemen,

- 5) As I take up the baton of leadership, I promise to serve all the people of Nyamira from the pineapple farmer in Ikonge, the business owner in Nyabite, the trader in Misambi, the vegetable seller in Omogonchoro, the teacher in Nyansiongo, the bodaboda rider in Keroka to the bricklayer in Sironga.
- 6) I will serve you equally without discrimination.
- 7) In the past eight years, the county government has made progress in various sectors. Some of our achievements include:
 - Improving services at the Nyamira County Referral Hospital by establishing a renal unit, new theatre, ICU, radiology unit with modern imaging equipment and an oxygen generating plant.
 - Construction of hundreds of ECDE centres.
 - Acquiring fire fighting and emergency response equipment.
 - Acquiring of ambulances which are located in all sub-counties.
 - Opening up of about 2,000 km of county feeder roads.
 - Disbursed over a half a billion shillings in bursary funds.
 - Improved several markets.
 - Erected hundreds of street lights.
- 8) Despite our progress, a lot remains to be done. My government will put more emphasis in the following areas;

a) Improving health services provision.

We will ensure adequate supply of drugs to our health facilities, strengthen automation of services and employ technology so as to ensure that drugs reach the intended recipients.

We are appealing to wananchi to assist in reporting issues affecting the health sector especially the selling of government drugs in private pharmacies.

b) Strengthening agriculture

Over 80 per cent of our people are involved in agriculture.

So as to improve productivity in the agriculture sector, my government will enhance extension services by deploying more agriculture extension officers and adopt soil testing measures so that farmers use the right fertilizer.

Since Nyamira County is milk deficiency, we will endeavor to improve milk production through enhancing the use of artificial insemination. This will enable us to get rid of local bulls in breeding.

We will continue to provide farmers with grants to support their activities and come up with value addition innovations for farm produce across the county.

c) Clean Water provision

We can't do farming and run other basic activities without having adequate water.

In this regard, my government will carry out several water projects including the drilling of boreholes, protection of water springs and boost water harvesting through supplying water tanks to institutions and vulnerable groups.

In addition, we will also run campaigns to encourage communities to embrace water harvesting.

d) Opening up of roads

Start immediately, we will embark on the murraming of all opened county feeder roads so as to allow more efficient transport for farm produce.

We are targeting grading, repairing and gravelling of county feeder roads through which each ward will benefit with about 30km of road works.

e) Devolving county government services

I will be devolving county government services to sub-counties so that services can be delivered more efficiently and closer to the people.

The devolving of county government services will be concluded in the first 100 days of my government.

f) Youth engagement and empowerment

Youth unemployment continues to be a great worry in this county.

So as to address youth unemployment, my government will initiate various programs aimed at youth engagement and empowerment through which they be trained in business and practical skills that are market- oriented.

These trainings will be done in the first 100 days of my government.

These efforts will help youth not to just look for white collar jobs but to also become self employed.

g) Support for vulnerable groups

So as to bridge the economic gap in society, we will employ various strategies in support of vulnerable groups like the disabled and widows as part of efforts to remove the cycle of poverty.

Ladies and gentlemen;

- 9) Alongside the key interventions, my government commit to the completion of county flagship projects which include the Nyamira County Headquarters, Manga Stadium and the Nyamira County Doctors Plaza, among others.
- 10) In the next few weeks, we will be launching the construction of an Agribusiness Industrial park at Sironga. The Agribusiness Industrial Park which will be a game changer not just for Nyamira County but also for the entire East African region will help in the enhancement of the value chain and value addition of agricultural produce. We are partnering with the national government in developing the Agribusiness Industrial park.
- 11) In order to support the education of our children, we will continue with the issuance of bursaries. The release of bursary funds to schools will commence immediately so as to avoid the inconvenience of learners.
- 12) To monitor service delivery, I will strengthen the Governor's Service Delivery Unit also known as the Results Office to monitor and report on ongoing county projects.
- 13) In order to improve the engagement between the county and members of the public, we will intensify public participation activities.
- 14) So as to improve service delivery, we will embark on the training of all staff from the lowest cadres to the seniormost as a way of boosting their morale and equipping them with the required skills so that they can effectively carry out their functions.

Ladies and gentlemen;

- 15) Even with the promise of reforms and initiating various development projects, we continue to face various challenges. I am proposing the following interventions in addressing the key challenges.

a) Low revenue collection

My government will aim to double revenue collection in a year through further applying technology in revenue collection and stopping pilferage of collected revenue.

b) Cost of procurement

The cost of procurement has continued to be high.

So as to address the high cost of procurement, we will endeavor to pay suppliers in time so that we save funds to support other more development initiatives.

c) Corruption

Corruption remains a big challenge not just in Nyamira but also in the country.

My government will employ strategies aimed at fighting corruption so as to make Nyamira a truly corruption free zone.

We will have zero tolerance to corruption.

d) Bloated wage bill

Nyamira County has a wage bill which is way above the required limit of 35 per cent of revenues. Our bloated wage bill is now almost at 60 per cent. This wage bill is not only irregular but also unsustainable.

To address this issue, my government will take appropriate measures aimed at reducing the wage bill to the required limit as provided in legislation.

Ladies and gentlemen,

- 16) I wish to call on all leaders in this county to rally behind me to improve the living standards of all our people across the county.
- 17) To our leadership from the Senator, Women Representative, MPs, and MCAs, I look forward to working closely with you. Kindly give us support for us to move forward.
- 18) We will also continue working with the national government so that we can enhance development in our county.
- 19) As a government, we will also continue to support the Building Bridges Initiative (BBI) which promises widespread amendments in our constitution.

Ladies and gentlemen,

- 20) I sincerely and most profoundly hope that we will forge forward as one people of one county and of one nation.
- 21) God Bless Kenya, God Bless Nyamira County.

I now wish you a Happy and Prosperous New Year 2021.

H.E Amos Nyaribo,

Governor, Nyamira County.