

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



THARAKA NITHI COUNTY GOVERNMENT

MINISTRY OF TOURISM, ENVIRONMENT, WATER SERVICES AND NATURAL RESOURCES

**H.E SAMUEL MBAE RAGWA SPEECH ON COUNTY
SCHOOL GREENING PROGRAM**

I take this opportunity to welcome you all to THE LAUNCH OF COUNTY SCHOOL GREENING PROGRAM -Tharaka Nithi County and to appreciate your presence here today. This

great day is a day to promote awareness on the importance of preserving our biodiversity through tree planting/growing, the need to identify problems related to the environment and ways to take corrective action .our priority is to sensitize on environmental challenges which include climate change, global warming, food insecurity, massive forest degradation, harmful substances, environmental governance, ecosystem management and resource efficiency.

Ladies and Gentlemen, -Article 42 of the Kenyan

Constitution 2010, provides that every person has a right to a clean and healthy environment. Consequently, the state therefore has an obligation to;

1. Encourage public participation in the management, protection and conservation of the environment.
2. Protect genetic resources and biological diversity
3. Establish systems of environmental impact assessment, environmental audit and monitoring of the environment

4. Utilize the environment and natural resources for the benefit of the people of Kenya.

Every person, therefore, has a duty to cooperate with the state organs and other persons to protect and conserve the environment and ensure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources.

Over the years, human activities have caused so much degradation and pollution in our county that has affected the delicate ecosystem placed there by our nature. The damage

has become so severe, that we need to come together to stop any further damage as our continued survival in this planet is at risk.

Fellow citizens, our County is experiencing environmental challenge and massive degradation caused by our own people and I am indeed saddened by the rate at which trees are cut and transported out of our County as posts and charcoal. To curb this, my Government is in the process of generating a bill to regulate the cutting, charcoal burning and transportation of trees. The penalties will be severe with a fine of Kshs.

100,000 (one hundred thousand) and replenishment of 20 trees or 2 years imprisonment. The most affected areas are within Munguni and Kiera locations. Equally important, let's all understand that it's an obligation of each person to participate in the noble exercise of tree planting to conserve environment and making it better than we found it. Given the importance of this day, we are planning to organize tree planting in our degraded areas within the four Sub-Counties in October rains where by next month we will start the process by germinating seeds in our county nurseries as follows;

NO.	NURSERY	NUMBER OF SEEDLINGS
1.	MUTONGA	1,500,000
2.	KAANWA	500,000
3.	MAGUMONI	500,000
4.	MAGUTUNI	500,000
5.	GATUNGA	500,000
6.	200 SCHOOLS(WHICH ARE WILING TO PARTNER WITH THE COUNTY)	2,000,000
7.	KAJUKI	500,000
	TOTAL	6,000,000

This way, we will be in a position to bring together institutions like Schools, stakeholders, famers and other

responsible community members. We have already procured all the seeds and sourced others locally to ensure an increase in seedlings in our nurseries as discussed above. It is in this context that we have organised for this school greening program to give the selected schools water tanks which are going to support them in raising and planting their own seedlings. The county mission is to plant 6 million trees by 2017 so as to increase tree cover percentage which is at 19.4 % (2010 KFS data) and ensure the people in our county live

in harmony with nature for the benefit of the current and future generation.

In the year 2014, we were able to plant 1.54 million trees in the county which were distributed and planted in different areas; along the highway (Thuci-Chiakariga road), schools, chief's camp as well as rehabilitating the hillside/hilltops.

Another major Environmental challenge in our county is the water shortage that is affecting a large population. In this

regard, we have repaired one water tank that will be pulled by tractor for watering trees along the roadside between Thuci and Chiakariga. We have also put in place water resource users association Committee members to guard the rivers where we are planning to allocate members of the staff to assist in managing the river for every 5 km distance as well as rehabilitating the river banks in the upper stream areas using bamboo which we are planning to raise in a greenhouse which we have procured.

As I conclude my remarks let me appeal to all the Tharaka Nithi County Citizens to protect our environment jealously as its part of our heritage.

Thank you.

May God bless You

May God bless Tharaka Nithi County