REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 8th February, 2022

The House met at the Assembly Chambers at 2.30 p.m.

[The Speaker (Hon. Patrick Waigwa) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

ADDRESS BY THE GOVERNOR

STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS

The Honourable Speaker of the County Assembly, The Honourable Members of the County Assembly, The Clerk of the County Assembly, distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen. I take this opportunity to express my own gratitude and that of my Government for the opportunity to address this Honourable House on this auspicious occasion of the opening of the sixth session of the second Assembly.

From the onset, I must pay special recognition to our common journey that we have shared over the past years as we have taken to delivering on the needs of our citizens. Our partnership, as the Executive with this Honourable House is a testament to what can be achieved when leadership, bestowed on us through a popular mandate by our citizens is anchored on progressive and transformative politics.

Mr. Speaker, allow me at this juncture to point out some key points of achievement and progress that my administration has worked on over the past calendar year. We shall start with revenue which ofcourse is the cornerstone of any development that we do. I am delighted to report that in the first half of this financial year 2021/2022, revenue collection has improved tremendously.

Mr. Speaker, to December 2021 we had collected Kshs.396, 000, 000. When you compare this to the year before of 2020/2021, this was an increase of 28%. If you compare to the previous year of 2019/2020, this was an improvement of 36%. If you compare it to the prior year, it is an improvement of 38.8%. This growth is credited to continuous engagement to stakeholders, to reforms in the county public service by us using technology and because citizens can witness the work that we are carrying out together. This includes infrastructure, roads, waters for production as well as an improved health services.

This performance is the highest we have ever achieved since devolution started. We think that this is a very strong indication that we will surpass our target of this financial year which Kshs. 1 billion. I want to thank all stakeholders for this performance. It is our belief as the Executive, it is because the taxpayer can see what we are doing with their money that they are willing to pay. Thank you very much Hon. Members.

Mr. Speaker, I want to highlight that as a result of this we have an economic stimulus programme that was approved by this House and that we are implementing and I shall return to this subject shortly. Let me ask the House to join me in thanking the people of Laikipia for paying their taxes. As we say we must pull together to make Laikipia the greatest county with the best quality of life.

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Mr. Speaker, I think Hon. Members and I can all agree that good things can be made better. *Kwa hivyo tulipe ushuru, tujenge* Laikipia. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk matters of health. For the past two weeks and including this one, we have been engaged on a county wide engagement with citizens at our health facilities. As at this morning we have held 34 meetings and engagements with our citizens in their respective health facilities.

The main purpose of this conversation is to engage the citizen in the transformation that is going on in Laikipia Health Service. Mr. Speaker, it is by citizens having commitments and ownership of various health facilities and outlets that we can achieve progress.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to report to the House that we have rebranded Health Service and we are now called Laikipia Health Service (LHS). Mr. Speaker, this major step of reform was generated by ourselves and the medics henceforth we are one service meaning we are one hospital with 87 outlets. We hope that in the coming weeks to grow this number to ninety (90) and use that platform to provide a very high quality of service to all citizens in their respective places.

Mr. Speaker, the Laikipia Health Service is one brand, identity and corporate culture. It is one character, one management ethos and one shared vision to provide quality health care for all. This innovation is not only based in the 87 facilities that we have so far which we expect to grow to 90 shortly but it is also based on health insurance so that families have financial protection. This is why we have focused on getting our families on the National Hospital Insurance Funds (NHIF).

Mr. Speaker, it also includes supporting the very poor who we refer to as indigent. It is also ensuring that all segments of society are reached with high quality services. Mr. Speaker, it is without doubt that Laikipia Health Service (LHS) is being seen as a pace maker in realization of Universal Health Care (UHC) which is one of the agenda 4 items of H.E the President Uhuru Kenyatta.

Mr. Speaker, Hon. Members, I wish to report that we are making good progress with this transformation. Mr. Speaker, under the current investment plan of program that is in the current budget, we expect to have a ten-bed dialysis unit in LHS Nyahururu. We expect a five bed ICU in LHS Nyahururu. We expect Ultra sound equipment in all our major facilities including Lamuria, Doldol, Kimanju, Rumuruti, and Ndindika among others.

Mr. Speaker, we also expect in this financial year to be able to achieve a CT scan for LHS Nyahururu and Nanyuki. Mr. Speaker, we expect in this financial year to be able to install an MRI at LHS Nanyuki. Mr. Speaker, the House will be pleased to know as we speak the Mother-child facility at LHS Nanyuki is already under use and soon we shall be inviting Hon. Members to join us in officially opening it.

Mr. Speaker, at LHS Nyahururu we have installed a new oxygen plant, a new laundry unit, we are installing the ICU facility that I have just referred to. Mr. Speaker, the biggest reform and change is in the processes that we use to provide services. For instance we have invested in changing the patient flow. Hon. Members, you will have had occasions to go to our health facilities and you will notice a zigzag process as people get services. We have eliminated that zigzag by investing and aligning the services from triage, consultation, injection rooms, laboratories and pharmacy in an orderly manner.

Mr. Speaker, because we are now one service, we have introduced an innovation in Kenya and first in this region, which is sample referral so that if you go to LHS Manyatta or LHS Baraka and there is a test that facility cannot conduct, we will no longer send you to a

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different facility. Instead we will take the necessary samples and our service will be to take the samples to whatever laboratory that is necessary and you as a client will wait for the results.

Mr. Speaker, as we have travelled through Laikipia, the citizens are very much appreciative of this innovation because it is saving them time and money. Mr. Speaker, you can imagine if you are in LHS Lukosero or Chumvi and you have to be sent for test to LHS Nanyuki, the cost you will have to bear will be no longer there because we are doing sample referral. In addition, all our pharmacies across the 87 facilities are being networked so that if you are the clinician at LHS Chumvi and there is a medicine that is not in your store, it is checked across the system where that medicine is and it is ordered for it to be brought to the client at LHS Chumvi.

Mr. Speaker, this is possible because we are networking all our 87 facilities and a pharmacist in any facility can therefore be able to see what is available across the service. Mr. Speaker, we are experiencing early success for instance our patients' attendance is up to 30% every year from 1.3 million to 1.56 million outpatient attendees. In addition, the percentage of women attending the fourth antenatal care has increased from 54.8% to 65.4% which is an 11% increase while the number of skilled deliveries has increased from 13,962 to 17,091 which is an increase of 35%.

Mr. Speaker, as I said in the next couple of months we expect to increase our health facilities or LHS Branches from 87 to 90. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the support and partnership that we have received from the House both at legislative and in action as we seek to continuously transform our health service delivery and also in the support that the Members have accorded us in various public forums.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to turn to roads and infrastructure and to specifically focus on what we have been able to achieve with the leasing programmes. The programmes continue to witness improvement both in terms of composition as well as execution of work. It has become a very critical aspect of our service delivery in terms of rural access roads. Mr. Speaker, the House will recall that the leasing programme started on 4th November, 2019.

So, when we observed that period from 4th November, 2019 to 31st January, 2022, a total of 1,784 km of rural access roads have been graded. In the same period, a total of 677.49 km of rural access roads have been gravelled. In the current Financial Year of 2021/22, up to January 31st we had graded 503.6 km and gravelled 186.37 km.

Mr. Speaker, one of the recent developments in our County is the creation of Kirima Sub County in parts of Laikipia West and Laikipia North. This was created as a security enhancement. Since the Sub County was created about three months ago, we have gravelled 109 km of road inside Kirima. We have also graded 305 km of road. We have distributed water to ten primary schools using the water bowsers that are part of the work brigades. We, of course, also distributed water to dispensaries as well as food and building materials to affected citizens.

Mr. Speaker, we want to thank Hon. Members for their forbearance and understanding because this response was of an emergency nature to a security circumstance which disrupted our workflow a little bit. As I said, there is 109 km of murram roads in that area that was affected by insecurity and 305 km of graded roads. The program has of course, grown in terms of the equipment that we have.

We started off with one brigade, now we have four. Currently, the brigades are working at Salama, Marmanet, Sosian and Rumuruti wards. As per the work schedule that had been submitted already to this House, the next wards in line are going to be Mukogodo East, Ngobit,

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Umande and Segera. We expect that in the course of this month and the next these brigades will transition from the wards where they are now to the wards that I have mentioned.

Mr. Speaker and Hon. Members, on water, I am delighted to report to this Hon. House that the Solio water project in Tigithi was successfully implemented through collaboration and financial contribution of our Government as well as the water sector trust fund. The project was implemented at a cost of Kshs.144 million and it entailed the laying of gravity mains of 31.05 km; The construction of two masonry water storage tanks of 225 cubic metres each, the laying of water distribution lines of 30 km, construction of two communal water points as well as the construction of the offices where this program is run from.

Mr. Speaker, from September 2020 to date, we have connected 1,883 households with water. This project has on its own motion been able to generate an average of 600,000 shillings in revenue from water sales per month which in turn has enabled the project to expand its coverage, increase connections and manage day-to-day operations. We are very proud of this project. We have achieved a number of positive impacts including a marked improvement in water service delivery and access to water. Households now access water on a 24-hour basis. Milk production has increased in the area by 25% from 3000 litres to 4000 litres that are being delivered at their milk cooler.

We have also improved productivity, food nutrition as well as improvements in the quality of life for households, and we have seen drip irrigation where households are making an average of seven to ten thousand shillings per month. This investment, of course, has improved hygiene and sanitation both at the household and institutional levels.

Mr. Speaker, my Government, through our water utility, the Nanyuki Water and Sanitation Company (NAWASCO) have also successfully implemented the Chumvi-Makurian-Osirwa Water Project in Mukogodo East at the cost of Kshs.148 million. This project involves the laying of 7.6 km of gravity mains from the intake on Timau River to the two main storage tanks at Lolomarik Farm as well as 29.9 km of transmission lines to the various distribution tanks, 30.9 km of distribution pipelines and 5 storage tanks. Other works have included the rehabilitation of the intake as well as construction of two site offices.

I am delighted to report that this landmark project is now at 90% completion rate and we are currently at the last mile connection phase. We expect that by March of this year the project will be complete. Further, from the baseline survey conducted in September of 2021, 7,600 households, approximately 20,000 people, 7 schools, 2 dispensaries and 3 market centres are mapped to be beneficiaries of this project. This exercise equally confirmed that the water abstracted from the source, which is Timau River, would be sufficient to feed the needs of that community.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Water, Environment and Natural Resources has continued to work closely with the community through continued engagement and sensitization to ensure project sustainability. As part of our continued application of effective management, the management model applied at Solio Water Project in Tigithi, which combines the technical capacity of NAWASCO with local management and governance drawn from the local community, will also be applied in the Chumvi-Makurian-Osirwa water project.

Mr. Speaker, Hon. Members, another notable project under implementation is the Kinamba water project in Githiga Ward. This project is being implemented at a cost of Kshs.49 million and comprises drilling and equipping four boreholes namely Munanda, Karugu, Ng'arua and GG Kinamba Secondary boreholes. So far these boreholes have been drilled, equipped and are operational. This project also involves the laying of 30 km of distribution

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lines of various sizes within Kinamba town and surrounding areas. This project, which is set to be completed also in March of 2022 will improve water service delivery by providing at least sixteen hours water supply to these towns which did not have a reliable water source.

Further, Mr. Speaker, we expect to realize increased dairy productivity as a direct impact of this project, as well as other tertiary benefits including growth and expansion of businesses, enterprises and the overall improved health of the citizens. In this sector, let me close by relating our work in collaboration with the Kenya Climate Smart Project, and that is the Kariunga-Mutirithia-Naibor integrated irrigation water project that is in Segera Ward. This project is being implemented at a cost of Kshs.39 million comprising the desilting of Mutirithia water pan, establishment of 300 acres of horticultural farms reticulation and distribution of water from Kariunga dam to farmers.

It also includes the construction of one masonry tank of 225 cubic metres and establishment of an acre drip irrigation demonstration and training of farmers field and business school. It also includes procurement of assorted certified seeds for the identified target of horticultural crops for farmers as well as quality pasture seeds for hay production and drip kits for the beneficiaries. This project expects to realize revenue of up to Kshs.180 million annually from the sale of horticultural produce and an increase in household income and livelihoods through creation of about 600 direct jobs.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to turn to innovation and manufacturing, and to report to the House that through the Laikipia Innovation and Enterprise Program, we have sought to build and strengthen the innovation culture in the County and also as a way of promoting manufacturing. We hold the view that our society will not transform without manufacturing and industrialization. We hold this view because that is the evidence globally. There is no society that has been able to create sustainable jobs and increase incomes substantially without manufacturing and industrialization.

Mr. Speaker, we believe this will be achieved by this House enacting favourable business regulations, by us training and working in partnership with large businesses with business membership organizations, and by us facilitating the establishment of industries. The Laikipia Innovation and Enterprise Development Program is currently supporting Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Laikipia. These enterprises have in turn facilitated the creation of 22,137 jobs.

These MSMEs are spread out all across the County as follows; these are the ones under direct support: in Githiga Ward we are supporting 68 businesses; In Igwamiti Ward we are supporting 185 businesses; In Segera Ward, 92; In Mukogodo East, 141; In Mukogodo West, 104; in Salama, 48; in Ol Moran Ward, 57; in Rumuruti Ward, 107; in Nanyuki Ward, 298 MSMEs are being supported; in Tigithi, 97; in Ngobit, 95; in Thingithu, 105; in Marmanet, 112; in Umande, 84; and in Sosian Ward, 40.

This program, Mr. Speaker and Hon. Members, is supporting Made in Laikipia products and services both locally and in international markets. As a result, this program has linked 724 different products to local and international markets. In addition, 174 of our staff have been trained and retrained to be business development officers to support these MSMEs at the ward level. As of now, as part of the stimulus program, 307 businesses and enterprises have been funded to the tune of Kshs.142,820,000, and another 264 businesses have been assisted to complete business plans.

The enterprises that have benefitted from the economic stimulus funding are as follows within the County: in Ngobit Ward, 9 enterprises; in Tigithi, 7; in Thingithu, 25; in Nanyuki,

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169; in Umande, 6; in Salama, 1; in Igwamiti, 68; in Marmanet, 7; in Githiga, 4; in Rumuruti, 3; in Ol Moran, 2; in Segera, 1; Mukogodo East, 4; Mukogodo West, 4. We are yet to record a beneficiary in Sosian.

Mr. Speaker, Hon. Members, among the factors of production in our county and country, electricity is considered one of the most expensive. This greatly impacts the productivity and competitiveness therefore profitability of our micro, small and medium sized businesses.

Therefore, as part of my Government's initiative to create an enabling environment for businesses with the approval of this House, we have developed a rebate program and subsidy for distribution fees to partially refund MSMEs the cost of electricity fees used in production and a subsidy to distribution fees across counties.

We are doing this by providing rebate on the cost of electricity that our small businesses that are involved in the manufacturing. Mr. Speaker, I want to emphasize it is those that are involved in manufacturing so it is not every business for example the service industry. This rebate as approved in the budget is available for enterprises that are manufacturing. Allow me to give you examples is Mwireri Engineering who manufactures grain driers or Thabina Engineering who manufactures shaft cutters in Nanyuki.

Mr. Speaker, we are providing a rebate of 40% of the cost of power that this manufacturing enterprise are paying. This setting of 40% is intended to make them competitive when compared to other businesses like them in India and China so that they can compete not just in Kenya but in the region.

Mr. Speaker, we believe that this rebate programme will further enhance our effort to promote the made in Laikipia and to promote BUY LAIKIPIA. Currently Mr. Speaker, we have a fund of Kshs.7.5 million in the budget for this work. Mr. Speaker, as you are aware and as Hon. Members and the House is indeed aware, we did witness a spate of insecurity and a series of banditry incidents in Ol Moran, Githiga and Sosian wards. I am delighted to report that through accelerated efforts both by the County Government and the National Government, normalcy has generally been restored in the area.

A key milestone has been the creation and gazettement of the new Kirima sub-county. We have already deployed a sub-county administrator to speed up the operationalization of the various departments and services for citizens in the region. Our counterparts in the National Government have already deployed a DCC and an Officer Commanding Police Division.

We remain focused that the issue of insecurity in the region must be addressed. A critical path towards this resolution will be through investment in education and creating opportunities for enterprises to thrive so as to change the fortunes of the people. We cannot sit back and be defeated that there is no alternative to the reality. Banditry, lawlessness and criminality will be met with the full force of the law.

Mr. Speaker, most importantly we must be able to make the right investments that will generate a multiplicity of opportunities that then drive an alternative way of doing things. We must have more production, more markets, increased trade and commerce, greater education penetration, diverse skills training and a belief that we can steer our collective aspirations in a way that future generations are able to unlock their potential and secure their livelihoods in the best way that they can.

Mr. Speaker, one of the steps which we have taken in improving security trainings of our own teams is by establishment of county inspectorate training school at Rumuruti

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Municipality. Further, we continue our close collaboration and partnership with National Police Service in training co-hosts of police reserves who are being deployed across the county. In pursuance of this, we shall be coming back to this Honourable House with specific requests for support to the County Policing Authority in order to make this whole effort more effective and efficient in delivery of this mandate.

Mr. Speaker, my government continues with an effort to establish a constituent university college here at Nanyuki. I am pleased to report that we wish for this university college to focus on manufacturing, innovation and enterprise development. We have already submitted proposal jointly with Laikipia University to the Ministry of Education, the State Department for University Education and Research for the setting up of the Nanyuki University College of manufacturing and enterprise development.

I am delighted to inform this House that we have now received a go ahead from the ministry on the setting up of the said university college. So this will be worked in collaboration with Laikipia University and we have already started engagement on ensuring that this university college is set up quickly.

Mr. Speaker and Hon. Members, we thank the House for the approval to float the premier one of a kind in this region Kshs.1.16 billion shillings infrastructure bond. It is true Mr. Speaker that it is one of a kind. I appreciate the Hon. Members because it has not happened in East and Central Africa. There is no sub-sovereign government that has been able to get to the point where we are of issuing a bond. So thank you very much Hon. Members.

I am happy to report that this has progressed seamlessly since you gave us your approval. The bond request was submitted to the treasury and upon evaluation and approval, it was submitted to Intergovernmental Budget and Economic Council where it also received an approval. Now it is only waiting for final nod so that the treasury issues a guarantee. As the Hon. Members recall, it will be the National Treasury itself which will go to the market on our behalf because they are the ones who have the expertise.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all the Hon. Members again for their patience with this process because it involves a lot of scrutiny and was a very intensive process of assessment. As you recall, we had to undergo a credit rating process as well as detailed scrutiny of our books of accounts and Hon. Members, we were found to be beyond reproach. We thank you for your industry in that matter.

Mr. Speaker, just to say that even if the process may seem to be long and tedious, I hope that the Members are happy because of that process because that process is a very important set of steps in deepening and entrenching good governance. Without good books of accounts, we cannot be approved and without a good crediting rate we cannot be approved. Therefore, thank you very much Hon. Members for this effort.

Of course, those compliances and credit rating and because of our books of accounts and other processes and procedures were followed to the letter, it reinforces the issue of good governance. We hope that as the Hon. Members go to the ground for this year's effort, they will find delighted citizens. My government as I said, it is grateful and appreciate the role of this Hon. House in facilitating the landmark actions. We remain committed to ensuring that all resources mobilized prudently applies with the projects approved in this House and for the quick realization of development outcomes and impacts which we seek.

Mr. Speaker and Hon. Members, as I conclude, allow me to draw the attention of the House to the obvious point that we are in another election year. As it is the norm in terms of

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our democratic system, every five years we go out to renew our mandate. The pure nature of our politics presents a market place of competing ideas and policy prescriptions. This in its own nature is a fundamental pillar of our democratic credentials.

On this occasion Mr. Speaker, allow me to wish all the Hon. Members in this House success in the forthcoming elections. Allow me to also make a call to all political players in Laikipia to campaign based on ideas that will transform our county and our country at large. I want to encourage that we use available data as we all shape our policy prescriptions, positions and our manifestos.

Mr. Speaker, our annual statistical abstract is a good companion in this effort. I therefore encourage Members and any other political players to use it so that the policy ideas that we put in our political manifestos based on actual data, they may have a better chance of success. It is of course available online as the Hon. Members know and the public at large for everybody to use.

Mr. Speaker, once again let me reiterate my governments appreciation of the deep partnership between the County Assembly and the County Executive. It has been a great journey and learning and relearning as we continue to deliver in our respective mandates. We must use this opportunity to say to all Laikipians that this House has discharged its responsibility in oversighting myself and my government with industry and passion and therefore we thank you.

Mr. Speaker, this delivery of our respective mandate continues to be the cornerstone of our ability as a government to function and it is a clear illustration of the dividends of the devolution enterprise whereas as per statutes have provided the role of the Assembly to oversight us and for the Executive to go out and deliver on the ground.

Once again my deepest regards and appreciation to Hon. Members and I look forward to even better days of greater collaboration, learning and support for one another. So may God bless you, bless this Assembly, bless Laikipia and bless our beloved county of Kenya. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, so much Governor for that county address and the House is happy. We are not allowed to make a lot of comments. I know that Members will be discussing it in some later sittings. Hon. Members, I want to bring to your attention that Standing Order No. 24 (2) and I quote;

> (*2) When delivering an address to the Assembly, the Governor shall be heard in silence and the address shall not be followed by any comment or question.*
>
> *(3) Whenever the Governor delivers an address, a Member may as soon as practicable thereafter, lay the address on the table of the Assembly following the reading of such address (4) A member may give notice of the motion that "The Thanks of the Assembly be recorded for the exposition of the public policy contained in the address of the Governor" but debate on the Motion shall not exceed four sitting days.*

Therefore, we have an opportunity to discuss and debate the Governor's address from tomorrow. Therefore, for today we are ending at that.

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: This House stands adjourned until tomorrow morning Wednesday, 9th February at 9.00 a.m.

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The House rose at 3.23 p.m.

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