

***SPEECH BY H.E HON. BENJAMIN C. CHEBOI, EBS DURING THE
INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF H.E HON. STANLEY K. KIPTIS AS
2ND GOVERNOR, BARINGO COUNTY AT ASK SHOW GROUND-
KABARNET ON 21ST AUGUST, 2018.***

***My Successor Governor H.E Hon. Stanley Kiptis and His Deputy H.E Jacob
Chepkwony***

The Outgoing Deputy Governor, H.E Eng. Mathew Tuitoek

The Presiding Judge, Hon. Justice Jane Mulwo

All Leaders Present

Distinguished Guests

My Fellow County Men and Women

Ladies and Gentlemen;

***I am indeed glad to join all of you today on this momentous occasion as we
witness the first County Government leadership transition in Baringo.***

***I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate H.E President Uhuru
Kenyatta and his Deputy William Ruto, my successor H.E Stanley Kiptis, his
Deputy H.E Jacob Chepkwony, all elected Members of Parliament and
Members of the County Assembly of Baringo for emerging victorious in the
just concluded general elections.***

***On that note, allow me to extend my sincere message of good will and total
support to Governor Stanley Kiptis, his deputy and their entire
administration as they shoulder the noble role of steering our county from
today. As you dedicate yourselves to working for this county, I wish you
God's guidance, wisdom, success and all the best while you execute your
mandate as bestowed upon you by the people of Baringo.***

***It must never be lost on us that what we all want is an effective
government, successfully delivering services to wananchi. In that regard, I
call upon all political leaders, members of the civil society, the clergy,
former leaders, our residents and our sons and daughters in diaspora to***

accord support to the incoming administration and make positive contributions towards the prosperity of our county.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you may all remember, through a democratic process four years ago, you the citizens of this County bestowed upon me the noble duty of serving as your First Governor. I have always been grateful and today I once again say thank you for trusting me with the leadership of Baringo.

This month, through a similar process, Baringo people spoke again through their democratic right whose verdict I wholeheartedly accepted and respected.

Today, I am a confident man that I have done my part well in kick starting devolution. As promised in my manifesto, we have successfully charted a robust road-map to enable us achieve a highly productive economy that has put Baringo on the highway to prosperity.

My Fellow County Men and Women;

We have better access to quality and affordable health care for a vibrant economy. Our service delivery in our health facilities have greatly improved due to better management. We have doubled medical doctors and significantly strengthened staffing levels. The average distance to a health facility reduced from 15 Km in 2013 to an average of 8Km in 2015 thanks to immense investment in infrastructure development in health care.

We have better access to safe water more than ever. A total of 90,312 households in 2017 have access to safe water up from 28,671 households in 2013. This represents a total increase in access to safe and clean water of 66.2% in 2017 up from 25.9% in 2013.

Increased land size under irrigated agriculture by 5,606 hectares from 6,894 hectares in 2013 to 12,500 hectares in 2017 representing an

increase of 81 percent. 3,540 additional households have access to irrigated agriculture having a multiplier effect on employment creation.

We have better access to quality Early Childhood Development and Education for our children for a sustainable tomorrow. Over 12,000 students in secondary schools, colleges and Vocational Training Centres have improved access to education courtesy of our County Bursary Fund Disbursed since 2013.

Our Youth Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) have a capacity enough to build a critical mass of technical skills to develop entrepreneurs to drive the private sector.

We are more pro-active in production and productivity with better access to markets for our produce. Our farmers have access to farm inputs; quality crop seeds and livestock breeds. Our livestock markets are less interrupted by the rampant disease outbreaks witnessed before. Our coffee farmers are benefitting immensely from our collaborations with Korean Coffee markets and partnerships.

Just to highlight a few major successes in value addition we have: the on-going construction of Baringo County Milk processing plant in Eldama Ravine; the recently commissioned Kes. 200 Million Coffee milling plant in Ossien; Barwesa and Loruk slaughterhouses, the upcoming International Meat Processing Plant in Maoi and the Leather Industry in Mogotio done in partnership with the European Union.

Our roads and towns have better outlook. We have improved access to basic socio-economic facilities; rural urban integration; improved service delivery; better business environment for investment and wealth creation. Lighting up all our towns has drastically reduced crime rates and helped to spur a 24 hour economy.

We are more inclusive and more equitable. We have strived not to leave anyone behind in our development agenda. Our youth, our women, our People Living with Disabilities (PWDs) have better access to empowerment opportunities. Improved access to affordable business

capital to support small and micro enterprises majority owned by Youth, Women and People with Disability. About 32% of our tenders have benefitted Youth, Women and PWDs owned businesses. Our senior citizens continue to benefit from our income redistributive and welfare programme.

It is my sincere hope that the incoming administration will continue to harness all factors of production in building on the gains that we have made, so that our Baringo remains on an upward socioeconomic growth trajectory.

Ladies and gentlemen;

Realizing the fruits of devolution has not been an easy task. County governments experienced their fair share of challenges in their pursuit to make devolution work. Much of the challenges we have been able to surmount but the little that persist rampant cattle rustling in parts of Baringo North, Baringo South and Tiaty.

Although a lot more still needs to be done on this front in search for long lasting solutions to bring this menace to a conclusive end, I commend our communities, my Baringo leaders, Jubilee Administration and all of us who have continued to support the quest for peace and harmonious co-existence.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The success of my tenure has been realized through the many efforts and sacrifices by many of you who served in my administration. First, I am greatly indebted to the almighty God for granting us good health, knowledge, humility, patience, tenacity, strength, resolve and wisdom to lead the County. Second, I wish to thank my family for understanding my long days, hours of absence as I served Baringo. To the great people; men and women, children and aged, daughters and sons of Baringo for granting me the honour; privilege and trust to serve you as your first governor.

My immense gratitude go to my Deputy Governor H.E Mathew Tuitoek and members of the County Executive Committee, the Public Service Board and my staff fraternity who in very many occasions made sacrifices of time and resources to ensure that we meet our obligations on citizen service delivery. You are truly the servants of the people. Special thanks go to my immediate staff; my advisors, personal assistants; personal secretaries, all officers across all county departments, drivers, security team, chefs and all other support staff who made valuable contributions towards our achievements during my tenure as Governor of Baringo.

The County Executive would not have performed better were it not for the important role in oversight, and legislation by the founding Members of Baringo County Assembly. To our stakeholders; NGOs, Civil Society Organizations, the Clergy and development partners; your invaluable contribution both materially and in kind has seen our development to greater heights, faster.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

As I conclude, I would like to commend the Assumption of Office Committee drawn from the incoming administration's team and government officials for working hard and in harmony for the success of this event and to the realization of a smooth transition.

This event today effectively puts closure to politics related to campaign for office for the next five years. It is time to embrace one another in the spirit of brotherhood. Time to forgive if you were wronged. Time to seek forgiveness if you wronged another. We must put all political propaganda behind us because we now have to work together for our common good.

The battle against pervasive poverty, diseases, unemployment and ignorance must be won. To paraphrase Martin Luther King Jnr, "We either stand together and fight against these afflictions, or we will perish together as fools."

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Lastly, as your founding governor and a patriotic leader, I once again assure you all of my unwavering support to our County in all spheres of development.

THANK YOU GREAT PEOPLE, MAY ALMIGHTY GOD BLESS YOU ALL.