

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY HON. UHURU KENYATTA,  
C.G.H. PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA AND  
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE KENYA DEFENCE FORCES AT THE  
COMMEMORATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION  
DAY, 9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2019 IN MAKUENI COUNTY**

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**Prof. Kivutha Kibwana, Governor Makueni County**

**The Chairperson and Commissioners, Ethics and Anti-Corruption  
Commission,**

**The Secretary, Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission,**

**The County Commissioner, Makueni County,**

**Representatives of International Development Partners,**

**Participating Organizations,**

**Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. I am very pleased to be here with you today at the commemoration of the International Anti-Corruption Day, 2019
2. Allow me to first congratulate the organizers for the decision to host the International Anti-Corruption Day through a rotational structure, targeted at various County Headquarters. The choice of Makueni County to host the 2019 celebrations is symbolic. Makueni County has, through the deliberate adoption of good governance tenets, affirmed the true spirit of devolution.
3. The successes we now witness, such as the county's universal health coverage programme, and the value addition produce factories, is a demonstration of the County's ability to draw together the powers, talents and resources of local communities to address the daily challenges that confront hard-working families and individuals, and providing solutions to these challenges.
4. This could only have been achieved through strict adherence to the good governance ideals espoused in our Constitution, legislation and

guidelines as well as commitment to the inherent values of ethics and integrity.

5. I congratulate the people of Makueni for these exceptional achievements.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

6. Kenya's governance journey has come a long way. At one time in our past, we faced the undesirable impacts of policy manipulation and exploitation through price and exchange controls, import licensing and export compensation. Our public sector agencies were inefficient and suffering from mismanagement. Tenaciously however, this country remained on course, undertaking economic, fiscal policy as well as political reforms that culminated in the 2003 watershed moment.
7. From then on, robust anti-corruption legislative and institutional reforms were instituted, which have and continue to form the foundation of government interventions in the sector.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

8. The current administration has sought to deepen these initial reforms, through a reinvigorated set of strategies, mechanisms and tools targeting the policy, legal, institutional, and administrative levels. Through firm leadership resolve, the Government has refused to bury its head in the sand, and has made full and effective use of our anti-corruption arsenal.
9. I will take this opportunity to cite a few examples of these efforts:
  - a. As part of measures to enhance transparency, efficiency and accountability, our public sector organizations have initiated and sustained the automation of key processes as part of good governance ideals. Examples include: **The IFMIS system**, which supports the government's ability to trace and audit payments, and to detect unauthorized transactions; **the E-Citizen system**, which facilitates citizen's services from the comfort of one's home,

enhancing the speed and efficiency of service delivery and sealing revenue leakages; the **I-Tax system**, which continues to receive global recognition for streamlining domestic and customs tax collections and the related treasury management solutions for enhanced revenue collection etc;

- b. The Government's Huduma programme has brought together government services under one roof, reducing the costs of service delivery for the citizen and the individual agencies, and minimizing opportunities for solicitation;
- c. The Government revamped the policy, investigative and prosecutorial agency leadership including appointing a new Attorney General, Solicitor General, DPP, Chairperson and CEO of the EACC, the DCI, and the KRA, and formed them into a Multi-Agency Team (MAT) which innovatively brings together investigation and prosecution, tax administration, asset tracing and recovery under one cohesive framework;
- d. The Competency Based Curriculum (CBC) has been launched, and with it, the re-entrenching of the values of ethics and integrity such as fairness, honesty, excellence, respect and discipline in our children's learning;
- e. The Government has issued various Executive Orders including the Mwongozo Code of Governance for State Corporations, and transformed the management and governance framework of State Owned Enterprises;
- f. The Executive has enforced the signing of Accountability Pledges by State and Public Officers appointed (CSs, PSs, Chairpersons of State Corporations etc) and undertaken the vetting of public officers as part of lifestyle audits.
- g. Within the Judiciary, specialized anti-corruption courts have been established directed to hear all corruption cases continuously (on a day to day basis) to fastrack conclusion. The DPP has also

established a dedicated division to ensure timely and effective prosecution of corruption and economic cases.

10. From where I sit, I can confirm that the country has made significant progress and achievements in its anti-corruption agenda. The sheer number of concluded investigations, and the number of persons arraigned in court to answer to various charges of corruption and economic crime is unprecedented. Never in the history of this country has the record number and profile of corruption cases before the courts been achieved. These include cases involving senior government officials from both the National and County Governments as well as private individuals complicit in corruption incidences.
11. Assets worth millions of shillings have been frozen and are in the process of recovery through the operationalization of the Asset Recovery Agency and enhanced Mutual Legal Assistance. Revenue collection has been enhanced, and our ease of doing business ranking is on an upward trajectory with every year of evaluation. Title deeds that had been irregularly acquired from public agencies are now being returned through the asset recovery efforts of our investigating agencies.
12. The transformation of public services continues to attract regional and international accolades. The public sector is now pioneering innovative citizen centric service delivery models, all designed to ease the time and resource costs of citizens, and improve our revenue collection targets. These are but a few outcomes of the collective resolve to tackle the corruption virus head on.
13. I want to recognize the bold leadership of H.E. The President, who has not only taken the bull by the horns through consistent and unrelenting public support to the anti-corruption objective, but also provided the political leadership to nurture every single step of progress achieved thus far. Of all previous regime efforts, this is by far the most audacious affront against corruption we have witnessed.
14. Our transformative Constitution is the bedrock of this enterprise, entrenching the principles of transparency and accountability in a robust

manner, and requiring that public participation and open government is secured. All these interventions still have a way to go before the full fruits of our labour are discernible, but we are confident that the optimistic start as outlined above will deliver upon the promise.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

15. The theme of the International Anti-Corruption Day 2019 – “United Against Corruption for Sustainable Development” – urges us to reflect upon the impact that corruption has on development. Corruption jeopardizes development in several ways: It distorts public spending, because allocations go not to where they are most required, but to where corrupt officials personally gain; Corruption from tax evasion reduces the government’s tax revenues; Corruption discourages investment and growth as many potential investors cannot predict the costs of their investment decision; It also undermines governance, and public trust in the state’s credibility.

**16.** Our interventions against corruption therefore are key to supporting our development needs. For purposes of the Big Four Agenda in particular, anti-corruption interventions are not only important from a good governance perspective, but absolutely critical to the achievement of the targets areas. The programmes we are implementing in the health, agriculture, manufacturing and housing pillars are all dependent on good governance practices by both implementers and ultimate users. The Government will therefore make all efforts to secure our anti-corruption agenda as it directly affects the achievement of the Big Four Agenda and the Vision 2030.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

17. I am happy to note that majority of the stakeholders represented here include our private sector and non-state partners. Your attendance is an indication that the war against corruption is a responsibility which calls for synergy as we discharge our respective mandates in the transformation of our nation. It is only when we all work together that we will manage the monster of corruption.

18. I am particularly proud of the fact that our anti-corruption interventions have in the last year been undertaken in true partnership with the private sector and non-state actors. This was best demonstrated by the collaboration that resulted in the National Anti-Corruption Conference held in January this year at the Bomas of Kenya. The initiative brought together different sectors of the society to self-reflect on the challenges of corruption and the role each of the actors has played in its promotion and intend to play in its mitigation. Each sector pledged its commitments to support the agenda and work towards distinct efforts to mitigate its occurrence. I trust that these commitments are now under implementation in our various spaces and platforms.
19. The war against corruption requires concerted effort from all stakeholders. It is important that all members of the public are moved to the point where the high awareness levels we have today on corruption, translate into action against it. This means not participating in corrupt activities even where they seem small and insignificant. It means reporting incidences, recording statements and giving evidence in courts of law against suspects. It involves our teaching and practice of the values of right and wrong, honesty and integrity. It demands the recognizing and championing of those who demonstrate the ideals of integrity, making them the idols to whom we aspire.
20. Our children and our children's children must be the guiding light to our efforts. We should seek to leave behind a country where the culture of integrity thrives within our homes, our schools, our churches, our businesses, and our public sector agencies. These individual actions will ultimately coalesce into the Kenya We Want.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

21. As I conclude, I implore upon a deeper and more personal commitment from each and every one of us in the fight against corruption. I implore upon our demonstration of personal commitment as individual Kenyans, as heads of representative institutions, as officers and staff of government agencies, private institutions and development organs to the fight against corruption and to a dedication to integrity and ethical conduct. Individual failure and inaction will be our collective failure.
22. I therefore look forward to our collective action in achieving the strategies against corruption, and building the institutional, legal and policy frameworks that will alleviate this challenge for good.
23. We must not fail. We shall not fail.

I Thank you.

**H.E Uhuru Kenyatta**  
**President**

**December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019**