

The COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KITUI

SPECIAL SITTING

OFFICIAL REPORT

First County Assembly- Third Session

Wednesday 8th April, 2015

The County Assembly met at thirty minutes past Two o'clock *in the County Assembly Chamber at Assembly Buildings*

ARRIVAL OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

(His Excellency the Governor (Dr. Julius Malombe) escorted by the Speaker (Hon Ndotto) entered the Chamber at 30 minutes past Two O'clock)

(His Excellency the Governor (Dr. Malombe) took the Chair)

(The Mace was placed on the Table)

PRAYERS

The Speaker (Hon. George Ndotto): Next Order

The County Assembly Clerk (Mr Mutambuki): Order No. 1, Administration of Oath.

The Speaker (Hon. George Ndotto): Next Order

The County Assembly Clerk (Mr Mutambuki): Order No. 2, Communication from the Chair.

The Speaker(Hon. George Ndotto):: Hon. Members, I have the following communication to make relating to the sequence of today's business as shown in the Order Paper; that pursuant to the provision of the County Assembly Standing Order 37 (2) and for the convenient of Members in this sitting, I hereby vary the order of events and consequently direct that the business be executed as follows; Statements, Messages, Petitions, Papers, Notices of Motion, Motions and Bills and the last will be Communication from the Chair. Next order.

The County Assembly Clerk (Mr Mutambuki): (Mr Mutambuki): Order No. 3, Statements.

The Speaker (Hon. George Ndotto): Any messages? Next order

The County Assembly Clerk (Mr Mutambuki): Order No. 4, Messages.

The Speaker (Hon. George Ndotto): Next order

The County Assembly Clerk (Mr Mutambuki): Order No. 5, Petitions.

The Speaker (Hon. George Ndotto): Next order

The County Assembly Clerk (Mr Mutambuki): Order No. 6, Papers.

The Speaker (Hon. George Ndotto): Next order

The County Assembly Clerk (Mr Mutambuki): Order No. 7, Notices of motions.

The Speaker (Hon. George Ndotto): Next order

The County Assembly Clerk (Mr Mutambuki): Order No. 8, Motions and Bills.

The Speaker (Hon. George Ndotto): Next order

The County Assembly Clerk: Order No. 9, Communication from the Chair.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

The Speaker: Your Excellency, the Governor of Kitui County Dr. Julius Malombe, Her Excellency the Deputy Governor of Kitui County, the Hon. Members of the first Kitui County Assembly, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen. It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to this special sitting of the Third Session of this Assembly.

Hon. Members, you all reckon that this day is indeed of great importance to us all. Today's sitting is informed by the Kitui County Assembly Standing Order No. 18 which states that "The Governor shall address a special sitting of the Assembly once every year and may address the Assembly at any other time".

Your Excellency, this Assembly consists of the constitutionally recognized representatives of the people of Kitui County. A quick glance at its membership gives me pleasure to inform you that there are a number of professionals from varying backgrounds who voluntarily abandoned their careers to join this House including women, youth and persons

with disabilities. I wish to assure you that the Honourable Members are prepared for your address today which will enable us have a better insight of your political philosophy and economic strategy for Kitui County, going forward.

Your Excellency, the 27th of March this year, marked the second year since County Governments came into being and as so, it is the time to reflect on the direction, progress, challenges and achievements of the devolved units of governance. Kitui County Assembly like other Assemblies across the republic has not been devoid of its own experiences so far. We have encountered numerous challenges, for instance, lack of proper facilities and structures, staff shortage, inadequate office space for committees and employees, a congested chamber, unfamiliarity with parliamentary procedures, inadequate funds and unnecessary and I want to repeat this unnecessary interference in the Assembly work by Constitutional Independent Commissions.

Your Excellency, even though County Governments are allowed to operate their own Revenue Fund accounts as outlined under section 109 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012, the disbursement of monies to counties from the National Treasury has consistently been outside the mandated time-frame. No County has for the past 15 months received monies from Treasury before the 15th as stipulated by law. This delay of funds and more significantly the imposed budget ceilings have caused an impediment in the efficient and effective operation of the Assembly. In order to achieve our objectives as an Assembly, steady and adequate funding is critical. It is therefore necessary for appropriate action to be taken urgently to ensure and guarantee financial stability and independence for all County Assemblies.

Your Excellency, I want to assure you that this County Assembly shall work together in comity, mutual respect and cooperation, with the County Executive. However, I need to observe here that as an independent arm of the County Government, the Assembly requires total independence from the Executive in the performance of its core mandates, namely, representation, legislation and oversight. We trust that your Government will continue to accord the necessary support to the County Assembly and I assure you, we will do the same without compromising our roles.

Your Excellency, this Assembly is grateful for the continued support you have shown in its legislative work. I wish to acknowledge your assent into law of, among others, The Kitui County Charcoal Management Bill, 2014, The Kitui County Markets and Farm Produce Trade Bill, 2014 and most recently, The Kitui County Villages Bill, 2014.

(Foot thumping)

It's a popular Bill you as you can hear the foot thumping. In addition, the Guidelines for Implementation of the Community Level Infrastructure and Pro - Poor Programs, the Guidelines for establishing the Community Liaison Mining Committee and the Guidelines on the Implementation of the Youth Local Infrastructure, Savings and Investments Program have been passed by this Assembly.

Your Excellency, your government shall be held to account on your commitment to implement the Constitution and other policies, including the Kitui County Integrated Development Plan 2013 - 2017 which is the foundation for sustainable development of our County. Its effective implementation is pivotal in delivering prosperity and a high quality of life for us all. You can count on the support of the Assembly to help realize the goals set out in the County policies and plans.

Your Excellency, we shall expect your Government and this House to be the glue that holds the people of Kitui together, to constantly work on long term cohesion and to see that the marginalized and the poorest of poor in our society can see hope in our governance.

Your Excellency, with those few remarks, it is now my pleasant duty and privilege to invite you to address this honourable House. Welcome.

(Foot thumping as the Speaker and the Governor switched positions)

THE MAIDEN SPEECH BY HIS EXCELENCY THE GOVERNOR

The Governor (Dr Julius Malombe): The Hon. Speaker of the Kitui County Assembly- Hon. George Ndotto, Her Excellency the Deputy Governor, Hon. Members of the County Assembly, Fellow Kenyans who are in this Assembly now and who may be listening to us, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am here today to deliver the state of the County Address.

The County Government act provides for that option to the Governor and that address can be delivered either from the Assembly or from any other place within the County. But this year through consultation with the Speaker, we agreed I deliver it from the County Assembly. So let me register my appreciation for accepting that this address be delivered from here.

Secondly before I start my formal speech and address wish to request all of you to stand for one minute of silence in honour of the students and other Kenyans who lost their lives through the unfortunate terrorist attack which took place in Garissa last Thursday.

Mr. Speaker, a report we received this morning indicate that 11 out of the 152 students who lost their lives in the tragedy are from various wards in this county. I will later speak a little about security but for now let me request you all we stand and observe one minute of silence in honour of the victims.

(The House observed one minute of silence in honour of the murdered students)

The Governor (Dr. Julius Malombe): Thank you, I think we can resume our seats. Hon. Speaker today in line with my constitutional and legal duty I stand here to deliver the special address on the state of progress in our County. I do so as we celebrate the second anniversary of devolution, and the celebrations which have already started and which will culminate in a devolution conference to be held in Kisumu from 21st to 24th of this Month as an overarching theme of “**Celebrating the Gains of Devolution**” with the guiding theme of “**Appreciating and Strengthening Devolved Governance and Working Together to Realise the Objectives of Devolution**”, and as I go through what I am going through, we will be reflecting on these two themes.

THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY/DEVELOPMENT

The Governor (Dr. Julius Malombe): I am glad to report that the state of development and positive expectations of more things to come is very strong. Our county economy is growing and we are creating jobs for our people than ever before. More of our children are accessing education and joining secondary schools and universities than in the past. We have indeed Mr Speaker made great strides during the past two years since we were established as County Governments.

We are only two years old into this new era of devolution in Kenya and two years ago, an aura of hopelessness marked by hunger and thirst; dilapidated roads and crumbling classrooms; children learning under trees and parents crying under the yoke of school fees, e.tc, but 24 months later most of these things are being addressed in a very robust manner.

Honourable Speaker, for all the suffering we have endured; for all the bravery and hard work required to realise our dreams; for all the challenges that lie ahead, we must realise this: The bad past is gone, and the State of the county is very robust and the future is promising.

We are fortunate to be alive at this moment in history. Never before has our county enjoyed, at once, so much prosperity and social progress with so little internal crisis and so few external threats, although looked from a broader perspective terrorism is posing threats which needs to be addressed. Mr Speaker never before have we had such a blessed opportunity and also duty to build a more prosperous county that our forefathers dreamt of.

For all the good we witness, the real credit belongs to the people of Kitui County. I also salute you all in this honourable house who have worked with, those of us who are in the Executive arm of our County Government to put progress above self and local interests.

With the people of Kitui and Kenya at large, we have reinvented government, transforming it into a catalyst for new ideas that emphasise both opportunity and responsibility, and to empower our people to fix their own problems.

Honourable Speaker, at this moment - with the growing economy and I will be elaborating on all this introductory statements I am making, of the growing economy bustling trade, improved power connections, improved education standards, better roads, and more access to water - we are rising from the ashes of poverty, neglect and hopelessness and we are in the process of writing a new chapter in our future. It is now up to us to choose who and where we want to be over the next 8 years and for decades to come.

We need to ask ourselves whether we will accept to be a County where only a few of us live well, or will we commit ourselves to ensure a county where all its people prosper.

We need to ask ourselves whether we will approach the future, dragged into petty and damaging conflicts that derail our focus on development of the county and shame us in the community of counties and other Counties in this Country. We also need to ask ourselves whether we will we allow ourselves to be broken into factions and turned against one another? And finally whether we will we recapture the sense of common purpose that can propel us forward?

Honourable Speaker, in the larger part of my first year in office, we committed ourselves to design and develop a clear road map to guide our development. Over the past months, we have begun to see the results of this grand road map to transform Kitui County into the County we desire, **which is a prosperous county with vibrant rural and urban economies whose people enjoy a high quality of life.** And this, indeed is our vision for the county.

We have moved from setting up the ideals and now we must now begin to build a new place that we can happily and proudly bequeath to the generations after us. We must bring prosperity to every household in Kitui County and we must make Kitui County a great place to live in.

These are mighty goals, worthy of a great people. We will not achieve them all this year and not even in first 5-years of our term will we be able to accomplish all. But we will try our very best and our very best we must try. Let us remember that no change was ever won in a single day or year. We must all learn from our past two years that great goals are reached step by step, always building on one's progress and always making sure we move forward and not backwards.

However, we cannot progress if you fold your arms or even any one of us folds his/her arms and stand still. We shall never gain ground if we choose the road of conflict, in-fighting and partisanship. We must roll our shirt sleeves and trousers to work and work in harmony like the proverbial mighty ants.

As we enter the second phase of our transition from a centralized to a devolved system of Government, we have to embark on radical socio-economic transformation initiative to push back the traditional triple challenges of poverty, ignorance and disease in our County.

Mr Speaker the economy and in the Economy the people of this County should takes centre stage. It remains our strong belief that the most effective weapon in the campaign against poverty, is the creation of decent jobs, and that creating jobs requires faster economic growth.

My Government has developed and implemented programmes to empower our people through promotion of local business, increased domestic production, and spreading wealth into Kitui's rural areas. This is bearing fruit. Life is slowly returning to the villages and that is economic life and in the next few years of my term, we intent to rejuvenate our urban and rural economies in line with our vision.

Such programmes include the Community Level Infrastructure Programme or what we call in short (CLIDP) through which we have so far invested directly **sh375 million** into **631** projects spread in all the 40 wards of our County. In this initiative i.e. the CLIDP initiative small business men and women, small in the sense that their turnover was meagre who had no hope, now stand inspired with a horizon of fortune beckoning them. They, among them are youth and women whom we ourselves trained as contractors from each of our wards and whom we made sure access 80% of the CLIDP contracts which we awarded this year.

Further, we have set out to harness our resources; minerals, sand, rivers, and the sun; the cattle, the honey bee, indigenous chicken and goats; and above all our people.

We have rejuvenated trade in the rural areas by investing over **shs.354 million** in rural electrification following a signing of a memorandum of understanding with the rural electrification authority which most of you witnessed at the Kenya Forestry and Research Institute last year. We have lit up villages by constructing through the REA partnership some **62.38 km** of power-lines and where some **19** transformers have already been installed **14** of our wards. This has impacted approximately **13,000** persons in surrounding households and various institutions including schools, hospitals, boreholes, and market centres and shopping centres. For example **832** primary schools have been lit in partnership with Rural Electrification Authority. This lighting up in such school has contributed into positive academic performance which has been recorded by schools and children in our County lately.

To support trade and support small businesses, we are building **12** simple market sheds at a cost of **sh21.6 million** and this will be in Ikanga, Mwingi, Voo and most of these are all coming up and others are literally complete, Endau Malalani, Ngaai, Athi, Kakeani, Mutwang'ombe, Kanyaa, Muthue and Ngutani in which **2,100** traders and over **8,200** of our people will go to purchase goods and various services in these markets will benefit from these facilities.

Honourable Speaker, we have also embarked on construction of **40** Boda Boda Sheds for our boda boda riders and drivers, and we are constructing one for each of our 40 ward's headquarters, at a cost of **shs6.6 million**. This is going to benefit **1,200** riders and who will be able to have designated pick up points where customers can go and be ferried on be dropped and where they will be sheltered from sun and rain particularly when they are harsh.

I want to emphasise Mr Speaker we initially had one shed designed and constructed and the Boda Boda leadership was asked to come and view them and indicate what kind of amendments they wanted so that we do not get products to them which are not suitable to their work. So public participation in this was observed.

My government has initiated the formation of scores of cooperative societies. For example, we have formed corporative for Honey Processing, and we have constructed honey processing factories of our areas and a lot of job opportunities will be created and the job opportunities there we are looking at **8,000** individuals benefiting indirectly or directly in the factories which are located at Zombe, Kyusyuni, Nuu, Nguni, Kanziko, Kalivu, Mwangeni, Miambani, Maliku, Endau, Ngomeni, Mumoni, Mui, Kavuta, Tharaka and Kiomo.

We are wooing investors into our county. In this respect, the Nigerian cement company known as Dangote Quarries and Japanese investors who are interest in establishing solar plants in this County, the Dangote are interested in Cement have invested with us as well as many others who want to establish precious concrete product factories where they will crash stones and make recouos concrete items for sell to contractors and individuals within our County and outside our County and in the process create jobs and employment opportunities for our people.

We have also Mr Chairman gone ahead following your adoption and approval of County Government of Kitui Liaison committee guidelines for the establishment of Liaison committees, we went ahead and made sure we have such a committee elected and installed in line with those guidelines in Kanziko/Simisi area. We also have liaison committee in Ngaai although these were there before the guidelines were in place. We have also trained about 35 Artisans in the use of plants and plants Equipments necessary for mining.

Honourable Speaker, in regard to the recent concerns by county traders over the Single Business Permit taxes which were contained in the **Finance Act 2014**, I wish to reiterate that the County Government will fully comply with the court order some of you may know that there is a court order which was issued on this matter. We must also say this court order reflected a position which we had taken weeks before even those who sought over court order day, and that was as a responsive County Government we had listened to our people and realised that there were certain areas which required to be relooked and the result we agreed the single business aspect of our financial act be temporary suspended following discussions between various stake holders including the County Assembly on how we should progress the matter. I want to assure the business community that our Government remains committed to promoting business. This going forward will be achieved through greater public participation initiatives to cultivate wider consensus in formulation of policies and legislation and for inclusiveness of the views of all key stakeholders.

Honourable Speaker Kitui County inherited a dysfunctional road network system. However, within the last 20 months or so the County Government has spent a total of **Ksh 691 million** to either rehabilitate or open a total of **637km** of roads across the County and these roads were in various categories. Some were focusing at enhancing our security. Others were focused at connecting directly or in directly our six economic and investment zones and others were designed to ensure ease of accessibility of our people to markets either to sell or to buy goods and services and of course within our two towns of Mwingi and Kitui. We have roads which were to improve the two urban areas.

This effort has resulted in increased accessibility to shopping centres, shortened time spent on travel and reduced vehicle operation costs. They have also led to increased trade and social interaction within the county. A good illustration is travel from place like Nuu to Kitui town through Mikuyuni, through Miambani, through Museve and to Kitui. Previously it used to take three and half hours one way and since going back is another three and half hours most people were forced to either sleep in Kitui or Mwingi before they go back home the next day. But now people are taking just 50 minutes from Nuu to Kitui and they are paying half of the fares they were paying before.

Also our people who are mainly traders who are losing a lot of money out of goods perishing because of the long distances they were covering and given the climate of our County sometimes can be very hot and not very favourable for perishable goods, this is now a thing of the past. And it doesn't matter where you go in this County, people are very positive of the road networks which has been undertaken. But Mr Speaker I know there are certain wards within our County which within the first two years have not been reached very well and I want to assure member that we will come to those areas. That we can't and we won't fail to have roads rehabilitation and opening done in their areas, and sooner than later they will see either our graders or our other mechanism for addressing roads being applied in their area.

Honourable Speaker, my Government is aware that a serious famine is in the offing owing to crop failure in the last season. Even the current rains on which we hoped to recoup our food supplies has been forecast to be short and below normal. We don't therefore expect much harvest from these rains. My Government will as a result continue to liaise with the National Government particularly the National Drought Management Authority which is under the ministry of planning and Devolution and which is the agency which is supposed to address matters drought. As the name suggest because it is called National Drought Management, and is a national entity and is the one which supplies counties through the Deputy County Commissioner with food rations. And I normally get copies of the foot which has been supplied to each of our 16 County Commissioners and the same is also received by each of the members of parliament whose areas are covered by the district where the Deputy County Commissioners who receive food are. So we will continue working with them together with the donor community to find ways of cushioning our people from hunger and thirst in the months ahead.

Mr Chairman, we must and we are ready to make sure even in our rain scares County, we have sufficient food for our people and we have a very clear programme to ensure by December 2020, no person from Kitui will ever sleep in hunger or they beg food even from the National Government...

(Foot thumping)

...and you know we have what we call the *Ming'eto* programme where we are focusing and we are working very closely currently and that has already started working with our local University SEKU, to ensure we have a minimum of 2400 *Ming'etos* throughout this County. The short rains which you get if we can retain them from within and avoid them going into the Indian Ocean and if we supplement this with good extension services where we teach our people we don't have to have 10 acres to feed your family. One acre properly attended is sufficient and then we also help them in a variety of ways including Kitchen garden programme to make sure they have vegetables and also through the tanks which they have, they can irrigate plants which are withering because the rains have started falling so that they sustain the moisture. This is what is done and some people even within our County are doing that but you can't do it if the acreage is too huge. But if you have just one acre, one and half you can do that and experience in return you will have no less 12-15 bags of maize and almost the same number of beans and that should be able to sustain the smaller family/households we have in this County because they have reduced to an average of about 5.

Mr Speaker we also putting some areas under irrigation for example currently we have **59.5** acres that are under irrigation schemes and where tomatoes and other vegetables are being produced and they are in every sub county. If you go to Kalambani there are some, if you go to Kyanika here there are irrigation projects, and if you go to Ikanga/Kyatune there are also irrigation projects, if you go to Mwingi West, if you go to Wikithuki and on Wikithuki there is a project which we discussing very closely with National Irrigation Board and so for that sort. So irrigation will also continue.

Mr Speaker in addition, we have in our budget some money which has been used to procure **556 MT** of assorted certified seeds and which has been distributed and has benefitted some **74,000** households and as a result there are thereby producing a lot of food about **100,080 MT** of food crops.

In the livestock sector, some **sh17.5 million** has been spent in rehabilitation of **30** cattle dips to reduce livestock tick borne diseases. As a result, **18,000** livestock are dipped weekly benefiting **4,500** farmers. We have also constructed **56** fish ponds to increase the uptake of fish farming at a cost of **sh13 million**, where **28,000kg** of fish is produced per year translating into **sh22.4 million** earnings for farmers annually. I know the last one may not resonate very well with people but agriculturalist and food specialists are advising us to be flexible and start accepting some kinds of food which

can thrive in our area either for use domestically or for commercial purposes going forward and that's the reason why fishing which was produced under Economic Stimulus Programme has not been allowed by ourselves to die completely.

Honourable Speaker, to tackle water scarcity in the county, we have purchased two borehole drilling rigs, two crawlers and low loader – a machinery which transports the drills from one place to another and the crawler so that they can move very first all at a cost of **sh156 million**. This machinery utilised properly and we intend that to happen should benefit up to June this year. Some **12,300** people because work has already started in Malalani. Those of you who are from Mutha I wish I though in the midst of my speech to thank member of Mutha because offer Easter he sent me an sms thanking me and through me all of you for drilling two boreholes in Mutha where the Speaker himself called me when the County Assembly was going round and he told me bwana Governor we are here at Mutha and there are about 100 people with donkeys waiting to get their families water from one point. So that is happening and its continuing. So there are two, one is coming this way the other has gone the other side of Nu, Mui and it will go on to cover the other areas of our County. They are new and powerful machines and we have made sure that even the people who are operating them are experienced so that they don't break them anyhow so that our people can be helped.

So a part from the 12,300 people we are targeting to benefit, also some **5,000** heads of livestock will be benefiting in the period of the same and double the same number in coming years. So far **18** boreholes have been drilled and **14** dams have been done. The dams are the ones which are being done by the crawlers.

Mr Speaker we have spent **sh98 million** in water pipeline extensions benefitting **54,000** people and **19,000** heads of livestock. In addition, we are investing in building of sand dams (*Ming'eto*) to provide more water to families at a cost of **sh60 million**. Even as we await the 2,400 that is an average of 60 *Ming'etos* per ward, mapping which we are doing with SEKU, we are still doing *Ming'eto* under CLIDP and under the ministry responsible for Agriculture and water. And so we have spent some money there and some of these *Ming'etos* can be found in various sub Counties and wards.

Furthermore, to alleviate water scarcity in parts of Kitui Rural and Kitui South Sub Counties, we have also entered into a partnership with World Vision to extend water which is being extracted from River Athi to some **100,000** people in 6 wards. That is Kanyangi, Athi, Mutomo, Mutha of course going to Mathima and ndakani which are in Mutha Kanziku and Ikutha and these will cost a total of **sh650 Million** where our County will meet a half of that money.

My Government is committed to ensuring water access for all Kitui County households and no part will be forgotten for example under what we call 25% proportion of the CLIDP budget, we are rehabilitating the Ngomeni water catchment rock area and that water will not only serve Ngomeni. Its going to be extended to Katse which is part of Nguni ward so that people there can have water. Before the end of next week the borehole rig machine will have attended to the people of Nguni because there we know we have quite some challenges. So there is a commitment. I want to make you and I because when I say me I mean the County Government that we are committed to ensuring water access to all Kitui County households where water points are located within 2km of all Kitui people households and the turn round time for reaching the water sources, where people can draw water is just 45 minutes time taken to walk to a water point and another 15 minutes average to draw the water because there will be no queues because the water points are many compared to what they were and another 15 walking back. And this is at the commitments which we are making and which we will hold to deliver by 30th June 2017 through the combination of water delivery strategies, I have outlined some of them and the others I will elaborate going forward.

Honourable Speaker, in the next three years, we will expand and increase access to information by improving communications infrastructure and electronic communication services including broadband and digital broadcasting and internet. As most of you may be aware we have proactively engaged with Safaricom. We have had more than 10 meetings that is facts because some people have reported things which are not factual. we have had more than 10 meetings, some in our office, some in Mombasa, some in Nairobi and all what we have done is to show this very business oriented company the opportunities, which are their business opportunities in our 6 economic and investment zones. We agreed that we will increase the number of the key things which are called BT stations by 23. We have the name and some of them have already started and they will continue. So when you see them in Kamutio, when you see them in Kanyangi, when you see them in Kanziku where they are starting and many other places, is at the result of the engagement we have had with them.

I want to stress here so that nobody reports something which is not correct. Safaricom did not ask us to pay them any money because as people who are business oriented and because they believed in what the leadership of this County id doing, they have decided to invest they themselves...

(Foot thumping)

One BT station costs about **sh30 million**, you can do your own calculations how much you have saved as a result of electing focused knowledgeable engaging and proactive leadership.

(Foot thumping)

Mr Speaker, some people do not seem to appreciate that having a County directed or facilitated radio station yields any benefits to our people. I want to dispel the notion that if this one is established it will crown out the private FM stations we have, it will not. And one can draw a parallel from having KBC and having Citizen, KTN, and NTV. The national Government uses the private owned entities to do most of their advertising and to do most of their business, but they

make sure KBC carries those programmes which needs to be undertaken by private entity because it needs to be subsidised. For example we would like to expose our children from nursery and pre-unit to certain types of things which these days they only come across when they go to University.

We also want our own County Assembly to start coming out as a real Assembly where if you so require to have life coverage of your sessions. Because we believe there is no difference, conceptually there is no difference even in terms of work between a National Assembly and a County Assembly. And for that reason and if you look, it's only KBC which broadcasts live the work of the two houses or parliament, that is the Senate and the National Assembly and going forward once this is done, our County will benefit. You are not the only one who are doing it, Makueni, Kiambu, Machakos and many other Counties are doing the same because the County Government Act actually requires us to do that and also because the Ministry responsible for matters communication work with KBC and there is communication Authority of Kenya formerly CCK, have encouraged County Governments to do the same and we don't want to be lagging behind in those things we can help our County.

Honourable Speaker, we must prepare our children for a more competitive world. In line with our education philosophy, it is not a philosophy, here it is captured as a philosophy but I normally called it a running motto which is **Kisomo No Kyo**, meaning education is the main thing to unlock the huge potential this County has to deal with matters poverty, to deal with matters health, that is to deal effectively with matters business etc. And we are sowing the seeds for future success by investing heavily in education in this County.

Thanks to our education programmes such as Pro Poor Education Support Programme, which members of the County Assembly were very proactive in ensuring we institutionalise. Also through the Mentorship Programme and the **ECDE** Teachers Stipend Programme among other initiatives which we have implemented in collaboration with other education stakeholders, today, more children in Kitui are going to school. For instance, enrolment in our ECDE centres increased from **65,000** in 2013 to **88, 106**. That's a huge number and majority of these could not go to these centres because they were being required to pay money to pay for the teachers, and because their parents or relatives could not afford, the children ended up staying home. This is an increase of about 29% and which is more compared into the number of children who started going into standard one when primary school was made free by president Kibaki.

Also Hon. Speaker when the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) results were announced, Kitui County came out very well in terms of the number of children who were selected to join National secondary schools. The number jumped from **270** in 2013 to **857** children being selected to go to National secondary schools. That is an increase of **317%** and this is not because the number of National secondary schools were increased because they increased by **18%** but our children who are joining National secondary schools have increased by such a high percentage. Our children are not just going to new National secondary schools of course some are. For example previously on average we used to have only an average of two girls joining Alliance High School. This year a total of 13 of our girls have been admitted to Alliance Girls High School.

(Foot thumping)

And so are the boys in Alliance Boys, Mang'u High etc. this is one way which will make this County be self-sufficient in terms of human resource and also additional ways of fighting poverty.

We have also supported Youth Polytechnics to ensure youth acquire skills for the job market. For example, following our interventions at Mutito Polytechnic, student population has risen from **26** to **66** students and I am saying this because in every sub county we have a youth polytechnic which we have attended. Similarly, the enrolment in Kyuso Polytechnic has risen from **50** to over **100** this year. The reason why these enrolment are rising is because we are also improving the Equipments. We have supplied them with tools and Equipments to enable them to train including all the engines which they can be trained with.

Mr Chairman as a finish the education bit, I wish also to all of us to note the County performed very well in Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) where an additional 500 students were able to acquire place to enable them to access public Universities and that is compared with previous years when it was three thousand and this year is three thousand five hundred. The means score for all our secondary schools increased by 1 and by even pushing the mean score by 0.1 is an impossible task. Usually for schools which have been in a downward trend. So for both KCPE and KCSE we have managed to halt the downward trend and now things are looking brighter and we will sustain that effort so that our County can be the most Counties which produce good marks for our Country.

Hon. Speaker, no Country or Nation can progress without a health people. In realization of this, we have initiated massive renovation of Kitui and Mwingi Level IV Hospitals and enable them provide better medical care to our people. We have also built three modern mortuaries in line with request which our people have made to members here and even to myself directly and even when we were seeking votes. For example we have a mortuary at Kyuso and people there used to tell us that they used to come to Migwani for such services and be either forced to sleep there sometimes or in Mwingi and also to incur very high cost. People from the entire Kitui South used to come all the way to Kitui and even forced to have their people momentarily held in Nairobi or even Machakos because we did not have these facilities.

As we all know even the Bible says "*Kitokacho kwa muchanga kitarudi kwa muchanga*" and therefore we had to respond to what is inevitable. Have decent places where our people could be momentarily stay before they are performed final rights of escorting them when they leave us.

We will continue to expand healthcare service through dispensaries and healthcare centres across the county. In light of this we have purchased and distributed **11** fully equipped ambulances to provide medical referral services and we are expecting another 11 ambulances. 11 are the ones we had for last year, another we have already distributed and we have already rehabilitated quite another of others which we have found there, so that we can continue serving our people.

The campaign to reduce child and maternal mortality as well as the campaign against HIV/AIDS continues in top gear. We have provided two more Mobile Clinics in addition to the one donated by First Lady, her Excellency Margaret Kenyatta through the Beyond Zero Campaign. We have also received from the national Ministry of Health Cancer Screening Mobile Clinic that will supplement our efforts to combat cancer in the county.

Hon. Speaker Kitui County has a total of **230** health facilities, and this is the highest in the Republic of Kenya and we inherited these 230 from the then Central government. Mr Speaker however, these 230 facilities are inequitably distributed with some sub counties people walking for as long as **20** kms to reach the nearest health facility for basic health care while in some other sub counties the longest distance people walk is 6 km. For example analysis which we have undertaken, shows the percentage of population accessing health facilities within 5 kms in Kitui South is only 51.2% while the population accessing such within 5 kms in Kitui West is 98%. This is very serious if you factor in the total population of Kitui South which is **156,050** population compared to Kitui West which is **103,000**. Kitui central and Mwingi West they are also in that highly 96 or more percentage of the total population living within 5 kms of a health facility. Kitui East, Kitui Rural, Mwingi Central and Mwingi North they are not as well of as the first top rated sub counties i.e. Kitui West, Kitui Central and Mwingi West.

And since the constitution requires that we provide development and services in a manner which is equitable, I wish to take this opportunity to thank members of the County Assembly because this is a matter we shared with you in Mombasa and we agreed on one thing, we will not close down those facilities which when we took over the County Government and when In addition, there are also 105 complete health was transferred to us were operational. Operational is there was a clinical Officer, there was a nurse or either of those and they were functional not that there was a facility or there was boxes of medicine which may have been put there in anticipation of former central Government taking over which they didn't take, which cannot and we should not be a accused by any one for closing such facilities. And I want to underscore this, we have not closed any and we are not going to close any of those we found operation.

(Foot thumping)

It is true because I like talking the truth, that when we took over in some nine because proper analysis have been done, in some nine facilities the staff who were serving there they used some methods to transfer their services to other Counties mainly their home Counties where they came from and therefore those are facilities which are temporarily not operating fully. Occasionally we sent people there just to serve but going forward and as you may have seen we intend to employ an additional 150 nurses and other staff next financial year to make sure all these facilities including a few others which we will open in those areas people are walking long distances so that we start making health as equitably accessible as possible to all our people.

Hon. Speaker going forward, the county Ministry of health and sanitation plans to ensure that all Kitui residents equitably access quality and affordable health care services with, this is a commitment which we want to give as a County and let me repeat it. We want to ensure that all Kitui residents equitably access quality and affordable health care services with, over 95% of all the people either living within 5kms of a health facility and/or take no more than 30 minutes to access health services. This is the world health standards and we are saying we are going to do everything so that we achieve it by 30th of December 2017. So even in Kitui South where is saw it is only 51% we want to bring that to 95%. And also to ensure if you leave your house within that 30 minutes you will access a health facility and we do this through rationalizing health facilities established and also establishing additional facilities either by opening, completing, expanding, or constructing new facilities and also ensure generally the people OF Kitui experience and enjoy good health Implementing what we are referring to as "**Pamoja Tujikinge Magonjwa Integrated programme**" (This is a programme which encompasses promotive and preventive community based healthcare interventions to ensure each household are empowered to prevent certain basic disease from affecting them.

To improve the welfare of the youth, Public Service Board has recruited which are just about **400** out of **3600** employees we have. We have only recruited **400**. The others we inherited from the former local authorities and from the departments which were devolved for example health alone we have a total of **1056** employees and other than the Minister and Acting C.O, we have not employed other people there, I mean very few.

So out of the **400** employed by the Kitui County Public Service Board, **55 per cent** are youth. People aged between 15 and 35 years because that is the legal definition of what constitute youth. We have continued to provide more opportunities for youth, for example, the recent advertisement for security officers and wardens and drivers. The drivers have been recruitment and are going forward and more will still be recruited. But with the recent advertisement of the security officers and wardens, we have no doubt the majority will be youth.

We have also assisted to train youth to acquire driving licenses. We trained an average of 20 youths per ward and they have since been given their certificates to signify that they are licensed to drive piki-piki's. We have also trained a totally of 1850 new contractors 78% of whom are youth. And as I said earlier who were facilitated to even form partnerships and register businesses. We have assisted them to do that and also for them to acquire projects under the

CLIDP programme. We are also assisting them to access finance from the Youth Enterprise Fund because we gave them letters indicating that we have given them jobs which they took to the banks because the banks have been asking them for security and because we said we will never give up on our youths, they are our brothers and sisters. We have since engaged I think it took place this morning involving our ministers with Youth Enterprise Fund leadership who have indicated that they will give them money without asking for security so that they can do the contracting work which gave them. With this, it means they may not perform as well as we intended earlier in terms of finishing those projects. Let's all bear with them but we also urge them to make sure they work hard so that projects are completed because Wananchi wants completed projects to the standards specified and within the cost and also within the quality which is required. On that, those areas we are not going to relax because if we relax then the greater public good will not have been done.

Hon. Speaker to respond to the reality of rapid urbanization, we have set a policy framework on how the urban system in Kitui County can be reorganized so that urban centres can be inclusive, productive, resource efficient and good places to live in. Under focus are of course the two main towns of Kitui and Mwingi and I would like to beseech members not to be looking at some of these urban centres from the lenses of wards. These two towns have all of them from wherever we are. Of course they must be located somewhere. We are also focusing on upcoming towns like the University town of Kwa Vonza, Mutomo, Kabati, Tseikuru, Kyuso among others. Most of it we are going to, is to ensure that we ward headquarters of all the 40 wards have security lights. That will be latest by the end of July this year. Work is just about to start. All the 40 wards and you will see a huge difference when people there instead of locking their at 5.30pm or so 6pm, they can extend a little bit. Young starts who have welding corners can still continue up to saa sita ya usiku when orders are required by customers quickly.

Kitui County has great challenges Hon. Speaker to surmount, challenges born out of our past; a past wrought with many acts of mission and mission. From a united front, we must now think of a new way to deal with these many challenges. And it will all depend on the leadership we provide.

Hon. Speaker imagine if we did something different. Imagine if we tried to play a better politics in the interest of our people and Beloved County. And here when we say better we mean we are good already but as the late Wamalwa once put it, "a good idea should always be ready to make way for a better idea". So if we can improve, let's do it. In the words of President Barack Obama, "A better politics is one where we appeal to each other's basic decency instead of our basest fears. A better politics is one where we debate without demonizing each other; where we talk issues and values, and principles and facts, rather than "gotcha" moments, or trivial gaffes, or fake controversies that have nothing to do with people's daily lives".

Honourable Speaker, I wish to thank the honourable members for executing your mandates of legislation, representation and oversight diligently over the last two years. Among the first things this Assembly under your leadership Honourable speaker did was to vet members of our County Executive and members for the County Public Service Board. And its all know throughout the Country that in Kitui, nobody paid anything to anybody to be approved.

(Foot thumping)

...And this does not just happen, this does not mean may be one or two people fingers were not itching, but this is because of your leadership and through you the collective will of the Assembly said no we must stand out to be counted. And therefore I really wish to take this opportunity to commend you for that.

Secondly Mr Speaker, the Kitui County Assembly has been one of the most stable in the republic of Kenya.

(Foot thumping)

...Standards of debates are of very high standards. I personally, occasionally do read the copies of the Hansard and I bear testimony to the high level of the debates which takes place in depth and where all are given an opportunity to air their views.

Also on the legislation front, Hon. Speaker through your tireless effort have seen you enact a number of laws including regulations and guidelines and since you have enumerated some of them, let me not repeat them, and we do appreciate. Occasionally we may return a Bill which has been passed by the Assembly. I want to assure you we do that because we believe if we try to implement that somebody somewhere along the line may produce a red card and say you people you have been doing something unconstitutional. And I want to commend you because in some cases when I return such Bills, you have also consulted other authorities and a good example is the Health services Bill and the other one relating to business which you sought the guidance of the Kenya Law Reforms Commission who agreed, let's say to re-engineer it again so that it conforms to the constitution.

Also sometimes I do return Bills and you return them to me and in between I must say we touch base and we all agree let's have a meeting point. A good example is the recent Villages Bill...

(Foot thumping as the Governor chuckles)

Although we will be having the highest number of Villages but also we must appreciate we also among one of the largest Counties and one of the most poplar's County because we are number 6 in terms of size out of number 47 and we are number 11 in terms of population. Therefore sometimes we can't compare ourselves entirely with other Counties...

(Foot thumping)

But what is critical going forward, is to ensure those Villages administrator, work for the people of this County. Somebody was joking and not to make those guys who are not working and living around here and are partners boring because the guys are idle from morning to evening. I hope you get what I am saying. So *waziri uko hapa*, he has assured me and when I say Waziri is Waziri responsible for the decentralised units' *watakuwa na kazi kutoka asubuihi mpaka jioni* and will have no time to idle and doing other things. And as soon as the formal publication is done, and since there are emoluments now must be budgeted in the next financial year, we will we will seek to have them as earlier as possible. There is a lot of work for them actually. We have developed 12 templates of civics education, work which needs to be undertaken and that can occupy them a lot and many other things which are being done by the ministries and which they can support.

Hon. Speaker, our nation currently is gripped by the threat of insecurity. As we mourn the **147** sometimes the number is put at **152** young Kenyans butchered in the Garissa University terrorist attack last week, let us also remember that we lost our own people and we are all vulnerable wherever we are and we need all be mindful of the security because security is the business of all of us. We are as County Governments supposed also to play a role in policing issues and security issues through the County Policing Authority, the regulations relating to how the members of the County policing authority are supposed to be recruited and removed. We received those copies yesterday I think after we really urge this to be done and we have ourselves started the process of ensuring that the Kitui County Policing Authority is operationalised earliest possible. But let all be very alert on who comes into our County, who leaves next to us, let us as leaders also sensitise our people but in doing so, let us not discriminate other Kenyans. Let us not unfairly profile other Kenyans either on the bases of religion, colour or whatever other persuasion. But we must be vigilant and we will and should report anyone whom we think is up to no good amongst us.

I challenge security agencies to thoroughly comb all unpoliced areas such as game parks, game reserves and thickets to ensure they are not used by terrorists as hideouts. They should also check thoroughly vehicle which ply our roads including which are carrying charcoal because sometimes we hear people hide into those, e.t.c. and to ensure they don't use such camouflaged methodologies to either come and impose security in our County or pass through our County and causing insecurities in other Counties.

Finally, Honourable Speaker, one of the challenges to modern day Kenya is corruption and impunity. Corruption degrades the moral fabric and puts a people to shame. It causes immense suffering to our people as resources meant for public benefit are diverted to personal use.

Today, Kenyans continue to debate over the demon of corruption among leaders and ordinary folk. Let me make it very clearly, County Government of Kitui does not condone corruption. Let us all resolve to combat corruption in all its forms; theft of time meant for public service but spend on personal gain; conflict of interest, political debauchery; that is where you use your political positions to make statements you can't substantiate against other people just because you want to divert their attention to start playing idle business, and stop serving the people and diversion of public resources for personal use.

Whereas we support the fight against corruption, we also emphasise that that fight must be executed through due process and within the law. Recent case where names of Kenyans were given in parliament and where later the commission in this case the Ethics and Anti-corruption commission and the commission here consists of three people chairman, vice chairman and one member. Three members of the commission because they are the only one under the article 254 of the constitution who can officially legally, constitutionally submit a list to be tabled before parliament the way it was tabled, they disowned that list.

The Chief Executive of Ethics and Anti-corruption commission also said when he was asked to go into the house in the hill, he was asked just to go and provide some information to approve the president speech which he was going to deliver in parliament and according to what was reported in the newspapers apparently some names were added others were removed and the list which he provided which had not been approved by the commission. Which means he has no authority to take it there if it's not approved by the commission. But since he had been asked for another purpose according what he said, or was reported in the papers he said then it was used for a purpose for which he was not initially told it was going to be useful. And as a result we are in a situation where people are being asked to step aside including Governors, including others in manner where something did not follow due process or the rule of law was not fully followed. It doesn't matter how you hate people who are mentioned there, for heaven sake, be ready like a true democrats to ensure everyone including them, when I say, anybody who you may not like including them, including yourselves because any name could have been there because if names were being removed na ingine inawekwa. Any name could have ended up there. Any name, yours, mine and anybody else. Kwa hivyo hiyo tunasema haisaidii hii nchi yetu na ikitokea such leaders we talk against it as if we are the only ones who have been elected by the rest of the members of this County other cant to speak against that which is done in manner which can destroy this Country of us. So corruption be fought but through following the due process and following the rule of law strictly and where people have resumed innocent until proven guilty. And also they are given the right to respond to any allegations because they are usually allegations to any allegation they are given right to respond to that before you even prosecution. So that should be the case.

Mr Speaker be your brothers' keeper as we are told. Watch over county projects and other resources and ensure the public get value for money. However, let us not use the war on corruption to settle political scores; to witch-

hunt one another. Let us be honest and genuine in the fight against corruption, without fear or favour. On this I will stand steadfastly with you in the struggle for a just society in the service of the people of Kitui County and Kenya.

As I conclude let me observe and urge all of us to forget our personal differences and promote one Kitui County. In all we endeavour to do, let us remember that Kitui County needs the best and the good in all of us to prosper.

We stand in the threshold of history; we are the pioneers who shall lay the foundation of a new Kitui County. In the words of the great American President J.F. Kennedy, " let us not ask what our country can do for us – but let ask what we can do for our country". And with those few or many remarks Hon Speaker, I wish to **thank you All and May God Bless You all and the People of Kitui County**. Thank you.

(Foot thumping as the H.E the Governor and the Speaker reverted to their sitting positions)

The Speaker: Hon. Members that brings us to the end of this special sitting and now it's time to adjourn the House.

(Members stood in their places)

The Speaker: The House now stands adjourned until tomorrow afternoon at 2.30pm.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR LEFT THE CHAMBER AT 4:25 PM ESCORTED BY THE SPEAKER

The County Assembly rose at 4.25pm