

**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF VIHIGA**

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**MARAGOLI**

When replying please quote:

Our Ref: **ADMIN 1/22 VOL.II/40**

Date: **1<sup>st</sup> January, 2018**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**NEW YEAR (2018) MESSAGE**

Happy new year to you all.

As we begin 2018, we look towards significant development strides of our County through collaborative engagement of the people of Vihiga County. Our dreams and aspirations as a people will be realized only when we band together as one people, people of Vihiga County, bringing together our communal diversity to form one dynamic culture.

2018 is the year for healing after a tumultuous 2017 that was full of political differences, vital national discourse that culminated into a less than credible presidential election. As we venture forward seeking electoral reforms, respect of our Constitution and strengthening of devolution, we will also be looking forward to greatly improve our socio-economic status as a County.

To that effect, my administration will fully embark on organizing the County Cohesion and Integration Conference, to bring the people together, heal our political differences and formulate a winning plan for our County to move forward as a unit. This process began last year on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2017 after holding a successful thanksgiving meeting with the County Council of Elders from all the communities of Vihiga County.

This year, we are commencing the implementation of major development projects across the County. Our 2018-2022 County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) is ready to be tabled to the County Assembly for approval and officially unveiled as our development bible before end of this month of January. The 2017/18 supplementary budget has already been tabled in the County Assembly for discussion and approval. These two documents once approved will greenlight my administration to immediately commence

the implementation of the aspirations of the people of Vihiga County as captured in our CIDP.

Last year, 2017, ended on a very sad note for the people and traders operating and residing within Luanda Town in Luanda Sub-county. The fire incident on 29<sup>th</sup> of December, 2017 exposed our County's urgent need for Disaster Management Policy and Unit as well as fire fighting equipment for prompt response when such incidences occur. I stand by the statement I made on that day that my administration, this new year, will be setting up a fully equipped and professionally manned disaster management unit with a Fire Engine and a Rapid Response Vehicle. We look forward as a Government to preventing loss of property and lives through disasters that could be managed. For all in the business community who were affected in one way or another during this incident, my administration seeks to do better; to prevent such extensive losses going forward.

My Government is almost setup and fully operational. I will be filling up the remaining two positions of County Executive Committee Members for; Health services and Physical planning, land and housing as soon as possible as well as install all the Chief Officers in their respective dockets so as to immediately begin service delivery to the people of Vihiga County. I will also be implementing the Directorate of Personnel Management (DPM) report towards establishing a lean, effective and efficient workforce for the County Government of Vihiga.

Within the first 10 days of this new year 2018, all the 25 wards of Vihiga County will be setting up their ward bursary committees that will thoroughly vet and disburse County bursary funds to all the deserving bright students of Vihiga County. I urge the people to carefully consider who they elect to these committees for unbiased and transparent service to all.

We started engaging development partners last year to come on board and share in our development vision for Vihiga County. With our CIDP now, we will be seeking more partners for major development projects that may not be sufficiently funded from the revenue received from the National Government.

To promote local businesses and encourage entrepreneurship in the County, my administration will be addressing the Pending Bills currently owed by the County Government. Because of lack of documentation to most of these bills, my Government will commission a forensic audit of all pending bills and deal with them on case by case basis.

To the people of Vihiga County, the County Government of Vihiga is vast. We might not all of us get an opportunity to be directly employed by the County Government but the

opportunities my administration will create are vast. In one way or another, we all contribute to the development of our County. I urge my people to be patient and exploit the opportunities availed by the County Government when they arise. All vacancies available at the County Government of Vihiga will be advertised in all the recognized public media and forums. I urge our people to apply through the recognized channels. Any party soliciting funds for facilitation of employment at the County Government of Vihiga is a fraud and I urge the public to bring such cases to the attention of my office.

2018 is the year that will see Vihiga County come up, distinguish itself from the rest and stand out to be counted. It will be a collective effort of all the people and my administration. As your Governor I am ready, as a County Government we have risen to the occasion. I urge our County Assembly not to relent on their oversight role. People of Vihiga County, my Government welcomes positive criticism that is geared towards bettering our delivery of service and development.

Vihiga County is ready. There is so much to do and we have the plan to do them. It is time to work and be accountable to you the people. I urge for your support, advice and participation as we venture forth to new heights as a County this new year.

I wish you all a happy and prosperous new year 2018.

**Mtenda Kazi is on duty, Kazi iendelee, Maendeleo bila upendeleo wala ufisadi.**

**Thank you all, God bless our County Vihiga, God bless Kenya.**

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