



COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

**REMARKS BY H.E ANNE WAIGURU, EGH, OGW
CHAIRPERSON, COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS**

**DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE ETHNIC & DIVERSITY AUDIT REPORT OF COUNTIES
REPORT ON 17TH NOVEMBER, 2023**

VENUE: VILLA ROSA KEMPINSKI HOTEL

NCIC Chairperson,

Chairperson Public Service Commission,

County Representatives,

Commissioners,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning,

1. Today is significant. We are here to witness a momentous occasion- the launch of the Ethnic & Diversity Audit Report of Counties Report. It is an honor to be here, and I want to begin by expressing my heartfelt gratitude to all those who have played a role in developing this meaningful report.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

2. Kenya is a composite country, composite in many ways, in religion, in customs, in languages and in ways of life. Indeed, Kenya is a country well known for its cultural diversity across the world.
3. Our Constitution contains principles that aim to enhance ethnic diversity of communities in Kenya. Particularly, the third paragraph of the preamble of the Constitution recognizes the ethnic, cultural and religious diversity of the Kenyan people.
4. As the Council of Governors, we remain committed to enhancing ethnic diversity. The Council is aware that ethnic diversity of our country is our strength, and we are stronger when our counties reflect that diversity.

5. The Council of Governors has worked hard in recent years and strived to make sure that the 47 counties are more ethnically representative of the people they serve and that everyone has fair opportunities to work, develop and progress.
6. Allow me to shed some light on some of the strides that counties have made in promoting ethnic diversity.
7. One of the pillars that has promoted ethnic diversity is devolution. The establishment of a decentralized system of governance has enabled Counties to develop and enact legislations geared towards addressing challenges faced by different ethnic groups.

8. Further, counties have implemented affirmative action programs and policies designed to address historical imbalances and promote equal opportunities for all its citizens irrespective of their ethnic background.
9. Community engagements through barazas and other public fora has created spaces for people from diverse ethnic backgrounds to interact, share experiences and appreciate the diversity of our country.
10. We are not there yet and as the Council, we acknowledge that ~~ethnic diversity~~^{inclusion} is an ongoing process that requires concerted efforts of likeminded stakeholders such as the NCIC. Nevertheless, the steps made by the counties is a clear indication of the counties commitment to building an all-inclusive society.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

11. In conclusion, today's launch is a clarion call that Kenya's diversity is an asset, as the Council we firmly believe that when we work, think and act to leverage that asset, we are not only seizing one of the greatest opportunities of our age but also contributing to the larger narrative of a harmonious Kenya.

God Bless you!