

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

VIHIGA COUNTY

29TH AUGUST, 2017.

PRESS RELEASE

The purpose of this press release is to inform the people of Vihiga and Kenya at large of my activities in office since being sworn in a week ago.

I was sworn in on 21st August 2017 and assumed office on 22nd August, 2017. On assumption of office to date, I have undertaken the following;

1. Met officers responsible for revenue collection in all our markets.
2. Visited all the departments to acquaint myself with their activities and challenges.
3. Met all 10 members of County Executive Committee (CECM's).
4. Met directors of all 10 departments.
5. Visited the Mbale referral hospital.

In all these meetings, I was briefed on the following;

- ✓ Departmental structures,
- ✓ Staff complements,

- ✓ On-going projects,
- ✓ Stalled projects,
- ✓ Completed projects,
- ✓ Pending bills
- ✓ Challenges,
- ✓ Way forward.

These are my findings after week-long interactions with the County staff;

1. There is no coherent Government structure in place.
2. Lack of human resource policy leading to haphazard recruitment of staff, mostly unqualified and misemployed.
3. The Public Service Board (PSB) has significantly contributed to this state of affairs hence leading to a bloated workforce. This was further aggravated by the direct involvement of CECM's and Chief Officers in the recruitment process.
4. The annual budgeting process was not well coordinated and hinged to CIDP. Instead, it was prepared to a large extent by senior officers in finance and treasury department. MCA's were equally allowed to participate in the budget formulation instead of providing their oversight role.

5. The disbursement of finance for various projects was solely done by the Finance and Treasury and was given to the CEC's and C.O's who in turn instead of allocating money for project implementation converted the funds to imprest solely for travel and purchase of goods and services.
6. Revenue collection is the most uncoordinated function and is undertaken by largely unqualified bloated casual staff and no wonder the revenue collection has continued to plummet (377M in 2011/2012 down to 98m in 2016/2017).
7. Procurement procedures to a large extent are not followed and instead the CEC's and Chief Officers were reported to have played a major role in this exercise. This largely took place in the roads and infrastructure projects.
8. Most projects awarded were not only over-valued but also not completed and most of them have stalled.
9. Each department indicated having pending bills. However on further scrutiny it became apparent that what was being referred to as pending bills was actually total contract sums. Therefore it was not possible to ascertain the current pending bills,

although the analysis done by finance and treasury indicated an amount of approximately KES 1.4bn.

10. The transport system has actually collapsed. This has made it difficult for officers to perform their duties. The main problem is not the availability of the vehicles but their maintenance and service. Most vehicles are actually grounded in various garages and their numbers and identities not known.
11. There is no monitoring and evaluation of project implementation.
12. Payments to service providers by finance and treasury was not fair and transparent.
13. While IFMIS has its own challenges; it has been used as a scapegoat to frustrate many contractors.
14. There is no control over the payroll and the criteria used to input the staff on it is not clear leading to a bloated payroll e.g. in 2014/2015, the average monthly wage bill was approximately KES 100m which has since doubled to KES 200m.
15. The internal audit operates as part of the arm of finance and treasury rendering the services of the internal auditor irrelevant.
16. The Mbale referral hospital is in dire need for a major facelift. Also the building annex that was

started and stalled urgently needs to be completed. The new funeral home urgently needs to be completed since the current mortuary is in a pathetic state.

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS TAKEN DURING THE WEEK

1. Because garbage collections in markets had not been collected in the last 3 months due to lack of transport; I directed hiring of private trucks to be used to collect the garbage in the respective markets.
2. Due to lack of damp site; I directed the hiring of one for the same.
3. The Point of Sale (POS) units used in revenue collection had run out of thermo rolls hence making it difficult to use the gadgets. As a result I directed the immediate purchase of the same.
4. In order to control and regulate expenditure, I directed that no expenditure would be incurred without my approval in the short term.

THE ACTIONS AM NOW TAKING WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT.

1. All CECM's and C.O's to proceed on compulsory leave pending their replacement.
2. I hereby recommend that the following be investigated for financial impropriety and life style audit;
 - ✓ CECM Finance – Mr. Mavisi
 - ✓ CECM Public Service – Ms. Halima Abdi
 - ✓ Chief Officer Finance – Mr. Wilberforce Ndula
 - ✓ Chief Officer Transport and Infrastructure – Dr. Andrew Ondego
 - ✓ Chief Officer Agriculture – Mr. Tom Akolo
3. I hereby suspend the following and recommend for their investigation on financial impropriety and lifestyle audit;
 - ✓ Principle Finance Officer-Mrs. Beatrice Alosa
 - ✓ Supply Chain Manager-Mr. Nathaniel Ahaza
 - ✓ Director- Transport and Infrastructure-Eng. Erute
 - ✓ Director – Housing- Mr. Duncan Omutichi
 - ✓ Director – HR- Ms. Salome Omulele
 - ✓ Director – Education- Mrs. Damaris Kayugira
 - ✓ Chief Officer-Public Service - Mr. Julius Nyerere
 - ✓ Payroll Administrator- Mr. Joseph Olando

- ✓ Head of Treasury/IFMIS- Mr. Ernest Lukayu
- ✓ Head –Internal Audit- Mr. Johnstone Ombaka
- ✓ Transport Manager- BenbellaKegode
- ✓ All Market Managers
- ✓ Internal Auditor 1 - Selina Nangila
- ✓ Administrative Officer 2 - HezronAmutsama
- ✓ Accountant 3 - PeterVulimuEjimba
- ✓ CICT - WilberforceAlinyo
- ✓ Clerical officer - Andrew Edebe

APPOINTMENTS IN ACTING CAPACITY

1. Dr. Patrick Saisi - CEC Finance
2. Joseph Maloba - C.O. Finance
3. Beatrice Obayo - Principal Finance Officer
4. Mary Ambani - Head of Treasury
5. Laura Kisaka - Director, Supply Chain
6. EnosWatsetse - Payroll Administrator.
7. Victor Aywa - Head IFMIS
8. Hussein Mambo - Director, Human Resource
9. George Wambua - Head-Internal Audit
10. Eng. PharesAdamba- Chief Officer Roads and Infrastructure
11. Bernard Oduor – Transport Manager
12. Fredrick Oliambo- Director, Education

13. Mr. Kuria - Director, Housing
14. Henry Mulanda - Manager, Luanda market.
15. Henry Mwanzala - Mudete
16. Violet Nkonyere - Vihiga
17. Pamela Atingo - Mbale
18. LinetKadi - Emuhaya Markets

Following these changes, I call upon the entire County Government staff and Vihiga Political leadership to accord me the necessary support to enable me streamline the functions of the government in order to make it efficient and responsive to the needs of the people.