

**REMARKS DURING THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE 9TH
DEVOLUTION CONFERENCE HELD ON FRIDAY, 15TH AUGUST
2025 IN HOMA BAY COUNTY**

1. With great optimism I deliver these remarks at the conclusion of a successful 9th Devolution Conference, held in this beautiful and vibrant County of Homa Bay.
2. I commend Homa Bay County for once again demonstrating its capacity to host national events with excellence and distinction, having only recently hosted the 2025 Madaraka Day Celebrations with remarkable success. The warmth of its people, the efficiency of its leadership and the flawless logistical arrangements enjoyed here speak volumes about what devolution can achieve.

3. This conference therefore comes at an opportune time, resonating with the hopes and dreams of every resident of Homa Bay, for its testament to the true spirit of devolution, and the vision of equal development and opportunity, across the length and breadth of this great Republic.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. Over the past four days, the 9th Devolution Conference has served as a critical policy forum facilitating evidence-based dialogue, peer learning, and stakeholder reflection on the trajectory of Kenya's devolution agenda.

5. Participants have rigorously interrogated data, shared subnational innovations, synthesized citizen feedback, and reaffirmed our collective commitment to embedding equity, inclusion, and social justice into the fabric of devolved governance. Anchored on the theme “*For the People, For Prosperity: Devolution as a Catalyst for Equity, Inclusion and Social Justice*,” the conference deliberations have gone beyond rhetoric, generating actionable insights and proposing institutional reforms aimed at addressing systemic disparities.
6. The 9th Devolution Conference has brought into sharp focus some of the most enduring and structural challenges facing

our devolved system today. Significantly, the deliberations have been grounded in data, participatory evidence, and collaborative results.

7. Additionally, this conference has served as a mechanism of accountability, reaffirming that devolution is much more than a constitutional aspiration; it is a practical and developmental instrument for advancing spatial equity, participatory democracy, and transformative service delivery. In so doing, the Conference has underscored that the future of devolution lies in institutional innovation, shared responsibility, and policy execution that centres on the citizenry.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

8. The deliberations of this conference were structured under particular themes. The Good Governance theme reaffirmed a central truth: that public participation, civic engagement, social accountability, and fidelity to the rule of law are not discretionary ideals. The deliberations on Human Rights and Social Justice theme brought into sharp focus the imperative of embedding a rights-based approach within our devolved governance structures.

Distinguished Delegates,

9. As we bring this year's Devolution Conference to a close, I reaffirm the National Government's unwavering commitment to strengthening the devolved system of governance. Devolution remains our most powerful tool for driving inclusion, equity, and shared prosperity.
10. I commend the National Treasury for maintaining a strong disbursement performance despite the prevailing fiscal situation. As of end June 2025, 100% of the equitable share for the Financial Year 2024/2025 had been disbursed to county governments.

11. I encourage continued collaboration of the National and County Governments in the execution of key priority projects in which we have partnered:
12. The County Aggregation and Industrial Parks (CAIPS), remain a critical anchor to the job creation agenda.
13. In the health sector, I commend the registration of over 25.5 million Kenyans under the Taifa Care program, administered by the Social Health Authority (SHA). This is a major step toward achieving universal health coverage.
14. The National Government will be reaching out to County Governments to activate a joint plan to enhance our youth

targeted interventions. The young people of Kenya have expressed their reservations with the Government's speed and efficiency in executing the agenda for job creation and the enhancement of income opportunities.

15. Tied to these reservations, are concerns relating to integrity, and in particular the transparency and accountability tenets that guide our actions. There is need for a greater level of engagement with the youth and I commend the Conference for its specific focus on a youth dialogue, setting the stage for what should be regular sessions for validation, variation, and input into government programmes and initiatives.

16. The youth will play a major role in Kenya's transformation by actively participating in developing innovative solutions to societal problems. The Government does not intend to brush over the concerns raised. Instead, securing spaces for dialogue and continuous consultation is paramount to reinstating trust in the institutions of Government.
17. This we must do in concert, not confrontation.

Distinguished Guests, Fellow Leaders, Friends of Devolution

18. With these remarks it is my honour and privilege to declare the 9th Biannual Development Conference officially closed.

I wish all the delegates safe travels.

**KITHURE KINDIKI
DEPUTY PRESIDENT**