

County First Ladies Driving Change



Panel discussants at the workshop

lasting legacy in their communities.

KSG Senior Director of Academic Affairs Dr. Josphine Mwanzia expressed her admiration for the remarkable achievements made by the

County First Ladies. Dr. Mwanzia marveled at the insights shared on the impact of the training program on societal development.

Ms. Betty Gachire, the recently appointed KSG Director of the Institute of Gender and Social

Development, coordinated this high-level event. The event saw the presence of Ms. Jane Mwangi, KSG faculty, and Ms. Jane Kiragu, Beyond Zero Technical Advisor, alongside staff from KSG and Beyond Zero.

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she observed.

Addressing the graduates of the program, who essentially are spouses of County Governors, Mrs. Kenyatta lauded them for the transformative work they were spearheading to uplift the lives of women, children, and communities at large.

"We are particularly proud of the incredible strides made by the County First Ladies Association. Your growth, expansion of your community outreach programs, and your unwavering spirit are testaments to your leadership and unity," she added.

She also applauded the partners for their generosity, expertise, and unwavering support, which she pointed out as being "the cornerstone of their collective journey".

"The progress we celebrate today is evidence of the power of strategic partnerships built on shared values and trust," noted Mrs. Kenyatta.

This occasion followed the successful completion of two cohorts of the leadership training program. So far, 18 First Ladies from various Counties have been trained in the Leadership



H.E Mrs. Margaret Kenyatta delivers her address to the delegates of the workshop.

Program for County Social Transformation.

After the classroom training, the County First Ladies chose a project to undertake in their County, based on the needs of their communities. It is this project that they showcase as part of the peer-to-peer learning. The former First Lady, Her Excellency Margaret Kenyatta, presided over the showcasing of First ladies from five Counties, namely: Makueni, Marsabit, Siaya, Kajiado and Migori. Other First Ladies that attended this occasion were: Nairobi, Uasin Gishu, and Nyandarua.

The showcase featured interactive sessions, including presentations by H.E Dr. Agnes Ochilo (Migori County), which

highlighted interventions in managing sickle cell anemia; H.E. Mrs. Anita Mutula (Makueni County) shared efforts in cancer screening and community health promotion; while H.E. Prof. Betty Murungi (Siaya County) presented on Early Childhood Development initiatives. H.E. Mrs. Edna Chelangat Lenku (Kajiado County) spoke about her achievements in the eco-friendly Manyatta housing initiative, and H.E. Alamitu Jattani (Marsabit County) outlined ongoing campaigns against female genital mutilation.

The aim of showcasing the County First Ladies project is not only for a peer- to- peer learning, but it is also an opportunity to find collaborations with other partners and mobilize resources for their county projects. Some of those partners that were present for this occasion included Ford Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation.

KSG Council member Ms. Gatwiri Kirimi, who was present at the event, expressed her appreciation for the partnership and support from Beyond Zero. She also affirmed the School's commitment to collaborating with the County First Ladies to create a



Ms. Betty Gachire - Director, Institute of Gender and Social Development at KSG

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BY TABITHA KEMUNTO

On May 8, 2025, H.E. Margaret Kenyatta, the former First Lady of the Republic of Kenya and Founder of Beyond Zero, presided over the Peer-to-Peer learning showcase and graduation ceremony at the Kenya School of Government (KSG), Lower Kabete.

The showcase is an outcome from the course "Leadership Program for County Social Transformation," which trains First Ladies of County Governments. The training of this course is done in collaboration between the Institute for Gender and Social Development and Beyond Zero.

Mrs. Kenyatta, in her speech, extended her gratitude to the School for being instrumental in creating space for growth, reflection, and collective purpose, especially on matters of social



Former First Lady of the Republic of Kenya H.E Mrs. Margaret Kenyatta is received at the School by Senior Director Academic Affairs Dr. Josephine Mwanzia and KSG council Member Ms. Gatwiri Kirimi.

transformation.

"Allow me to begin by extending our sincere thanks to our gracious host, the Kenya School of Government. You have been instrumental in creating a space for growth, reflection, and collective purpose. I would also

like to commend the remarkable journey of collaboration that led to the successful implementation of this Leadership Program, a milestone that followed on from the establishment of the Institute for Gender and Social Development four years ago."



Graduates of the 1st and 2nd cohort of the Leadership Program for County Social Transformation display their certificates. They are joined by H.E Mrs. Margaret Kenyatta, who is also the founder and patron of Beyond Zero, SDAA Dr. Josephine Mwanzia, Director IGSD Ms. Betty Gachire and faculty member Ms. Jane Mwangi.