DEVOLUTION AT A GLANCE

HOST
The Council of Governors and the Ministry of Devolution and Planning

THEME
Appreciating and Strengthening Devolved Governance; Working Together to Realize the Objectives of Devolution

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BACKGROUND

The month of April has permanently been inscribed in the annals of Kenya's history books for being the month in which the country made the big shift to a devolved system of governance in accordance to the Kenya Constitution 2010. April 2015, thus, marks the second anniversary since the coming into effect of the devolved system of government in Kenya.

In effect, this is an opportune time to take stock of the milestones that have been achieved in entrenching devolution in line with the principles and practices of good and responsible governance. At the same time it is a good opportunity to examine and celebrate the role each and every Kenyan is playing in supporting devolution.

It is on this background that the Ministry of Devolution and Planning and the Council of Governors are set to hold the 2nd Annual Devolution Conference 2015. This year's conference will be under the theme of 'Appreciating and Strengthening Devolved Governance; Working Together to Realize the Objectives of Devolution'.

During the conference, participants shall interrogate how effective the devolution structures are in delivery of services, examine principles of accountability, take stock of available resources and discuss how they can be utilised in a maximum way to ensure *Wanjiku* gets value for all her taxes and efforts she puts in nation building, both at the national and county levels.

The conference offers a good platform for all participants to reaffirm their commitment to principles of reforms, democracy, governance and improved service delivery as espoused in the Constitution. In addition, lessons learnt, experiences and best practices will be shared and disseminated. Lastly, a joint plan of action will be developed.

Hon. Isaac Kiprono Ruto Governor Bomet county
Chairman of the Council of Governors and a champion of Devolution.

STATE OF DEVOLUTION

ADDRESS BY H.E GOVERNOR ISAAC RUTO, CHAIRMAN, COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

GOVERNOR BOMET COUNTY

Today we review for the second year the direction, progress, challenges and achievements of our Country under Devolved governance. It is my sincere belief that with all our challenges and shortfalls, NO County can be said to have become worse from Devolved governance. As we take stock of devolution; lessons learnt, challenges, and possible areas of improvement, it is of paramount significance to compare expectations and reality in order to plan ahead.

I want to appreciate the National Government and the various institutions through which transition has been managed for the Implementation of the Constitutio. Even though it was not seamless, the prerequisite legislations and policy frameworks have been established to ensure that County Governments are functional.

From the very onset, devolution was intended to bring essential services closer to the people and ensure public participation in governance processes. This has been made possible by the transfer of functions to the County Governments and consequent resource allocation to implement those functions. Today we continue to meet the expectations of ordinary Kenyans whose conditions and quality of life continue to improve with each passing day of devolution.

Whilst devolution has succeeded in addressing the issues of inequality in resource allocation and service delivery, it is yet to fully realize uneven growth and development which was perpetrated for many years by the centralised system of governance. The Council notes that a lot of resources are still administered at the Centre.

In health, County Governments have given top priority to service delivery by allocating a budget above the requisite 15 per cent as stipulated by the National Health Policy. We have put in place structures to ensure that the interface between personnel and equipment tallies, to guarantee that the human resource element translates into better medical care. Many Counties have acquired kidney dialysis machines and reduced the cost of dialysis. There are currently 51 kidney dialysis machines in county hospitals performing 944 sessions per day. There have been investments in sophisticated diagnostic and treatment services including CT Scans, digital X-rays and modern laboratories. In most counties maternal deaths have declined significantly.

In Agriculture, much has been achieved like making extension services, subsidized fertilizer and farm inputs easily accessible to farmers. This has contributed in improved their productivity. In addition, several Counties have been able to supply machinery like milk coolers and tractors and improved technologies.

In Finance, we have made progress in the annual resource allocation to County Governments. The unconditional equitable share of County Governments' revenue has progressively increased since the 2013/14 FY. This started from KES 190 billion in 2013/14, 226Bn 2014/15 and currently the proposed KES 258 billion in 2015/16 FY.

In revenue collection, all the 47 County Governments are progressively shifting from the manual revenue collection systems to digitalised systems. This is a way of improving the Counties fiscal effort by sealing the loopholes that were allowing revenue leakages. Reports by the Controller of Budget have indicated that 75 per cent of Counties met their revenue targets in the 2013/14 FY.

In Energy, Roads and Transport, much progress has been made. Counties have made the Licensing of SME power generation projects easy, to encourage industrial development in counties. Despite the fact that the transfer of contested County roads has not been effected, Counties have done a tremendous work in opening up roads to increase accessibility and motorability of previously inaccessible roads.

In Urban Development, County Governments and development partners are collaborating in participatory approaches to sustainable urban development through training and capacity building. Many counties have now developed their spatial plans and County Integrated Urban Development Plans to guide development in counties.

In relation to water resources, County Governments have made huge strides in expansion of water distribution networks. Some 23 out of the 47 Counties are classified as Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL). These Counties have initiated repairs and maintenance of irrigation schemes and provided support to micro irrigation sites/groups; drilling of boreholes; water supply and improvements of existing rural water services.

Under Education and ICT, All the 47 County Governments are in the process of putting up more Early Childhood Development (ECD) structures to cater for the devolved Education functions. Enrolment to these institutions has also increased over the past two financial years.

Devolution Challenges

It would be unrealistic to ignore the challenges. The first challenge cutting across all counties is putting mechanisms in place to ensure that transferred functions and resource allocation are commensurate.

We have consulted with both levels of government but consensus and concurrence are yet to yield cooperation. We also have the challenge of double taxation and functions overlap. For instance, the fourth function: cultural activities and public amenities. In relation to betting and casinos, the National Government still collects the revenue. This minimizes the revenue base for counties.

Also of importance to mention is the standoff with the National Government regarding certain functions such as County roads, forestry, electricity, gas and energy reticulation, and cultural activities, public entertainment and amenities. These functions have not been transferred and they are contained in a draft Gazette Notice that is yet to be published by the Attorney-General's Office.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that County Governments are not appendages or extensions of National Government. County Governments are not state departments. They are legitimate governments, by virtue of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 and the March 2013 General Elections. County Governments are units through which sovereign power of the people is exercised and in this regard, their functional integrity and independence must be respected. We observe that our collective commitment, taking into consideration the 'SIX Cs', devolution will transform the lives of all Kenyans as has been witnessed in the last two years.

THANK YOU.

H.E. Isaac Ruto, EGH

Chairperson, Council of Governors

FOREWARD:

MESSAGE FROM THE COG SECRETARIAT CEO

Although county government came into existence in March 2013, operations and execution of devolved functions had to wait till november the same your following late resource allocation. In essence, development function. Coupled with that, there have been incessant structural challenges affecting the smooth running of county governments. Some of these challenges include, late disbursement of funds, supremacy issues between senate and National Assembly, double taxation, automation of revenue collection at the counties, strained intra-governmental relations, intergovernmental challenges among others.

The county governments have performed well above expectation in undertaking devolved functions. The benefits of devolution to ordinary Kenyans cannot be gainsaid. Reprts from various institutions including Transparency International and the World Bank corroborate this fact. This newsletter Devolution At a Glance highlights gains of devolution in relation to fourteen functions of county governments. These include: Agriculture; County health services; Pollution, Nuisances and Advertising Control; Cultural activities, public entertainment and public amenities;County transport;Animal control and welfare;Trade development and regulation;County planning and development;Education and Childcare; Policy Implementation; County public works and services;Fire fighting services and disaster management; Control of drugs and pornography; and Coordination.

The information presented in this newsletter was provided by the county directors of communication.

Map of the 47 Counties

Devolved Units: 47 Kenya Counties and County Leaders

Name	Governor	Deputy Governor
Baringo	Benjamin Cheboi	Mathew Kipyator Tuitoek
Bomet	Isaac Ruto	Stephen Kipkoech Mutai
Bungoma	Ken Lusaka	Hillary Moywo Chongwony
Busia	Sospeter Ojaamong	Kizito Osore Wangalwa
Elgeyo-Marakwet	Alex Tolgos	Gabriel Lagat Kosgey
Embu	Martin Wambora	Dorothy Nditi Muchungu[18]
Garissa	Nathif Jama Adam	Abdullahi Hussein Ali
Homabay	Cyprian Awiti	Hamiliton Onyango Orata
Isiolo	Godana Doyo	Mohamed Gulleid Abdille
Kajiado	David ole Nkedianye	Paul Mpute Ntiati
Kakamega	Wycliffe Oparanya	Philip Museve Kutima
Kericho	Paul Kiprono	Susan Chepkoech Kikwai
Kiambu	William Gitau	Gerald Gakuha Githinji
Kilifi	Amason Kingi	Kenneth Mwakombo Kamto
Kirinyaga	Joseph Ndathi	Julius Muthike Njiri
Kisii	James Ongwae	Arthur Maangi Gongera
Kisumu	Jack Ranguma	Ruth Adhiambo Odinga Busia
Kitui	Julius Malombe	Malonza Peninah
Kwale	Salim Mvurya	Fatuma Mohamed Achani
Laikipia	Joshua Irungu	Josphat Gitonga Kabugi
Lamu	Issa Timamy	Erick Kinyua Mugo
Machakos	Alfred Mutua	Benard Muia Tom Kiala
Makueni	Kivutha Kibwana	Adelina Ndeto Mwau
Mandera	Ibrahim Roba Ali	Omar Mohamed Maalim
Marsabit	Ukur Yattani	Omar Abdi Ali

Name	Governor	Deputy Governor
Meru	Peter Munya	Raphael Muriungi
Migori	Zacharia Obado	Nelson Mahanga Mwita
Mombasa	Hassan Joho	Hazel Ezabel Nyamoki Ogunde
Muranga	Mwangi wa Iria	Augustine J Gakure Monyo
Nairobi City	Evans Kidero	J. Mwangangi Mueke
Nakuru	Kinuthia Mbugua	Joseph Kibore Rutto
Nandi	Lagat Cleophas	Dominic Kimutai Biwott
Narok	Samuel ole Tunai	Aruasa Evalyn Chepkirui
Nyamira	John Obiero	Amos Kimwomi Nyaribo
Nyandarua	Daniel Waithaka	Waithaka Mwangi Kirika
Nyeri	Nderitu Gachagua	Wamathai Samwel Githaiga
Samburu	Moses Kasaine	Joseph Lemarkat
Siaya	Cornel Rasanga	Wilson Ouma Onyango
Taita-Taveta	John Mruttu	Mary Ndiga Kibuka
Tana River	Tuneya Dado	Jire Siyat Mohamed
Tharaka	Samuel Ragwa	Eliud Mate Muriithi
Trans-Nzoia	Patrick Khaemba	Stanley Kiptoo Kenei Tarus
Turkana	Josphat Nanok	Peter Ekai Lokoel
Uasin Gishu	Jackson Mandago	Daniel Kiplagat Kiprotich
Vihiga	Moses Akaranga	Caleb Temba Amaswache
Wajir	Ahmed Abdullahi Mohamad	Abdulhafid Abdullahi Yarow
West Pokot	Simon Kitalei	Titus Lotee

DEVOLUTION AT A GLANCE

Counties	47
Elected MCAs Male	1370
Elected MCAs Female	80
Nominated MCAs Male	97
Nominated MCAs Female	675
Total	2222
Percentage	Male =66% Female = 34%

CECs

Male	297
Female	149
Total	448
Percentage	Male =67% Female =33%

Appreciating and strengthening Devolved Governance; Working together to Realize the Objectives of Devolution

DEVOLVED FUNCTIONS

These are the devolved functions stipulated by the six schedule of the constitution. They have been transfered to the Counties

- Agriculture
- County health services
- Pollution, Nuisances and Advertising Control
- Cultural activities, public entertainment and public amenities
- County transport
- Animal control and welfare
- Trade development and regulation
- County planning and development
- Education and Childcare
- Policy Implementation
- County public works and services
- Firefighting services and disaster management
- Control of drugs and pornography
- Coordination

The county governments have performed well above expectation in undertaking devolved functions. The benefits of devolution to ordinary Kenyans cannot be gainsaid. Reports from various institutions including Transparency International and the World Bank corroborate this fact. Below are highlights of the gains of devolution in relation to fourteen (14) functions listed above which have so far been devolved.

Health

The County health services sector has registered comparatively more success. A total of seventy four (74) health facilities have been renovated, built, and/or upgraded. Medical equipments have been acquired while hospital pharmacies have been restocked. In ensuring access to emergency health services county governments have acquired several ambulances. This has led to rapid emergency response in the rural areas. An outstanding achievement has been registered in managing kidney disease that was previously only treated at the Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH). As a result of this improvement, referral at the KNH has reduced eleven times. The table below shows success statistics. This has led to rapid emergency response in the rural areas.

Health Facility	No. of Dialysis Machines before 2013	No. of Dialysis Machines after 2013	Capacity (Sessions Per Day)
National Hospitals	9	18	82
County Hospitals	2	51	944

Agriculture

The county governments focus in agriculture is on agribusiness and value addition. The major gap in agriculture has been value addition to agricultural produce transformed into consumable finished product. The counties observed that many jobs are exported through exportation of raw materials. With focus in value addition, more jobs are created.

The operationalisation of various agriculture sector functions at the county levels requires structural and legislative frame work to be put in place. In FY2013/2014 most counties had not passed requisite bills. This was due to slow legislation process stemming from low technical capacity. However, after two years, most counties have developed County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) which capture the goals and aspirations for the various counties.

Under agriculture the CIDPs include among others farm input subsidies programmes, investment in soils sampling and analysis, farm mechanisation, investment in value addition such as milk coolers, fruit processors and mills, crop and livestock development using value chain approach. With these, food security is achievable in the long run, as the programmes emphasize more on improved production, productivity and value addition.

Water and Sanitation

There has been tangible increase in access to clean water and sanitation. The counties both in Arid and Semi-arid lands (ASAL) and non-ASAL areas have initiated projects of increasing the number of water points. This has been associated with increase in gross budget for capital investment in water.

Gross Budget For Water	Amount in KES Billion	Access to Water in %
2013/2014	24	35
2014/2015	31.2	40

Roads

From the onset of devolution, roads classified under county governments have been constructed to improve accessibility and road network penetration in all counties.

In total 7,000 kilometres of roads have been completed within two years and many more are under construction.

Education

Early Childhood Education and care is a function of county governments. Since the establishment of County Governments, enrolment in early childhood institutions has increased significantly.

Revenue Collection and Public Finance

Reports from various institutions and stakeholders reveal that revenue collection in counties surpassed former local authorities. This has come as a result of Finance Bills, Appropriation Bills and Supplementary Appropriation Bills.

Finance Bill Statistics

Bills	2013-2015
Finance Bills	43
Appropriation Bills	39
Supplementary Appropriation Bills	17
Total	99

Public Participation

There is tremendous increase in citizen participation in governance process in the counties. These are done inform of citizen consultation forums like Budget and Economic Forums among others. The increase in participation has also been made possible by improved public communication. The table below shows percentage of Kenyans who participated in the forums.

Public Participation by numbers

	2013-2014	2014-2015
Citizen Consultation Forums (Participation by %)	2%	15%
Interaction with Governors	7%	34%
Interaction with MCAs	20%	50%
Interaction with MPs	13%	12%
Interaction with Senators	6%	12%

Performance Ratings

From research findings by various organisations, the citizens rated both counties and national governments depending on satisfaction levels.

Government Levels	2013-2014	2014-2015
National Government	40%	39%
County Government	47%	60%

Service Centres

The County Governments Act, 2012, provides for establishment of Citizen Service Centres at the County, Sub-county, ward and any other levels to serve as the central office for provision of public services. A total of 38 counties have established service centres at various levels.

	Counties	Sub-counties	Wards	Total
No. of Counties with Services Centres at Various Levels	19	12	7	38

County Legislations

The Fourth Schedule of the Constitution requires county assemblies to develop legislations to facilitate legislation of assigned functions. These legislations relate to financial laws, for instance, Finance Bills, Appropriation Bills and Supplementary Appropriation Bills. The table below shows the number of bills that have been developed by county assemblies since March 2013.

Bills	No. of Bills
Under development	162
Passed	93
Assented to	36
Total	291

COUNTIES AT A GLANCE

Kisii County

With regard to value addition in Agriculture, Kisii County processes avocado oil and exports to Mexico. The first consignment weighing 30 tons was processed by the Australia Old Land Trade Kenya Limited, a foreign company that started its operations in October 2014. The oil is used to make cosmetic products in Mexico. Kisii County Government also issues one million seedlings to farmers annually to boost production. Statistics show that Nyamira and Kisii counties are trailing Murang'a in avocado production. Residents are currently replacing their traditional oil with locally processed avocado oil.

Below: Kisii governor James Ongwae inspecting avocado before processing at the manufacturing plant

Baringo County

In spite of its vastness, the County has made great progress in service delivery. Baringo County has unprecedented lead in county public participation evidenced by increase from 24 to 100 forums in 2014-2015. This has been achieved by open door policy, continuous county civic education programs. The residents meet their leaders in Barazas, town hall meeting and special forums.

In agriculture the county government entered into a partnership agreement with Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and World Best Friends to process Baringo Coffee locally and export as finished product to Korea. Still on agriculture, Baringo County has diverse climatic conditions largely falling under ASAL. In order to ensure food security, the County has put 9,070 acre under irrigation in 13 irrigation projects. As a result cereal produce is bountiful in the County. Below are the statistics that tell the story at a glance.

	2013-2014	2014-2015
Enrolment ECD	53,699	69,304
Access to Water (%)	34	58
Road Construction (km)	336	1021
County Health Facilities	28	98
Public Participation Forums	24	100
Capacity Building Function	10	50
County Laws enacted	2	16

Civic education programme session underway in Baringo County

Baringo Governor Benjamin Cheboi receiving a coffee milling machine donated by partnership in South Korea.

Below: Ng'enyin irrigation scheme in South Baringo.

Homabay County

Homabay County has experienced a lot of transformation in all sectors since the onset of devolution. In particular, agribusiness has been revamped and is now a thriving industry. The County Government also focuses on value addition. For instance, peanut butter packed and dried nutsfrom groundnuts for commercial purposes. There are also fortified flour, chips, cakes derived from sweet potatoes in Kabondo; cotton matts, threads, scarfs are made from cotton; fish fillets and bladder obtained from Nile Perch; dried and smocked fish; livestock feeds from ***Omena***; hatched eggs from poultry in the County Poultry Improvement Project. These ventures are transforming lives in the County. Homabay town and neighbouring towns have been fitted with street lights which have significantly reduced insecurity as well as road accidents due to improved visibility.

Success in figures

	2013-2014	2014-2015
ECD (Total enrolment)	90,565	96,675
County Health Facilities	211	217
Access to water (%)	25	28
County Laws	6	11

Street-lighting going on in Homabay town

Kisumu County

Regionally Kisumu County is at the centre of East Africa Community and can be accessed by air, water, road, and rail from member states. As such the county has invested heavily in infrastructure as an impetus to economic growth. Road network has been expanded with once eased accessibility to rural parts of the county. On the same hospitality and tourism is a thriving venture in Kisumu County.

Success by numbers

	2013-2014	2014-2015
County Health Facilities	160	188
Roads under county	275	328
Service Centres	5	35
Public Participation Forums	4	16

Makueni County

Makueni County has registered considerable progress in a number of areas including health, agriculture, early childhood education enrolment, public participation, access to clean water and sanitation and establishment of service centres. It is important to note that access to water has mitigated some adverse effects of perennial drought in the county.

Here is the success by numbers

	2013-2014	2014-2015
ECD Enrolment	21,379	48,176
Access to Water (%)	15	45
Health Facilities	124	159
Public Participation (Forums)	0	64
Service Centres	0	15
Capacity Building Activities	0	94

Vihiga County

Vihiga County is not left behind in all spheres of development as far as devolved functions go. To begin with the county purchased 15 acres of land to serve as landmank for investment. There is also an ongoing Social Housing Program that constructs 30 houses per ward for the poor and vulnerable people. Further still, the County is in the process of upgrading Vihiga County Hospital into a full referral hospital at a cost of KES 100 million as well as a modern maternity wing at Emuhaya Sub-county Hospital. In terms of infrastructure development the county has made tremendous progress.

Success by numbers

	2014-2015		
ECD (No.of Classrooms)	35		
Roads (in Kilometres)	114		
Bridges	18		
Culverts	9		
Social Housing Project (Housing Units/ward)	30		

Siaya County

Sector-wise, Siaya County focuses on ensuring food security, employment creation, income generation and poverty reduction. The county seeks to do these through promotion of competitive agriculture by creating an enabling environment, providing support services and ensuring sustainable natural resources. In terms of infrastructure development, Siaya County has embarked on increasing road network to open up rural areas for commercial activities. To boost inter-county trade in the region, Siaya, Kisumu and Busia formed regional trade block aimed at accelerating economic growth.

Success by figures

	2013-2014	2014-2015
Roads Constructed (Kilometers)	526	1902
ECD enrollment	50,990	61,118
Access to Water (In %)	15	19
Maize yield after govt subsidies (in million Bags)	1.25	1.5
Public Participation (Forums)	30	60

Nyamira County

In the last two years, Nyamira County has achieved remarkable successes attributable to the possibilities unleashed through devolved system of government. The outstanding success has been realised in health, agriculture and education. To increase health services, a Doctor's Plaza with a 72-bed capacity has been constructed. In agriculture more has been done including ongoing artificial insemination to improve animal husbandry and employment of 73 field extension officers equipped with motorcycles. According the county's strategic plan, a lot more will be achieved in the next two years.

Success by numbers

	2013-2014	2014-2015	Total
Health Facilities (constructed, upgraded, and renovated)	20	45	65
Roads Constructed (km)	70	170	240
ECD Centers Built	5	15	20
Polytechnics Built	10	16	26
Street Lights	100	100	200
Modren Markets Built	3	5	8
Water Supply Projects	20	26	46
Field Extension Officers Employed	20	53	73

TESTIMONIALS

Hassan Ali – Resident Isiolo County

On Security Lights – These security lights are so helpful to us. There are some areas we couldn't go at night but nowadays we even walk at night without taking a taxi.

Boniface Kiplimo – Resident Nandi County

On Road Investment – When we did not have the roads, the sick were carried on sacks to the main road to go hospital. Now the vehicles have access and it is easy for one to get services like health.

Gertrude Omondi – Resident Busia County

On Agriculture – Previously we used to buy banana seedlings from fellow farmers. But now we buy banana seedlings from the County Government. The seedlings are affordable, almost free of charge and when they are ready they are sweeter.

Peter Mwangi – Resident Murang'a County

On Dairy Farming – I sell milk to the local dairy co-operative and am happy with the price. I am happier because am paid on the 2nd day of the month. Previously brokers used to take advantage of our situation.

Stephen Muhia – Principal Lamu Youth Polytechnic, Lamu County

On Youth Empowerment – Lamu County Government has provided us with computers, block making machine, cabro making machine, sewing machine and carpentry equipment.

Rashid Abbey – Headteacher, Wajir County

On Health – Recently I went to Wajir Hospital. The last time I was there was six years ago. When I went there recently, I could not tell where the wards used to be because the entire hospital has been changed. The services offered are impressive. I was happy.

Abdi Haji Abrahaman – Resident Mandera County

On Health - I developed obstructed labour for two days then I was taken to Banisa Hospital. I was assessed and later transferred to Tekaba Hospital. I reached at 10.00 in the night and immediately the C-Section was done and I got my baby.

Rael Areman Ekae – ECDE Assistance, Turkana County

On Early Childhood Education – Here in Turkana County we have many challenges. At times it gets too dusty and hot. But since the County Government constructed classrooms for the children, it has been helpful in educating them effectively.

SECOND ANNUAL DEVOLUTION CONFERENCE 2015

Message from the Vice Chairman

Hon. Salim Mgalla Mvurya Governor Kwale County
Vice Chairman of the Council of Governors and Chairman Devolution Conference.

The 1st Devolution Conference was held in April 2014 in Kwale County and it resolved that a devolution conference should be held annually on a rotational basis. As a result of this resolution, the Council of Governors (COG) together with other partners will host The 2nd Annual Devolution Conference from 21st to 24th April 2015 in Kisumu County. The devolution conference nominally referred to as Devcon will comprise of all stakeholders of devolution, with COG and the Ministry of Devolution and Planning (MoDP) taking the lead. Whereas the first Devcon held in Kwale County was themed on reflecting on the highlights of the first year of devolution, its sequel in 2015 is 'Celebrating the Gains

of Devolution' with a guiding theme of 'Appreciating and Strengthening Devolved Governance; Working Together to Realize the Objectives of Devolution'.

The 2015 Devcon is anticipated to be bigger than its predecessor bringing together over 4,000 participants comprising of Governors, Deputy Governors, Senators, Women Representatives, Members of Parliament, Members of County Assemblies, development partners, private sector and external and internal technocrats. The 2015 Devcon marks the second anniversary since the establishment of devolved system of governance in Kenya and provides an opportune time to take stock of successes, lessons learnt, challenges and plan for coming years.

The preamble to the conference has seen partners hold a plethora of build-up activities beginning with a sponsors' breakfast, editor's guild luncheon, western economic blueprint meeting in Kisumu, CECs conference in Nairobi and county dialogue forums. Outcomes of both county dialogue forums and the CECs conference will be pointers to Devcon deliberations and resolutions. On the first day of the conference, COG and MoDP will host a networking cocktail with all the partners and the 47 County Governors.

The five-day Devcon is organised into 10 plenums modeled around four thematic areas aimed at auditing the devolution implementation process against its objectives. This is conceptualised in line with Chapter 11 of the Kenya Constitution, 2010, the County Governments Act, 2012, and the Intergovernmental Relations Act, 2012. Key among the objectives of devolution are power of self-governance, public participation and recognising diversity and equitable sharing of national and local resource. As such, the thematic areas are; Devolution as a Concept – Taking stock of ideal versus the practice; Institutional and Political Impact of Devolution – Conflict resolution, intergovernmental and intra-governmental; and Resources service delivery, opportunities and responsibilities.

In the spirit of inclusivity, COG and MoDP have received overwhelming support from both state and non-state actors. These include Commission for Revenue Allocation, Transition Authority, US Agency for International Development AHADI Project, United Nations Development Programme, County Pension Fund and the Kenya Association of Manufacturers. Other partners are UN Women, Deloitte, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Kenya Private Sector Alliance, Kenya Power, Kenya Commercial Bank, NCCG, Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Business Community and among others who work closely with both COG and County Governments in various programmes of devolution. The coordinated working relationship underscores the idea that devolution cannot be implemented in isolation and exclusion of various stakeholders.

At the end, the Devcon is expected to recommend and resolve on establishment of structures to facilitate closer consultation and enhance a harmonised approach amongst the National Government, County Governments, Parliament and other stakeholders. It is also expected that participants will reaffirm their commitment to the principles of reforms, democracy, governance and improved service delivery as espoused in the Constitution, the County Governments Act, 2012, and Intergovernmental Relations Act, 2012. In addition, lessons learnt, experiences and best practices on devolved government will be documented. Lastly, a joint plan of action will be developed.