

Hon. Prof. Peter Anyang' Nyong'o

Governor, Kisumu County Government,
Republic of Kenya

Prof. Anyang' Nyong'o is the Governor of Kisumu County Government in the Republic of Kenya. He served as a Member of Parliament of Kisumu Rural Constituency for 20 years and became Kisumu County's first Senator in 2013.

He has also served in the national government as a Cabinet Minister for Planning and National Development between 2003 and 2005 and later on as a Cabinet Minister for Medical Services between 2008 and 2013.

As the minister for Planning & National Development, he initiated the Economic Recovery Strategy for Wealth and Employment Creation (ERS) for Kenya in 2003 when he observed that Kenya was a nation of great potential but a disappointing underachiever. With the support of the development partners Kenya managed to grow its national economy from 0.2% annual growth in 2003 to 7% by 2007.

He also came up with strategies to revamp the National Health Insurance Fund scheme to expand cover to both in-patient and out-patient when he was the Minister for Medical Services. Despite stiff opposition from some quarters, the scheme is now providing affordable medical assistance to Kenyans.

Prof. Nyong'o holds a PhD in Political Science from the University of Chicago and taught at the University of Nairobi (1977-81), El Colegio de Mexico (1971-84) and Addis Ababa University (1984-86) before joining the African Academy of Sciences as Head of Programs from 1987 to 1992. He has published several books and articles on democracy, democratisation, the state and the political economy of development in Africa. Among the publications are "Popular





Struggles for Democracy in Africa", (London: Zed Books, 1987); "The Study of African Politics: A Critical Appreciation of A Heritage" (Nairobi: Ball Foundation, 2002); "A Leap Into the Future" (Nairobi: Word Alive Publishers, 2009) and *Presidential or Parliamentary Democracy in Kenya: Choices to Be Made* (Nairobi; Booktalk Africa Publishers, 2019).

In 1995 he was awarded the German-African Award for his contribution to democracy and democratisation in Africa. He was recently a Gro Harlem Brundland Senior Leadership Fellow in the Division of Policy Translation and Leadership Development, the Harvard School of Public Health, from Dec. 2013 to March 2014.

Prof. Nyong'o taught at the University of Nairobi (1977-81), El Colegio de Mexico (1971-84) and Addis Ababa University (1984-86) before joining the African Academy of Sciences as Head of Programs from 1987 to 1992. He is a Fellow of the African Academy of Sciences and a member of committees and Boards including the Africa Monitor; The Nelson Mandela Institute for Science technology and the Advancement of Knowledge; and the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration.