

THE Nyalore MANIFESTO

SIAYA COUNTY

The County of Legends



#SiayaCountyofLegends

#Nyalore

INAWEZEKANA

2022 - 2027





To have a county at peace with itself where Equality and Accountability are the pillars and all citizens enjoy their freedom in prosperity.



To provide the necessary environment for the realization of our people's full potentials in a devolved system.

PREAMBLE

Devolution was created as part of the overall framework to involve our people in matters that concern them after the realization of the sectarian development right from independence. After ten years of this experiment, it has come to our attention that the real fruits of devolution can only be realized when participatory planning and prudent management of resources is undertaken by sons and daughters of the country under the able stewardship of a steady captain. Siaya's potential as an academic giant with the highly trained human resource have all it takes to be the best managed county in the country.

It is this promise that I James Bob Aggrey Orenge, currently the Senator, Siaya County, will be contesting for the position of Governor, Siaya County in the 9th August 2022 General Elections under the Orange Democratic Movement Party in the Azimio La Umoja Coalition. This manifesto outlines my five year intentions upon my election as the Governor of Siaya between 2022 & 2027.

The manifesto is anchored on the immediate needs of the people of Siaya County and my long term investment plans upon ascending to the Governorship. The manifesto will build on the Azimio La Umoja 10 pillars while domesticating them to the local needs of the people of Siaya County.

SLOGAN

The campaign and manifesto will be driven by the rallying call Nyalore (which means, It is possible or inawezekana) to emphasize the possibilities of The Orenge Governorship.

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THE MAP OF SIAYA COUNTY



1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Profile of the County

Siaya County covers a total area of 2,530 square kilometers and according to the 2019 population census, it has a population of 993,183 people out of which 471,669 are male and 521,496 are female. The county population is dominated by young people who need employment and business opportunities. Whereas the Agriculture and Fisheries sectors provide employment opportunities, a lot still needs to be done to place disposable income at the hands of Siaya County residents.

Siaya County Labor force is estimated to be at 510,036 this year. As the labor force grows so does the pressure to create job and business opportunities to the growing population. This calls for creativity in conformity with social and technological changes.

Siaya County though strategically located on the shores of Lake Victoria; it bears the marks of Kenya's worst set of health indicators and one of the nation's highest poverty levels with one of the lowest life expectancy in Kenya. Health will be central to our delivery since a healthy workforce will be equivalent to a healthy County.

Over the last decade, the county has seriously underachieved in its development priorities despite its desirable ecological location. Despite its rich soils surrounded by masses of water bodies, agricultural potential remains untapped. Siaya has been over the years known as a county of great intellectuals and cultural riches, this wealth should be mobilised towards the general good of our people.

It is my belief that the reasons of the underachievement are countless but lack of innovativeness, bad governance, corruption and economic mismanagement are the root cause of the crisis. The Auditor General's report contain several instances of misuse and misappropriation of public assets and resources by the current executive and county assembly of which we must correct and ensure that our people enjoy the fruits of devolution as was the dream of the promoters.

My PROMISE is that my leadership will ensure that all those entrusted with leadership are innovative and resources are put to the right use with **TRANSPARENCY** and **ACCOUNTABILITY** being the guiding principles.

2. INTRODUCTION

The 9-Point Promise For The Transformation of Siaya County

Our agenda will be based on a 9 point promise that aims at putting the citizens of the county at the centre of their development. Special emphasis will be accorded to the youth, women and people living with disabilities. At the core of our processes will be inclusivity and enhancing unity in diversity. We envisage a development process that will be inclusive, participatory and people centered. The crucial sectors include Health, Agriculture, Environment and Water resources, Education, Infrastructure, Culture and Tourism, Resources mobilization, Governance and Empowerment of the Special Interest Groups.

- 1 Access to Quality and Affordable Health Care;
- 2 Enhancing Agricultural potential for Food Security, Agribusiness, Livestock and fishing;
- 3 Environmental Conservation and Improvement in the clean water provision
- 4 Promote the provision of quality education, Training and Capacity building to the citizens;
- 5 Construct modern physical infrastructure and improve on the roads network to enhance Siaya's growth to an urban enclave.
- 6 Promote Tourism, Sports, Culture and Arts hence making Siaya a Destination of Choice;
- 7 Enhance Resources mobilization through Public-Private-Partnership and tap into the Diaspora resources
- 8 Implement fully the structures of devolved governance through Participation and strengthening revenue generation and accountability in the use of public resources.
- 9 Create an enabling environment for the empowerment of youth, women and people living with disabilities as well as protect the elderly.

It is our belief that if all the above 9 point agenda are fully implemented with the support of the Citizens of the great County of Siaya, more than 50,000 new jobs will be created for the development of the County.

2.1 THE LEGACY PROJECTS

These are the projects that will mark the legacy of our first term in office. The implementation of these legacy projects will be overseen by the Siaya Development Authority (SDA) to be established in the new county government structure. This will coordinate development activities, spot new opportunities and tap to the immense human resource capacity that is either dormant or currently not fully utilised for the benefit of the county.

1. Immediate Upgrading and Modernization of the Siaya County Referral Hospital and ensure availability of drugs in all health facilities;
2. Investment in the provision of clean and reliable water supply powered by solar energy to the county residents;
3. Revamp Agriculture and Provide the necessary inputs to farmers;
4. Establishment of village councils, in accordance with the County Governments Act and enhancing participatory approaches to decisions making;
5. Identifying, protecting and marketing important tourist attractions in Siaya and constructing a modern conference, cultural and arts center in Siaya Town.

OUR AGENDA

To Establish Transformative efficient and Inclusive Governance System.



To Improve Health and Citizens' well being



To ensure Food Security, Jobs Creations and Poverty Eradication



Developing full Economic Potential through trade, trade industry environmental services



Empower Women and Youths' harness cultural and tourism potentials.



3. OUR PLEDGES FOR A BETTER SIAYA

3.1 Access to quality and Affordable Healthcare



Probable New Look of Siaya Level 5 Hospital

3.1.1 Situation Analysis and Current Challenges

Health is a very crucial component in any development process and its importance, therefore, cannot be underestimated. Health determines among other things, the level of productivity of the population, living standards and, consequently, the level of development. The County has 174 health facilities, with 123 public facilities, 28 private facilities, 16 Faith-based and 7 Non-governmental Organizations.

The general number of health staff employed in the County is inadequate. The number of physicians employed per 100,000 people is 214, nurses 3314 and clinical officers 2514. The ratio of physician to inhabitants is below the average and smaller than the recommended World Health Organization (WHO) standards of 35 medical doctors per 10,000 inhabitants. The average distance to the nearest health facility is 5km which is same as the national standard of 5km. Only 14.63% area coverage have 1 Km distance access, 50% area coverage of 2 Km distance access and 70% of 5 km distance access. Most areas in the County fall under high distance access, therefore most health facilities services should be availed in these areas.

The HIV prevalence among the general population in Siaya is 24.8% for people aged 15 years and above. It is, however, higher among the women at 26.4% compared to that of men at 22.8%. The total number of PLHIV is 126,411 (Kenya HIV Estimates, 2015). The HIV epidemic trend has generally been stable at a rate of 21.4% in 2013, 23.7% in 2014 and 24.8% in 2015 (Kenya HIV estimates).

Disease Burden

Communicable Diseases

Siaya is one of the counties with high burden for HIV and AIDS courtesy of high risks exposure by the young and adolescent population as shown above. High fertility and associated high child dependency burdens exert an enormous burden on the economy and undermines the capacity of families and the County governments to invest in human capital development. Furthermore, there are persistent sociocultural and religious beliefs and practices that curtail efforts to expand access to sexual and reproductive health information and services to young people in the County.

Non-Communicable Diseases

Besides the high prevalence of malaria, there are also the emergence and burden of Non-communicable diseases (NCDs), such as cardiovascular diseases, cancers, diabetes, and chronic respiratory diseases, which are now the leading causes of death in most regions of the world. These diseases share four key risk factors— tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol, physical inactivity, and unhealthy diet—all modifiable behaviors typically established during adolescence or young adulthood, and ones that set the stage for NCDs later in life. Maternal health and mortality rates are one of the problems affecting Siaya County. This is also exacerbated by poor antenatal care attendance and poor patterns in postpartum care.

3.1.2 Opportunities in Healthcare

The existence of a robust Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) as well as the literacy levels of most people in the county allows for the expansion of healthcare and great emphasis on the primary healthcare that prevents rather than cures. The first line is to enhance the hygiene and change of behavior towards possible spread of infectious diseases and ability to safeguard against behavioural infections such as HIV and AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections. Through the CHVs, community hygiene can be enhanced and delays in accessing healthcare among the expectant mothers can be checked besides a system of referrals that safeguards against delays.

3.1.3 Our Pledges on Quality Healthcare Delivery

The County government will:

- Ensure the implementation of Universal Healthcare
- Promote enrolment with NHIF through awareness creation and targeted campaigns,
- Ensure there is an NHIF –accredited health facility with a maternity ward and theatre in every ward;
- Elevate Siaya County Referral Hospital from level 5 to a satellite hospital under Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Level 6 facility.
- Undertake infrastructure improvement by ensuring that each sub county has a level 4 hospital with operational theatres and X-ray units (Yala, Bondo, Ambira, Madiany, Ukwala among others).
- Empower all the Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) to offer basic care to young children and pregnant women, they will also be in charge of identifying cases that need referral to our health facilities and assisting in the process to avoid delays;
- Support CHVs by facilitating the payment of their monthly stipends and paying their NHIF contributions and their families. They should also be beneficiaries of periodic trainings by the healthcare personnel;
- Provide free emergency referral ambulance services to all Siaya residents, each of the wards should have an ambulance;



Quality Healthcare Delivery

- Improve sanitation by addressing waste collection and disposal by ensuring that there are adequate dumping sites in all sub-counties and regular collection waste, promote proper nutrition and employ more community health workers;
- Improve access to health services by constructing new health facilities where they are required then making sure they are well equipped, have enough personnel and essential commodities;
- Procure and install MRI machine and establish a Cancer Treatment Center at Siaya County Referral Hospital;
- Ensure that all stalled health projects are completed and made fully operational;
- Provide safe contraceptives and offer Sexual and Reproductive health education to prevent the spread of HIV and AIDS;
- Establish fully-fledged low-cost diagnostic centres and provide adequate screening and treatment facilities for persons with chronic or terminal conditions, including cancer, diabetes, and kidney failure, in every sub-county;
- Address the welfare of health workers in the county to ensure a dedicated workforce and improved services and a clear promotional structure based on their terms of service;
- Establish partnerships and collaborations with various stakeholders, including national government, local and international investors, Non-governmental organizations, Faith-based Organizations for positive change in the health care delivery system.
- Strengthen systems on Primary healthcare and Alternative Medicine;
- Improve status of all maternity wings in our Health centers by increasing bed capacity, regular supplies and addressing staff attitudes.



Agriculture and fishing are the main economic activities in the County

3.2 Enhancing Agricultural Potential for Food Security

3.2.1 Situational Analysis

Agriculture and fishing are the main economic activities in the County but face a number of deep rooted problems despite its potential to reduce poverty. Agriculture alone employs a substantial percentage of households in the county and is majorly done by women and the elderly. For some reasons, most of the educated and the young population do not prefer agricultural work which in essence compromises food security.

Generally, Siaya County is endowed with great potential of the physical and biological environment as natural capital for growth and development. These factors include: Topography, Geology, Soils, agroecological, climate (rainfall and temperature), water resources, and landscapes. The County has three major geomorphological areas namely: Dissected Uplands, Moderate Lowlands and Yala Swamp. These areas have different relief, soils and land use patterns. Rivers Nzoia and Yala traverse the County and enter Lake Victoria through Yala Swamp. The features have a bearing on the overall development potential of the County. High altitude areas of Ugenya and Ugunja sub-counties and parts of Gem sub county experience higher rainfall hence suitable for agriculture and livestock keeping. The low altitude areas of Bondo, Rarieda, parts of Alego Usonga and part of Gem Sub Counties experience less rainfall and thus are suitable for cotton growing and drought resistant crop varieties.

In the various zones, during the short and the long rainy seasons, several crops are grown among them maize and bean intercrop, sorghum, cassava, groundnuts, cowpeas and sweet potatoes. In addition, there are few cooking bananas and pawpaws, passion fruit, mangoes and avocados planted to improve on nutrition. Poor quality and degrading soil, water resources and striga infections are identified as constraints on agriculture in Siaya County. Other constraints include: lack of investment on environmental conservation: soil and water technologies. The improvement of soil fertility in this county is very necessary, given that soil nutrients have been

severely depleted through continuous cropping of agricultural land without replenishing the soil nutrients.

Food insecurity in the county is not only a factor of land shortage but mainly explained in terms of low and declining crop yields. There is strong evidence that yields can be raised through applications of external nutrient inputs, but specifically the Nitrates N and Phosphates P inputs added individually or in combinations. Soil fertility replenishment options include: mulching with Tithonia or manuring with Jatropha cake, at on-farm level, rated for further adoption by farmers as more extension work is encouraged even through other dissemination media.

Livestock

Besides agriculture, the county also has traditional as well few farmers with grade cows. Practically all households rear chicken in small scale while others have cattle, goats and sheep. The issues affecting livestock production in the County and have devastating consequences include the following:

- Insecurity and stock theft is nowadays becoming a common practice in the county hence impoverishing households;
- High cost and inadequate veterinary services and drugs;
- Few veterinary personnel from government and lack of private practitioners;
- Lack of transport for veterinary officers and inadequate distribution of veterinary personnel;
- Inability to control livestock diseases;
- High cost of or unavailability of breeding stock; and
- Inadequate credit facilities for majority of small holders especially women.



Fishing



Fishing

Fishing is a common economic activity in the Bondo, Rarieda and Alego Usonga Sub-Counties mostly on Lake Victoria and to some extent on Lake Kanyaboli. Despite the high potential that the sector holds, the fishermen and women live in abject poverty due to low productivity and declining incomes from fishing.

Issues that must be addressed include waste water management, eutrophication, insufficient infrastructure and acidification which have seriously hampered the development of the fishing industry. Equally important is the environmental degradation in the lake, occasioning the growth of the hyacinth weed and its adverse effects on fishing. This is also exacerbated by the existing of exploitative middle men because of the lack of proper storage facilities and the power of SACCOs that have the needed value addition to the sector.

Other Challenges cutting across the agricultural sector:

High cost of material inputs

The high cost of material inputs has contributed more to the plight of farmers than the prices of output. This problem is especially visible in the sugar industry and also explains the decline in the farming of cotton and other cash crops. The key material inputs that drive cost are seed and fertilizer, fuel prices and animal feeds.

Lack of relevant research and extension services

Farmers lack research that is informed by their experiences and extension services that are decentralized. The current system is not responsive to their needs and they do not have a say. The payment of these services should also be removed from farmers to enhance the price of their produce at the farm gate.

The other main problem is that the focus of the sector should move away from just production to links with the market and the prevailing business requirements. Sometimes deliberate government policies and regional neglect has had devastating effects on cash crop farming in the larger Nyanza region. This could explain the death of the cotton industry and the near death of the sugarcane industry.

Limited access to credit

A majority of farmers in the County are small scale producers. This makes access to credit difficult for them due to risks derived from uncertainties in;

- Output-due to weather, disease and pest and
- Prices- caused by the volatility of agricultural output Risk mitigating measures like insurance should be put in place first before small scale

Poor agricultural practices

- Inappropriate farming practices;
- Rampant use of pesticide that contaminate water resources;
- Soil erosion; and
- Over-exploitation of land in a mono crop culture.

3.2.2 Opportunities in the sector

The County has a very high potential for the increased production of both food and cash crops. Improved farming methods and extension work can improve the sector given the soil types as well as the sources of water from the natural sources such as rivers, lakes, springs as well as good rainfall in most of the county. Increase in the acreage under irrigation and not depending on rain fed agriculture could be a game changer. On the livestock arena, it is imperative that improved services and control of poultry and livestock diseases will go along way in ensuring that the sector becomes productive.

Value addition in the fishing sector through the construction of storage facilities, proper fishing methods and preservation of important fish species is needed. Also needed is the improvement in fish farming so that nature can be controlled. The insecurities occasioned by constant harassment by the authorities from neighbouring countries particularly Uganda should be checked.

3.2.3 Our Pledges on Agriculture and Food Security

There is need to review the sectoral policies and rethink the value chain. The different zones within the country could be explored to see what crops would do best where and by what means. This requires use of agricultural research which my government will encourage and facilitate.

Through policy processes/interventions that enhance stakeholder partnerships, the potential of agriculture will be realized in the following ways to make Siaya County attractive to all investors local and global:

- Design proper policies and programs to wean farmers of the unsustainable methods of Agricultural production and livestock husbandry;
- Recruit, retrain and engage the Agricultural Extension workers in each ward;
- Ensure competitiveness in global value chains for investments in horticulture, floriculture, sugarcane, rice, sorghum, cotton and potatoes
- Assist farmers to drive agriculture as a business, with the development of market-oriented smallholder, medium and large-scale farming;
- Give farmers incentives to increase yield and value by developing agro-industrial zones and reducing post-harvest losses through commodity exchanges;
- Use innovative financing instruments and insurance schemes to reduce vulnerabilities of farmers to climate change and market volatility;
- Improve rural infrastructure in new, innovative, cost-effective, integrated and scalable ways through: Irrigation technologies especially for small scale farmers;
- Use of water for irrigation in high potential seasonally water-starved areas;

- Open more access roads in the interior;
- Support agricultural innovation systems, bringing together farmers, research institutions and the marketers of produce;
- Encourage high value crop farming like cotton in Bondo, Alego and Ugenya, Sugarcane in Ugunja, Rice in Yala swamp in Kadenge among others;
- Improve in the Fishing infrastructure along the beaches in Bondo and Rarieda for value addition and invest in Fish farming particularly caging.
- Encourage the keeping of improved livestock and invest in veterinary extension services;
- Improve security via intelligence gathering to deter the rampant cattle theft in the county;
- Enhance the forest cover through Agroforestry. Initiate grevillea tree planting in farms as part of the soil fertility improvement and attracting of rainfall as well as increasing the forest cover.
- Providing at least a Tractor per Village - 2280 Villages in Siaya (through public private partnership) and assist farmers by purchasing and distributing Jembes & Pangas per farmer.
- Encourage and boost the cultivation of Cassava, Sorghum, Maize & Millet and provide storage facilities through Grain Bank in times of bumper harvest;
- Restocking of Lake Victoria with fingerlings and ensure Strengthening of the Beach Management Units to have functional SACCO & equipment like Life Saving Jackets;
- Re-introduction and investments in Cash Crop production (Cotton, Sugarcane, Mangoes, Lemons, Oranges, Bananas, Pineapple, Passion fruit);
- Ensure Investment in improved local cattle breeds per household (bulls, cows, goats, sheep, chicken, doves and rabbits).
- Empower and Work with Villages Elders to ensure that the Agricultural innovations are sustained and community ownership is enhanced.

Environmental Conservation and Provision of Clean Water



3.3 Environmental Conservation and Provision of Clean Water

3.3.1 Situational analysis

Environment is a key component of growth and its conservation and ensuring that citizens in the county are conscious of their environment is a key pillar in our administration. This also has to do with the provision of clean and safe drinking water for households.

Our environment today is polluted as a result of human activities and industrial effluence. From Lake Victoria to Lake Kanyaboli to the rivers Yala and Nzoia, we have witnessed effects of human activities. The recent discovery of bodies in river Yala has not only threatened the user of the water but also created fear among the settlements along the river and other water bodies. The lack of the necessary forest cover for the county remains an eyesore in our developmental trajectory.

On water infrastructure, it is noted that adequate quantity and quality of water is a basic requirement for development of a county owing to the fact that water is life. About 80 per cent of the water provided is disposed of as effluent, meaning that there should be safe disposal of waste water and environmental protection. There are about twenty-four existing water supply schemes (9 owned by GOK, 5 by institutions, 10 Community based) in the County that are utilized to provide water services to the people of the County. These schemes range from small community based to large piped water suppliers. The facilities are managed by Community based management water committees, semi- autonomous water service providers and institutions. These water supply facilities provide water coverage of 42% serving about 396,000 people in the County.

The water facilities are dilapidated and pose operational challenges thereby not sustainable and will require rehabilitation and expansion to bring them to operational status and cover the ever-increasing water demand. It is important to note that all the water facilities are pump based systems consuming high power for their operations, this calls for project re-design to make the schemes gravity-based systems in-order to reduce the high energy cost incurred by the facilities. One step the Government has taken is to undertake the upgrading of Sidindi Malanga water Supply to serve Siaya and Bondo Towns through gravity.

The major water sources at the moment in the county are Lake Victoria, Rivers, Boreholes, kiosks, springs, streams, tap stands, pans dams and wells. What lacks is the safety of these sources. About 35% of the total population have access to portable and clean water, while the rest depend on water from pans, dams or from the lake.

Distribution and Access

Analysis of access and distribution of water services reveals that: Majority of Siaya County residents access water points between 2 and 3 km away; Water access is generally beyond recommended 200m in entire Siaya County. It has been noted that about 50% of the residents access water sources within 2km which is unacceptable. In most places, water points are as far as 2-3 kilometers and the most affected parts include West Alego, North and Central Sakwa, North Gem, Central Gem where some people go as far as 5 kilometres to access water. This in essence means that the time spent to access water in some parts of the county is about one hour and this has the greatest impact on the girl-child who is charged with such duties. It even gets worse during droughts since most of the pans run dry.

Streams though unsafe and at times polluted are the widest spread type of water points, but occur mainly in north eastern part of the County. Other sources of water in the County include; wells, boreholes, roof catchment, rivers, Lake Victoria, water holes, dams, ground catchments and piped supplies. A large number of water points cannot be used during the dry season because they are seasonal.

Solid Waste Management



The Government interventions were intended to reduce the long-distance coverage to about 500m distance. The intervention measures the Ministry of water has put in place so far in terms of piped schemes, point water sources like boreholes, shallow wells and spring protection has not met the target.

The county currently lacks a proper solid waste disposal system and there is need to improve waste management in urban centres. There are no designated dumping sites in the county, while in other places solid waste is managed through burning. These methods of solid waste management may lead to groundwater pollution as the soils are pervious. There is need for properly designated solid waste management to safeguard environmental degradation.

Sanitation and Sewerage

To safeguard against environmental degradation in the county, more so the urban settlement, sanitation facility development is important. All the towns in the region lack sanitation facilities. The main sources of water pollution include agro-chemicals, defecation in bushes due to lack of pit latrines and waste water that end into water points during surface run off. Sanitation continues to be a serious problem in the County with only 5.9 per cent of the households with access to piped water while the latrine coverage stands at 75.3 per cent. There are no planned sewerage systems in all urban centers in the County and this calls for concerted efforts from all the stakeholders especially the County government



to invest in planned sewerage systems for improved liquid and solid waste disposal. Currently the development of a major water and sewerage system is underway in Bondo and Siaya Towns through a joint venture between the Government of Kenya and African Development Bank.

There will be need for expansion of water supply systems in addition to desilting the existing dams like Ouya, Anyuongi and Gologolo so as to reduce distance to water source to the required levels.

Mining and Quarrying sector

This is also generating income in number of households. This venture is however unregulated and, in most cases, results to land degradation. Gold has been mined in the County for considerable time on subsistence basis in shallow excavations in Bondo, Siaya, Rarieda, Ugunja and Gem sub-counties. A study by Lake Basin Development Authority has shown that the whole of the Lake Victoria Basin region of which Siaya County falls, has some minerals, precious stones and rare earth elements. The best-known mineral in the County is gold. Gold mining areas in the County include small scale artesian mining of: Central Sakwa (Wagusu, Dago, Kopolo, Lenya, Luore, Nango, Nyangoma, Odao, Uyaw, Abimbo), South East Alego (Ojalo Rambo-Kogello, Barding), and Asembo (Onyata, Magare), Gem at Ramula among others. Other minerals include fluorite which occurs as a thin vein near Rata within the larger Asembo; granite and black sand from Yala Valley which has weak radioactive quality, mining in Kogello, and sand harvesting along the beaches and River Nzoia.



This sector is robust but unregulated hence posing serious challenges to the minors and other people who earn their living from this sector. The sector must regulated to be made safe for all the concerned. This is an area that the government will take keen interest to avoid tragedies like those that happened recently.

3.3.2 Opportunities in the environment and Water Sector

The most important thing is the creation of the necessary environmental consciousness spearheaded by the County Government's ministry of Agriculture and any other related departments. There already exists various water schemes all over the county and what is needed is a scale up and innovative approaches to make safe water available to the larger population of the county.

3.3.3. Our Pledges on Environmental Conservation and Clean water

Environmental protection and the creation of the green spaces is not just good for attracting rainfall but also provides the shades and the soil cover that ensures reduced runoff. They also provide greater investment opportunities in sustainable development. As a county and a responsible government, we promise as follows;

- Immediately ensure the completion of the Siaya-Bondo Water Project on the Last Mile Connectivity: This will target to reach 13,000 connections and improve on the sewerage connectivity as well;
- Completion and operationalization of the Ugunja-Sega Water Project with another potential of 10,000 connectivity under the Last Mile initiative;
- Design environmental policies that are compatible with the cultural environment and Gazette all government forests and preserve community lands and shrines;
- Address population issues such as urban planning, infrastructure development, while safeguarding the lives of the rural and urban poor against effects of climate change;
- Improve on soil waste management and invest in the Blue Economy;
- Enhancing irrigation in Agriculture;
- Regulate and enforce proper construction codes, use latest technologies;
- Create a robust County Water masterplan to ensure that each and every household has access to clean water;
- Revive all the community water projects like Aluor water supply, Got Agulu and implement an innovative water management system;
- Design a proper afforestation plan, proper tree cover across the county and ensure that the tree species recommended have scientific backing (Consider Schools and community afforestation programs);
- Planting Trees especially Bamboo & Fruits along the riparian reserves - Lake Victoria, Kanyaboli & River banks;
- Organize and regularize the mining sector for safety;
- Encourage scientific prospecting for minerals in the county for the overall benefit and encourage international investments in the sector;
- Prioritize and develop Renewable Energy through Solar and Wind Power to check on the frequent blackouts in Siaya;
- Ensure water availability in each of the primary and secondary schools in the county either through water harvesting, connection to a grid or construction of boreholes and or repair of the existing ones.

Provision of quality Education and Training



3.4 Provision of Quality Education and Training

3.4.1 Situational Analysis

Education plays an important role in the development of people by empowering them to improve their well-being and participate in nation building. At the national level, the broad objective is to achieve 100% net primary school enrolment rate and reduce the disparity in access and quality of education. The Government also now proposes to achieve 100% transition from primary to secondary schools as well as promote competency-based curriculum that includes the integration Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) learning processes, as some the radical proposals in the Education Sessional Paper, 2018 (GOK, 2018).

Quality education is paramount in steering development, and thus education is a top priority in Siaya County. In this regard, quality training and the adoption of ICT and modern technology is key in driving innovation.

In terms of tertiary institutions, the county has the following: Siaya Medical College, Siaya Institute of Technology, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology, Maseno University Odera Akang'o Campus, Barrack Obama Memorial University College, University of Nairobi Learning Centre, Bondo Teachers College, Bondo Technical Institute, and Bondo Medical College and 14 youth polytechnics spread across the County.

There are also emerging commercial colleges and branches of other established ones plus the recently constructed institutions in Ugunja and Ugenya.

Basic Education Services

The County has 744 public Early Childhood Development (ECD) schools and 293 private totaling to 989 centres with an enrolment of 61,118. The ECD teachers are employed by both the County Government and the Parents, a factor that has led to the high turnover of the Teachers employed by parents which has comprised the quality of services in the Sector. County Government, Communities and parents have been responsible for the investment in ECD infrastructure.

Population aged over 15 years that can read and write is 79.75 per cent, while those who cannot read and write is 18.25 per cent. Efforts will be made to ensure that more formal as well as informal institutions are established to further improve on the county's literacy level. The county government plans to equip and staff the adult learning centres and establish resource centres in all sub locations in the county.

The youthful population requires well developed tertiary institutions for technical skill enhancement as well entrepreneurship and managerial skills to promote profitable employment and guarantee future investments. This calls for greater expansion in the educational facilities and the adoption of information technology to leverage on the world development.

3.4.2 Opportunities for Growth

Siaya has been for a long time the intellectual factory for the nation. It is therefore necessary to review what ails the education sector and it is my hope that the reserve of knowledge from the sons and daughters of the county will be harnessed positively for a greater academic take-off. The institutions exist and will be capacitated and teachers motivated to do what it takes to bring back the former glory. ECD is the basic foundation of the education system and training will be mounted for the success of the CBC curriculum that is under way.

3.4.3 Our Pledges on Quality Education and Training

As a way to ensure quality education in the county, the following will be prioritized:

- Building and equipping of more ECD training centres in the county as well as constructing ECD Libraries;
- Enhance the Repair and Maintenance of the school infrastructure, lighting, electrification, sanitation and library infrastructure;
- Supporting the training of ECD teachers and ensuring that they have what it takes to provide the services at this basic levels;
- Creating synergy between institutions of higher learning and industry for incubation and commercialization of innovations;
- Ensuring the provision of the necessary equipment to technical training institutes, through partnerships with industry and other external partners;
- Encourage the development of sports and talent search right from the ECD level;
- Enhance the use of technology in the education sector via purchase of ICT equipment such as Computers, projectors, LCD among others;
- Support school feeding program to the vulnerable children in the ECDs;
- Conduct needs assessment and institute full scholarship to specialized courses needed for industrial take off in Siaya County;
- Consider creating centres of excellence in each ward along the lines of Ugenya High School;
- Tap into the human resources of the sons and daughters of the county to participate fully in matters education and institute an annual get together of stakeholders in this sector;
- Fully equip county vocational training institutes through partnerships with industries and other external partners and raise their standards to the levels of national training institutes;
- Establish one Vocational Training Institute as a centre of excellence in every sub-county;
- Increase bursary allocation and support every needy student to access quality education through a scheme supervised by Members of County Assemblies, ward administrators and the village councils.
- Enhance availability of information technology by installing WiFi in all public Institutions of learning through Public Private Partnership.

3.5 Construct Modern Physical Infrastructure

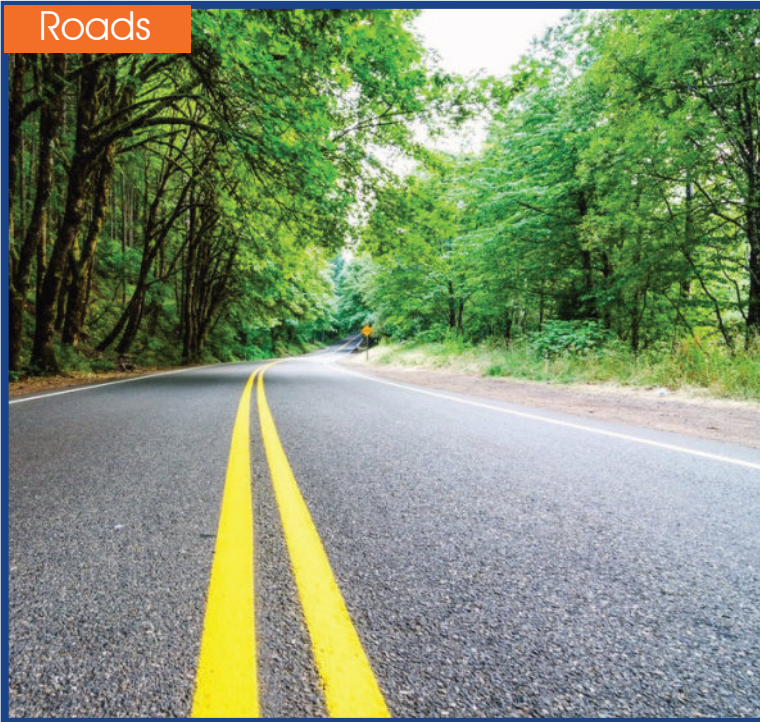
3.5.1 Situation Analysis and Current Challenges

A visitor arriving at the headquarters of Siaya County would think that the journey is still on. The physical infrastructure is not just dilapidated but seems neglected. The surrounding areas look like slums without adequate feeder roads and connecting lanes. The business are located everywhere and are small scale to enable the people earn a decent living. These poor and inefficient transport network particularly the poor state of roads all over the county is a big concern and frustrates business and burdens the tax payer and adds to the poverty levels.

Roads

For the road maintenance function that is under the County, improvement of the road network is in many ways, the measure by which the majority of the County residents evaluate the performance of the current County Government. To say the least it is dismal and compared to the neighbouring county of Kakamega, remains an eyesore to the great county of Siaya.

Roads



The poor road conditions for instance has been exemplified by the inaccessibility of most rural access roads, low tarmac coverage in places like northern Side-Gem, Ugunja, Ugenya and parts of Alego sub counties. There are also blocked access to beaches and encroachment on road reserves.

Water/Maritime

The water transport currently at Luanda Kotieno connecting Siaya and Homabay has had some problems in the recent past, other water ways connecting the many islands on Lake Victoria and the connection between Kenya and Uganda via the lake are key areas that will enhance trade and make our county competitive in the long run.

This enhanced connection and improved trade via the lake will also go along way in creating good neighbourliness between Kenya and Uganda and end the acrimony currently being witnessed in the common borders.

Air Transport

This sector holds great potential and with Siaya as the closest county to Uganda, opening the Segia airstrip as well as others in Bondo will go along way to easing transport and as a gateway to Uganda.

Improving the communication and transportation between the major business centres in Siaya is crucial. These fourteen major markets centres are; Siaya town, Bondo town, Yala, Usenge, Ugunja, Nyadorera, Aram, Akala, Luanda Kotieno, Sigomere, Sidindi, Aboke, Ukwala and Ndori among others. The roads connecting these centres for

Air Transport



instance between Bondo and siaya is currently in a pathetic state. The roads around the markets leave a lot to be desired and market infrastructure equally needs improvement. The construction of physical amenities among others is urgent. This poor roads network inhibits effective utilization of the centres and most business is confined along the major roads such as along Luanda-Kotieno-Ndori- Ngiya, Bondo-Siaya-Rangala, - Ugunja, and Siaya-Nyadorera transport corridors.

3.5.2 Opportunities in infrastructure

The terrain in most of the County provides a great opportunity for the construction of roads and the existence of the various funds such as CDF, fuel levy, rural access road, County Government Budget, availability of labor for road construction as well as the building materials are a plus in the endeavour.

3.5.3 Our Pledges on Infrastructural Development

The potential for physical infrastructure to change the face of a county has been evidenced in Kakamega and other counties where government was absent before devolution. It is therefore, critical that the new incoming Siaya Government reflects deeply on what must be done to make Siaya great. In this regards, we propose to urgently undertake the following actions once in office;

- In liaison with the National Government, ensure the construction and maintenance of roads among them Ugunja-Ruambwa, Siaya-Nyadorera, Siranga-Sega, Bondo-Lihunda, Got Nanga-Bar Ober, Luanda Kotiatio- Nyagondo- Siaya Road among others;
- Structured and innovative engagement for partnership with the private sector for massive investment in the County;
- Construct and maintain roads within the county through the establishment of a County Roads Maintenance Board (road links such as Sidindi-Sigomre-Yogo-Bar Ober road, Boro-Hawing-Uhembo-Nyadorera road, Usenge-Bar Kanyango-Dominio-Ratuoro-Nyandiwa road, Anyuongi-Nyagoko-Mahaya-Riat Kolemo-Ajigo, Kalandini-Number ka Elija-Opoda-Bar Kalare-Luanda Kotiatio road, Gagra-Madiany-Ndigwa road, Rabuor-Lihanda-Omindu among others;
- Directly involve the youth in roads construction and maintenance and public works as a way of job creation and citizen involvement;
- Procure and maintain road construction equipment to reduce on costs and open and pave feeder roads with stone marvel;
- Enhance opening up and substantial maintenance of rural access roads by murraming and tarmacking at least one major road crisscrossing each ward;



- Identify, Construct and maintain major bridges that make movements impossible during the rainy seasons (Ensure completion of Nzoia Bridge, Dhogoye Bridge among others);
- Lobby for the construction of Asembo Bay feeder port as part of Kisumu Port;
- Construct Fish Landing Beaches for instance in Bondo and Rarieda (Usenge, Luanda Kotieno) among others;
- Identify key roads for upgrading to bitumen standards.
- Enhance and ensure the completion of the Last Mile Connectivity to ensure that electricity is available in all homes.
- Ensure the Elevation of major markets such as Ugunja, Sega, Ukwala, Yala, Wagai, Madiany, Akala, Usenge to allow for the development of new structures and planning.
- Improve in the housing of the vulnerable among them widows and orphans in the community through targeted construction.

3.6 Promote Tourism, Sports and Culture

3.6.1 Situational Analysis

The County has high potential for tourism in the physical as well as the cultural sectors. Also, is the possibility of the growth and development of the sporting and talent identification to aid in the overall development and the engagement of the youth.

At the moment, there is only one gazetted game reserve which is Lake Kanyaboli Game Reserve under the Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS) and more needs to be done in this sector.

There have been several investments in cultural heritage sites, hotels development, and attempts to link the County with the Western Kenya Circuit tours and travel investments. Some of the activities that can be undertaken in the many destination sites include: sightseeing, Bird watching, picnics, camping, educational tours, Nature Photography, Fishing, Boat rides, Water sports, Canoeing, Nature walk, Nature drive, Biking, Wild life safaris, recreational sailing, cruise tourism, sport fishing, film tourism, hill hiking, cave camping. Kayaking, Beach Volleyball and cultural activities such as traditional dances, Nyatiti players, Orutu players, Dodo dancers, Dirges and Tero buru among others.

Some of the Natural Heritage Sites that are good for ecotourism include Got Ramogi, Nam Lolwe, Yala Wetlands, Lakes Kanyaboli, Sare, Namboyo, Artificial Lake Bob, Dominion Farms Birds Sanctuary, Anyiko Wetland, Uwasi/Muluhwa Rice Scheme (agro-tourism), Rawalo Hills, Ndanu Falls, Mahira Falls, GodHa, the Islands of Mageta, Oyamo, Ndeda, Magare, Sifu, Sirigombe, Nyalumba, Sika with spectacular natural sceneries. A number of spectacular hills with good viewing includes: Got Ramogi, Got Rambugu, Got Mbaga. Got Obiero, Got Usenge, Got Nyangoe, Got Abom, Got Abuyu, Got Nyagoko, Got Anyango, Got Nyambare, Got Naya and Got Akara.

There are also major archeological, cultural and historic sites that commemorate the existence of community heroes and legends among them Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Mausoleum, the Alego Nyang'oma Kogelo Village, Achieng' Oneko Mausoleum, Justice Hayanga Mausoleum, Argwings Kodhek Mausoleum, Chief Odera Akang'o Office and Cells, Grace Ogot Mausoleum, Amoth Owira Mausoleum, Mageta Island (Colonial Prisons that include Ndeda and Oyamo), Colonial Courts in Ukwala, Olua Sacred Trees, Bullock of Got Podhe, Nungu Shrines, Prehistoric sites: Iron Stone Age Sites of Got Rambugu, Holy Got Adodi, Gangu-Nyalagi, Earthwalls (Gunda Buche), Cultural Festival

&Wrestling Sites such as Migwena, Sumba-Nyambala, Karemo and Bar Olengo.

There are also 33 landing beaches, some of which are good sandy beaches for leisure tourism (Siungu and Goye Beaches in Usenge) and 5 habited islands in the County namely; Oyamo, Mageta, Ndeda, Magare and Sihu. The other beaches that have potential for water front development, and leisure sport tourism include: Luanda Kotieno, Madudu, Kamariga, Usenge, WichLum, Misoro, Uyawi, Liunda, Lwanda Kotieno, Nyamnwa, Gul Min Ougo, Goye, Kowange, Magarem Nyabera, Saga, Sifu, Oyamo, Port South Banga (Miyandhe), Wakawaka, Warianda, Ulanda, Uhanya, Uhoma, Mahanga, Ndeda, Obenge, Kasiri Asembo bay, Kombo, Gangu, Rabonde, Kadenge, Gudwa, Kunywa, Nambo, Honge, Nyenye, Anyanga, Mitundu, Kabarua, Sika, among others.

The county also boasts of very rich biodiversity with varieties of wild life found in the County including hippopotamus, crocodiles, Sifatunga antelope, bushpig, hyenas, monkeys, leopard, snakes such as python, cobra, and various species of birds.

The county also boasts of very rich cultural diversity that includes things like: Traditional Music/ Instruments: Nyatiti, Orutu, Ohangla, Peke, Tung, Bul; Traditional Weapons: Orujie, Mbidho, Kuot, Luth, Okumba, Ligangla, Tong, Atheno, Okot, Okol; Traditional Attire/Regalia: Pien gugru, Pien



Nya diel, Akala, Kond Tigo, Chieno, Olemo; Traditional Dishes: Aliya, Atururu, Atuago, Hariadho, Ogira, Atipa, Riga, Rabuon; Traditional Artifacts: Da pii, Pand Nyaluo, Mbir, Osero, Koo, Owes, Kom Nyaluo, Oliho, Aguata, Haiga, Tao, Agul, Odheru, Nyiedh, Hamiero, Osieke, Ralung, Pong Nyatieng; Cultural festivals: Got Ramogi Festivals, Siaya County Festivals, Nyambala Wrestling Festivals all that have great potential for tourist attraction if well packaged and marketed.

Sports

Sportsmen and women from the region continue to excel especially in football and rugby but in sporting events outside the county. Such talent need to be exhibited and rewarded at home in the first place to motivate others with similar potential. This is not possible because of a lack of a proper sports policy. Sports has proven to be a big business worldwide and as the son of the county Arnold Origi who plays for Liverpool in England among the football elite, the county can produce many more and ensure that the talent is nurtured for the benefit of the county and country.

3.6.2 Opportunities in the sector

The tourism, culture and sports sector provides big opportunities for growth and is a sleeping giant in terms of revenue generation and jobs creation. The natural heritage sites, the cultural heritages as well as the flora and fauna can be good attractions to tourism both locally and internationally.

In the sports arena, the community have been in the forefront in the football and rugby arena. More still can be done to develop swimming, javelin, long jump and other related sports that can grow through talent academies.

The Luo Benga and Rhumba music is enjoyed by all in the country and beyond. This is a sector that can also be nurtured to provide the needed revenue for the county and the artists. The development in this sector will ensure a stop to the present cultural erosion and the profiling of the county as a destination of choice.

3.6.3 Our Pledges on Tourism, Sports and Culture

To revive and uplift this sector, the county government will do the following:

- Establish sports academies in different sporting fields such as football, rugby, table tennis, swimming, netball and volleyball and further link them to local and international platforms;
- Organize sports events to showcase and open external opportunities for Siaya's sportsmen and women;
- Map and preserve all the archeological, cultural, historical and natural heritage sites and market them effectively as part of tourist attraction;
- Establish cultural sites in each of the wards to showcase community heroes and heroines;
- Establish a department to coordinate the social welfare and documentation of the diverse talents in the county;
- Develop the road networks leading to the different tourist attraction sites;
- Establish a brand Siaya coordinator to bring forth what Siaya has to offer locally and globally;
- Build a cultural and multi-purpose hall in every sub-county to promote culture, creative arts and traditional heritage;

- Fast track the completion of Siaya County Stadium as a matter of priority;
- Develop and upgrade other stadia in each of the sub-counties;
- Link sports to tourism circuit to attract regional and international athletes;
- In the past ten or so years, Siaya residents have built beautiful homes which at the moment could count as Dead Capital, we will encourage Homestays - Inspire people open their homes to local & foreign tourists for income generation to enhance tourism.

3.7 Resources Mobilization and Jobs Creation

3.7.1 Situational Analysis

Resources are key to any undertaking and creation of jobs gives opportunities to all citizens to participate in the affairs of their county. At the moment, Siaya County lacks a lot of things necessary for proper wealth generation. To begin with, there are no industries worth mentioning, there is lack of adequate power and energy, inadequate market infrastructure, lack of cooperative development as well as very poor or inadequate ICT infrastructure. In a nutshell, Siaya has limited options in generating its own income and is almost entirely dependent on the exchequer for its development.

The poverty levels remain high caused by diverse issues that include poor soil fertility leading to low yields, low income among households to afford farm inputs, over-reliance on traditional methods of farming, lack of alternative sources of income and the attitude of the youth towards non-formal employment such as farming.

To be able to address poverty there is need to enhance development efforts targeting food production. This will not only ensure food security but also provide income through the sale of surplus farm produce. The County must put concerted efforts to develop the local economy as well as reduce poverty through: revitalization of agriculture, tapping the fishing resources, promoting industrial production, tourism, and trade and commercial activities.

The energy sector is equally less developed and the county must explore the existing potential for solar energy, wind energy and biogas to aid in industrial take off via the provision of cheap energy.

The potential for industrial growth must be explored in sectors like rice milling, sugar production, mango processing, bakeries, fish processing, cotton growing and jua kali industries. The cooperative and financial sectors must also be explored and our people provided with the necessary cheap loans to for business.

3.7.2 Opportunities

The potential in wealth creation is immense. The human resources in the county is the best and we must harness it for better growth. The physical infrastructure, the cultural environment and the biodiversity in the county has immense potential for growth. Revival of cotton growing and ginneries can boost the future textile industry in the County. Jua Kali Industry if well managed can be the main driver of industrial development through training, apprenticeship and provision of seed capital. Sectors such mechanics, metal fabrications, carpentry, masonry, plumbing and electrical installations are areas that must be explored. The County host Kenya Industrial Estate site in Siaya Town, formerly established to act as industrial incubation centres, though not actively busy as was expected.

The county has immense potential for food crop farming (maize, sorghum, millet, beans, cowpeas, cassava, sweet potatoes, groundnuts and finger millet), Cash crop farming (cotton, rice, sugar cane and groundnuts), Emerging crops (irrigated rice, palm oil, chilly, passion fruits and grain amaranth), Livestock farming (zebu cattle, up-grade and pure dairy cows, dairy goats, poultry, local goats, sheep, pigs, rabbits, donkeys), Bee keeping, Fish farming in Lake Victoria, Lake Kanyaboli, dams and fish ponds, Agroforestry: Tree nurseries, fruit trees and establishment of woodlots and massive Rice production in Yala swamp.

3.7.3 Our Pledges on Resources Mobilization and Jobs Creation

In order to enhance wealth creation through jobs and innovative enterprises, we promise to undertake the following:

- Promote industrialization and the service sector by establishing industrial incubation centres in each of the 30 wards and actualising the establishment of the proposed mango fruit processing in Ndori, fishmeal processing in Bondo and fish cold storage facilities along the beaches (Consider the principle of One Village, One Product to enhance innovation);
- Improve the trade environment via friendly legislation and check on over taxation; Ensure that proper facilitation of economic activities to the residence of Siaya is done to make them free and to live a dignified life by raising respectable standards of living and creating opportunities for them to earn a decent wage and accumulate wealth;
- Improve the market infrastructure through construction of modern market sheds and stalls and improve on the existing ones;
- Promotion of Fair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection;
- Enhance solid Waste Management and construct recycling plant;
- Coordinate the formation and development of friendly Cooperatives and ensure the full operations of the Cooperative Development Fund Act 2019;
- Put in place the necessary human resources and appoint men and women with integrity and experience to harness the county's potential to attract wealth;
- Create a revolving fund to support SMEs;
- Conduct both local and international trade fairs to showcase the Siaya potential to investors and partner with other development partners to unleash the potential;
- Revive cotton farming with the provision of high yielding seed varieties and address high input costs;
- In places with water masses, introduce irrigation to stop the over-reliance on rain-fed agriculture;
- Explore and commercially exploit the mineral resources and make mining safe;
- Provide incentives for the growth of the hotel and hospitality industry;
- Coordinate the development in the ICT sector to enhance services and employment creation in the services sector, this also involves putting in place Wide Area Network to connect all county institutions and National government services where necessary.
- Support production and export of fresh produce, establish special economic zones, industrial parks and empower the Siaya Jua Kali Association to enhance quality of their products;
- Engage with the private sector to establish a motorcycle Assembly plant in Siaya to offer affordable services in the boda boda sector among other initiatives.
- Consider the construction of Cottage Industries at Village Level for local market & and at least a factory per ward depending on what is locally produced; Ultimately create and Industrial Estate or Estates with the ability to produce goods for mass consumption and wealth creation;

- Enhance inter-county trade through opening of harbours, ports and piers like Asembo Bay, Usenge, Luanda Kotieno among others;
- Ensure that trade happens in a clean environment by improving on waste reuse and recycling in major towns and market centers, provision of clean water and easy access to markets;
- Ensure that All market centers & fish landing beaches have around the clock security & street lighting to enhance 24hr economy;

Through the above actions, we commit to initiate and grow The Orengo Economic and Empowerment Program for our residents to participate in income generation, gainful employment and contribute to the growth of our economy.

3.8 Enhance Devolution and Good Governance

3.8.1 Situational analysis

The best thing that ever happened to this country after independence is Devolution. This has ensured that places that were never touched with development can now realise their full potential via resources allocation and local management of resources. It is now possible to map out every county's potential and ensure that it is exploited for the benefit of the local population. However, the ten years' experience has brought hope in some counties and pain in others.

Observers have noted that one unexpected outcome of devolution has been "Devolved Corruption" and plunder of resources at unprecedented scale. Some counties have grown worse while others have made tremendous strides and their citizens are enjoying the fruits of this change in governance architecture. For Siaya, the experience has not been very encouraging and it is time that we have our footprint in this arena.

3.8.2 Opportunities for enhanced devolution and prudent resources management

Siaya County has been known for years for its democratic credentials and brave warriors who have not only made a mark in the national politics, but also expanded the democratic space. It is a county of legends with impeccable human resource capacity. The citizens are also outspoken and can engage in debates and crafting their future in a more democratic environment. The literacy level is also encouraging and this is a big resource for engaged management of public affairs.

3.8.3 Our Pledges on Enhancing Devolution and Good Governance

As a democrat and a believer in people power, we make solemn promise to ensure the following:

- Expand the democratic space and always seek and respect the will of the people;
- Enhance county governance by enacting legislation to entrench the role of village elders and creating the necessary mechanisms for consultation with the council of elders; Entrenching and strengthening devolution up to the village levels and further creating a strong working relationship with the national coordination bodies at national level;
- Employ all the Village Elders and provide monthly stipend. Village Administrative Units Act should be amended to recognize the pre-existing Villages as headed by Village Elders - As primary units for Public Participation & Inclusivity.
- Create a county think-tank that will not only advise on important development issues but also participate in the crafting of county development agenda;
- Open up the county for the participation of the sons and daughters of the county in the diaspora and have a desk reserved for their engagement;
- Ensure the participation and constructive engagement of the youth, women, the elderly, people living with disabilities as well as the minorities and the marginalised;

- Ensure transparency and accountability in the management of public resources for the common good of all citizens;
- Make corruption a risky undertaking and ensure that those who have plundered public resources are brought to account via the necessary legal mechanisms;
- Create Siaya leadership caucus of elected leaders, national government, leaders

3.9 Empowerment of Women, Youth and PWDs

3.9.1 Situation Analysis and Current Challenges

Key issues affecting the Youth

Women, youth, the elderly and the PWDs are a special category of people defined by the constitution as special interest groups who deserve to be accorded respect and opportunities.

Issues affecting the youth

There has been a youth bulge in the country and Siaya is no exception. This requires innovative thinking and modern ways of tackling their problems. A good percentage of the population is youth and below the age of 35 years. The biggest problem is that the Youth are not productively engaged and are underemployed. Majority of the youth have not attained college education, but a large number have not been adequately skilled to provide the requisite labour needed. It is very unfortunate that most of the young people are now engaging in all manners of vices among them theft, robbery, drugs addiction and are regarded as criminals. This in essence portends a rather dark future and must be tackled as a matter of urgency.

Key issues affecting Women

Women in Siaya are affected by many issues. Many women are illiterate because of the patriarchal culture, they are married off young and some drop out of school because of pregnancy and poverty. Because of natural attrition, many households are headed by women who have been widowed. Resulting from their low level education and the burden of household chores, women face a number of social and economic challenges in the County. They neither are unable to access proper health care nor enjoy their humanity in a dignified way. Many women, children, and adolescents continue to experience poor health services and die from preventable conditions that have proven and cost effective interventions. Access to quality reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health services remain a challenge across all levels of care. In the constituencies/wards/villages, economic inequities and social barriers persist within the population sub-groups that hamper primary healthcare provision.



in private sector to address cross-cutting issue such as security, investment and progressive development;

- Re-establish the WARD DEVELOPMENT FUND and strengthen its capacity to devolve funds to the wards, identify and implement key projects and programs and fast track development in all the 30 wards of the county;
- Establish the county patriotic youth program to engage form- 4 leavers for a 3-month volunteer service at the county, and further facilitate international exchange programs for international exposure;
- Constantly and periodically capacitate staff in services delivery and customer care through exposure and strategic benchmarking;
- Ensure there is in place a policy on public participation and relevant legislation to allow citizens to participate in the affairs that affect them;
- Make public participation a mandatory element in conducting county government affairs with reasonable speed;
- Ensure that Support is accorded to all Assistant Chiefs & Chiefs with computers & printers to enhance Intergovernmental coordination and efficiency.

The main food producers, a majority of whom are women, are discriminated against and lack extension services, access to productive resources, micro credit and financial services as well as formal sector employment opportunities because of lower education and the nature of land tenure system that promotes male ownership. In a general, women have limited opportunities and must be considered in the process of uplifting their status.

The elderly

The elderly are a special category of citizens who deserve to be treated with dignity. Traditionally, the old people were treated with dignity and were regarded as the dictionaries of the community and were responsible for guiding the next generation in all matters of culture and development.

Over the years though, urbanization and globalization has taken root in society and many of the young and productive generation are in urban centres leaving the elderly behind without much assistance. In other western countries, the elderly enjoy the twilight years in the elderly homes where they can share with their peers and others in a confined environment. In Siaya county however, sometimes the elderly face discrimination, have no access to healthcare, face neglect and are living in abject poverty. In some instances, we have the elderly headed households resulting from death of their children from epidemics such as HIV and AIDS. This group therefore, needs special protection.

People Living with Disabilities (PWDs)

Traditionally, PWDs were hidden from the public and discriminated against as people who were part of the communal bad omen. This meant that most of them did not access schooling and therefore, did not develop the necessary skills for productive engagement. Today, the constitution demands and as part of human rights that the PWDs are integrated into the mainstream society and accorded the necessary space to actualize their potential.

3.9.2 Opportunities

The youth in Siaya County are a vibrant lot that can be harnessed for positive outcome. They are mostly learned and may only require targeted skills development in the suggested incubation centres to ensure their productivity. The women are hardworking and once accorded the necessary opportunities, can be a great resource as they have always been. The provision of clean water that reduces their burden and with more time in their hands, changes can be instituted that brings out the best in them.

The elderly still remains the source of knowledge and inspiration; they are the custodians of culture and provide the connection between today and yesterday in our lives. Engaging them positively and finding the best way to deal with their present predicament has the great potential in creating harmony.

Once the plight of the PWDs is known and their talents identified, they remain a resource to the community. Their resilience and ability to cope with the diverse conditions provides an opportunity for encouragement to all. Once there is communal acceptance of the PWDs, it is therefore, possible for the community to provide them education and skills necessary for community development.

3.9.3 Our Pledges on Empowering Women, Youth and PLWDs

The focus must be on productive engagement of the youth and the acknowledgement of the space and the undocumented work of the women. On the basis of the need to integrate this special interest groups to the mainstream development, the county government will undertake the following tasks:

- Ensure that under wealth creation through agricultural value addition, women's work is recognized and valued;
- Improvement in women's health through strengthening of reproductive and maternal healthcare, ensure that maternal healthcare is free and that all pregnant women are registered with NHIF;
- Invest in girl child education and enhance their well-being;
- Strict compliance with the law on procurement and job opportunities in regards to the youth, women and PLWDs;
- Provide training to women and youth for successful tender bidding to take advantage of the opportunities in the county as well as the national government;
- Enhance investments in the social, economic, education, public health and ICT to create opportunities for the youth and women.
- Institute social welfare programmes for the elderly people and ensure that they are registered for the monthly stipends from government besides having them registered in the NHIF scheme at the public expense;
- Get the youth trained and involved as extension workers in agriculture and champion for the change in attitude away from white collar jobs;
- Ensure that the built environment and county operations are disability friendly;
- Ensure that every individual in the community is treated with dignity and respect they deserve;
- Ensure special protection to widows and orphans and provide them the necessary opportunities for education and constructive engagements;
- Enroll the PLWDs in the NHIF at public expense and ensure they are protected from harassment and accorded job opportunities.

The journey to a better Siaya remains a collective one with my team providing the impetus for the realization of our dream. With Hope and Determination, we believe that it is possible, Inawezekana, Nyalore.

4. CONCLUSION

Siaya County's potential is not in doubt but has been let down by the pioneer county management. It is therefore, incumbent upon us to secure the future of our youth and ensure their involvement and productive engagement in securing that future in a peaceful and prosperous environment.

Through good governance and prudent management of resources, we can have a total turn around that not only respects the will of the people but also involves them closely in shaping their future. Massive investments in the infrastructure, agriculture, environment and water resources, healthcare and education are the way to go. We must open up markets for our people and encourage them through county interventions to be producers and not consumers as is the case at the moment. We must tap into the wealth of our intellectual resources that the county boasts of and ensure that we provide a conducive environment for the private public partnership and encourage our diaspora population to be closely engaged in the development of their motherland.

To achieve reasonable and meaningful development, the monster of corruption must be tackled head on. Every one appointed into public office will have to be accountable and periodic lifestyle audit will be conducted to ensure that fidelity to the law is sustained. There are several things that the new county government must do as a matter of urgency to ensure that the public resources are safeguarded. We must enhance ethics and integrity in accordance to chapter 6 of the constitution, we must ensure better management of public resources, enhance transparency and accountability in governance, end corruption and where possible recover stolen wealth, and entrench devolution up to the villages. In circumstances that we doubt certain pending bills, we will institute an internal audit of the financial status of the county and conduct an assessment of the assets and liabilities to ensure no further loss of public resources.

Projects identification will be based on public participation and the people will be the best monitors of the development in the county. The hard-work of women will be rewarded and policies to involve them in business, ownership of productive capital and enjoyment of rights will be enacted and respected. We must lessen the burden of women by availing clean drinking water to the homes. One wonders why Lake Victoria and the many water bodies in the County cannot be harnessed for the benefit of all. We must create wealth and have a belief in our ability to make a difference. As a community, the time has come to make Siaya a County of Choice and to ensure that the wasted 10 years are recovered and used as a launching pad to a better county. Nyalore, inawezekana and it shall happen.



Nyalore

James Aggrey Orenge

