

HON. DR. WILBER K. OTTICHILO

AS GOVERNOR

VIHIGA COUNTY

2017 and Beyond...

OUR MANIFESTO
for

Transforming Vihiga into a county with optimum socio-economic and political sustainability and an equitable and secure society

WITH PRIORITY FOCUS ON:

- 1. Defeating corruption from our County**
- 2. Developing an educated, skilled and well informed society**
- 3. Providing opportunities for youth employment and wealth creation through Agri-business, Entrepreneurship, Technology and Innovation**
- 4. Promoting primary healthcare as the foundation for a healthy County**
- 5. Developing a reliable transport and communication infrastructure network**
- 6. Promoting Conservation of our Environment**
- 7. Promoting County unity and public participation in government-led development processes**

I. Hon. Dr. Wilber K. Ottichilo, your next Governor of Vihiga County, 2017

Many of you from Vihiga County asked me to offer myself as **your candidate for the Office of Governor of Vihiga County** and I humbly accepted. Thank you for the honour and trust.

I am in agreement that the first 4½ years of Devolution in Kenya have been a painful disappointment for residents of Vihiga County. We must now go beyond complaining and work together starting 2017, in order to transform this disappointment into pride within one year of overhauling the leadership how we can start of our county. In this MANIFESTO, we offer specific proposals on **seeing real positive change within the first twelve (12) months of good governance.**

With my valuable **experience as the MP for Emuhaya Constituency from 2008 to 2017**, I will work with a team that is qualified and committed to transform Vihiga County from the embarrassment that the first County Government has subjected us to, into a prosperous County that we shall all be proud of.

We offer this MANIFESTO to you as a summary of ideas we have conceived, for transforming Vihiga into a prosperous County, with your active participation as a stakeholder. Please join us in persuading others to support our intentions of saving our County from bad leadership. Join us to display the best side of Vihiga that has been strangled by the First Government. Join us to lead Kenya by practical examples by demonstrating that Vihiga County has visionary leaders.

Our political philosophy and platform is **Social Democracy**. This philosophy believes that a successful Government is built through teamwork, and ensures promotion of social, economic, cultural and political development opportunities for everyone. However, a social democratic government acknowledges that we are not all the same. We have stronger, wealthier, more educated and more exposed people, who must be encouraged to create more wealth and opportunities through private enterprise for others in our society. We also have weaker, disadvantaged, poor, not well educated and struggling people in our society, who must be supported through deliberate government programmes that give them a chance to be educated, to earn an income, to start a business, to make their land productive and live a decent life. So, everyone has a role to play for the prosperity of the society. This is our ultimate political pillar for the growth of our County.

We shall therefore engage political and development partners locally, nationally, regionally and internationally, who subscribe to the philosophy of **Social Democracy**. We will solidly remain part of the political movement and allies that believe in and promote social democracy in Kenya.

II. The Challenges of Vihiga County

1. Vihiga is a rural and densely populated County with an *estimate* population of 604,000 people sharing 531 square kilometres of landmass. Vihiga County has an average of 1,078 persons per square kilometre compared to the national average of 66 persons per square kilometre.
2. Poverty: the average level of poverty in Vihiga is 62%, meaning a large majority of residents of Vihiga County live in poverty.
3. A highly divisive approach to leadership, where politicians mobilize and patronize the 3 major communities of Anyole, Tiriki and Maragoli by intentionally inciting one community against the others but not benefiting any of the communities. These divisive tactics ignore other communities for whom Vihiga County is home like Terik, Luo, Kisii, Indians, Kikuyus and Kalenjins.
4. Because of historical incitement by leaders, communities of Vihiga are ever suspicious of each other to the disadvantage of all residents but to the benefit of a few leaders who would like the status quo to stay.
5. Lack of a truly consultative and focused approach to determining the county's **short term, medium term** and **long-term** development priorities, including implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes as spelled out in the Kenyan Constitution (2010) and County Government Act (2012).
6. Lack of openness, transparency, fairness and accountability in the entire County Government.
7. Widespread **Corruption** in the County Government, at both the Executive and the County Assembly levels.
8. Failure to develop a focused County Integrated Development Plan with clearly spelled out milestones through a truly public participatory process.
9. Lack of a clear County Governance structure and accountability system that readily allows citizens to access reliable information for interrogating the performance of their government and holding it accountable to the people.
10. An ever-increasing large number of unemployed, idle and restless young people.
11. Constant Food Insecurity because of over-reliance on traditional smallholder farming, largely for household consumption and failure to adopt new farming methods like irrigation, greenhouse technologies and opportunities for Agribusiness.
12. Failure to survey, title, secure and put to productive use all public lands in the County.

13. Pathetic state of healthcare and sanitation, made worse by poor management of the health sector, demotivated healthcare professionals, inadequate facilities and lack of medical supplies, dysfunctional Sub-County health facilities (health centres and dispensaries). The current county leadership has been unable to appreciate the critical importance of primary healthcare as a foundation for a healthy and productive County.
14. Insufficient educational infrastructure, low transition levels from primary to secondary and tertiary institutions due to poverty; and lack of focus and ignorance of the importance of middle level technical and vocational skills training.
15. Inadequate attention to special education and Early Childhood Development and Education (ECDE), hence scarce special education and ECDE facilities and professionals in our county
16. No official focus on development and promotion of special talents like creative and performing arts, music, athletics, ball games,
17. No interest by County leadership in developing and promoting entrepreneurship, trade and commerce, and misinformed focus on direct employment in the public sector.
18. Failure to engage private sector stakeholders for development of public-private partnerships for accelerated job and wealth creation.
19. Persistent Water scarcity due to undeveloped potential for sustainable water harvesting, supply, distribution and conservation.
20. Neglect of our traditional cottage industries, particularly basketry, pottery, brick making, tinsmiths and rope making.
21. Slow uptake and adoption of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in the County Governance and Development strategy

III. What is our shared motivation for yearning for better leadership for Vihiga County?

1. We are impatient with Unprofessional, Retrogressive and Selfish leadership of patronage networks sending our County to social and economic drainages.
2. We are utterly devastated by the **grand corruption, plunder and open looting** of our County's public resources by the current leaders of the Executive and County Assembly. It is urgent that we act to prevent, control, punish and defeat corruption and grand theft in our County.
3. We recognize the urgent need to establish an ethical, transparent and accountable, governance structure and system for our County.

4. We have an urge to reform the Governance of our County and provide responsive and accountable leadership.
5. We are eager to build a multi-skilled, educated and well-informed society.
6. We deserve openness, honesty, and equity in managing competing interests within our County.
7. We have the urge to unify all the peoples of Vihiga into one cohesive Vihiga County community with shared interests and aspirations.

IV. What we propose to do differently in Vihiga County leadership, Starting 2017

1. Creating unity of purpose in the County, among ALL its communities, through a healing process for a collaborative approach to development and shared prosperity
2. Starting with a reconciliation conference whose outputs will be managed and promoted by a publicly funded **County Social and Economic Council**, whose membership will be drawn from all the communities of Vihiga County, to secure the county healing, integration and cohesion process.
3. Creating unity of purpose of ALL leaders of the County for them to chart the County's development course together and be involved in the implementation of the same.
4. Utilizing professionals to translate the people's aspirations into a strategic plan based on the general consensus of the County residents, and directly involving them in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the strategic plan.
5. Identifying key thematic areas that will form drivers of development and the accompanying flagship projects for time-bound Rapid Results Achievement (RRAs) over the first 90days, 6months and over 12 months.
6. Validating the strategic plan through public participation and then launching it publicly with multi-stakeholder participation.
7. Determining who implements the County strategic plan (The TEAM) on the basis of merit and commitment confirmed through due diligence, while respecting the principles of diversity and inclusiveness across the County.
8. Having an objective vetting process to ensure County Public Service Board is made up of people of high integrity, requisite skills and experience.
9. Adopting performance contracting in the County Government that will be based on a comprehensive performance management system that promotes efficiency and effectiveness in public service delivery.
10. Creating alternative of rewarding political supporters, which do not compromise quality in public service and/or crowd the County leaders' development agenda.

11. Developing scientifically researched policy papers and legislation for every sector to guide ALL budgeting decisions.
12. Implementing the Public Finance Management Act and the County Governments Act for all County budget making, development planning and implementation processes.
13. Working with a Deputy Governor, who will have substantive responsibilities for Project Implementation, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting for the County Government.
14. Having an Efficiency Monitoring and Evaluation system in the office of the Governor.
15. Having a monthly County departmental reporting system to track performance.
16. Having a completely independent Supply Chain Management System (SCMS) that strictly adheres to the law and best practices.
17. Having a very independent Public accountability and audit system: The Governor and his team will hold an open bi-annual public accountability forum to give citizens the opportunity to hold their government to account to propose areas that the County government should attend to.
18. Initiating long term programmes to promote and institutionalize responsive and accountable governance at all levels.
19. Having a very strong and professional communication department and team to regularly and accurately inform the public on the programmes and activities of the government through direct and online engagement, Radio, Television and a bi-annual newsletter.
20. Having an independent think tank to critique and advise on suitability of government policies and programmes to Vihiga County people's needs and challenges
21. Having bi-annual independent opinion survey on public service delivery and rating of County leadership,
22. Establishing effective and sustainable Public-Private partnerships in order to promote entrepreneurship and investment in the County.
23. Establishing a comprehensive spatial database system that will be continuously updated and used in rational development planning processes and as a decision making support system.

V. The key sectors that will drive Vihiga County people's development agenda

1. Governance

- (i) We have a team that will interpret the Constitution of Kenya (2010) accurately and faithfully, especially on Devolution and on Leadership and Integrity. We shall ensure that the letter and spirit of the Constitution of Kenya guide our approach to governance.
- (ii) Guided by the Constitution and Laws of Kenya, we will define and document what the County Government will look like, outlining all the different departments and agencies and how they relate to each other for the service of the people of Vihiga and Kenya.
- (iii) We will put in place a public participation policy and a comprehensive public participation law and guidelines, and ensure that the County Government prioritizes effective public participation.
- (iv) We will develop a transparent and accountable public resources mobilization, utilization and management system that will include:
 - (a) A comprehensive, fair and equitable system for local revenue collection and utilization across the County
 - (b) A framework for mobilization of resources locally, nationally and externally
 - (c) A comprehensive public debt management policy
 - (d) Efficiency Monitoring Unit in the Office of the Governor to continuously monitor budget implementation and ensure fidelity
 - (e) A County Audit Unit in the Office of the Governor to ensure equity and accountability
- (v) We will develop a **comprehensive strategy to fight and prevent corruption** in all sectors of our County and Society by:
 - (a) **Focusing primarily on prevention of corruption** and not “ambush and punish”, even as we support the punishment under the law of those engaging in corruption
 - (b) Developing and implementing an elaborate anti-corruption public education and awareness programme, with a robust communication strategy
 - (c) Incorporating the anti-corruption message in our Early Childhood Education and Development programmes
 - (d) Carrying out annual corruption risk assessment audits in every County Department with a view to reviewing and strengthening resource management systems to prevent the vice
 - (e) Strictly committing everyone who seeks to do business with our County Government to minimum standards of conduct at all times
 - (f) Instituting a pending bills committee to scrutinize and verify the authenticity, honesty and conformity to law and common sense of all pending bills and major county commitments over the last 4 years

2. Human Resources Development and Management

- (i) We will carry out a systematic campaign to transform our people's thinking to go beyond subsistence survival (tilling the land to plant maize and beans, having a few banana stems, some chicken and cattle, the way they have always done) to thinking innovatively as a people who have capacity to develop to the next level
- (ii) We will promote the culture of enterprise creation especially by young people, to replace the current preoccupation with being employed/employing people where there are no value adding opportunities
- (iii) We will prioritize and promote applied sciences and technical training with a strong emphasis on technical and vocational skills training. The County Government will offer full scholarships to post-high school students opting for technical and vocational skills training
- (iv) We will work to position our county as a "to-go-to" source of high quality technicians for the Kenyan and international markets by investing in facilities for technical skills and vocational training

3. Agriculture and Food Security

- (i) We will employ scientific testing of soils in the whole county before making decisions on how to improve their productivity, and long term soil conservation programmes.
- (ii) We will employ the use of biotechnology in agriculture, based on the smallholder agriculture model.
- (iii) We will invest in the protection, promotion and sustainable production and preservation of indigenous seeds and other plant and animal matter, and the growing and consumption of traditional foods like sweet potatoes, cassava, arrow roots, yams, simsim, pumpkins, sorghum and ground nuts.
- (iv) We will initiate irrigation schemes that are designed for supporting smallholder farming
- (v) We will promote horticulture, value chain promotion and value addition on the farm and through Cooperatives
- (vi) We will promote fish farming and large scale water harvesting and storage for small scale irrigation for food production
- (vii) We will promote poultry and dairy farming, and bee keeping informed by scientific and technological advances

- (viii) We will vigorously promote Agro-forestry in order to ensure every homestead has indigenous trees, bamboo and non-indigenous fruit trees on at least 10% of its land
- (ix) We will seek to make smallholder agriculture a paying business by promoting agribusiness and encouraging and supporting the youth to effectively participate in horticulture and dairy farming as well as in agricultural produce value addition e.g. fruit, vegetable and milk processing and marketing
- (x) We will revamp and substantively invest in agricultural extension services

4. Healthcare and Medical Services

- (i) We will prioritize Public Healthcare as the foundation of our county's health and wellbeing. We will invest significantly in public/community health work to ensure our population adopts healthy living habits, and disease prevention is given the highest priority
- (ii) We will systematically invest in developing a sustainable Human Resources Management and Development system for our health and medical services sector, starting with engaging the leaders of healthcare professionals on how to effectively deal with the issue of Human Resources Management to avoid disruptions
- (iii) We will develop a robust healthcare system where there are well-distributed health facilities across the county, including Ambulance and related rescue services, which are well equipped, stocked, staffed and managed.
- (iv) We will invest in the revamping of our County Hospital through dialogue with health professionals on the areas of priority focus, by prioritizing development of ICTs to support cost-effective delivery of all health and medical services on a timely basis.
- (v) We will develop a partnership with Kakamega and Kisumu Counties' specialist health and medical services and referral systems to guarantee affordable access to high-level specialist services for patients from our County as well as training, research and exchange for our health professionals
- (vi) We shall invest in Solar power systems for all our health facilities ensure that all health services continue uninterrupted day and night (24 hours).
- (vii) We will carry out a household audit to identify senior citizens (65 years old and above) and other vulnerable citizens who cannot afford to pay for any medical insurance and institute a scheme for them to access National Hospital Insurance Fund cover at public expense.

5. Water and Sanitation

- (i) We will invest in development of water supply and sanitation systems in all our urban areas and County institutions, as well as community managed water systems in every Sub-County.
- (ii) We will invest in and promote ground and rainwater harvesting and conservation of our water sources, basins and towers.
- (iii) We will invest in the conservation of our water catchment areas and sources, as well as the protection of natural water springs, riparian areas and wetlands.
- (iv) We will invest in a study and mapping of our urban centres and markets for purposes of initiating development of a modern sewage disposal system.
- (v) We will moot rural water reticulation systems where feasible in order to enhance access to portable water by rural communities

6. Energy

- (i) We will promote and invest in renewable energy, particularly solar and wind energy and partner in development of small hydropower stations where feasible
- (ii) We will promote the use of energy saving cooking stoves for all our rural households
- (iii) We will promote the uptake of domestic solar power systems for homes in our County by subsidizing the cost of installation for low-income earners
- (iv) We will promote and support the uptake of solar power systems in our public primary and secondary schools, technical and vocational training institutes and in our dispensaries, health centres and hospitals

7. Trade, Industry and Commerce

- (i) We will promote micro-industries and a training and sensitization scheme for young people to participate effectively; e.g. in fruit processing, milk processing and other farm-based value addition
- (ii) We will work in partnership with the local private sector to invest in developing entrepreneurship opportunities for young people
- (iii) We will construct functional water and sanitation facilities, lighting, solar-powered cooling facilities for perishable goods, and motorable roads to serve all our open-air markets in a manner that will provide safety and comfort to businesses and traders while respecting our open-air market traditions, as we don't want to box people inside buildings and structures
- (iv) We will construct a modern slaughterhouse in every urban centre and major market and promote development of hides and skins processing industry

- (v) We will invest in reviving, support and standardize **our traditional cottage industries, particularly pottery, basketry, tinsmith, mat making, rope making and brick making** to ensure that they become a commercially productive and employment creating sub-sector
- (vi) We will carry out public education for all to understand that the first and best market for products from our traditional cottage industries is our immediate neighbouring counties and ourselves. We will support value-addition to these traditional products for us and other markets to enjoy high quality
- (vii) We will promote SACCOs for all sectors with a commercial potential.
- (viii) We will develop and promote affordable, appropriate, locally relevant Micro-finance services for enterprise development and for supporting innovations
- (ix) We will promote eco-tourism and cultural-tourism through conservation of our natural forests and traditional sites and practices and marketing as well as encouraging the development of tourism facilities.

8. Social Services, Culture and the Creative and Performing Arts

- (i) In every Sub-county, we will promote and develop County social amenities, including playgrounds and sports facilities, public parks and children's playgrounds, and open spaces
- (ii) We will invest in development of talents, especially in the creative and performing arts and we will specifically **establish a County Talent Development Centre**
- (iii) We will develop a sustainable support system for orphans, senior citizens, people with disabilities and other vulnerable persons to ensure that all deserving cases are supported through to have access to opportunities for education and healthcare, enterprise development, as well as social, political and economic inclusion
- (iv) We will set aside adequate space and develop decent County burial grounds
- (v) We will promote a **joint Annual Vihiga County Cultural Festival** which will be held in the different Sub-counties on rotational basis during the December holiday season
- (vi) We will develop requisite facilities and promote our county as a choice destination for sports tourism

9. Human Security and Safety

- (i) We will promote a collaborative and partnership approach to issues of human security and safety, for a smooth working relationship with the national government
- (ii) Our County security and safety strategy will primarily focus on employment and wealth creation as guarantors of a secure and safe county
- (iii) We will initiate development of a functional County Fire and Rescue Service and a Toll-free Emergency Response Telephone Service

10. Physical Infrastructure and Communication

- (i) We will put to good use our experience in Emuhaya Constituency to improve and maintain our entire rural road infrastructure to at least **all weather motorable standards**.
- (ii) Through a consultative and consensus process we will identify key roads for development to bitumen standards, ensuring close partnerships with neighbouring Counties and the national government on development of road infrastructure
- (iii) We will seek partnership with the private sector to ensure that we lay down the infrastructure for high speed internet connectivity in our county
- (iv) Kaimosi had an Airstrip that is neglected, disused and now under threat of encroachment and grabbing. We will partner with the National Government and the National Land Commission to secure all the original land of Kaimosi Airstrip and invest in reviving and developing the facility into a usable state
- (v) We will work with investors and workers in the transport sector to develop a zoned and well-regulated transport system for buses, matatu and boda boda services, and ensure availability of well serviced transport parks

11. Early Childhood Education and Development, and Special Education

- (i) Within the first 6 months we will hold a stakeholders' consultative forum to deliberate on the challenges of our Early Childhood Education and Development and together agree on the best strategies and approaches to this critical sub-sector
- (ii) Recognizing the importance of Early Childhood Education and Development on the overall emotional, physical and social development of the individual, we will invest in developing, equipping and staffing of early childhood education and development centres at every public primary school

- (iii) Besides supporting the existing special schools, we will seek partnerships for establishment and development of special education facilities within existing public primary schools to cater for children with disabilities
- (iv) The County Government will set up an “Education Improvement Fund” through which public primary and secondary schools will be supported by way of infrastructural development and improvement, and employment of additional teachers and technical staff

12. Technical, Vocational Training and Tertiary Education

- (i) We will invest in building the capacity of technical and vocational colleges in all our sub counties, prioritize completion of the two that are under construction in Emuhaya and Sabatia, and renovation of existing ones, equipping all of them with modern equipment and ensuring they have qualified managers and staff
- (ii) We will engage with external partners on development and equipping of facilities as well as skills transfer for our technical and Vocational institutions to be of the highest standards possible
- (iii) Our government will partner with tertiary and higher institutions of learning on research and innovation under all the priority areas of development that we have identified.
- (iv) We will provide significant sponsorship (bursaries) to students in our County as an incentive to promote technical and vocational training towards creation of an educated and skilled labour force

13. Land, Environment and Natural Resources

- (i) Vihiga County has a small landmass filled with plenty of natural resources that are ignored and wasted. We will have a Cabinet Level Department dedicated to land, environment and natural resources to ensure that we develop sustainable capacity for conservation and protection of our resources and sustainably utilize them to benefit all residents of Vihiga
- (ii) We will develop a comprehensive policy for management of County trust lands and conservation, restoration and sustainable use of our environment and natural resources
- (iii) Within the first one year in office we will carry out an inventory of and register/title all County public lands. We will initiate a strategic land acquisition and banking programme and zone public lands for appropriate public uses in accordance with the law. We will also create a land database and work with the National Land Commission to create and sustain a digital County Land Registry

- (iv) We will pay specific attention to working with local communities to restore and conserve Kaimosi, Maragoli, Ebuhando, Ebusiekwe Hills and other forests across the county.
- (v) We will initiate and implement a land and soil conservation programme
- (vi) We will collaborate with national agencies like the Water Resources Management Authority, Kenya Wildlife Services, Kenya Forest Service, and Regional Water Services Boards, to conserve the County water resources, forests and wildlife
- (vii) We will collaborate with the National Environment Management Authority in building capacity for environmental and social impact assessments of development projects and programmes and in waste management, and pollution control in order to keep our County environment clean and healthy
- (viii) We will collaborate with the National Climate Change Directorate, to establish a County Climate Change Unit to promote climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, with a strong component on public education and awareness
- (ix) We will collaborate with the Ministry of Mining to establish a granite mining and value addition factory in the County and conduct mineral prospecting, especial for gold, in a regulated environment that ensure benefits accrue to Vihiga County residents
- (x) We will develop and operationalize a physical planning unit in the County

VI. County development efforts on the above priorities will be driven by:

1. Meritorious public service delivery,
2. Effective Public participation,
3. Partnerships beyond government and beyond Kenya,
4. Innovative Approaches: including Information and Communication Technologies, effective and timely communication, New Media, Biotechnology in agriculture and food production, context specific financial services and tools, and healthcare innovations.
5. Mobilizing the population to work through organized approaches, like Savings and Credit Cooperative Organizations and Small and Micro Enterprises
6. Developing a robust framework for partnerships with external development partners (donors and investors) in investing in the development of Vihiga County

7. Continuous capacity building for all County staff

VII. Results in the first 180 days in office

The poor performance of the First Vihiga County Government has caused many residents to lose faith in the County Governance system. It is as if devolution came for a few people in leadership positions to share the money that comes to the County Government for their personal benefit.

We will commit to achieving **specific Rapid Results in the first eighteen months** in office as a starting point for building Vihiga residents' confidence in the devolved system of governance. Vihiga residents' confidence in the governance system will promote a participatory approach to our development as the basis for transforming Vihiga from a failed experiment into a prosperous County.

WITHIN 14 DAYS after assumption of office, the Second (new) Governor will issue **"Governor's Memo Number 1 on Structure and Functions of Vihiga County Government"**.

- ◆ It is important that residents and partners understand the structure and functions of the County Government so that they may know how to hold it accountable. It is also important that all County Government staff, the County Assembly and institutions of the National Government know the various Departments, Units and Agencies of the county government and the relationships between the various offices so that they may understand how best to work together for the people of Vihiga and Kenya.

WITHIN 30 DAYS after assumption of office, the Governor's office will convene a **conference of all elected and nominated political leaders** of Vihiga County, with the participation of key senior National Government officers.

- ◆ After a highly competitive electoral contest, this conference will be necessary to bring the leadership of Vihiga County together, for a solemn agreement on the need and ways of working together for the people of Vihiga and Kenya.

WITHIN 30 DAYS after assumption of office, the Governor's office will launch the process of **developing a new County Integrated Development Plan** through effective public participation.

- ◆ The development agenda of Vihiga County will be realized not through haphazard, kneejerk, reactionary pronouncements, decisions and activities but through a systematic integrated development plan that will be developed by a professional team with effective, County government-facilitated public participation.

WITHIN 45 DAYS after assumption of office, the Governor's office in consultation with the Office of the Auditor General of Kenya (Kenya National Audit Office), will **institute an audit of Vihiga County public debt**.

- ◆ This audit will be important for ascertaining what the people of Vihiga owe, why, to whom and for what, and to confirm the **authenticity and legality of any pending bills** that the people will be required to pay. This will enable the county government to come up with **a plan for settling all legitimate debt** that the people of Vihiga may owe, and **a strategy for County Public Debt Management (CPDM)** to ensure that any future benefits and not burdens for the people of Vihiga.

WITHIN 45 DAYS after assumption of office, the Governor's office, in consultation with the political and cultural leaders of Vihiga County, will convene a **County Cohesion Conference**.

- ◆ The people of Vihiga have lost a lot because of the historical divide and incitement caused by leaders to keep the different communities (Anyole, Tiriki, Maragoli, Terik, Luo and others) apart, always suspicious of each other and therefore not able to work in a cooperative manner for the development of all. The County Cohesion Conference will review these past mistakes, discuss and agree on a framework for building trust and cohesion and form a representative **County Social and Cultural Council** that will be facilitated by the County Government to spearhead the cohesion agenda and offer advice to our County's political leadership on progressive social and cultural development.

WITHIN 60 DAYS after assumption of office, the Governor's office, in consultation with the County Public Service Board, the Public Service Commission of Kenya and the Salaries and Remuneration Commission, will commission a comprehensive **audit of all county staff and positions of the county public service**.

- ◆ This audit will be for ascertaining the usefulness, necessity and legality of County public service positions, as well as the number, qualifications and placement suitability of the County staff.

WITHIN 60 DAYS after the Governor's assumption of office, the Governor's office will convene a **Healthcare and Medical Services Consultative Forum**, with County healthcare and medical services professionals and their leaders for discussion and agreement on the best way to manage the sector for the good of all in Vihiga County.

- ◆ Our team is eager to get it right and maintain it that way for the healthcare and medical services sector in our county. In recognition of the importance of this sector and noting the disruptions and losses that we have witnessed, and in the spirit of openness and good faith, this Forum will seek to actively listen to the professionals and leaders from the healthcare and medical services sector and agree on the challenges, the missed opportunities and the **best way to manage issues of human resources management and development, physical infrastructure and facilities, medical supplies, support services and related needs**.

WITHIN 60 DAYS after the Governor's assumption of office, the County Government will **publicly launch the County Integrated Development Plan and County Public Participation Strategy**.

WITHIN 75 DAYS after the Governor's assumption of office, the County Government will launch **County Communication Strategy, County Website and County Quarterly News.**

WITHIN 90 DAYS after the Governor's assumption of office, the County Government will ensure that ALL Dispensaries, Health Centres and Hospitals in Vihiga County have **sufficient medical supplies.**

- ◆ The County Government will audit the status of equipment and medical supplies in all its health facilities review and strengthen the medical supplies management systems in these facilities and invest in optimally equipping and supplying them.

WITHIN 90 DAYS after the Governor's assumption of office, the County Government will launch an audit of all stalled projects that were started by the previous administration with a view to establishing the ones that have a feasibility plan in order to revive and complete them for the benefit of the people of Vihiga County. Projects that are unfeasible, which run the risk of wasting the resources of the people of Vihiga, will be wound up in accordance with laws and regulations that guide disposal of public assets.

WITHIN 100 DAYS after assumption of office, the Governor will convene a **Public-Private-Partnership summit** with the business community in Vihiga County to discuss the challenges that face business and enterprise development in our County and the way forward.

- ◆ The public-private-partnership summit will discuss and agree on a framework for increasing opportunities for investment and enterprise development, how to improve the growth of the business sector in Vihiga, and the best ways and means of promoting and regulating business in the county for the benefit of our society.

WITHIN 120 DAYS after assumption of office, the County Government will have ensured that all the County Markets within the County are clean, have reliable water supply and ablutions, and a **cleaning and waste management system for the markets** will have been put in place.

WITHIN 150 DAYS after assumption of office, the County Government will ensure **sufficient and well-maintained lighting in the major County Markets.**

- ◆ Decisions on which markets to be light will be based on business turn over, BUT the programme will ensure that **a MINIMUM of four (3) markets in each Sub-County** benefit from this programme within the specified timeframe.

WITHIN 170 DAYS after assumption of office, the County Government will ensure that there is **an integrated business licencing, rating and local revenue collection system** in Vihiga County and that NO business person is subjected to any form of harassment by County staff or any other person.

- ◆ Deliberate lack of order and a verifiable system in business licencing, rating and revenue collection in Vihiga County has led to chaos in the business environment,

which in turn facilitate **harassment of traders and business people, stealing and diverting of revenue for personal benefit and corruption**. The new county leadership will STOP this within 170 days, bring order into the business environment and ensure all revenue due for collection is **collected, banked, accurately reported, accounted for and verified for use in developing Vihiga County**.

WITHIN 180 DAYS after assumption of office, the Governor will launch a comprehensive **County Strategy for Prevention and Control of Corruption**.

- ◆ Vihiga County Government is well known for corruption, plunder and waste in public office more than anything else. The new County Government will put a stop to this and **mobilize the county residents to live up to and demand better ethical standards in the management of public resources**.

WITHIN 180 DAYS after assumption of office, the County Government will carry out an audit of the technical and vocational skills and training opportunities within Vihiga County develop and launch and start implementing a **County Technical and Vocational Skills Development Master plan**.

WITHIN 180 DAYS after assumption of office, the County Government will in consultation with the transport operators (buses, matatu and boda boda) formulate and operationalize a Transport Policy that will ensure a safe operation of the **County Transport System**.

WITHIN 180 DAYS after assumption of office, the County Government will establish a County Empowerment Fund for access of soft loans by young entrepreneurs, the local business people and SACCOs

THE CANDIDATE: HON. DR. WILBER K. OTTICHILO

POLITICAL CAREER

Dr. Wilber Ottichilo has been the Member of Parliament (MP) representing Emuhaya Constituency in the National Assembly since 2008 to date. In the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) party 2013 primaries (nominations) he was unopposed after a 1st term in Parliament during which he performed to the satisfaction of Emuhaya constituents. He easily won back the MP seat in the 2013 elections.

In May 2015, Dr. W. Ottichilo was voted the **best performing** MP in Kenya, based on his development record and use of Constituency Development Fund as affirmed by Emuhaya constituents. As a result of Dr. Ottichilo's exemplary performance, Emuhaya Constituency stands out in Vihiga County as having the best road network, the best education facilities and performance (on aggregate), the best human security rating, the best electricity network and access, and the best community based and managed water supply systems.

During the 10th Parliament **Dr. Ottichilo** was a member of Parliamentary Committees on Education, Research and Technology and Transport and Communications and in the 11th Parliament he has been a member of Parliamentary Committees on Education, Research and Technology and Environment and Natural Resources. While serving in these Committees he has contributed immensely to the formulation and enactment of several laws including but not limited to:

- ✓ Basic Education Act,
 - ✓ Universities Act,
 - ✓ the Technical and Vocational Education Training Act,
 - ✓ Science Technology and Innovation Act,
 - ✓ the Biosafety Act,
 - ✓ the National Construction Act,
 - ✓ the Engineers Act,
 - ✓ the National Safety and Transport Act,
 - ✓ the Technologists and Technicians Act,
 - ✓ the Wildlife Act,
 - ✓ the Forest Act,
 - ✓ the Water Act,
 - ✓ the Mining Act,
- Just to list a few.

He personally sponsored the following Motions and Bills in Parliament successfully:

- ✓ Motion on the threat of the impact of construction of GIBE 3 Dam in Ethiopia on Lake Turkana
- ✓ Motion on the establishment of National Spatial Data infrastructure (NSDI) in Kenya
- ✓ Motion on the establishment of Kenya Space Agency
- ✓ Motion to set aside one national day every month for the public to clean their environment as per Article 42 of our constitution
- ✓ Motion on the promotion of the use and development of renewable energy in Kenya

- ✓ The Climate Change Act (2016)

He also chaired many Parliamentary Sub-Committees investigating into many national issues. Key ones include:

- ✓ Investigation into the operation and management of Sun Marco Space Applications Centre in Malindi, Kenya
- ✓ Investigation into Wildlife Poaching in Kenya
- ✓ Investigation into the Impact of Construction of Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) through Tsavo Conservation Ecosystem, Kenya
- ✓ Fact finding Mission to International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, Austria on the Use and Safety of Nuclear Energy

Dr. Ottichilo holds the following positions in the 11th Parliament as at 2017:

1. **Chairperson**, Parliamentary Network on Renewable Energy and Climate Change
2. **Co-Chair**, International Parliamentary Conservation Caucus Forum- Kenyan Chapter
3. **Co-Chair**, Parliamentary Disaster Risk Reduction Caucus

PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Dr. Ottichilo has excelled in his career before joining politics in 2008:

- ✓ Eight (8) years as the Director General for Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) for Eastern and Southern Africa. The Centre is an affiliate of UN-Economic Commission for Africa and provides training and advisory services in the use of Geo-Information Technologies (Remote Sensing, GIS, GPS and ICT) in sustainable development of its member States.
- ✓ 1993 to 1998, Deputy Director/Chief Scientist of Kenya Wildlife Service responsible for biodiversity research, planning and management.
- ✓ 1989 to 1992, worked for UN-Food and Agricultural Organization as a remote sensing expert/project manager for the food security and early warning project for the Greater Horn of Africa.
- ✓ 1987 to 1989, worked for UNEP as Project Officer for a project on mapping of indicators for desertification/land degradation processes in arid lands.
- ✓ 1978 to 1986 worked as a Chief Ecologist and later as a Deputy Director with the Department of Resource Surveys and Remote Sensing within the Ministry of Economic Planning and National Development in Kenya and was responsible for collection and analysis of natural resources data for national planning processes.
- ✓ Has worked as a consultant for many institutions including World Bank, the UN and International Agencies and private consulting firms,

EDUCATION/ACADEMIC WORK

Dr. Ottichilo holds:

- ✓ Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Degree in Natural Resources Mapping and Assessment from University of Wageningen/International Institute for Earth Observation and Geo-Information in the Netherlands
- ✓ Master of Science in Biology of Conservation and Ecology, University of Nairobi

- ✓ Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology and Botany from the University of Nairobi.
- ✓ Post-graduate diploma in natural resources planning and management from the Colorado State University in the U.S.A.
- ✓ Several certificates in project management, agricultural project analysis, ecosystem management, rural surveys and mapping, technical editing, data analysis, computer science etc. from different institutions.
- ✓ Has published numerous scientific papers and technical reports.

INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Besides being an MP, **Dr. Ottichilo** currently also holds the following international positions:

- Distinguished Fellow of African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS). ACTS is ranked among the top 25 most influential Think-Tanks in the world.
- Chairperson, Environmental Information System for Africa (EIS-Africa)
- Member of Climate Parliament, International Parliamentary Caucus on Climate
- Member of Globe International, Parliamentary Forum on the Impact of Climate Change on Sustainable Development
- Member, African Wildlife Foundation Advisory Council
- Champion for African Water Efficiency Maize for Food Security in Africa, Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO)

AWARDS

Dr. Ottichilo has received the following awards:

1. Samuel Gamble Award (2008). Awarded by International Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing in collaboration with Canadian Institute of Geomatics for his significant contribution in photogrammetry and remote sensing at national and international levels
2. UN-Economic Commission for Africa Award (2009) Awarded for his work in the promotion of the use of Geo-Information in Sustainable Development in Africa
3. AFRICAGIS Award. Awarded by EIS-Africa for his tremendous technical contribution and promotion of use of Geographic Information System (GIS) and Remote Sensing in sustainable development in Africa.

Overall Dr. Ottichilo is a strong believer and promoter of social democracy and therefore has and continues to support activities and programmes that aim to enhance the social welfare and empowerment of the local communities in our country. He believes and advocates for equity, fairness, public participation in planning and decision-making and does not condone any form of corruption practices.

Dr. Wilbur K. Ottichilo has the CREDENTIALS, EXPERTISE, EXPERIENCE AND THE WILL, required to transform **Vihiga into a Prosperous County**.