The Fourth Annual
DEVOLUTION CONFERENCE 2017

MYTHS & FACTS
ABOUT DEVOLUTION

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MYTHS AND FACTS ABOUT DEVOLUTION

SECTOR	MYTH	FACT
Finance	The National Government has disbursed more than one trillion shillings to County Government since 2013	• Amounts disbursed to County Government are as follows: 1. Kshs 190 billion for financial year (FY) 2013/14, 2. Kshs 226.66 billion for FY 2014/15, 3. Kshs 259.7 Billion for FY 2015/16 and 4. Kshs 280.3 billion shillings in the 2016/17 FY. Totaling Kshs. 696.97 billion disbursed since 2013
	The National Government has disbursed Kshs. 6 billion to the marginalized counties through the Equalization fund	• Whereas the National Treasury allocated Kshs. 3.4 billion FY2014/15, Kshs. 6 billion FY2015/16 and a proposal of Kshs. 6 billion in the 2016/17 financial year, the three allocations have never been disbursed to the marginalized areas as provided in the Constitution to provide for the basic services. • The National Government has however consulted with the respective County Governments on the implementation of specific projects identified jointly with the County Governments in the 2016/17 financial year.
	County Governments lack the capacity to utilize the allocated funds leading to huge sums of monies lying idle in the County Revenue Accounts at Central Bank.	• The unspent allocations in the County accounts is attributed to the delay in the transfer of the funds to County Governments' Revenue accounts. These allocations are meant to be transferred to Counties by the 15th of every month. For the last three financial years County Governments have consistently faced transfer delays which have interrupted service delivery. Most disbursements are made later than 15th of every month and sometimes two days before the end of financial year. • IFMIS lockdown at the end of the financial year has also contributed to poor absorption of the funds as the system is centrally controlled by the National Treasury. The funds are transferred late and before they can be appropriated, the system shuts down disallowing wholesome appropriation.
	Allocation of funds to county Government is contributing to the increase in National Debt	• County Governments are entitled to nationally raised revenues just the same way the National Government is. • The funds allocated to the Counties are part of the ordinary revenues raised by the Kenya Revenue Authority. • County Governments are yet to externally or internally borrow to contribute to the National Debt. The guidelines operationalizing County borrowing are not in place hence County Governments have not contributed to the ever increasing national debt which is currently over 2.3 trillion shillings.

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Health	Devolution has not brought new County health facilities and pharmacies to all counties	Since devolution, a number of infrastructural improvements have been made; • From 2013, there has been an increase of 1,866 health facilities and dispensaries across the counties. This is a 118.5% increase in just 4 years rising from 8466 Health Centre's and dispensaries in 2013 to 10,032 Health Centre's and dispensaries in 2016. • Between 2013 and 2015, Counties have constructed a total of 11 new hospitals. This is an increase of 106% in just 2 years from 174 Hospitals in the Counties in 2013 to 185 hospitals in 2015 • There is an increase of 50% in the health infrastructure in the Counties.
	Counties are not properly resourced and equipped with doctors and nurses	Since devolution, the number of doctors has constantly been on the increase; • In 2013 there were 116 Dentists. This figure has risen to 134 Dentists in 2015 • In 2013, there were 34 General surgeons. This figure has increased by 294% to 134 General surgeons in 2015 across counties • Three years after devolution, the number of doctors has increased from 874 Doctors in 2013 to 4637 in 2016 • Perhaps the biggest stride is the 156% increase in the number of nurses from 6,620 in 2013 to 25,597 in 2016.
	County health services in particular the promotion of primary health care has only slightly improved since devolution	There is a huge improvement in the Health sector after devolution; • Counties have increased maternity beds from 3,496 beds in 2013 to 4,213 beds • The number of incubators has increased from 207 in 2013 to 295 in 2015. • The number of deliveries has increased from 43% in 2009 to 61% in 2014 • The rate of child mortality per 1000 live birth has decreased from 56% in 2015 from 49% in 2012 • In 2013, Counties had 103 anesthetic machines while in 2015 the number has increased by 31 to 134 anesthetic machines. • In 2015, the number of suction machines have increased from 472 in 2013 to 681. • Across county operating theaters, county operating tables have increased by 34% from 108 in 2013 to 145 in 2016.

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Natural Resource Management	Counties have not fulfilled their mandate of implementing policies on forestry conservation and as a result forest cover has declined and water towers are degraded	• Over the last four years, forest cover has increased from 5% to 6.99% and counties together with the National Government are working towards the constitutional requirement of 10% • Since 2013, 325 new Community Forest Associations (CFA's) have been created that have resulted in the increased protection of the 6 water towers. • The forest cover on the Aberdare Mountains over the last four years has increased by a 20% from 240.8 sq. miles to 289 sq. miles while in Mt Elgon and Cherangany water towers forest covers have increased by planting 495,000 tree seedlings since 2013
	Counties have not put efforts to ensure the supply of clean and safe water	• The total number of operational boreholes has increased from 4,967 in 2013 to 6,498 in 2015. That's an increase of 1,521 boreholes in a span of only 3 years. • 973 additional water pans (small dams) have been added, from the previous 2,843 in 2013 bringing the total as of 2015 to 3,821 water pans. • 52 additional dams have been added across the counties from the previous number of 1,191 in 2013 bringing it to 1,243 dams • The average distance covered to access water has reduced from 6.21 km in 2013 to 2.72 km in 2016 and counties are working towards the recommended 500m distance • An additional 500,000 households have been connected to piped water from the previous 1.6 million (3.65%) households in 2013 to 2.1 million (4.79%) households in 2015. • A total of 1520 hospitals/health centers and dispensaries in 18 counties are connected to boreholes, water bowsers, piped water and roof catchments. • Construction of water kiosks, sanitation blocks and extension of pipelines is ongoing across the 47 counties
Information and Communications Technology (ICT) & Communications	County Governments are against automation of financial processes	• Counties have invested in automation of revenue collection management systems in a bid to improve revenue collection efficiency. • The systems that both the National and County Governments have incorporated in their planning, budgeting, procurement, expenditure management and reporting functions have sealed loopholes that delivers optimal value to every taxpayer. • Counties that have Automated Revenue Collection include: Baringo, Bungoma, Embu, Nairobi, Nakuru, Meru, Nandi, Busia and Siaya

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Information and Communications Technology (ICT) & Communications	Counties have not established mechanisms to facilitate public communication and access to information	Counties have invested heavily on County Information resource centers where the public may access information for free. Counties that have ICT centers include: • Baringo (3), • Elgeyo Marakwet (5), • Homabay (1), • Kiambu (1), • Kilifi (15), • Kisii(1), • Kitui (14 existing and 5 under construction), • Lamu (1), • Mandera (FM station), • Nairobi (1), • Nandi (1), • Narok (FM station) and • Taita Taveta (1)
	County Governments are not creating awareness on Devolution and governance	• All County Governments have continued to create awareness on devolution including county dialogue forums, websites, social media platforms, public forums, newsletters, brochures and magazines. • Public Participation is mandatory in all Counties with at least 30 counties having public participation bills • All 47 County Governments have websites and social media accounts
Agriculture	There has been no high yield production since devolution.	• The agricultural sector contributed 30% to the GDP in 2015 against 26.1% in 2012, a growth of 6.2% in the period 2015 against that of 2.9% in 2012. • Over the same period commodity production has also increased significantly (sugar cane production by 14.9%, tea 8.0%, Maize by 7.1%, wheat by 46.7%, rice by 42.5% and fresh horticultural produce 16%) • From 2012 to 2015, The Cooperative movement has grown in leaps and bounds. The number of Agricultural societies and unions increased by 9% from 4985 in 2012 to 5451 in 2015. The vibrant and dynamic cooperative movement in Kenya is the strongest in Africa and is a key player in the economy, controlling about 43% of Kenya's gross domestic product (GDP). Before devolution, we had approximately 1,396 cooperatives, and we now boast of 1,806 cooperatives with a turnover of KES 56 billion. Cooperative societies in Kenya are employing more than 300,000 people, besides providing opportunities for self-employment to many more.

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Agriculture	Since the devolution of the agricultural function in 2013, Agricultural extension services, fertilizer distribution and agriculture mechanization has decreased significantly as a result of devolution	• In the financial year 2015, Counties reached out to 2,470,806 farmers through agricultural extension services which provide farmers with important information, such as patterns in crop prices, new seed varieties, crop management, and marketing. • The Vison 2030 pillar strives to reduce the cost of fertilizer by subsidizing the cost while also promoting local fertilizer production. Over the three years the counties have distributed 1,222,075 bags (50kgs each) to farmers. • Agricultural machinery tractors bought increased by 56% from 5,532 tractors in 2013 to 8,664 tractors in 2016
Infrastructure and energy	County roads have not improved since 2013.	Between 2013 and 2016, • Counties have tarmacked 379 kilometers of roads and constructed 35,934km of all-weather roads • Counties have opened up 19,148km of new roads, while another 9,572 km have been rehabilitated to enhance accessibility of previously inaccessible roads • A total of 249 culverts and 324 bridges has been constructed.
	Counties have received funding to develop and maintain the extra 31,000 km of roads	• With the end of the transition period on 4th March, 2016, County Governments received an extra 31,113 kilometers of roads making a total of 121,113 kilometers • In FY 2016/17 the National Treasury withheld from County Governments Ksh. 8.7 billion for the construction of the extra 31,113 km of roads transferred to counties. • Counties are managing 121,113 km of road but receive only 4.3 billion (15%) of the Road Maintenance Levy Fund (RMLF) while the national government which handles 39,995.1 kilometers receive an allocation of approximately KES 79 billion (85%).
	County governments' have not considered socio-economic development in their County Plans.	• Counties have invested in street lighting projects which are slowly transforming many towns and their environs which has increased the working hours of small businesses. The County Governments have since come up with a total of 33,810 and 7,627 Street and Flood Lighting respectively and this has contributed to enhanced security.

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Legal	The Council of Governors has stood by as unconstitutional laws aimed at clawing back on devolution have been passed	• The Council has reviewed all Bills and submitted memorandums on the Council of Governors position to both houses of parliament. Further the Council has appeared before the Senate and National Assembly to challenge the Constitutionality of some of these bills that threaten to recentralize devolved functions. • These include but are not limited to the County Governments (Amendment) Bill, 2014 on county development boards, National Flags, Emblem & Names (Amendment) Act, Coffee Regulations, Division of Revenue Act FY 2016/17, National Government Constituency Development Fund Bill, Land Control Act, Land Laws (Amendment) Act, Community Land Act, the Health Bill, the Water Bill, the Kenya Roads Bill, the Agriculture Fisheries and Food Authority Bill, the Wildlife Conservation County Governments Amendment Bill& Management Bill
	County Governments are not able to develop their own legislation	Counties have passed the following legislation around the thematic areas of; • Public Participation • Ward Development • Education Bursaries • Youth, Women and Persons with Disabilities Enterprise Development • Early Childhood Education • Cooperative Development • Access to Information • Alcoholic Drinks Control- • Trade and Markets • County Transport • Water Management and Sanitation • Village Polytechnics • Disaster and Emergency Management • County Markets • County Health Facilities • County Valuation and Rating • Sand Harvesting • Agricultural Development • Investment and Development • Wildlife and Conservancy Management

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Education, Gender, Youth and Social Services	County governments have not adequately invested in pre-primary education and vocational training centers	• Since 2013, there has been a 47% increase in the number of ECDE Children translating to an enrolment of 1,027,112 girls and 1,046,948 boys who now have access to conducive ECDE facilities. • ECDE Centers constructed for the last three years are 5,951 and those refurbished now stand at 600. • The surge in enrolments has resulted in the recruitment of an additional 30,049 Early Childhood Development and Education teachers and assistants. There has been a development in the infrastructure.
	County Governments are doing little to create socio-economic opportunities for youths, women and PWD's	• Over the last 3 years, County governments have invested heavily on youth vocational centers that has seen increase in enrolment of trainees from 59,635 (34,708 male and 24,927 female) in 2013 to 80,905 (46,340 male and 34,565 female). • At least 30% of county procurement opportunities are earmarked for youth, women and PWD with low uptake of the AGPO due to other challenges faced such as LPO financing. For instance, the 30% uptake for Makueni County is currently at 80%. This is as a result of the continuous awareness creation of the special groups on the existence and requirements for the 30% government procurement benefit. • Majority of the counties have established PWDs departments to address the needs of people with special needs. Majority of counties have supported PWDs through provision of equipment for special cases. • County Governments have held 3 editions of Kenya Youth Intercounty Sports Association Games in Laikipia (2014), Kwale (2015) and Siaya (2016) to spearheaded talent identification and development by youths in football and volleyball.
Tourism	Tourism has not expanded since 2013	• Since 2013, the number of tourist sites have increased from 401 to 632, a 57% increase in 4 years • Counties have developed tourism products that showcase counties diversities and cultures such as; The Turkana cultural and tourism festival (Tobong'u Lore), Lamu cultural festival, Kalacha food and music cultural festival in Marsabit County, International Camel Derby Festival in Samburu County and the Mombasa carnival.
	Local Tourism in the Counties is Expensive	• There are diverse touristic sites in the counties that cater to all local and international tourists depending on budget
	Local Tourism in the County is managed by the National Government	• Local Tourism is a devolved function, However both National and County Governments work together to ensure the proper use and management of the attraction sites. For example the game reserves and Museums

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