



MACHAKOS COUNTY PARTNERS WITH SWEDEN TO BENCHMARK AND ACCELERATE COUNTY ECONOMIC GROWTH

Press Release: 4th September 2015

Date: 4th September 2015

Time: 11.00am – 12.30pm

Venue: Machakos County Government Offices

4th September 2015, Machakos County Government Officials, together with I Choose Life - Africa CEO and team will today get a sendoff to Sweden for a knowledge exchange visit. The delegation comprising 4 County officials and 2 ICL team members will be flagged off by Machakos County Governor, Hon. Alfred Mutua at 11.00am.

The knowledge exchange visit was birthed by the Machakos Strategic Think Tank with the objective of benchmarking the recently launched Machakos Vision 2020 against Sweden's Municipality management success. This project was initiated by I Choose Life- Africa (ICL) in partnership with Machakos County government, forming the Machakos Strategy Think Tank. The two key partners have been involved in implementing developmental programs in the county since 2012. Through observations and gaps identified in the course of interactions with the county citizens and the county government, I Choose Life Africa felt the need to facilitate effective collaboration between Boras Municipality in Sweden and Machakos County.

Sweden has a great and rich history of economic development, founded on the use of technology and deliberate innovation in enterprise. During the 10 day visit, the team will greatly benefit by visiting the City of Boras and University of Gothenburg to learn how Sweden is organized and how Swedes run the municipalities and country. The exposure visit will enlarge the vision of the County Teams to see possible alternatives to the standards of provision of service delivery to the County Citizens and create networks and relationships that can help them move towards achieving them. Upon return, this delegation will be eager to share lessons learnt, exposure gained and partnership opportunities that arose during the visit.

The delegation visiting Boras Municipality will engage stakeholders and explore avenues for growth in Education, Agriculture, Waste Management and Governance sectors. The specific objectives of the exchange visit include:

1. Share experiences in order to find ways to strengthen public participation in planning and management of county affairs
2. Share experiences in order to find ways to strengthen the information and knowledge management systems towards a stronger public monitoring of county government programs and activities



3. Share experiences in order to find ways to build the human capacity of the citizens and the County government in the service delivery
4. Identify opportunities and conditions for a joint project application to ICLD

. These are the expected outcomes from the knowledge exchange visit:

1. **In Agriculture:** improved Smallholder farmer livelihoods through increased horticultural productivity, commercialization and competitiveness of commodities and enterprises.
2. **In Education:** understanding of the Governance, Management and accountability systems in schools.
3. **In Waste Management:** involvement in the PPP approach in advocating for change in public attitudes, awareness creation and in ultimately ensuring sustainable waste management.
4. **In Leadership and Governance:** To strengthen civic engagement and voice and also enhance institutional transformation

The delegation visiting Sweden includes:

1. Mr. Stephen Nguli Kilonzo - Marketing and support services at the county Government of Machakos
2. Ms. Anne Mwendu Masai - Sub county administrator at the County Government of Machakos in Kenya
3. Antony Kim Musau - Chief Executive Officer of Machakos Investment Promotion Board in Machakos County Government
4. Mr. Josphert Ngui Kimatu - South Eastern Kenya University director of research, innovations and technology. senior lecturer in the School of Pure and Applied Sciences, Department of Biological Sciences
5. Eng. Mike Mutungi – Chief Executive Officer, I Choose Life - Africa
6. Ms. Anne Gatende – Education Advisor and Assistant Program Manager for the Girl Education Challenge (GEC) program in I choose Life Africa.

We now need to empower our youth, Corporates, government, academia and CSO's with the knowledge and skills learnt, to leapfrog the progress envisioned in 2020. Machakos County needs sustainable development driven by strategic partnerships and responsive citizens.



About ICL I Choose Life – Africa (ICL)

I Choose Life – Africa (ICL) is a leading Kenyan NGO that has contributed greatly to HIV Prevention efforts by addressing its social determinants including poverty, education, health seeking behavior, informed choices, treatment, care and support. ICL was register in 2004 and works using the **Quadra Helix Model** of partnering with the **Government of Kenya**, through the Ministries of Health, Education, Agriculture, Youth Affairs and Vision 2030 among others, **Corporates** and **Universities** as centers of knowledge, to design interventions to solve problems in different communities. ICL has programs around four pillars namely **Jiimarishe (Health)**, **Jiinue (Economic Empowerment)**, **Jielimishe (Education)** and **Jiongoze (Leadership & Governance)** The programs are anchored in over 234 learning institutions (Primary, Secondary and tertiary institutions) across 23 Counties in Kenya, reaching over one-million youth annually.

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