

**Remarks by H.E. Governor Mutahi Kahiga during the Launch of the County
Public Service Code of Conduct and Ethics on 5 April 2018 at Town Hall Nyeri**

Your Excellency, Dr Alfred Mutua, Governor of Machakos County

The Most Reverend Archbishop Anthony Muheria

Bishop Wanjohi

Distinguished Delegation of Senior County Government officials from Machakos
County

Distinguished staff of the County Government of Nyeri

Invited guests

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to preside over the launch of the Nyeri County Public Service Code of Conduct and Ethics, and the staff identity cards issuance exercise. If you recall very well in my inaugural address I promised that we would seek to transform the county public service into one that seeks excellence, through a mix of both reengineering of processes and mundane initiatives like the one we launch today.

Why the Code? Firstly, there is no shortage of narratives of enforcement actions that have called to our attention, the need to strengthen ethical culture in the Public Service. Secondly, there is need to enhance our focus on compliance with ethical standards and at the same time begin to take corrective action proactively. Thirdly, there is deepening our objective capacity to handle ethical dilemmas that we encounter on our day to day basis and when in doubt know where and who to turn to. Finally, reminders of the seemingly obvious ethical considerations that make us provide service in harmony with each other and in fulfilling expectations of the Divine.

The pocket size code reaffirms the County Government's commitment to ethical principles detailed in the Public Officers Ethics Act, the Leadership and Integrity

Act and of course the Constitution of Kenya. While the code is not a panacea to all ethical issues that you encounter, it does set out basic principles that will guide you in undertaking your duties as a public officer. Where in doubt, consult, consult, consult.....

When we recast our vision and mission earlier in the year, during the development of the County Integrated Development Plan for the period 2018-2022 we acknowledged that running an open government is critical to our success in service delivery and ultimately generation of wealth for our people. This initiative is part of my government's efforts aimed at entrenching transparency and accountability (**Waragania na Ugiririku**).

Today, we have commenced the issuance of a new identity card to each one of our staff so as to ensure that the people we serve are able to identify who is serving them. I am hopeful that this mechanism will facilitate our engagement with the public and facilitate honest feedback. During my many visits to our frontline service delivery points, I have realized that it has been hard to distinguish my staff from the general public. The new identity card has some inbuilt security features that will accord us the desired assurance that our staff are uniquely identifiable and remain accountable in their duties. Over the next month, we will be holding sensitization meetings across the sub-counties with a view to ensuring that every staff is onboard.

Once again, I encourage you to continue offering the best services to the people of Nyeri and seek for support as and when necessary. My government remains steadfast in offering the support that you require. With these remarks, I wish to declare the code of ethics and conduct for the County Public Service; and the staff identification exercise officially launched.

God Bless You.