



REPUBLIC  
OF  
KENYA



*Poverty Reduction Through Sustainable NRM*



**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**UPPER TANA NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (UTaNRMP)**

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**SPEECH BY THE GOVERNOR OF EMBU COUNTY, HON.  
MARTIN WAMBORA DURING THE COMMISSIONING OF THE  
PROJECT VEHICLES, MOTOR CYCLES AND TRACTORS TO  
COUNTY/SUBCOUNTY PROJECT IMPLEMENTING STAFF AT  
KANGARU GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL , EMBU ON 10<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2015**

**THE CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, WATER  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES- PROF JUDY WAKHUNGU,**

**THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, WATER  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**THE PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**REGIONAL COMMISSIONERS, EASTERN AND CENTRAL REGIONS**

**MEMBERS OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES**

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**DISTINGUISHED GUESTS**

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WELCOME YOU TO EMBU COUNTY, ***THE  
LAND OF OPPORTUNITIES.***

IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO HOST THIS AUSPICIOUS OCCASION  
OF COMMISSIONING OF UPPER TANA NATURAL RESOURCES  
MANAGEMENT PROJECT MOTOR VEHICLES, MOTOR CYCLES AND  
TRACTORS TO COUNTY AND SUBCOUNTY PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION  
STAFF.

I TAKE COGNIZANCE OF THE FACT THAT THE PEOPLE BEFORE ME ARE  
DRAWN FROM THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, COUNTY GOVERNMENT,  
DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS LIKE THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR  
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, THE SPANISH TRUST FUND AND  
PROJECT COLLABORATORS.

AS WE ARE GATHERED HERE, I NOTE WITH APPRECIATION THAT IT IS THE THE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA THAT HAS BROUGHT US TOGETHER.

TO THIS END, AND ON BEHALF OF MY GOVERNMENT, I WANT TO THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING, AND CORDIALLY WELCOME YOU TO THIS OCCASION.

### **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

FOR THOSE WHO ARE NOT FAMILIAR WITH EMBU COUNTY, EMBU COUNTY IS HOME TO ABOUT 516,212 **PEOPLE** WHOSE LIVELIHOODS MAINLY REVOLVE AROUND UTILIZATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES. THE COUNTY OCCUPIES AN AREA OF 2,818 KM<sup>2</sup> COMPRISING OF 4.96% GAZZETED FOREST, 16.20% OF WATER MASS; 1.93% URBAN AREA; 17.81% NON-ARABLE LAND AND 59.06% ARABLE LAND.

IN EMBU COUNTY WE PRIDE OURSELVES IN OUR BOUNTIFUL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE, A PEACEFUL AND HARMONIOUS EXISTENCE, AND MOST OF ALL WE ARE BLESSED WITH AN ENVIABLE CLIMATE AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

MOREOVER, EMBU COUNTY IS A MAJOR STAKEHOLDER IN THE NATIONAL ENERGY SECTOR SINCE IT IS HOST TO THE FAMOUS SEVEN FOLK HYDRO POWER PROJECTS WHICH HAS AN INSTALLED CAPACITY OF 543.2 MW.

## **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

DESPITE ALL THESE ENDOWMENTS IN EMBU COUNTY, THERE ARE EXISTING CHALLENGES NOT NECESSARILY UNIQUE TO EMBU COUNTY THAT WE ARE FACED WITH. ALLOW ME TO MENTION BUT A FEW OF THE CHALLENGES THAT MY GOVERNMENT IS ADDRESSING;

i. **ACCESS TO DOMESTIC AND IRRIGATION WATER:**

WE ALL KNOW THAT WATER IS AN IMPORTANT ECONOMIC COMMODITY BOTH FOR DOMESTIC AND IRRIGATION PURPOSES. MY GOVERNMENT IS CONFRONTED BY A LARGE RURAL POPULATION THAT HAS NO ACCESS TO CLEAN POTABLE WATER FOR DOMESTIC USE. THE IRRIGATION POTENTIAL IN THE COUNTY HAS ALSO NOT BEEN FULLY EXPLOITED.

ii. **ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION**

IN CONTRAST TO THE RECOGNITION OF EMBU COUNTY AS A KEY SOURCE OF HYDRO ELECTRIC POWER, THE MAIN SOURCE OF ENERGY TO A LARGE SECTION OF THE COUNTY'S POPULATION LIVING IN THE RURAL AREAS IS FIRE WOOD. THE HIGH DEPENDENCY ON FIREWOOD AND CHARCOAL HAS EXPOSED THE COUNTY TO DEPLETION OF FOREST AND TREE COVER. CONSEQUENTLY, SECTIONS OF FOREST AND FARMLANDS IN THE COUNTY HAVE DEGRADED AREAS THAT REQUIRE REFORESTATION.

## **II. WASTE MANAGEMENT**

WASTE MANAGEMENT REMAINS ONE OF THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES ESPECIALLY IN URBAN AREAS, INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS SCHOOLS AND THE MUSHROOMING UNPLANNED SETTLEMENTS.

### **III. POOR AWARENESS ON ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE ISSUES**

THE LEVELS OF AWARENESS ON ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE REMAINS LOW AT ALL LEVELS WITHIN THE POPULATION OF EMBU. THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT HAS ELABORATE PLANS TO SENSITIZE THE POPULATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE THROUGH TRAININGS AND CAMPAIGNS SUCH AS THE EMBU COUNTY MAZINGIRA DAY.

### **IV. CLIMATE CHANGE**

CLIMATE CHANGE IS OF GREAT CONCERN NOT ONLY IN EMBU COUNTY BUT WORLD OVER. HOWEVER, THE COUNTY HAS BEEN ENCOURAGING ADAPTATION STRATEGIES AND TECHNOOGIES SUCH AS IRRIGATION, DIVERSIFICATION AND USE OF HIGH QUALITY SEEDS. ON THE OTHER HAND, CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION STRATEGIES INCLUDE TREE PLANTING, SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION AND EFFICIENT FUEL WOOD UTILIZATION TECHNOLOGIES.

### **V. POPULATION PRESSURE**

THE HIGH POPULATION PRESSURE COUPLED WITH DWINDLING LAND RESOURCES POSES A THREAT TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

I NOTE WITH APPRECIATION THAT THE OVERALL GOAL OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROJECT IS TO CONTRIBUTE TO REDUCTION OF RURAL POVERTY BY PROMOTING MORE EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES. I NOTE ALSO THAT THIS GOAL WILL BE ACHIEVED THROUGH TWO DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES NAMELY;

- (i) INCREASED SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION AND INCOMES FOR THE POOR RURAL HOUSEHOLDS AND
- (ii) SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR PROVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES.

THE PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES ARE IN LINE WITH EMBU COUNTY'S VISION, AND MY GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO CREATE A 'PROSPEROUS COUNTY WITH EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL'.

I AM HAPPY TO NOTE ALSO THAT THE PROJECT ACTIVITIES ARE BEING UNDERTAKEN IN THE FOLLOWING RIVER BASINS IN EMBU COUNTY;

- ENA RIVER BASIN– COVERING RIVERS ITIMBOGO, THUURA AND GANGARA
- RUPINGAZI/KAPINGAZI RIVERS BASINS - COVERING RIVERS KIYE, THAMBANA, NYANJARA, GICHANGAI, ITABUA AND KATHITA) AND

- THUCI RIVER BASIN- COVERING RIVER GITWA

## **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

I WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO APPRECIATE THE ROLE THAT THE UPPER TANA NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROJECT WITH FUNDING FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF KENYA, INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD) AND THE SPANISH TRUST FUND, AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES IS PLAYING IN MAKING EMBU COUNTY A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE IN. ALLOW ME TO MENTION BUT A FEW KEY ACHIEVEMENTS MADE IN THE LAST TWO YEARS BY THE PROJECT;

- i. FUNDING OF 30 COMMON INTEREST GROUPS IN FORM OF GRANTS ALLOCATIONS TOTALING TO KSHS. 13,507,760/-
- ii. ESTABLISHMENT AND SUPPORT OF 14 FARMERS FIELD SCHOOLS AS A TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER APPROACH
- iii. 33 FARMERS HAVE BEEN CONTRACTED THROUGH THE KENYA AGRICULTURAL AND LIVESTOCK RESEARCH ORGANIZATION (KALRO) TO PRODUCE SEEDS OF VARIOUS TYPES INCLUDING LEGUMES LIKE BEANS, GREENGRAMS AND COWPEAS AND ROOT CROPS SUCH AS SWEET POTATOES AND CASSAVA.
- iv. REHABILITATION OF KANGAI SKY LIMIT SMALL SCALE IRRIGATION SCHEME IN ISHIARA WHICH HAS CAPACITY TO IRRIGATE 40 HECTARES AND SERVES 700 HOUSEHOLDS

- v. DEVELOPMENT OF 3 SHALLOW WELLS IN THURA, UGWERI AND GANGARA AND ONE SPRING IN GANGARA
- vi. CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPPING OF A WATER LABORATORY IN EMBU TOWN WHICH WILL SERVE THE MT. KENYA AREA
- vii. CAPACITY BUILDING OF 4 WATER RESOURCES USER ASSOCIATION (WRUAs) IN LOWER RUPINGAZI , UPPER RUPINGAZI, LOWER THUCHI AND UPPER THUCHI TO ENABLE THEM DEVELOP SUBCATCHMENT MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR FUNDING
- viii. CARRYING OUT WATER AND SANITATION CAMPAIGNS THROUGH PUBLIC BARAZAS AND RADIO BROADCASTS
- ix. REHABILITATING 50HECTARES IN IRANGI FOREST

AND NOW

- x. FACILITATING COUNTY AND SUBCOUNTY PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION STAFF WITH 6 MOTOR VEHICLES (4 FOR SUBCOUNTIES, 1 FOR KALRO-EMBU AND ONE FOR THE WATER LABORATORY), 5 MOTOR BICYCLES AND 1 TRACTOR WITH A TRAILER FOR USE IN FOREST REHABILITATION ALL AT A TOTAL COST OF AT A TOTAL COST OF KSHS. 30 MILLION
- xi. SUPPORTED 77 SCHOOLS WITHIN EMBU COUNTY WITH 38,500 SEEDLINGS VIA THE SCHOOL GREENING PROGRAM

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK OUR DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS, IFAD AND THE SPANISH TRUST FUND, FOR PROVIDING THE FINANCIAL RESOURCES THROUGH THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT. THESE RESOURCES WILL GO A LONG WAY TO SUPPLEMENT OUR COUNTY RESOURCES IN IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR COUNTY INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN (CIDP).

I WANT TO ASSURE BOTH THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, THE DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS AND THE PEOPLE OF EMBU COUNTY THAT ALL RESOURCES THAT ARE PROVIDED, WILL GO TO SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT ASPIRATIONS OF THIS COUNTY.

I CALL UPON ALL STAKEHOLDERS OF THIS PROJECT TO REDEDICATE THEIR EFFORTS IN IMPLEMENTING THE PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT AND A 'PROSPEROUS COUNTY WITH EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL'.

THANK YOU!