



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
NYANDARUA COUNTY ASSEMBLY
1ST ASSEMBLY-4TH SESSION



OFFICIAL REPORT

(The Hansard)

Tuesday 9th January, 2016

The Assembly met at the Assembly Chambers at 2:30 P.M.

The Speaker, Hon. Ndegwa Wahome, in the Chair

Prayer

Speaker: Your Excellency and Hon. Members, we shall remain standing for more prayers.

Prayers by a Kikuyu Elder, a Sheikh and a Reverend

His Excellency, the Governor of Nyandarua County, Hon. Daniel Waithaka Mwangi, members of the County Executive Committee, Chief Officers in our County Government, Hon. Members of the Nyandarua County Assembly, guests, ladies and gentlemen, I welcome you all to the opening of the fourth session of the sittings of the Nyandarua County Assembly.

Having invited you, I don't have much ado but to officially welcome His Excellency and by that I will make some few remarks about the aspirations and expectations of the members of this assembly, as the representatives of the people who echo the aspirations of the people of this county.

Your Excellency the Governor the governor of Nyandarua County, Hon. Daniel Waithaka Mwangi, Hon. Members it is my pleasure and honour to welcome your Excellency and Hon. Members to the fourth session of the sittings of this assembly after the long recess. I request to make brief remarks on the expectations of the Hon. Members for together we steer this Great county of Nyandarua.

Your Excellency, the new constitution deliberately shifted the centre of development from Nairobi to counties. The singular reason for this was to allow citizenry to voice on how they are governed. By this all the expectations, aspirations and hopes of our people were

heightened to new heights and all the requisite infrastructure must be conclusively put in place to satisfy the same. To do this, a very clear road map without any equivocation or uncertainty must be cultivated with very definite results.

Within the short life of this house, it has passed several laws and tailor-made to address the pertinent areas of concern for Wanjiku. To mention just but a few: Bursary Fund Act, Alcoholic Drinks Control Act, Trade Fund Act inter alia i.e. among others.

We are delivering to the best of our ability pursuant to our mandate as donated to us under the constitution and the several Devolution laws but still much requires to be done. We are therefore called upon both severally and jointly to be at the fore front so as to provide not merely leadership but transformational leadership being God's gift to history as the founding fathers and mothers of this county.

The foundation we lay and the architecture we design, will form the framework on which our county will be built for now, the future and for posterity. The values and principles we cultivate within us and inculcate within our people, will be the under pinning on which our growth activities will be directed.

Your Excellency and Hon. Members, we have areas that require intensive address and the same would trigger economic development and inspire a sense of patriotism in our people. I humbly urge that we move quickly, among others:

- To secure Lake Ol'bollosat and evolve a master plan addressing all opportunities and economic prospects arising from the same and other tourist sites within the county.
- Transform the agricultural sector from the traditional and unproductive activities to a horticultural and dairy based agriculture as per the dictates of the climatic conditions obtaining in our county.
- Employ all the necessary efforts to ensure that as a water tower county, water is accessible to our people.
- Disburse the bursary fund we should ensure that no deserving child will miss the opportunity to prosper academically due to lack of funds.
- Put in place all the necessary policy frame work to ensure that the road networks in the county are motor able and satisfactory to our people.

Your Excellency and Hon. Members, the people of Nyandarua are eager to play their role in the development of this county as informed through their public participation on issues

touching the county in their physical presence, print, electronic media and more so in the social media.

As for us, the leadership of the county, we are called upon to work in harmony and the only driver being the objective to realize maximum benefit for our people. All our decisions and actions should be informed by the benefits that accrue to our county men and women for the larger interests of the county.

Your Excellency and Hon. Members, with those few remarks it is now my singular honour invite his excellency the governor of our great county of Nyandarua Hon. Daniel Waithaka Mwangi to make his address to this August House.

Applause as His Excellency the Governor rises to address the House.

H. E, Hon. Daniel Waithaka Mwangi (The Governor, Nyandarua County): Speaker of the Nyandarua County Assembly, Hon. Wahome Ndegwa and Honourable Members, It is a great honour for me to address this opening session of Nyandarua County Assembly, which also marks the third year in office since the last general elections held in March 2013.

First I wish to thank the Almighty God for the far He has guided us especially during the three years. We have encountered challenges but we have soldiered on because we chose to work for our people to ensure we uplifted their livelihoods.

I also wish to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the Speaker of our County Assembly and honourable members for a job well done. As pioneers of this Assembly, you have continued to discharge your duties with unparalleled zeal despite the difficulties you face especially due to lack of office space and other basic infrastructure.

As you are all aware, this Assembly has a single purpose—that of promoting the welfare of the people of Nyandarua County, protecting their rights and giving voice to the many and varied interests of our people. We are here, not for ourselves, but as representatives of the people.

As law-makers, our first duty is to be law-keepers – subject to the constitution. I urge all of us to remember that each of us is obliged by virtue of the trust placed in us by the people, to respect, uphold and defend our Constitution; each of us is bound, by a solemn oath,

to bear true faith and allegiance to the people and to faithfully and diligently discharge our duties.

Honourable Members, my administration looks forward to working with this House in the remaining term to implement our agenda. I look forward to your continued support. Although we may not agree from time to time, this should be in an atmosphere of mutual respect and consideration.

We should be able to hold different viewpoints without being at war. In that spirit, I pledge that my administration will continue to partner with you in the work of implementing our agenda and transforming this County.

I am also aware that this year marks the return to active politics now that the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) has fixed the date for the next general elections in August 2017.

However, as elected members of this Assembly and those of us in government, we have a cardinal duty to continue discharging our duties diligently and faithfully to *Wanjiku* until the very last minute when the whistle is blown.

A few individuals have panicked and have started early campaigns for the positions of MCAs, MP, Woman Rep, Senator and even Governor- hoping to swing *wananchi* to their side in good time. But we, the elected leaders, cannot afford the luxury of joining the bandwagon of early campaigns in order that we may appear fashionable.

As a matter of fact, our people are well informed and can easily read between the lines; our performance in office will determine whether we shall be eligible for re-election. So let us redouble our efforts and ignore those engaged in side-shows meant to distract us from serving the people.

Honourable Members, our country is faced with economic challenges owing to the rising costs of commodities and especially farm inputs. The agriculture sector- which is the main source of income for our people- needs urgent reforms to ensure returns.

The challenges facing Kenya as a nation- namely slow growth, unacceptably high levels of unemployment and pervasive poverty- are reflected in our own county. As a county,

we still yearn for attaining high growth rate; the kind of growth rate that will sustain quality of life for our people so they may find decent jobs and conquer poverty.

We must continue to exercise prudent management of public finances. Our recurrent expenditure remains high and unsustainable, squeezing out resources meant for development. In the current financial year for example the total wage bill for Nyandarua County is over Sh1.6 billion against a budget of Sh4.3 billion. This wage bill- which translates to 37 per cent- is well above the accepted standards and accounts for almost half of the revenue administered by the government.

This unfortunate situation poses a serious threat to the funding of important development projects, and has the potential to severely affect our county's economic prospects. All arms of Government should set the example and lead the way in bringing this recurrent expenditure down. Our focus both as the executive and the legislature should be on reducing the cost of living and making our county much more competitive thereby increasing opportunities while improving the standard of living.

My administration will continue to pursue the path of infrastructural growth to enable our people compete effectively in sectors such as agriculture, health and business. When it comes to roads and transport my administration has set aside lion's share of our budget to upgrade access roads, bridges and other infrastructure to enable our people transport their commodities with ease.

My administration will continue to ensure food security by investing in and modernizing our agricultural sector. Through improved financing, irrigation, research & development, and the return of extension services we will enable farmers to move from subsistence to commercial farming.

Honourable members, my government has initiated key land reforms in partnership with the National Land Commission, and has facilitated issuance of title deeds to needy cases. This process will continue in order to promote land ownership as a factor of production and thereby enhance food security.

My government is also committed to ensuring high attainable standard of health. Our policy aims to ensure that all our people have access to well-equipped health facilities and

well trained and motivated health care workers, in addition to developing systems to support and expand health care and improved sanitation. We have implemented free primary healthcare rolled out by the national government starting with children, persons with disability, pregnant mothers and breastfeeding mothers.

We have initiated major reforms that entailed upgrading both JM Kariuki Memorial Hospital and Engineer Hospital to equip them with modern facilities capable of tackling all kind of diseases including kidney and heart ailments as well as cancer. These facilities will soon be ready to accord our people the best medical care there is in Kenya.

Honourable Members, my Government has placed much focus on education and especially the ECD and youth polytechnics. We have so far constructed over 80 ECD classes across all the 25 wards and another 75 are under construction. This financial year alone, we have set aside Sh65 million for bursary to benefit students from poor backgrounds. This kitty has existed for three years now and we shall continue to enhance it as funds become available.

My administration has done a lot to improve youth polytechnics by absorbing teachers and providing the schools with equipment and buying land for their expansion. We shall continue with this programme to benefit more students in future. Access to clean water and sustainable supply of electricity is important pillar of socio-economic development. We shall continue to partner with our development partners to provide water to our people. The national government is also partnering with us in lighting homes and market centers in all our five sub-counties.

Other achievements have been recorded in the co-operative sector where my administration is working with management of co-operative societies to upgrade their infrastructure such as milk coolers and animal feeds. More milk coolers will be provided to co-operative societies this financial year to enable farmers market their milk at better prices.

Honourable members, I now wish to turn my attention to the main business of this August Assembly, namely the enactment of laws governing our socio-economic development.

The Nyandarua County Alcoholic Drinks Act 2014 was meant to control and regulate the manufacture, sale, distribution and consumption of liquor in our county. This law was enacted to replace the famous Mututho Laws which became obsolete soon after the county governments came into existence.

Mr. Speaker, the county government has realized tremendous success with the enactment of this law, but players in the industry have encountered certain challenges, necessitating the introduction of key regulations that will soon be introduced before this House for debate.

The Nyandarua County Symbols and Names Protection Act, 2014 is an important legislation in giving identity to our county. A beautiful county flag and logo are in place and soon we shall have produced enough flags to be supplied to all our institutions and offices across the county.

The Nyandarua County Bursary Fund Act 2014 is an important legislation that gave birth to the bursary kitty for children from needy families. The importance of this kitty cannot be over-emphasized.

Mr Speaker it is only last week that I presided over the issuance of bursary cheques to students from all wards in Kinangop sub-county. This exercise will be expedited and cheques given out to beneficiaries without delay.

The department of County Attorney, ICT and Inter-Governmental Relations will soon be presenting before this House the following Bills for enactment into law:

1. Nyandarua County Early Childhood Development and Education Bill, 2015.

In fulfilment of the mandate of Article 53 of the Constitution and The Children's Act of 2001 at Section 7 which provides that every child shall be entitled to education; Nyandarua County Early Childhood Development and Education Bill seeks to provide for an Act to make provisions for the promotion, governance and management of early childhood development and pre-primary education institutions and for connected purposes.

2. Nyandarua County Public Participation & Civic Education Bill, 2015

The Bill provides for citizen's participation forums. It sets out the reasons and benefits of Citizen Forums. It also outlines clearly where the citizen forums shall be held and what is to be discussed in these forums. It also provides that a notice for a citizen forum be

issued before the forum and clearly outlines the timelines, publication and language of publication. It also provides for the provision of information where copies of instrument under consideration shall be made available and anyone requiring a copy shall meet the cost.

This part further clarifies; input by facilitators, public and state officers, Right contributions, Sanctions, Information on Allegations, Reporting and Governors report. It provides for the leader's forum. It interprets the County Leaders Forum and outlines its composition and its functions. It gives the timelines for meetings of the forum and notice for agendas.

It provides for petitions and complaints. It states when a citizen may present a petition to the County Executive and in what format the complaint may be presented. It also outlines how a petition shall be received and the timeline in which a petitioner should get a response.

3. Nyandarua County Rating Bill, 2015.

The Nyandarua County Rating Bill, 2015 seeks to provide for the legal framework for the rating process by the County Government. The Bill seeks to promote transparency and efficiency in the land rating process.

4. Nyandarua County Revenue Administration Bill, 2015

The Public Management Finance Act, No. 18 of 2012 provides a detailed framework for the collection and effective management of revenue by the county governments and the oversight responsibility of county assemblies. In particular, Section 104 (1) (d) provides mobilizing resources and putting in place mechanisms to raise revenue and resources as one of the responsibilities of the County Treasury.

5. Nyandarua County Traffic and Transport Management Bill, 2015

The Bill provides for matters relating to traffic, parking, county roads, street lighting and public road transport as provided for in the Traffic Act CAP 403.

6. Nyandarua County co-operative societies Bill, 2015

Trade development and regulation including co-operative societies is one of the functions and mandate assigned to county governments. The county government must ensure that it addresses the challenges faced by co-operative societies especially lack of funds and mismanagement. This Bill therefore seeks to respond to these challenges by creating a fund

from which these co-operative societies can borrow money and further creates an institutional framework to address issues affecting co-operative societies in the County.

7. Nyandarua County (civil servants car loan and mortgage scheme fund) regulations, 2015

The Regulations seeks to establish a loan scheme for the purchase of a vehicle and development, renovation or repair of property by civil servants working within the county government of Nyandarua. It also seeks to provide a regulatory framework for the establishment of the fund for this purpose, the fund's management committee and administration of the fund.

Bills undergoing review and clean-up for presentation to the County Assembly for approval:

The following proposed Bills are currently undergoing review and clean up and will soon be presented to the County Assembly for approval:

- (a) Nyandarua County Kiosk Bill
- (b) Nyandarua County Tourism Bill
- (c) Nyandarua County Agriculture Development Fund Bill
- (d) Nyandarua County Sports Bill
- (e) Nyandarua County Investment Corporation Bill

Details of the proposed Bills will emerge after they are polished by legal experts before they are brought to this August Assembly for debate. It is my hope that Honourable Members will create valuable time to discuss these Bills and provide the necessary input to make the laws beneficial to our people. I also wish to take this opportunity to wish Honourable Members success and fruitful deliberations during this session.

Finally, it is my prayer that Members remain firm in hope; true to your oaths, unfettered by self-interest; undaunted by challenge; undistracted by success and unyielding in service. May you be instruments of peace, unity and prosperity to the people of Nyandarua County.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to move.

Speaker: Thank you Your Excellency the Governor. I now give this chance to the Member for engineer and the Leader of Majority, Hon. James Mwangi Gichuki, to table the

Hon. James Mwangi Gichuki: Thank you Mr Speaker. I wish, on this day of official opening of the fourth session of the Nyandarua County Assembly, to table the speech by His Excellency the Governor of Nyandarua County, Hon. Daniel Waithaka Mwangi, dated Tuesday, 9th February, 2016.

Speaker: Very well, the Address by His Excellency the Governor will be processed through the normal procedures as will be directed by the House Business Committee. Before this House adjourns, I would like to make some housekeeping announcements: first, there will be a cup of tea to be shared between His Excellency the Governor, the visitors who have accompanied him to this House and the Members of this County Assembly. But before that, considering that this is the First Assembly and that we need to leave a historical mark, we will engage in a photo session where various personalities will sit for photos with His Excellency the Governor in the following order:

1. With the person who said the prayers in this opening of the Fourth Session of Nyandarua County Assembly, obviously including the Speaker who said the first prayer.

Laughter

2. With the CECM and the Speaker's Panel
3. With the leadership of the House
4. With the chairpersons of the committees
5. With the female members of the Assembly
6. With the male members of the Assembly, and
7. With the whole House

Applause

After the tea and the photo session I believe His Excellency the Governor will accede to the request to accompany the House to the site of the new County Assembly Chambers to assess the progress of the construction thereof.

Now, without much ado, His Excellency the Governor may leave his seat at his own pleasure. With that, this House stands adjourned to tomorrow, Wednesday — the 10th day of February, 2016 — at 9:00 a.m.

The House rose at 3:12p.m.