

REGENERATION of KISUMU

A Manifesto by

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Governor 2027

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Vision

A prosperous countywhere every citizen has the opportunity to thrive and to participates in building a sustainable future.

Mission

To regenerate Kisumu through visionary and accountable leadership that invests in people, and safeguards the county's resources for present and future generations.

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PREFACE

The Eagle that Would Not Fly is a parable by Dr. James Emman Kwegyir Aggrey, who suggests that an eagle raised among chicken remains an eagle but cannot achieve its full potential. That has been the status of Kisumu County for a very long time. In the words of Governor Nyong'o, Kisumu is a county of great potential but a disappointing underachiever. Tony Blair would describe it as a scar in the conscience of humanity. An eagle that is foraging with chicken instead of soaring high. We intend to restore the glory of Kisumu through our five-point agenda.

Regeneration of Kisumu is an idea whose time has come. Upon devolution, 'Atieno' had anticipated that potable water wold flow into her homestead, if not into ehr house. But the reality is that Atieno still has to make endless trips to the river to fetch silt water. Oftentimes, Otieno has to live on less than one dollar per day, which is way below the globally accepted threshold for extreme poverty. Undernutrition is the experience of most households, sujecting many children to frequent illnesses. And hospitals do not have the capacity to offer the highest attainable standard of care spoken of in Article 43. Educated youths have limited employment opportunities and agriculture remains subsistence and unreliable. The old people have to spare their pension to pay rent for their adult children who are trying to look for jobs in Nairobi and other cities that hold the allure of greener pastures. This situation must be reversed.

The primary focus of our manifesto is to give dignity to the people. We are acutely aware that the utilisation of our resources in a sustainable manner that transforms the lives and livelihoods of the people requires leadership that is visionary, accountable, and people-centred. That is the kind of leadership that we are ready to offer the people of Kisumu.

Dr. Mandela Ogada

A Visionary Leader

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BACKGROUND OF KISUMU COUNTY

Kisumu County sits on a land mass of 2,086 square kilometers and is home to 1,155,574 people organized into 300,745 households according to the 2019 census. By the year 2045, it is projected that the population of Kisumu will be way abve 1.6 million people. The average household size is 3.8 people. Those who identify as male are 560,942 while 594,609 identify as female. Twenty-three people (23) identify as intersex. Urban centres hold a total of 440,891 (216,221 male and 224,670 female) whereas the majority (714,660 people; 344,721 male and 369,939 female) live in the rural areas. The majority of amenities are concentrated in the urban areas, leaving the rural populations technically marginalised.

The county is further organised into 7 sub-counties, 35 wards, and 70 village units. Kisumu East has the highest population (219,996) followed by Kisumu Central (170,592) then Kisumu West (169,806), Nyando (160,804), Muhoroni (151,799) Nyakach (150,319), then Seme (121,461). Each sub-county is organised into 5 wards, except Seme which has 4 wards and Kisumu East which has 6 wards. Every ward has two village units.

Kisumu County's proximity to Lake Victoria, world's second largest fresh water lake, has strategic advantages within Africa's Great Lakes Region that is comparable only to regions like Toronto, Genève, and Chicago. Fishing has been one of the major economic activities within the county, albeit on a small scale basis. Fish farming in cages and ponds is also emerging strongly as an economic activity in the region. However, the endurance of water hyacinth in most sections of the lake presents a formidable limitation to fishing as an economic activity.

Agriculture remains the major economic activity in the county. Nature of agricultural activities is diverse, ranging from sugarcane planting to livestock rearing. Approximately 18,000 acres are under irrigation and the county is well supplied major rivers. Topographical features also favour diverse range of activities, from highland regions of Nyabondo plateau to vast plains of Kano and Sango, and moderately raised lands in Muhoroni. In a nutshell, Kisumu county has what it takes to make Agriculture not just the most widely practiced activity but also the most impactful in terms of job creation and food security.

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