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**TAITA TAVETA UNIVERSITY**

**CITATION**

**INTRODUCTION**

of

**Governor Andrew Mwadime**

BEd. (Science) - Kenyatta University

as the

**NOMINEE FOR CONFERMENT**

**OF**

**DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS, *HONORIS CAUSA* OF TAITA TAVETA UNIVERSITY**

Friday, 16th August 2024

**FUNDAMENTAL UNIVERSITY STATEMENTS**

**VISION**

An educated and empowered society in sustainability of minerals and other resources

**MISSION**

Provide quality education, training, research and community service in sustainable management of minerals and other resources

**PHILOSOPHY**

Offering quality education, training, research, and outreach programs to empower communities for the improvement of their social well-being, while assuring environmental sustainability.

**CORE VALUES**

Result Oriented

Quality

Transparency and Accountability

Innovativeness

Professionalism and ethical conduct

**MOTTO**

Home of Ideas



**Governor Andrew Mwadime**

BEd(Sc) - Kenyatta University

**EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND**

Governor Andrew Mwadime is a Kenyan born on the 6th of April 1964, in Chawia, Taita Taveta County, Kenya. He is an alumnus of Kenyatta University, where he pursued the Bachelor of Education (Science), majoring in double Mathematics and graduating in 1990.

He is a shining example and product of then Kenya’s delocalized education system and admission policy that gave young Kenyans opportunity to study across administrative and ethnic boundaries. He started and completed his primary school education at Chawia Primary School, in his home village. His high performance in primary school examinations earned him a place in and propelled him to the famous Allidina Visram Secondary School in Kenya’s second largest city, Mombasa, where he pursued his ‘O’ level studies. Upon completion and excelling in the Ordinary Level Secondary Examinations, he was admitted at The Kenyatta Mwatate High School in Taita Taveta County for his Advanced Secondary Level Certificate Studies. It was at Mwatate High that he subsequently sat the advanced level secondary examinations, qualified and got admitted at Kenyatta University, in Kenya’s Capital City, Nairobi. Unknown to many, and even to student Andrew Mwadime then, God was using this exposure to cultural diversity in institutions to prepare Governor Mwadime for his later career and roles as a teacher, banker, politician and leader that he is today. More importantly, Governor Mwadime’s passion for education, courage for risk taking, love for his people, and commitment to driving change, have collectively driven and shaped his distinguished and immense contributions to humanity in the area of mining, promotion of and advocacy for artisanal miners’ livelihoods in Taita Taveta County, enhancement of educational opportunities and infrastructure, pioneering implementation and uptake of innovative banking solutions, as well as visionary leadership and management in County Governance, for which he is being recognized today.

In his career life, Governor Mwadime has participated in numerous and diverse short course trainings, including attainment of a Diploma in Marketing from the then Mombasa Polytechnic, now the Technical University of Mombasa.

**SERVICE TO THE COUNTRY AND HUMANITY**

Governor Mwadime describes himself as *‘Wakujaa’- yaani amejaa amani, upendo, na maendeleo.* It is Swahili for a person who is passionate about and full of peace, love, and development. Further, he pronounces himself as a born-marketer; a man of the people; or simply “*Mtu wa Watu*”.

His way of life speaks to his leadership philosophy, which he reiterates at opportune times, as *"Uongozi ni Kuongozana"*, meaning “Leadership is leading one another”. This ideology is anchored on the belief that ordinary people possess the power to drive political and social change. It also calls for a shift away from reliance on traditional political structures to a more participatory, inclusive form of advocacy and engagement.

Being a man who thrives on new challenges and impelled by the people of his Constituency, Governor Mwadime joined active politics in 2013. He vied for and was elected Member of Parliament (MP) for Mwatate Constituency, on an Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) ticket. In 2017, he vied for re-election and won soundly for the second term, thereby serving for two consecutive terms as MP for Mwatate Constituency; 2013-2017 and 2017- 2022, in the 11th and 12th Parliaments. During this period, he served as Member of the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee; Pensions; as well as the Parliamentary Powers and Privileges Committee. He also served in the Departmental Committee of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives. He was diligent in ensuring that his community was not left behind in important policies and Bills that were scrutinized in the Committees.

As an MP, Governor Mwadime entrenched love for his community through various ventures and maintained a close relationship with those he led. He was always available in good and bad times, a personal trait that garnered great affection and trust among his people. When the opportunity came and riding on his popularity, the people of Taita Taveta County elected him Governor in August 2022 as an independent candidate. The Governor serves in various technical committees of the Council of Governors. He is the Chairman of the Water, Forestry and Natural Resource Management Committee and a member of the Trade, Industry, Manufacturing and Enterprise Development; Environment and Climate Change; Blue Economy; and Arid and Semi-Arid Lands and Disaster Risk Management Committees.

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO MINING, PROMOTION OF AND ADVOCACY FOR THE ARTISANAL MINERS’ LIVELIHOODS IN TAITA TAVETA COUNTY**

Governor Mwadime describes mining and herding cattle as his hobbies. However, mining is more prominent in his life than herding cattle. In his entrepreneurial pursuits and recognizing the potential provided by the abundant minerals in Taita Taveta County, the Governor has been active in the mining of gemstones on a small scale since the year 2012. Infact, it is his venture into and active engagement as an artisanal miner that greatly illuminated his people-centric leadership skills, and propelled him to being elected an MP. This engagement has not only enabled him to appreciate the challenges faced by miners in this County but also built his capacity to develop and implement strategies aimed at enhancing the living standards of the communities whose source of livelihood is the mining sector.

During his tenure, as a Member of Parliament, he steered the formation of the famous Chawia Minerals Community Based Organization, commonly referred to as ‘CBO’. He motivated and influenced support for the CBO by the Coast Development Authority, through acquisition of mining equipment, including excavators. The CBO has had a highly positive impact on the livelihoods of members of the community. At some point in time in the year 2013, it directly benefited over 5,000 youth and 2,000 women to actively participate in mining, and realised improved sustainable livelihoods through participation in the mining and value chain activities arising thereof. Through its Corporate Social Responsibility wing, the CBO has given back to society in a myriad of ways, including the construction of a kitchen for Sechu Primary School and food donations to all early Childhood Development Centres, and Primary as well as Secondary Schools in Chawia Ward.

In addition to opening up the area for development, the CBO supports higher education by offering attachment opportunities for students. Taita Taveta University, Taita Taveta National Polytechnic, and the University of Nairobi are among its greatest partners in this sphere.

As MP, Mwadime was profoundly instrumental in the crafting of the Mining Act 2016. The Act addresses transparency and social protection through the development of mechanisms that allow citizens a perspective into the mining operations; and promotes local content and community beneficiation in terms of employment and provision of services.

Governor Mwadime, seems to agree with Charles Darwin who noted that, “In the long history of humankind, those who learned to collaborate and improvise most effectively have prevailed”. Aware that working together produces an effect greater than the sum of their individual effects, the Governor has reached out to and attracted many an investor to increase the positive impact of mining at community level and nationally. These include a strategic partnership with Devki Group of Companies which will see the establishment of a mega value-addition plant for iron ore in Taita Taveta County. This development is envisioned as a contributor and enabler for significant economic growth, and is expected to create over 6,000 job oopportunities. It will transform and shift Kenya generally, and Taita Taveta County specifically, from exporter of raw materials to value addition through extraction of iron ore and manufacturing of steel products. In one of his remarks, Devki the investor exemplified Govenor Mwadime’s love for the people, by saying he was attracted to this County because in all his conversation with the Governor, he [Mwadime] never talked for “myself” but for “my people”.

Further, he has set the ground for the formulation of a historic joint operational framework that will permit artisanal miners to responsibly carry out mining activities in national parks and other protected areas. His Government has also set aside a piece of land in just outside Voi in Vindo for the establishment of storage for mining explosives (blasting materials).

His input into the origination of the Voi Gemstone Value Addition and Marketing Centre is immeasurable and cannot go unmentioned. The State-of-the-Art Centre is in the business of offering gemstone identification, faceting, trading, fairs and training services. It is envisaged to accelerate the processing and marketing of gemstones; and significantly increase the sector’s contribution to job creation and the Country’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

At a personal level, the Governor has assisted fellow artisanal miners to meet their subsistence and other needs. For instance, he supported one artisanal miner to participate in the 2023 Munich Show in Germany for exposure, networking and benchmarking. The show is one of the largest trade fairs in Europe for minerals, gemstones, jewellery and fossils. He is also known to attend all meetings for artisanal miners whenever invited.

**ENHANCEMENT OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

Governor Mwadime commenced his service to humanity as a teacher. He first taught at Taru Secondary School as an untrained teacher before embarking on his University education. He commenced his studies at Kenyatta University in the year 1987. Upon graduation, in 1990, he was posted to Tarassaa Boys Secondary School in Tana River County. He rose rapidly through the ranks and in record time, soared to become a Deputy Headmaster at Ngangao Secondary School after offering his services at Allidina Visram High School in Taita Taveta and Mombasa Counties correspondingly. While leaving the teaching profession in 1994, Governor Mwadime had in his possession, a letter appointing him to be the Headmaster of Munda Secondary School.

A born teacher with excellent skills in teaching mathematics, he created a love for the subject among his students who naturally liked him and always excelled in the subject. In the year that he joined Ngangao, the School recorded its first B plain in Mathematics at the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) examinations. In addition to the excellent attaining academic performance as a teacher, Governor Mwadime, frequently used his own resources to pay school fees for needy children and freely tutored those who displayed strong desire to improve their grades and excel.

While working as MP for his constituency, Mwadime is remembered for enhancing the infrastructure of schools in his area by adopting the construction of storey buildings to optimize land use and reduce rural-urban movements by people seeking better education amenities. Falling in this category are Mlughi, Mwatate, Mwakinyungu, Mazola, Dembwa, and Kungu primary to name but a few. He went an extra mile and had numerous schools equipped with relevant furniture, laboratory equipment and water storage facilities.

Moreover, as a Governor and MP, he increased his footprints in the education arena by prioritizing education-related initiatives including issuance of bursaries to children from financially disadvantaged families in secondary and tertiary institutions, even for studying abroad. One hundred students from each sub-location in his area per budget cycle were targeted.

As an ardent advocate of education, the Governor has also facilitated learning institutions to fully own the pieces of land which they occupy. These include the Ngerenyi Facility of Taita Taveta University. The respective title deed will aid the institution in proving ownership of the land when seeking funds from the National Government and partners for infrastructural development and upgrade of the existing facilities. It will, in addition, add to the impetus of introducing new faculties and enrolment of more students whose outcome comprises of opening up the area for more business opportunities amongst others.

**PIONEERING IMPLEMENTATION AND UPTAKE OF INNOVATIVE BANKING SOLUTIONS**

Driven by great ambition, in 1995, he joined the banking sector as a Graduate Trainee at Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) Limited. He rose through the ranks, quickly ascending to Head of Card Business in Mombasa and Tanzania and later to become the Head of KCB Card Subsidiaries in 2012.

The Governor is credited for introducing plastic money in the Coast Region. At that point in time, it was aimed at exploiting the potential provided by tourism. He was so successful in this that he was posted to Tanzania to replicate the same, which he did with exemplary vigor.

Aside from this, KCB recognized him among the best marketers of plastic money it had and promoted him. This was an enormous contribution in paving the way to the present day world of cashless transactions, including mobile money, in the Country and East Africa at large. He also led the launching and diffusion of points of sales in the Coast Region.

**VISIONARY LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT IN COUNTY GOVERNANCE**

Besides the development milestones cited afore, Governor Mwadime has identified and seized possibilities for the creation of entrepreneurship and employment opportunities which have an explicit impact on the socioeconomic development of the County.

Inter alia, he has overseen the initiation and fruition of collaborations with industry partners. Included here is the kick-starting of the establishment of a rice mill in Taveta Sub-County, reviving the previously stalled banana processing plant, and the signing of an intent to collaborate with the Dongyin City of the People’s Republic of China in the areas of capacity building, tourism enhancement, waste disposal and exchange programmes among others within the municipalities and tertiary institutions in the County. The output of these will be a humongous impetus in the creation of employment prospects.

In the same vein, Governor Mwadime’s administration is pursuing a structured approach to address human-wildlife conflicts. His Government has initiated talks that will culminate in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW). It is envisaged to bolster wildlife conservation; save limbs and lives; and ensure cohesive existence between wildlife and humans in the County.

Governor Mwadime is cognizant of the salient role of culture on a people, including those of Taita Taveta. Working closely with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), he is spearheading the inscribing of the Mwazindika Drumming and Dance as an 'Intangible Cultural Heritage'. Mwazindika will be the second dance, after the Isukuti dance of the Isukha and Idakho communities of Western Kenya in this space. This will immensely contribute to worldwide recognition of the dance, hence becoming an integral part of national cultural tourism.

He has put in place a County Empowerment Programme whose aim is to promote socioeconomic growth and long-term development. Several community groups, youth and women included, have received financial support under this initiative. His approach adopts community-driven development which is at the core of sustainable development.

In his bid to create an environment that enables prosperity, Governor Mwadime has embarked on bringing water closer to the people and is encouraging the harvesting of rainwater. Among the several projects in this set is a 100,000 litre water masonry tank in Wundanyi/Mbale Ward and the Makwasinyi water pan. Closely complimenting the role of water in development are the bolstering of security and expanding the range of health services. In this regard his administration has had Chawia and Bura Administration Police quarters set up; and the construction of a Cancer Treatment and Care Centre at Moi County Referral Hospital (now at 90% complete) in the same order.

The Governor is leading the adoption of agricultural intensification and extensification as a way of augmenting livelihoods, poverty reduction and for economic development. Among other things, he has seen the distribution of 10,000 banana tissue culture seedlings to farmers and 3,000 Galla goats to hundreds of vulnerable families across the County for breeding. This approach has seen residents of the County embrace livelihood expansion and diversification.

**AWARDS**

Via the E360 Awards, an outfit that seeks to recognize, promote, establish, and award artists from all fields, Governor Andrew Mwadime was voted the winner of the **Governor of the Year award** during its 5th edition in March 2024.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is in light of his distinguished immense contributions to humanity in the area of mining, promotion of and advocacy for the artisanal miners’ livelihoods in Taita Taveta County, enhancement of educational opportunities and infrastructure, pioneering implementation and uptake of innovative banking solutions, as well as visionary leadership and management in County Governance, that, Governor Andrew Mwadime, is today being conferred the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, Honoris Causa of Taita Taveta University.

**NATIONAL ANTHEM**

Ee Mungu nguvu yetu  
Ilete baraka kwetu  
Haki iwe ngao na mlinzi  
Natukae na undugu  
Amani na uhuru  
Raha tupate na ustawi

Amkeni ndugu zetu  
Tufanye zote bidii  
Nasi tujitoe kwa nguvu  
Nchi yetu ya Kenya  
Tunayoipenda  
Tuwe tayari kuilinda

Natujenge taifa letu  
Ee, ndio wajibu wetu  
Kenya istahili heshima  
Tuungane mikono  
Pamoja kazini  
Kila siku tuwe na shukrani

O God of all creation  
Bless this our land and nation  
Justice be our shield and defender  
May we dwell in unity  
Peace and liberty  
Plenty be found within our borders.  
  
Let one and all arise  
With hearts both strong and true  
Service be our earnest endeavour  
And our homeland of Kenya  
Heritage of splendour  
Firm may we stand to defend.  
  
Let all with one accord  
In common bond united  
Build this our nation together  
And the glory of Kenya  
The fruit of our labour  
Fill every heart with thanks giving.

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