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Siaya Climate Advocates Push Governance Reforms as County Executive Opens Doors

Siaya, Kenya — A new chapter in Siaya County's climate governance agenda is taking shape after a high-powered delegation of the **Acacia Community Development Group (ACDG)**, representing the **Siaya County Climate Change Forum**, paid a courtesy call on **County Secretary, Mr. Joseph Ogutu**.

The delegation was led by Chairman **Dr. David Oremo** and included **Rev. Dr. Charles Malak Oloo, Rev. Dr. Maurice Abiero, Prof. Beatrice Anyango (JOOUST)**, and **Mr. Paul Omullo**. They presented a comprehensive citizens' petition, crafted through grassroots consultations across the county, with the objective of securing executive support for far-reaching reforms in climate governance.

The Strategic Pitch

The team submitted a carefully prepared pitch that underscored the urgent need to institutionalize climate governance and embed accountability mechanisms in county legislation. The petition outlined how Siaya could proactively respond to pressing climate threats—ranging from the swelling waters of Lake Victoria that displace lakeside communities to the creeping desertification in parts of Gem and Alego.

The County Secretary welcomed the petition and recognized it as a timely complement to ongoing government initiatives. He noted that climate change affects all sectors of society and highlighted the importance of citizen-driven advocacy in reinforcing county efforts.

Next Steps: From Policy to Practice

The County Secretary committed to engaging the **Directorate of Climate Change** for technical guidance. He also pledged to facilitate a structured dialogue between the advocacy group and the Directorate to ensure a unified county position before the petition reaches the County Assembly.

In a significant boost to the initiative, the delegation was invited to showcase their reform blueprint at the upcoming **Siaya International Investors Conference (SITICO)**. This platform is expected to elevate climate governance into the county's broader development and investment narrative, drawing attention from both local and international stakeholders.

Why This Initiative Matters

Climate governance has often struggled to move beyond rhetoric into practical frameworks at the county level. However, the Siaya County Climate Change Forum stands out because of its multi-sectoral leadership. With Prof. Anyango providing academic rigor, Rev. Dr. Oloo and Rev.



Dr. Abiero grounding the work in moral authority, and development leaders like Dr. Oremo and Mr. Omullo anchoring it in community experience, the initiative carries unusual strength.

The momentum also aligns with the **Climate Change (Amendment) Act 2023**, which requires counties to establish climate change units and allocate at least 2% of development budgets to climate action. By seeking executive buy-in, the Forum is ensuring that the reforms are not only people-driven but also institutionally grounded.

The Bigger Picture

The presence of **ACDG Communication Officer Lawrence Jeffrey** added emphasis on the role of visibility and communication. He underscored that effective climate governance must be visible to citizens, communicated clearly, and demonstrated in ways that people can connect with in their daily lives.

Although the petition still faces debate and possible amendments in the County Assembly, the initiative has gained crucial momentum. It represents a tactical shift—one that transforms climate change from a narrowly environmental issue into a governance and survival priority for Siaya.

As momentum builds, the Acacia Community Development Group continues to position itself as a bridge between citizen voices, county leadership, and policy frameworks, ensuring that Siaya takes decisive steps in addressing the urgent challenge of climate change.

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