

Press Clip

SIGNING OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU) BETWEEN UN-HABITAT AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NAKURU

Venue: Council of Governors (CoG) offices, Delta House, Westlands, Nairobi



Friday, 5 February 2020 – UN-Habitat and the County Government of Nakuru today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to formalize their collaboration. The MoU was signed by H.E. Hon. Lee Kinyanjui, Governor of Nakuru and Mr. Oumar Sylla, Director, Regional Office for Africa of UN-Habitat and witnessed by H.E. Ms. Jean Kimani, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kenya to UN-Habitat. This main purpose of the MoU is to provide a framework that will see the two

partners work together to implement a 5-year integrated programme that will focus on seven (7) key areas including Urban Planning and design; Urban Basic Services especially on Urban Mobility, Solid Waste Management, Water and Sanitation and Renewable Energy; Local Economic Development (LED) and Revenue Enhancement; Climate Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction; Youth development and engagement through innovation for improved livelihoods; Housing and human settlements upgrading; and Urban Governance. The MoU will also facilitate the overall implementation of the Nakuru City Regeneration Plan in readiness of the elevation of Nakuru County to the fourth City in Kenya later this year. The process is currently at the Senate awaiting approval.



Speaking at the signing ceremony held at the Council of Governors Offices in Nairobi, H.E. Ms Jean Kimani appreciated the commitment by the Governor of Nakuru in engaging with UN-Habitat to promote sustainable development in the County. UN-Habitat is housed in Kenya and has vast expertise and global experience in urbanization and human settlements which she encouraged the county together with other counties and the national government to take advantage of. She thanked the

County of Nakuru for hosting several UN-Habitat events including “World Habitat Day in 2019” and the “Global Governance of World Cited Day in October 2020”. “Signing of the MoU is a culmination of the process that began in 2017 between UN-Habitat and County Government of Nakuru and it’s great to finally witness the signing ceremony which has been long overdue” she said. She affirmed the commitment of the

Permanent Mission to provide coordination and linkages between UN-Habitat and the national and counties governments in sharing information, expertise and experience in support of urbanization and urged the County to take advantage of UN-Habitats' presences in Kenya.

In his remarks, the Director, Regional Office for Africa Mr. Oumar Sylla congratulated the Governor of Nakuru for being the first African city to successfully host the Global World Cities Day in October of 2020. "This demonstrated that Africa has come a long way in prioritizing urban issues". He was quick to applaud the Governor of Nakuru for being a Champion of urbanization and the chairman of the Urbanization Committee within the Council of Governors. "It is important for leadership both at national, county and local levels to look at what our countries and cities are losing for not addressing urbanization challenges" Mr. Sylla said that this is a reality and Governments cannot hide away from this challenges anymore.

Currently, more than 54 % of urban population in Kenya are living in the informal settlements. There is need to go beyond mapping of informal settlements and become proactive by taking appropriate action to prevent the formation of informal settlement. This were sentiments that were echoed H.E. Mr. Lee Kinyanjui, Governor of Nakuru County. He noted that allowing urban areas/towns to grow uncontrolled, makes most cities make irreversible mistakes especially in the formation of slums and informal settlements. "Nakuru therefore aspires to have a slum prevention approach and is seeking the support of UN-Habitat to develop a "Slum prevention strategy" that will mitigate the formation of slums in Nakuru going forward. This will include availing of free land to developers to ensure that houses being built on the free land are cheap and affordable to the urban poor. The cost of land increases the price of housing. The Governor mentioned other challenges facing Nakuru as the rising of lakes in the County that are living people and animals homeless. He called upon UN-Habitat to support deal with this challenges. Another challenge is the existence of two natural features (a Lake and the Crater) which hinder proper planning of Nakuru town. He called upon UN-Habitat to support the County in dealing with some of this challenges.

Mr. Sylla informed that Kenya is hosting the 9th Africities summit in November 2021 which is an opportunity to showcase Kenya's progress in addressing the issue of urbanization. He noted that County of Nakuru needs to reflect on what to present during this summit to seize the opportunity to learn and gain variable experiences from other cities, towns and municipalities in Africa especially now that it's almost becoming a city.

Additional Photos that can be used for the Website story

