

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
NYANDARUA COUNTY ASSEMBLY

1ST ASSEMBLY- 5TH SESSION

OFFICIAL REPORT

Tuesday 4th April, 2017

The Assembly met at the Assembly Chamber at 2:30 p.m.

ARRIVAL OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

*[His Excellency the Governor (Hon. Waithaka Mwangi)
escorted by the Speaker of the County Assembly (Hon. Wahome Ndegwa)
enter the Chamber at half past two O'clock accompanied by the Mace]*

*[His Excellency the Governor (Hon. Waithaka Mwangi)
takes his designated Chair]*

(The Mace is placed on the Table)

(The National Anthem is played)

(The Speaker, Hon. Ndegwa Wahome, in the Chair)

PRAYERS

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

Speaker: Your Excellency, we shall go to the stage we so refer in parliamentary paradigm as convocation which doubles up as the communication from the chair. It is titled:

CONVENING OF SPECIAL SITTING OF THE ASSEMBLY WITHIN ITS NORMAL CALENDAR
FOR THE ANNUAL STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR
HON. DANIEL WAIHAKA MWANGI.

Your Excellency, Honourable Daniel Waithaka Mwangi, Governor of the Great County of Nyandarua and the Honourable Members of the County Assembly, Section 30 (2) J and K of the County Government Act No 17 of 2012 requires the Governor to address a special sitting of the Assembly once every year and at any other time.

Section J and K for purposes of clarity provides that subject to the Constitution, the Governor shall;

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Submit to the County Assembly an annual report on the implementation status of the County policies and plans, and K
Deliver Annual state of the county Address containing such matters as may be specified in County Legislation.

To operationalize the legislation as quoted above, our Standing Order no 21 (1) provides that:-

The Governor shall address a special sitting of Assembly in chambers once every year and may with the leave of the Speaker, address Assembly at any other time.

Your Excellency and Honourable Members, Section 21(2) of the Standing Orders provides that;

The Speaker shall notify the members of the place, date and time of a sitting under paragraph 1.

I confirm that there has been strict compliance with the provisions of the law and Standing Orders in convening this special sitting. It is however noteworthy that the special sitting is obtaining during the active calendar of the Assembly's normal sitting.

As an Assembly, we wish to thank your Excellency for Honouring this statutorily anchored tradition which sets the agenda for the County while having an in-depth outlook and overview of past County development activities.

Honourable Members and Your Excellency, I would also, on behalf of all the stakeholders of this Assembly and more so the citizens of this County and the Honourable Members, thank your Excellency most sincerely for your absolute support of the Assembly's development Agenda.

It is from that inbuilt and unreserved support that our dream of having an ultra-modern chambers has unfolded in our very eyes. We have no doubt that this support will continue as we embark on the development of an office complex for the Assembly staff and Members.

I would wish to report that the designs for the said complex have been completed with the support of the National Governments' Department of Public Works and the same have been duly approved by the Principal Secretary thereof, namely Architect (Prof) Paul Mwangi Maringa.

Honourable Members and Your Excellency, it is now my singular honour and privilege to invite His Excellency the Governor to address this special sitting of the Assembly.

(Applause)

GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS

EXPOSITION OF PUBLIC POLICY

His Excellency the Governor (Hon. Waithaka Mwangi): The Speaker, Hon. Ndegwa Wahome, Honourable Members of the County Assembly, Colleagues in the County Executive, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon.

I am very happy this afternoon to address this Honourable Assembly in this third and final session. I am also aware that today's address to you is the last official engagement in this Assembly during my first term as the Governor of Nyandarua County but I look forward to addressing you again in my second term after the August 2017 general elections.

Mr Speaker, I can see the general excitement in the faces of Members who – I believe are very happy to enjoy the comfort of this building which we are using for the first time. It

has been a struggle. For the four years that Nyandarua County Assembly has existed Members faced serious challenge not just for lack of offices, but inadequate room to transact business in a decent manner.

Members have had to transact business from a tiny rooms provided by the PCEA Church here in Ol'kalou town and did not even have the luxury of an office. The honourable Speaker and his personal staff simply had nothing to show for an office.

This is what we mean whenever we tell other Kenyans that Nyandarua is a marginalized County that needs special attention and should never be compared to other counties in the former Central Province.

At a time when other counties enjoyed huge infrastructure at their disposal inherited mainly from the defunct local authorities, Nyandarua had none of these as our facilities were locked up in Nyahururu town - the former district headquarters- which was transferred to Laikipia County.

Mr Speaker, I wish to congratulate the Honourable members of this August Assembly for withstanding difficulties during the past four years and making major sacrifices in order to serve our people.

This sacrifice was not in vain. Today, we sit in relative comfort in this building which was put up using resources that would have gone to finance development activities in our county.

Mr Speaker, I wish to beg for your indulgence so that I may present the scorecard for my government now that we are at the tail end of the first term in office and hence the need to explain some of the achievements we made in the service of our people.

Today I am proud to say that Nyandarua County Government has recorded tremendous success in socio-economic development since we took office after March 2013 general elections. The County government has taken big strides in reforming our sectors especially health, infrastructure, basic education, agriculture, water, co-operatives and sports- just to mention but a few.

We have graded access roads in all our localities including urban centres during the past three years and more roads are currently being constructed in all the 25 wards. For the four years I have been in office, my administration has spent KShs.2.3 billion on roads upgrade programme and this year another KShs.680 million has been set aside for construction of roads and bridges across all the 25 wards. That brings to a total of nearly KShs.2.9 billion that will have been spent by the conclusion of our first term in office.

Apart from grading access roads, we have constructed bus parks to ease public commuter transport and erected bridges linking different localities across our county. We are spending huge resources on roads because we realize the important role played by public transport in complimenting other sectors such as agriculture, health, education and other sectors of our development.

Flood-masts have been erected in over 30 urban centres. The lighting of our towns has boosted business and helped in the fight against crime especially at night. Major beneficiaries of urban lighting include Ol'Kalou headquarters, Mailu Inya, Ol'joro-Orok, Kasuku, Kapten, Kariamu, Miharati, Geta, Mawingo, Ngano, Mirangine, Tumaini, Boiman, Riverside, Shamata, Ndaragwa, Gwa Kung'u, Ndunyu Njeru, Mawingo, Miharati, Engineer, Murungaru, Njabini, Githabai, Magumu, Rwanyambo, Fly Over, Haraka and Nyakio- just to mention but a few.

Mr Speaker, you are aware that my administration moved to the new county offices that were built by the county government mid last year. We shifted key offices including my office as well as Finance, Trade and Co-operatives, Tourism and Sports and ICT.

Our critics had used endless energy claiming that we had squandered KShs.61 million earlier allocated to my government by the Transitional Authority (TA) for the construction of the new offices. Now with the building in place, the idlers may have to concentrate their efforts

elsewhere. Further, we are collaborating with the national government in building new five storey block just next to the new offices so that we can accommodate other departments that are currently located in different parts of Ol'kalou town.

This building, which is a collaboration between us and the national government, will consume KShs.700 million and will provide ultra-modern offices for key government departments.

In the health sector- Mr. Speaker Sir- my administration has taken strides to upgrade hospitals, Health centres and dispensaries across our county and putting up maternity units in nearly all the health centres and dispensaries. This is meant to enhance health services closer to our people and also decongest both JM Kariuki Memorial and Engineer hospitals to enable them play their roles as referral centres.

You are aware that we have supplied ambulances to a number of our health centres across the sub-counties. We have procured six ambulances and posted them to health centres and hospitals such as Wanjohi, Geta, Heni, Boiman, Engineer hospital and JM Kariuki Memorial hospital. My government has modernised JM Memorial Hospital to level 5 status after we renovated old buildings, constructed a maternity theatre, laboratories, Cancer centre, Dialysis Centre, X-Ray departments and established KMTC branch- all at a cost of KShs.175 million. Besides, we have upgraded Engineer Hospital in Southern Nyandarua to Level 4 status with construction of new maternity centre with 60 beds and theatre where women are able to deliver babies through caesarean section.

Also, we now have a modern X-Ray centre, modern laboratory, a generator and an ultra-modern mortuary- all at a combined cost of over KShS.200 million.

Key health centres and dispensaries have been refurbished and maternity units established to aid local mothers. These include Mumui, Kiambogo, Kanjuiri, Mukindu, Ndaragwa, Kiriogo, Old Mawingo Health Centre, New Mawingo dispensary, Leshau Pondo, Shauri and Njabini. New dispensaries have been constructed or operationalised. They include Mumui, Githabai and Rwanyambo.

Five garbage collection trucks have been acquired and are operational and five dumpsites established in major towns across the county. Also, some 118 staff earlier recruited under Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP) have been absorbed and posted to health centers and dispensaries. Another 124 new staff have been hired and posted to health institutions across our County. I also wish to reiterate that service delivery in our health institutions has improved tremendously through constant and sufficient supply of medical products namely, drugs, laboratory reagents, patient linen and uniforms. All our health facilities are now well stocked with essential medicines and hospitals have adequate supplies of other medicines for special cases.

Mr Speaker Sir, the introduction of subsidized A.I services by my government in 2016 is a major step towards improvement of our dairy cows and increase milk production in our county. In this project, my government has hired 50 AI providers- two in every ward- and supplied them with motorcycles to enhance their movement. We have also hired supervisors in all the five sub-counties and supplied them with motorcycles in order to ensure this project benefitted all our farmers in the grassroots.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I am fully aware that some of our farmers are yet to benefit from this project but it is a matter of time they will reap the benefits of subsidized AI service in our County. Through the introduction of subsidized AI services, we expect to increase milk production through improvement of animal breeds. That is why my administration has taken major steps to supply milk coolers to several co-operative societies and revived societies that had collapsed.

Among societies that have benefitted from this project include Karati Farmers' Society, South Kinangop Farmers' Society, Kitiri Farmers, Nyahururu Umoja Dairy, Boiman Dairy and

Geta Farmers. Tulaga Farmers Co-operative has been assisted financially in putting up animal feed mill plant. The national government has also joined us in this endeavor by procuring 35 milk coolers that will be supplied to farmers' groups in all the 25 wards. This project also involves construction of rooms where the coolers will be kept.

My administration has also taken steps to supply new potato varieties to farmers' groups for multiplication purposes. This project is ongoing and we expect to supply quality potato seeds to many farmers across our County. Similarly, we have opened new fertilizer depots to enable our farmers access subsidized fertilizers from their own localities instead of traveling long distances to source for the commodity. These include Ndivai (Ndaragwa), Geta Farmers co-operative (Kipipiri) and Njabini ATC depots (Kinangop).

My administration in collaboration with the Small Holder Horticultural and Marketing Project (SHOMAP) has put up four horticultural markets at Soko Mpya, Murungaru, Oleriondo and Ndaragwa town. These centres will assist our farmers in marketing their crop once they become fully operational. Also 10 earth roads were improved through Small Holder Horticultural and Marketing Project (SHOMAP). They are Karati murrum, Riverside-Kageraini, Kwambiro, Yaanga, Wendi Mwega, Ciondo, Kagaa, Aspodea and Itomboya roads.

Besides the department of agriculture has taken major steps to educate farmers on the use of alternative fuel by supply them with biogas chests, upgraded sheep breeds by providing imported rams and started fish farms in Ndaragwa and Kinangop sub-counties.

We have supplied selected farmers' groups with incubators in all the wards so that our farmers may learn latest technology in the production of quality chicken breeds that are desired in the market. The department has organized annual Agricultural Trade Fairs to enable farmers learn the latest technology in agriculture, supplied modern beehives to farmers's groups and supplied other groups with pulverizers and chaff cutters.

Honourable members, allow me to highlight reforms undertaken in the education sector. During the 2013/2014 financial year, the County Government disbursed Sh7 million for bursaries in all the 25 wards. In the year 2014/2015, Sh65.7 million was disbursed in two installments of 25 million shillings in November 2014 and 42.5 million shillings in February, 2015.

In the 2015/16 financial year, the County Government spent Sh. 67.5 million in bursary for needy children within the county. This financial year the county government has set aside Sh85 million for bursary that will cater for nearly 8,000 needy children in secondary and tertiary institutions. In total, the County government will have disbursed Sh227 million during the past 4 years.

Mr Speaker Sir, the disbursement of these funds has gone a long way in assisting parents whose children would have dropped out of school for lack of fees, hence fulfilling government efforts to create equal opportunities for all. In the ECD sector, my administration constructed 132 classes for early learners in all the 25 wards and another 24 to be completed in the next two months.

The County Government has also hired 400 preparatory assistants to cushion parents from the burden of hiring ECD teachers. The new group which was engaged in 2014 is playing a critical role in enhancing learning in the ECD sector.

My administration has taken strong measures to upgrade all the 14 functional Youth Polytechnics and we have finalized plans to absorb the tutors and pay them decent salaries.

Mr Speaker Sir, allow me also to mention my excitement over recent revelations by Education Cabinet Secretary Hon. Dr. Fred Matiang'i that Nyandarua County would soon have a public university. Although the establishment of public universities is not the business of county governments, you all realize that certain individuals have been going round our county discrediting elected leaders while claiming we had failed to impress upon the national government on the need to establish such an institution on our soil.

As elected leaders we campaigned hard to have this institution set up in Nyandarua County and I thank God for this achievement which will go a long way in boosting higher education in our County. In the department of culture and social services, the government has taken bold steps to assist youth groups by providing them with car washing machines, hair salon equipment and sewing machines. The equipment are meant to assist the youth boost their businesses.

Besides, the government procured and distributed 600 wheelchairs and given them to persons living with disabilities from the county. We have also assisted schools that have pupils living with disabilities by providing them with assorted items like washing machines, water tanks, cookers, freezers and instructional materials.

Mr Speaker, the department has also procured 60 tents fully equipped with chairs and given them to selected welfare groups in villages. The elderly and persons living with disabilities have also benefitted from free blankets and sheets. This gesture is meant to recognize and assist the less fortunate members of our society.

Mr Speaker Sir, allow me to mention briefly some of the reforms undertaken in this critical sector. As you are aware Mr Speaker, land is an emotive issue among our people and has remained so since independence.

It is a fact that after Kenya gained its independence in 1963, a large number of our people- who were formally landless- were settled in various parts of our country. Nyandarua County is a settlement area and many of our people originated from other counties mainly in former Central Province. But while many people were lucky to get land, so were others who were not so lucky but remained as squatters on land that is part of our urban centres. Sadly, many of the squatters have remained there to date and their children and grandchildren have lost hope of ever getting settled owing to unavailability of free land.

The county government recognized this challenge and the department lands embarked on a programme to produce physical development plans for several trading centres. This effort has resulted in the production of physical development plans for Ngorika, Koinange, Heni, Gathara, Gathundia, Passenga, Igwa Miti, Matindiri and Kanyagia townships.

Mr Speaker, I wish to assure honourable Members that the national government has approved plans for the settlement of squatters in the following towns: Ngorika, Koinange, Magumu, Kiriko, Githioro, Njabini, Ndunyu Njeru, Miharati, Ol'kalou, Rurii, Gathanji and Kambaa.

The County Government has already embarked on the exercise of assisting squatters get title deeds in those centres. This was done in Gathaara ward in Kinangop sub-county where I personally presented title deeds to the beneficiaries.

My administration- in collaboration with the State department of Lands and Housing- is working hard to ensure that squatters located in other urban centres have also benefitted from this exercise. The County Government with help of National Land Commission and Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) has been able to initiate the repossession exercise of public land that was earlier grabbed by private developers. A case in point is land parcel No.Nyandarua /Ol'kalou /Salient /11 which measures 95 acres. My administration intends to set up of public facilities including a training institute for youths. Also, a task force which was set up in January 2014 tabled its reports. We expect that all public land that has been illegally alienated will be recovered through its implementations made.

Mr Speaker, my administration has also signed a deal with the National Housing Corporation (NHC) for the construction of 500 flats in Ol'kalou town at a cost of Sh1 billion. This project ought to have taken off a while ago but there was slight delay on the part of State Department of Lands and Housing in production of title deeds for respective parcels of land- a requirement by NHC before the project could kick off.

However, we have since received letter of allotment for the parcel of land alongside those for a plot reserved for the construction of the High Court building a few meters from here.

Mr Speaker, I believe the construction of these houses by NHC will alleviate the biting shortage for staff houses in this town which has resulted in a large number of our staff commuting daily in search of shelter to other towns such as Nakuru, Nyahururu, Gilgil and Naivasha. The Government has also procured parcels of land for social amenities and access roads across the county. Also we have procured parcels of land for the constructing of ECD classes in various wards and more land will be acquired in future in line with demands.

Speaker sir, you are aware that Nyandarua County is an important water tower that supplies water to other counties including Nairobi, Nakuru, Laikipia and other areas in the northern regions of our country. Yet our people have perennially suffered from lack of adequate water especially during the dry seasons when many of their livestock succumb to drought.

My administration has undertaken water mapping in collaboration with international partners in order to identify and document the water needs of our county. This exercise has been completed and necessary report handed to the government. This report will be an important reference point as we carry out water projects in different parts of our county.

Mr Speaker, my administration has also collaborated with the management of Tana and Athi Rivers Development Authority (TARDA) in de-silting several dams mainly in Kinangop sub-county and other areas. As honourable Members will recall, Nyandarua County has a total of 222 dams which are open to communities living around them. The de-silting exercise- for some of the dams- has assisted in boosting water supply to farmers and livestock especially during the dry seasons.

The department has also collaborated with the National Youth Service (NYS) in the construction of water pans in all the five sub-counties. In total, 14 water pans have been constructed. They include Rurii Kimotho, Kaimbaga Karima (Ol'Kalou), Gathima, Wanjohi Kibubuti, Githioro Waithaka (Kipipiri), Gathaara Mutungu (Kinangop), Muiguithania, Ndururi, and Kiandongoro (Ndaragwa). Five other water pans that were under construction have been completed.

At the same time, my administration has initiated new water projects, revived others and expanded other existing projects in all the 25 wards. Indeed, the government has spent a total sum of Sh150 million in the expansion works for the projects during the past four years.

Mr Speaker, we have sank boreholes, purchased water pumps, erected water tanks, expanded existing water intakes and supplied pipes for the expansion works in nearly 200 water projects across the county. Some eleven boreholes were sunk, six water intakes expanded and 29 Masonry storage water tanks constructed. Also we have supplied pipes to 106 water projects for expansion works, constructed four tank towers and supplied 16 water pumps to existing projects.

Finally, my administration has taken steps to address the issue of perennial water shortage in our county and especially Ndaragwa and Kipipiri sub-counties- by seeking partnership with the national government in the construction of dams that would guarantee water supply throughout the year.

Today I am happy to note the national government is in the process of finalizing issuance of tender for the construction of Pesi Mega Dam (Sh25 billion), Malewa dam (Sh15 billion) and Kinja dam (Sh15 billion). These projects are expected to cost Sh55 billion and once completed, they will generate enough water to be supplied not just to the residents of Ndaragwa, Ol'Joro-Orok, Ol'kalou and Kipipiri sub-counties, but others areas in neighbouring counties.

Mr Speaker, I want to assure the people of Nyandarua County that my administration has taken steps to address the issue of water shortage once and for all and it is only a matter of time before this issue is tackled.

Mr Speaker sir, we all know the co-operative movement has played major role in social economic development of Nyandarua county and Kenya as a whole.

As a matter of fact this department has succeeded in transforming lives of average citizen through resource mobilization, financial empowerment through affordable loans and encouragement of local talent and entrepreneurship especially among the youth.

Co-operative movement has fostered solid trading environment through enhancement of fair trade practices and consumer protection.

Since assuming office in 2013, my administration has taken drastic steps to boost co-operative movement thereby assisting our people mobilize resources for socio-economic development. So far, we have revived 13 co-operative societies that were previously dormant for a long period and we have targeted to revive eight others during the current financial year. Further, my administration carried out capacity building for 87 societies in 2013/14 year, 79 societies in 2014/15, 100 societies during 2015/16 and another 140 societies are targeted for capacity building during the current financial year.

Also 32 new co-operatives have been formed and registered. This has been possible through sensitizations during field days conducted in various parts of our county.

The department has supplied milk coolers to several farmers' groups including Karati Farmers Cooperative, South Kinangop FCS, Umoja Dairy co-operative, Boiman FCS and Nandarasi FCS.

Mr Speaker, my administration has also assisted Mirangine FCS, Nyala dairy, and Muki FCS. This has increased milk bulking and improved the quality of milk, giving farmers better prices for their milk. Our efforts to assist local societies have not gone unnoticed; the national government has also procured 35 milk coolers which will be distributed to farmers' societies in all the 25 wards. This will boost farmers' income from milk and help curb wastage especially during rainy seasons.

My administration has assisted Tulaga Farmers Co-operative to put up animal feed plant, while weak co-operatives have been assisted with milk equipment e.g. milk cans.

The department of co-operatives has formed Boda Boda Saccos in every ward which will enhance the culture of savings among Boda Boda operators and assisted them in acquiring cheap credit. Also, the department has assisted Saccos to computerize their operations and drafted a law to assist co-operatives access credit facilities.

Mr Speaker, the co-operative audit services division has been auditing co-operatives and inspecting others in order to ensure prudent management of resources for the benefit of members. We have improved corporate governance in co-operatives. This has been achieved through co-operative education among leaders and members in general, provision of advisory services as well as inspections and auditing of co-operatives. The net effect of this is reduced wrangles in societies and the positive growth being witnessed in the movement.

Many of our societies have assisted members to acquire subsidized fertilizers and other farm inputs. The sector also boasts of increased investments through housing and investment co-operative societies in the county. The co-operative movement has positively impacted on the people's living standards where members are able to pay fees for their children and there is huge increase in the number of members investing in the transport sector and real estate.

On the other hand, the Sacco sector in urban and rural areas continues to record positive growth and has been instrumental in the mobilization of funds which have largely contributed to the steady growth and development of individuals and the community at large.

Today Nyandarua County boasts over 150 co-operative societies, dealing in key areas of farming, savings and credit, housing and investments.

Mr Speaker, I now wish to touch on the issue of construction of market sheds in our urban centers. This project was calculated to assist hawkers and smallholder traders to carry out their business in a conducive atmosphere and clean environment.

During the 2013/14 financial year, the department constructed three open-air markets in Ndaragwa, Wanjohi and Kinangop while construction work for eight others was started during 2015/16 financial year. Construction work for another 10 open-air markets during the current financial year has kicked off hence bringing to 21 the number of open-air markets that will have been constructed by the end of our first term in office.

Mr Speaker, I am aware some of the honourable Members have raised issues touching on the nature of works by some contractors and I want to assure this House my administration will pursue the matter to ensure all the structures conformed with the BQs that were drawn and that nothing short of quality structures are delivered to our people.

Mr Speaker Sir, this department is critical in disseminating information to the grassroots as well as overseeing the county legislative agenda, litigation and legal affairs.

Recently the department launched the first newspaper – *Nyandarua Today* - in conjunction with the Governor's Press Service. The 16-page, full-colour publication, whose print run was 30,000 copies, has been received well across Nyandarua, including the county website and social media platforms. Expectedly, the dominant voice is that of the County Government, detailing work done so far, progress attained, and some persistent challenges.

Also included, however, are some varying perspectives on the road Nyandarua has taken since 2013, firmly anchoring the publication in the hallowed tradition of critical thinking.

Having found its voice through *Nyandarua Today*, my administration can now enhance its dialogue with itself. Beyond *Nyandarua Today*, the directorate has continued to secure strategic engagements for the County Government across traditional and new media platforms. One such engagement, arising from the recently-concluded Fourth Annual Devolution Conference in Naivasha, has resulted in Nyandarua being highlighted as an innovation hub in crop farming, livestock development and co-operatives ahead of an upcoming innovation week convened by both the Council of Governors and the World Bank. A Public Communication Policy, Nyandarua's first, is now also ready.

This House is aware that Chief Justice Hon. David Maraga recently appointed a Land and Environmental judge to serve Nyandarua residents. For residents of the county, it was a significant first. During a courtesy call he paid me on December 16th, 2016, Justice Maraga said he was convinced that land and the environment are Nyandarua's most pressing legal issues, and pledged to post the judges by February 2017. During the visit, he also announced that construction of a Kshs. 350 million High Court project in Ol'kalou would start immediately. The building will house at least three judges and magistrates' courts. It will take 18 months to complete and should be operational by the close of 2018.

Already, a law court has been established in Engineer town and another is near completion here in Ol'kalou town. The gains in Nyandarua's legal sector are part of wider, ongoing reforms by the County Government. We spearheaded legislation of key laws governing alcohol production, distribution and consumption, Nyandarua's bursary kitty, Co-operative Development Fund, Bodaboda operation and other sectors. We are currently working on Nyandarua's first Public Communication Bill.

The Directorate of Legal Affairs handles matters legal within the county mainly in the following areas: The Directorate of Legal Affairs handles all court matters pertaining to the County Government. We are currently handling about 140 cases on behalf of the County through its Legal Officers or through the County's panel of Advocates. Further, the Directorate has a draft policy that will guide on alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

The Directorate of Legal Affairs is responsible for drafting County laws in liason with other county departments and agencies.

The Directorate of Legal Affairs has in place County Laws, Bills, regulations and policies legislating on various issues including communication, public participation and civic education, county finances, revenue collection, traffic and transport management, trade, bursaries, education, health and agricultural development among others. Currently, the Directorate has published into law sixteen (16) Acts of the County Assembly. Two regulations have been tabled before the County Assembly and approved while five Bills are currently before the County Assembly pending deliberations and approval. The Directorate has seven (7) Bills undergoing review and clean-up for presentation to the County Assembly.

In the year 2017 particularly, the Directorate of Legal Affairs has published the Nyandarua County Public Participation and Civic Education Act, 2015 and the Nyandarua County Attorney Office Act, 2016. The Directorate of Legal Affairs is responsible for drafting of land sale agreements where the County Government needs to purchase land.

The County Government endeavours to put up Early Childhood Development Centres, dispensaries, public toilets, garbage pits, markets and polytechnics among others to enhance development within the County. To set up the said structures would require land within the various sub-counties and wards in the County. The Directorate of Legal Affairs drafts about fifty land agreements per financial year as need arises and as directed by the department in charge.

Further the Directorate drafts leases over premises used as County Government offices here in Ol'kalou town and the Sub-counties. The Directorate of Legal Affairs drafts Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) and agreements between the County Government and service providers and even investors willing to invest within the County.

The MOUs are mainly on issues of water and sanitation, agriculture, information and technology, education, health, revenue collection and transport among others to enhance sustainable development within the county. In addition, the Directorate of Legal Affairs has offered other general legal services to the County Government and its agencies on a continuous basis such as giving legal opinions, advisories and presiding over taking of oaths.

The Directorate of Legal Affairs is largely a service department and works together with all county department and agencies. However, the Directorate endeavours to have a functional court within the headquarters as cited above, a legal resource centre and a legal aid centre to assist the residents of the county in legal matters.

Mr Speaker Sir, allow me to make few comments touching on this important department. The ICT directorate set up the county website to enhance internal advertisement, saving Nyandarua millions of shillings in revenue. It has developed infrastructure, including the Local Area Network (LAN) and Wide Area Network (WAN), which have both enhanced communication.

Electronic tax collection is underway, which will save the county millions of shillings often lost in the hands of dishonest collectors. This department established the first information hub at the Kenya National Library Service's Ol'kalou unit in conjunction with the Information Communication Authority of Kenya.

Now, the unit has a dedicated internet connection and 10 computers for online research and communication. In yet another partnership with Airtel Kenya, we expanded access to the internet across various public schools in Nyandarua County.

For the first time, staff at the County Government headquarters in Ol'kalou and their counterparts in Kipipiri, Kinangop, Ndaragwa and OI'Joro-orok sub-counties can clock in at their workplaces via a biometric system installed by our ICT team a few days ago. An ICT Policy, Nyandarua's first, is now also ready.

Mr Speaker Sir, Sport is an important department in our County and Kenya as a whole as it is through sports that we are able to tap the potential of our youths and boost their future.

As you all know Nyandarua County has in the past produced renowned sportsmen who have attracted national and international attention.

During the past three years, my administration has upgraded various stadia in all the sub-counties to allow youths space to practice and harness their potential. Apart from levelling the ground in several stadia, we have also constructed dais and toilet facilities in others.

We have carried works in Engineer stadium, Heni, Njabini, Geta, OlJoro-orok, Kasuku, Mutanga, Kianjata, Ngano, Ndunyu Njeru and Turasha. Ol'kalou stadium is being upgraded to high standards in order to make it an ideal training ground not just for local and international athletes.

Mr Speaker, apart from sponsoring many athletic competitions locally and nationally, my administration has also spent a fortune in the purchase of sports good and equipment that have been distributed to various groups in all our sub-counties.

We have also partnered with various stakeholders in organising the annual Sasumua and Lake Ol'bollosat half marathon races for which our athletes have taken part.

My administration gravelled Lake Ol'bollosat access road from Kasuku town in Weru ward in order boost the number of participation in the annual event and also attract athletes for training and competition. In addition to the development projects highlighted above, the department has been able to sponsor individuals and teams to participate in the various sports events within the county and beyond. In the Kenya Youth Inter-counties Sports Association (KYISA), we have organized events from ward to national level for three consecutive years and the county government has been fully sponsored all the activities.

The County Government has also sponsored teams to all athletic events and our teams are the defending champions in track and field and cross-country events. This is very commendable Mr Speaker and we intend to continue supporting our teams.

Finally, the department of Youth Affairs has organized various youth programs and training in driving and entrepreneurship, registration of companies for youth and ensuring that they get opportunities to do business with the government.

This training is calculated to enhance the youth capacity to manage their lives and equip them with adequate information so they can effectively take part in employment and business. In tourism sector, my administration has taken steps to market Lake Ol'bollosat as a tourist destination by sponsoring public participation events with stake holders which includes: Community, Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Kenya Forest Service (KFS), Investors, Hoteliers, fishermen, farmers among others.

We are exploring the possibility of constructing a leisure park at Lake Ol'bollosat so as to increase the number of tourists coming to our county. We have also sponsored Cultural tourism events geared towards creating awareness among our people about their potential in marketing our county as a cultural tourist destination similar to Bomas of Kenya and others.

Honourable Members are aware that Nyandarua County has not featured prominently in the tourist circuit map drawn by the State Department of Tourism, something that has cost us dearly in revenue earnings. But my administration will continue to explore all open avenues geared towards marketing Nyandarua as a tourist destination and it is only a matter of time before we turn tables against other counties in our neighbourhood.

Mr Speaker, Sir, allow me now to conclude my remarks by mentioning something about this important department in my administration. In the effort to reduce over-reliance on the funding from the national government, this department has enhanced its capacity for local revenue generation. Through a revenue enhancement programme, local revenue collection has grown from Kshs. 138 million recorded in 2013/14 financial year to Kshs. 240 million in 2014/15 financial year and Kshs 281 million in 2015/2016 financial year, which translates to over 100% growth in three years.

We have also rolled out a County Revenue Automation System. Through automation, we have seen more improvement in revenue collection. In the first half of 2016/17 financial year, we were able to collect Kshs.102 million compared to Kshs. 88 million collected during the same period in 2015/16 financial year. Once finalised, the system will help to seal leakages and inefficiencies in our revenue collection translating to more resources available for development.

On the issue of budget implementation, I am happy to note that we have prepared and implemented budgets for the financial years 2013/2014, 2014/2015, 2015/2016 & 2016/17. These budgets have been prepared and implemented to actualize the aspirations of our people as captured in the Nyandarua County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2013-2017.

Our County Treasury has fully embraced the Integrated Financial Management System (IFMIS) and the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) in its financial operations and reporting. This is in line with Article 201 of the Constitution of Kenya to promote openness and accountability in use of public resources. In line with this we have continued to work with the office of Controller of Budget and that of the Auditor General to ensure our budgets are implemented as planned.

Mr Speaker, this department has formed and operationalized robust inspection and acceptance committees to ensure value for money, risk control and management on public procurements. We have also continued to strengthen the Internal Audit department which now has adequate personnel. Additionally, the County Audit committee has already been instituted. On the issue of debt management, I want to assure this House the County Government has not entered into any form of borrowing to finance its budgets. The preferred source of financing has remained the National transfers as part of the County's equitable share, locally generated revenue and grants. We have also continued to allocate funds to meet our pending bills to our suppliers. Consequently, the current debt level which is in form of pending bills is sustainable as the County can meet its obligations.

Mr Speaker, I have taken time to enumerate some of the activities that my administration has been involved in since assuming office in 2013. There are many other on-going projects being done in the grassroots and I know that those who reside in Nyandarua County know about them. This government has performed. We have done the best we could considering that we have been in office for only four years yet we have done numerous projects in roads, education, health, agriculture, water, co-operatives, sports and other sectors.

Mr Speaker, I am aware that politicians have invaded our villages telling our people all sorts of stories about our performance or lack of it during the few years we have been in office. You all know that ours was a humble beginning; we didn't have basic structures including county offices while the honourable Members of this Assembly have been operating from a church compound. But we have since established decent offices for both the executive and the legislative arm of the government and now we are moving to create regional offices across our county.

I want to assure my people that we are ready to face our detractors in the grassroots by openly defending our record in office while seeking for re-election for a second and final term.

Finally, I appeal to our people to vote wisely and to re-elect our President H.E. Hon. Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta for a second and final term. This is the only way we are assured of continuous development activities in Nyandarua County and Kenya as a whole.

Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: Very well. Your Excellency and Hon. Members, we have come to the conclusion of today's special sitting as required of us by the law and I think for us Hon.

Members, is to most sincerely thank His Excellency for always and for the last five sessions of this House appearing timely and per the requirement of the statutes, that is the County Government Act and delivering what you are supposed to communicate to this House. Without much ado, I would like to adjourn this House to tomorrow Wednesday the 5th day of April 2017 at 9.00 a.m.

DEPARTURE OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

(Hon. Members rose in their places as His Excellency the Governor left the Chamber)

(The House rose at 3.33 p.m.)