

IGRTC
INTERGOVERNMENTAL
RELATIONS TECHNICAL
COMMITTEE

Consultation, Cooperation & Coordination in Devolution

PRESS RELEASE

THE LAUNCH OF THE PROGRAMME FOR TRANSFER OF DEVOLVED FUNCTIONS TO COUNTY GOVERNMENTS HELD AT KENYA SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT ON 24TH MARCH 2023

H.E. the President, Dr. William Samoei Ruto, CGH, PhD, at his inauguration, made the policy pronouncement that all devolved functions will be transferred to county governments. This is in line with the Kenya Kwanza Manifesto committing to consolidation and strengthening of devolution. The implementation strategy of the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) of the Kenya Kwanza Government points out the critical role of county governments in the delivery of the priority targets goals of the Agenda.

In sequel, the Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee (IGRTC), which has the statutory responsibility for the transfer of functions between the two levels of Government, developed a comprehensive Framework, Process and Programme for the Transfer of Devolved Functions. The Programme's expected outputs include: (i) a Resources Redeployment Plan covering budget resources, staff, systems, facilities, equipment and machinery etc; (ii) a Budget Rationalization Note, which will inform the transfer of budgeted resources that should follow the transfer of each function; (iii) any capacity building requirements of the county governments; (iv) a schedule of the institutional (laws, regulations, policies, etc) changes that needed to ensure an enabling environment for both transfer and performance of the functions by the county governments; and (v) an implementation matrix.

The implementation of the Programme will be a multi-agency and participatory undertaking that will require intense consultation,

cooperation and coordination between Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), including State corporations, at the National Government level, and County Governments at the other level. To that end, both levels of Government are appropriately represented in the Multi-Agency Technical Task Teams (MATTTs) that will undertake the programming of the transfer of functions. Other organs of government that will be active in MATTTs include State Department for Devolution in the Office of the Deputy President, the Council of Governors (CoG), Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA), Kenya Law Reform Commission (KLRC), Attorney General's Chambers, Public Service Commission (PSC), The National Treasury and Economic Planning, Controller of Budget and the Salaries and Remuneration commission (SRC), and the Executive Office of the President.

The Programme targets that within the next two months, there will be clarity and agreement among the stakeholders as to what (i) specific functions will be transferred from National Government Ministry, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in the next Fiscal Year 2023/24 to County Governments; (ii) the budget resources, human resources (staff), systems, facilities, etc, that should be re-programmed from the MDAs to county governments; and (iii) the policies and laws which need to be amended or repealed for optimal functioning of county governments and the National MDAs.

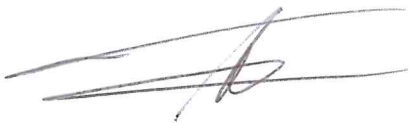
Furthermore, through this Programme, gaps in the capacities of county governments will be identified. It is the Constitutional responsibility of the National Government MDAs to develop and implement programmes to eliminate the capacity gaps in the county governments.

All these stakeholders are here today for three purposes. First, to achieve a meeting of minds on the Framework, Process and Programme for completing the transfer of the functions that are specified as devolved in Schedule 4 of the Constitution of Kenya. Second, to agree on the organization, procedures and timelines for the Multi-Agency

Task Teams to complete the tasks at hand. Thirdly, to formally and comprehensively kick start the implementation of the Programme.

It is important to emphatically point out that this transfer of functions to county governments will not result in any loss of jobs for those currently performing those functions in the National MDAs. Instead, the staff will move with the functions, and with all their current and future employment benefits.

Bottom-line: The exercise is meant to improved efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery by the two levels of government by reducing level of duplication in the implementation of the devolved functions, and resourcing only those functions exclusively assigned and transferred to each government.



**CPA KITHINJI KIRAGU, MBS, OGW
CHAIRMAN, IGRTC**