

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF VIHIGA

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PRESS STATEMENT

GOVERNOR'S 200 DAYS IN OFFICE

H.E. Dr. Wilber K. Ottichilo, Governor Vihiga County set expectations and timelines within which he was to be judged against in terms of service delivery and development. Dr. Ottichilo was sworn in on 21st August, 2017 and assumed office on 22nd August, 2017 with a vision to make Vihiga County a prosperous and model County in Kenya.

In his first 100 days, H.E. The Governor was on a mission to formulate and implement good governance and development systems that will guide his delivery on the promises he made to the people of Vihiga County. A score card of the Governor's first 100 days in office was issued on 2nd December, 2017. Vihiga County has moved since then.

Despite the challenges that have been there; the volatile political temperatures and chief of all, the late or lack thereof of county revenue disbursement from the National treasury, we have made strides and can acknowledge achievement made so far.

Service delivery and development to the people of Vihiga County, is still a priority. To that effect, the following are the milestones my government has succeeded in accomplishing:

1. Established a fully-fledged functioning government with a lean, efficient and effective workforce.
 - All the 10 CECMs are in place;
 - 8 COs were vetted, approved and gazzetted; and one is already in office;
 - Report of the county government of Vihiga structure by DPM ready; staff audit report by DPM is finalized and ready to be presented to the governor in a week's time;
 - CIDP was finalized and tabled in the assembly for approval;
 - 2016/17 FY audit by KENAO conducted;
 - 2018/19 County Fiscal Strategy Paper prepared and presented to the county assembly for discussion and approval;
 - 2018/19 County Budget preparation is underway;
 - Began the establishment of a service delivery unit to ensure efficiency of all county government of Vihiga staff;

- Gazzetted the names of the County Audit Committee;
 - We are in the process of processing the County Budget and Economic Forum Committee.
2. Received funds from the National treasury, Kshs. 125 million for Vihiga County Education Fund. Disbursement is expected to be complete by end of the week starting 2nd April, 2018 through established ward bursary committees. Each of the 25 wards of Vihiga county is receiving Kshs. 4 million for Secondary and tertiary education and Kshs. 850,000 for TVET.
 3. Distribution of subsidized fertilizer and maize seeds to 27,000 farmers in the county has been completed. The subsidized fertilizer and maize seed was procured at a cost Kshs. 30 million.
 4. Initiated the payment of monthly stipend to Community Health Volunteers.
 5. We have finalized and accented to the Ward Development Fund Bill into law set to guide disbursement of ward development monies to the 25 wards of Vihiga County. However, a similar bill is under discussion by the Senate, which is supposed to offer legal and constitutional framework before the Vihiga Ward Development Fund law can be operationalized.
 6. We are in the process of enacting a number of sectoral policies and laws that will guide development process in the county.
 7. Rehabilitation of major roads that have been destroyed by the current heavy rains is underway under the KRB program.

SUB-COUNTY	WARD	ROAD	LEGNTH (KM)	PHASE
HAMISI	SHAMAKHOKHO	Musukura-Chemongo-Kisasi	2.4	1
		Mungavo-Munoywa	1.3	2
		Senende-Chebnywa	1.3	2
	MUHUDU	Isikhu-Mukhombe	1.5	1
		Mabati Demonstration-Maganda	1.8	2
	TAMBUA	Muhaya-Saride	2.2	1
		Simbi Sawmill-Kapsoi	0.7	2
	JEPKOYAI	Tigoi Junction-Lusavasavi	1.9	1
		Givole Secondary-Buyangu	1.5	2
	SHIRU	Kakubutu-Musunji-Jidereri-Forest	2	1
		Cheptulu-Milimani-Shaviringa	2.9	2
	GISAMBAI	Musiri-Gisambai	4.4	1
		Miti Mbili-Ganyamosi	1	2
		Gamoi Centre-Gamoi Secondary	0.7	2
BANJA	Kisulu-Mutiva-Mugango	2.2	1	
	Givogi-Madeya-Senende	4.7	2	
VIHIGA	CENTRAL MARAGOLI	Idunya-Kihila-Chango Secondary	2.6	1
		Home Pub-Kegendirova-Emanda	2.5	2
	SOUTH MARAGOLI	Masana AIC-Kisiza Water Tank	1.6	1
		Chandugunyi-Gilwadzi Bridge	1.1	2

		Gavalagi-Chanzoka-Lusiola	3	2
	MUNGOMA	Lyanaginga-Musunguti	4.6	1
		Ligale Stage-Madzu	0.7	2
	LUGAGA WAMULUMA	Makutano-Iduku-Ingidi	2.8	1
		Kitulu-Kedohi-Muhanda	4.4	2
LUANDA	EMABUNGO	Esamwenyi-Mwitololo Church- Ebusakami	1.7	1
		Musilongo-Mwitololo	1.2	1
		Wandatso PAG-Esiambale	2	2
	LUANDA TOWNSHIP	Ebusakami-Mbati	0.9	1
		Luanda Posta-Ebusikhale	0.7	2
		Butamu-Mumboha	0.9	2
	MWIBONA	Emusoli-Ebusyubi-Epuche	3	1
		Sichenga-Abwajo	1.6	2
	LUANDA SOUTH	Pap Kamoro-Ebubayi-Opasi	1.4	1
		Mukhuyu-Ebusamba Secondary	0.8	1
		Ekasala-Esibembe	1.7	2
	WEMILABI	Itabilia Primary-Munjina Salvation Army	2.3	1
		Kwa Straight-Kella	1	2
		Emuhaya Posta-Ebulonga	1.5	2
SABATIA	IZAVA LYADUYWA	Mbale Market Stalls-Chugi-Kisangula	5.9	1
		Mbale-Ondeyo-Elwunza Primary	2.4	2
		Mbale-Tsiambalo-Endeli Primary	1.6	2
	BUSALI	Ludzu-Budura PAG-Chamakanga	2.3	1
		Lotego-Elunyu Primary-Gagolosi	2.1	2
	NORTH MARAGOLI	Simboyi-Mutambi	1.6	1
	WEST SABATIA	Kitasiru-Mulele-Chanji	2	1
		Galoni-Selelwe	1.8	2
	WODANGA	Kiritu-Chanderema-Jemovo	4	1
		Nabwani-Mudungu	0.9	2
	CHAVAKALI	Standkisa-Serial Board	1.6	1
		Kigunga-Wanondi-Vigege	0.6	2
EMUHAYA	CENTRAL BUNYORE	Ebukhaya-Ematioli	4.7	1
		Malimba-Esirulo-Nathan	1.8	2
	NORTH EAST BUNYORE	Esiarambatsi-Emakakha	3.7	1
		Ematsuli-Emukhondo	2.8	2
		Musiakhupa-Mulusiola-Wanyumbile	1.3	2
		Mudzava-Ilungu	1.4	2
	WEST BUNYORE	Ebuyalu COG-Bukolo Chief's Office	1.7	1
		Askote-Mwicheke	2.4	2
		Duka Moja-Engonia-Sofia Market	2.8	2

8. The tarmacking of Luanda-Esirulo-Esibuye road has commenced

9. We have embarked on the completion of stalled projects particularly: bridges, health centers, and ECDE classrooms. I toured all stalled county projects to take an inventory of all stalled projects across all sectors and budgeted for them in the 2017/18 supplementary budget. Some have already commenced like the Epang'a Bridge, Serem slaughter house, Vihiga County Referral Medical plaza, water projects and the County Mechanical Unit where they will contribute Kshs. 25 million to the program.
10. In the 2017/18 supplementary budget, we have allocated Kshs. 40 million for installation of floodlights in our markets. We have engaged Rural Electrification Authority (REA) on the installation of high mast lighting in over 37 major County Markets under their Matching Funds Program.
11. We have started the process of developing and launching an integrated business licensing, rating and revenue collection system that will reduce harassment of traders and business people, stealing and diverting of revenue for personal benefit and corruption. The department of trade has successfully completed the Vihiga County business inventory and recruited an officer to automate revenue collection in the county. We have budgeted Kshs. 20 million for the automation software and equipment.
12. We have developed draft County communication policy. We have also partnered with GIZ for the development of Public Participation and anti-corruption policies and strategies. GIZ agreed to fund the process and also help develop Vihiga County service charter.
13. In consultation with the transport operators (buses, matatu and bodaboda), my government seeks to formulate and operationalize a Transport Policy that will ensure a safe transport operation of the County. The Governor already met the leadership of Matatu and bodaboda operators to begin the conversation towards the realization of this policy.
14. Convened the Cohesion and Integration conference committee inaugural meeting focusing on county Unity, peace and respect of human rights. The themes focused on were:
 - Ethics and values & corruption
 - Culture & development
 - Politics & Development
 - Religion & Development
 - Peace, Security, Drugs & Substance abuse
 - Public Participation in Governance
 - Environment Conservation & water
 - Cohesion & Integration of communities in the County
 - Job creation & Food Security

The meeting ended with the formation of the County Cohesion Council that will oversee the realization of the focus area targets.
15. We are also organizing Healthcare and medical services consultative forum to bring together the medical and healthcare stakeholders/partners to better develop and strengthen Vihiga

County Health services. The Health Services department is currently developing the framework for the forum.

16. We launched the first issue of the Vihiga County Quarterly newsletter for regular information and update to the people of Vihiga County, our development partners and the nation at large.
17. Vihiga County is setting up a fully functional and equipped state of the art GIS office and laboratory. This is in partnership with ESRI, Airbus and LocateIT, geospatial technology companies. So far, the partnership has succeeded in Mapping all health facilities and social amenities and schools, within the county. We have begun the process of setting up the GIS center and laboratory and recruiting GIS officers; acquired satellite data. We are on our way to be the pioneer county whose development planning and decision making will be guided by data and information from the intergraded development GIS technology. Vihiga County will be doing a presentation at the 2018 devolution conference on the possibilities of GIS in management of counties. ESRI will donate GIS software worth Kshs. 10 million and 15 high-end computers worth Kshs. 5 million.
18. We have successfully completed Audit of equipment and medical supplies in all medical facilities. Through partnership with KEMSA, we will be installing medical supplies management system, to monitor and account for how medical supplies are dispensed in our health facilities.
19. The Governor met with all County TVET managers towards the development of a County TVET Master plan. The meeting was successful, we have a draft masterplan already. Kshs. 140 million have been allocated for the purchase of equipment and renovation of infrastructure in all youth polytechnics.
20. The department of Trade is organizing Public Private Partnership investment forum scheduled for 25th – 28th May 2018.
21. Launched and Issued a toll-free number **(0800 720 378)** for emergencies and alerts on the following issues:
 - SECURITY ISSUES
 - Burglary/Robbery
 - Child abuse
 - Rape
 - Murder
 - ETHICS AND INTEGRITY ISSUES
 - Corruption/whistle blowing
 - Harassment and any other professional misconduct
 - DISASTERS AND EMERGENCY
 - Fires
 - Medical emergency
 - Accidents

- Landslides

22. Vihiga County Empowerment fund established and approved by the county assembly. We have budgeted KShs. 90 million for the same. We are recruiting an expert to put in place structures on the establishment and management of cooperatives and how these funds should be managed.
23. The County Government of Vihiga has partnered with COVEC in urban development. COVEC will construct a market at Gambogi. Light Gambogi, Majengo, Chavakali and Mbale with street lights. Feeder roads in Mbale, Majengo and Chavakali. As part of their CSR, they are also initiating water projects in South Maragoli.
24. The Belgium water project progress is underway at Maseno, Mbale and Kaimosi Water projects. Works for the construction of the main treatment plants at Maseno and Kaimosi has begun. Mbale water project is finalizing on the land acquisition for the solar plant before commencement of works. The equipment and machinery for the water projects is set to be delivered during the official launch of the project by H.E. The President.
25. We have signed a 99-year leasehold land agreement with the Friends Quakers of East Africa for 35 acres of land in Kaimosi for the construction of Industrial park by EPZ.
26. Under the World Bank Urban Support Program, Vihiga Municipality will receive KShs. 250 million annually beginning July 2018, for five years for the development of the municipality.
27. Under the World Bank National Agricultural and Rural Inclusive Growth (NAGRIG) programme, the county will receive Kshs. 50 million for the development of commodity value addition in the agriculture sector (dairy, poultry, horticulture and fish farming). In 2018/189 financial year, the county will receive Kshs. 140 million under the same programme.

Vihiga County is the smallest devolved unit in Kenya, but we are the most densely populated county. The first phase of devolution in Vihiga fell short in putting in place institutional structures and frameworks to propel Vihiga County to truly enviable heights as a socio-economic empowered county. The next five years are pivotal to Vihiga County enjoying and achieving in development; truly raking in devolution goodies for the people of Vihiga County.

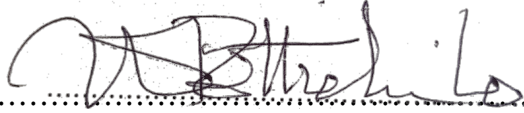
However, there has to be a balance in how the leadership and the people of Vihiga County conduct their social, economic and political business if the county's development is to be fast tracked.

The political season is behind us. Our people are looking to the Vihiga County leadership for substantive transformation and direction. Politics and development can co-exist but only if the political aspect of it complements development initiatives to the people. The focus should always be the PEOPLE and their welfare, job creation, access to universal health services and clean and safe water, education for our young generation, youth empowerment and social security for the vulnerable and the elderly in our society.

All this is achievable if we make development the canvass upon which our political orature is painted.

Last and not least, I wish to thank all those who have worked tirelessly with us since assumption of office and those who have supported the therein reported activities in this press statement, particularly USAID-AHADI and GIZ.

Thank you all for coming, God Bless Vihiga County and God bless Kenya. I wish you all Happy Easter Holidays.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Ottichilo', written over a horizontal dotted line.

H.E. DR. WILBER K. OTTICHILO
GOVERNOR VIHIGA COUNTY