

# THARAKA NITHI COUNTY ASSEMBLY

## THE HANSARD

9<sup>th</sup> June 2020

*The County Assembly met at the  
County Assembly chambers in Kathwana at 9.30am*

*[The Speaker (Hon. D.J. Mbaya) in the Chair]*

## PRAYERS

## COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable members, good morning. I take this opportunity to welcome you for part II of the Fourth Session of the second Assembly as I trust you are all well energized and ready to fulfil your legislative roles as stipulated under Article 185 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 and Section 8 of the County Government Act 2012.

Honourable Members, as you are aware His Excellency the President of the republic of Kenya in his Eighth presidential address on the coronavirus pandemic urged the nation to work together, listen to and apply the regulations, guidelines and protocols issued by the Ministry of Health to help in curbing the spread of the virus. I urge all Members of the County Assembly and members of staff to continue observing all the guidelines issued via my communication on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020 and 5<sup>th</sup> May 2020 still remain in place until further guidelines are issued. Thank you honourable members and good morning. Next order.

## STATEMENTS

COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF YOUTHS AND SPORTS ACTION  
TOWARDS YOUTH DEPARTMENT

**Hon. Speaker:** Yes, honourable Gitonga Karen Karimi.

**Hon. Karen:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker Sir, I rise pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No.55 (1) (a) to seek a statement from the Chairperson committee on Youths, Sports, Culture and Social Services on the what the Department of Youths and Sports has done on youths' empowerment.

In the statement, the chairperson should respond to the following:

- i. . How are sports managed from ward level and how are stakeholders involved in the management?
- ii. In the current financial year 2019/2020, an allocation of Kshs. 20Million was approved for Youths Empowerment Programs. How were the funds utilized?
- iii. How far has the Sports Department implemented the approved Sports Policy?

Mr. Speaker, I believe the committee on Youths, Sports and culture will be able to answer the three questions and I will be able to speak to the people that I represent with the right information. Thank you.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you honourable Karen Karimi. Where is the chairman of the committee on youths, sports, culture and social services? Yes, honourable member for Mugwe. How much time do you require to respond to that statement?

**Hon. Denis:** Twenty-one days.

**Hon. Speaker:** Are you comfortable with that honourable Karen?

**Hon. Karen:** Mr. Speaker considering the people that I represent, 21 days is a long time. They are very restless. They need those answers.

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable members I do direct that the statement sought by honourable Gitonga Karen Karimi be referred to the committee on youth, sports, culture and social services and a response be filled for this house within the next 14 days, thank you. Next order.

## **MOTION AND BILLS**

### **BILLS**

#### **SECOND READING**

THE THARAKA NITHI COUNTY REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS BILL 2020

**Hon. Speaker:** Yes, honourable Charles Nyaga, member for Mitheru.

**Hon. Charles Nyaga:** Thank you Mr. Speaker sir. I rise to move that pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order number 153, the Tharaka Nithi County reproductive health Bill 2020 be read the second time upon this 14<sup>th</sup> day of August 2020. I request honourable Margret to second.

**Hon. Speaker:** Yes, honourable Margret Gitari, member for Chogoria.

**Hon. Margret:** I second Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you. Honourable members I now propose the question, that the Tharaka Nithi County reproductive health Bill 2020 be read the second time upon this day 14<sup>th</sup> August 2020. The floor is now open for debate. Yes, honourable minority leader and member for Muthambi.

**Hon. Derebia:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. The reason you see me surprised is because it is your eyes that have spotted me I wanted someone to expound more so that I get what this is because if I say I support...

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable member my eyes are always attempted to see you.

**Hon. Derebia:** Yes Mr. speaker. Sometimes I can say I support the reproductive system Bill where I say whatever can be done to people. It is better I get the content or what is being done by this Bill.

**Hon. Speaker:** The motion is seeking to adjourn the second reading to the 14<sup>th</sup> of August. It is just a procedural motion.

**Hon. Derebia:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the mover for the Bill. I support him and the moment he will present it he will be more elaborate. I support.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you. Yes, honourable Karen Karimi.

**Hon. Karen:** Mr. Speaker that is a Bill and since the honourable member is seeking to get more time I support.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you, yes, honourable Erastus Kinyua.

**Hon. Kinyua:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I think I have a certain opinion that since it is a Bill and I don't think other members have a copy of that Bill let us be provided with a copy to go through it.

**Hon. Speaker:** That is noted honourable Kinyua but without any deviating all what the mover is seeking is to have the second reading of the Bill rescheduled to the 14<sup>th</sup> of August 2020.

**Hon. Kinyua:** I support.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you. Yes, honourable member for Karingani.

**Hon. Muchiri:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I stand to support the chairman health committee. This Bill need a lot of consultations with the stakeholders. It needs public participation. I believe the reason why he wants the extension of time is so that they can have those interactions with the relevant stakeholders. I support believing that the Corona virus has brought a lot of changes to our programs. That is probably why the committee may have been unable to consult further so that they can bring this report to the house for the second reading. I support so that they can get time believing the Corona virus pandemic will be over before August. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you honourable Godfrey Muchiri. Yes, honourable member for Ciakariga.

**Hon. Njagi:** Thank you Mr. Speaker sir. I rise to support the motion by the chairman health committee. Let them be given time to go through this Bill and also consult the stakeholders. Being the chair of the health committee and the eldest man in this house it would be wrong to bring us something that he has not sanitized. I support.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you honourable John Njagi. Yes, honourable Asumpta

**Hon. Asumpta:** Thank you Mr. Speaker sir, as a member of the health committee I support the extension.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you. Honourable members, regards being taken to the mood in the house allow me to put the question.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

Next order.

THE THARAKA NITHI COUNTY LIVESTOCK SALES YARD BILL, 2020

**Hon. Speaker:** Yes, honourable Jones Kinegeni, member for Mwimbi.

**Hon. Kinegeni:** Thank you Mr. Speaker sir, I rise to move that pursuant to the provision of Standing Order 153, the Tharaka Nithi County Livestock Sales Yard Bill, 2020 be read the second time upon this date 14<sup>th</sup> of August 2020. I request honourable Erastus Kinyua to second.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you. Yes, honourable member for Mariani.

**Hon. Kinyua:** Mr. Speaker as per the situation of the Corona Virus pandemic all over the world the committee was not able to consult all the relevant stake holders for the Bill to be ready for the second reading today. I second.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you. Honourable members I now propose the question, that pursuant to the provision of Standing Order 153, the Tharaka Nithi County Livestock Sales Yard Bill, 2020 be read the second time upon this date 14<sup>th</sup> of August 2020. The floor is now open for debate. Yes, honourable John Njagi Mucee, member for Ciakariga.

**Hon. Njagi:** Thank you Mr. Speaker sir, considering what the seconder has said that the committee failed to meet due to the Corona virus pandemic, I marry the idea that nobody wants to die, we all fear it, and also we have to abide by the regulations given by the president. For this reason, I support that they be given time for them to go through it and to involve various stakeholders so that everyone will feel involved. Thank you.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you, the floor is still open for debate. Yes, honourable Godfrey Murithi.

**Hon. Muchiri:** Thank you, honourable Speaker I am a member of this committee and when we hear the word sales it means that there are some taxes that will be involved. When we hear livestock mostly it is the lower sides that keeps livestock. There is need to have a lot of consultations with these stakeholders. Due to the Corona Virus pandemic we had a lot of fear for movement, especially those who stay in towns we fear taking the virus to the rural areas. Because now we think we are going to attach the style of Corona Virus we can work on the Bill within the time that is being sought. I support in the believe that we are going to be thorough when it comes to consulting on these Bills. Thank you honourable Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you. The floor is still open for debate. Yes, honourable Wilson Nyaga, member for Muthambi.

**Hon. Derebia:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, I rise to support. We know we have this pandemic and we don't even know whether by August whether it will have come down. If that time comes and we still have the disease, we will keep on postponing until the day it works well. I support and urge the house to keep praying for this nation against this killer disease. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you. The floor is still open for debate. honourable members, regards being taken by the mood in the house and the fact that we are aware of the business that we have today allow me to now put the question.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

Next order.

THE THARAKA NITHI COUNTY E-WASTE MANAGEMENT BILL, 2020

**Hon. Speaker:** Yes, honourable Margaret Gitari, member for Chogoria.

**Hon. Margaret:** I rise to move that pursuant to the provision of Standing Order 153, the Tharaka Nithi County E-waste Management Bill, 2020 be read the second time upon this 28<sup>th</sup> day of July 2020. I request honourable Susan to second.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you, yes, honourable Susan Ngugi, member for Marimanti.

*(Honourable Susan stood in her place and bowed to second)*

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable members I now propose the question, that pursuant to the provision of Standing Order 153, the Tharaka Nithi County E-waste Management Bill, 2020 be read the second time upon this 28<sup>th</sup> day of July 2020. The floor is now open for debate. Yes, honourable Denis Mutwiri, member for Mugwe.

**Hon. Denis:** I support.

**Hon Speaker:** Thank you. Yes, honourable Godfrey Murithi Muchiri.

**Hon. Muchiri:** Mr. Speaker before speak to the motion I think honourable Gataya is not obeying the Corona Virus rules.

*(Laughter)*

He has just come and sat here next to me and I here where he is coming from and also remembering his age bracket is not that all conducive for him...

*(Laughter)*

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable Mwenda Gataya, member for Mukothima.

**Hon. Gataya:** Honourable Speaker I don't come from the coast.

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable Mwenda Gataya are you observing the Covid-19 protocols?

*(Honourable Mwenda Gataya changed his sitting position)*

Thank you.

*(Laughter)*

Proceed honourable member for Karingani.

**Hon. Muchiri:** Thank you honourable Speaker but I am not save because I know honourable Gataya is a traveller.

**Hon. Speaker:** Just alert me in the event that you find that he is going against the laid down protocols.

**Hon. Muchiri:** He is not keeping the social distance.

**Hon. Speaker:** The Sergeant-at-arms enforce the Covid-19 guidelines.

*(Applause)*

Yes, honourable Millicent.

**Hon. Muggana:** Thank you honourable Speaker, I rise to support. But even as we support the postponing I want to echo the words of the honourable chairman of the budget committee that even as we take into account the pandemic and even as we postpone the seconds reading of these Bills, the committees responsible especially the trade committee that I sit in, we should all be ready to continue engaging the stakeholders so that by the time we bring the Bills these Bills go through and they be implemented. Remember we are running out of time in our tenure. We should be looking at time so that we don't pass these at the end of our tenure. I support and ask that even as we go through the pandemic we just don't put the Bills in our lockers.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you. The floor is still open for debate. Yes, honourable Gitonga Leonard, member for Nkondi.

**Hon. Gitonga:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, I am a member of this committee that is seeking extension of time and I believe this extension will give us more time to engage our people who are very keen with those Bills so that at the end of the day we come up with an all-inclusive Bill that is acceptable across the board. I believe the extension of time will give us room to engage more, I support.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you. Honourable members, regards being taken to the mood of the house, allow me to now put the question.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

Next order.

THE THARAKA NITHI COUNTY TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT  
MANAGEMENT BILL, 2020

**Hon. Speaker:** Yes, honourable Majority Leader.

**Hon. Kathenya:** Yes, honourable Speaker. I rise to move that pursuant to the provision of Standing Order 153, the Tharaka Nithi County Traffic and Transport Management Bill, 2020 be read the second time upon this 4<sup>th</sup> day of August 2020. I request honourable Denis to second.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you. Yes, honourable Denis Mutwiri.

*(Honourable Denis stood in his place and bowed to second)*

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable members, I now propose the question that that pursuant to the provision of Standing Order 153, the Tharaka Nithi County Traffic and Transport Management Bill, 2020 be read the second time upon this 4<sup>th</sup> day of August 2020. The floor is now open for debate. Yes, honourable member for Igambang'ombe.

*(The speaker pointing to another member who is not the member for Igambang'ombe)*

*(Laughter)*

No sorry. I apologize for that but with the masks and the conditions that we are working in, I am also human who can make mistakes. Yes, honourable Karen.

**Hon. Karen:** Mr. Speaker I believe this is where honourable Njeri sits that is why you thought it was the member of Igambang'ombe. And for the same reason why the second reading of the other bills have been postponed I support this one as well.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you. The floor is still open for debate. yes, honourable Margret Gitari.

**Hon. Margret:** Thank you Mr. Speaker I stand to support the extension of time and it should be noted that we have postponed quite a number of Bills because we have not been able to interact with our people. It is important that when we come for the second reading all the committees should have found time one way or the other to make sure that the public participation and other activities take place so that we don't continue delaying because we have rules guiding us such as social distancing. I support but we should move out and see how we can carry out these activities so that we have the second reading at the appropriate time. I support.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you. Yes, honourable John Njagi Mucee.

**Hon. Njagi:** Mr. Speaker sir I rise to support. But even as I support, I still feel that because transportation is devolved and that commodities must be transported, the committee should look at the goods transported, their value when they will be putting the taxation value. Because the value of a lorry of manure and the value of a lorry of sand should not be the same. The value of banana and the value of farm input appliances should not be the same. They should consider various things as they set the taxation. Thank you and I support.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you. Yes, honourable Mwenda Gataya, member for Mukothima.

**Hon. Gataya:** Thank you chair, I was about to say that The Bill process is a very tedious process and it requires a lot of time, engagements and under these situations that we are currently in it is very important for us to formulate modalities through which we are going to make sure that any Bill that is proposed in the Assembly represents the wishes of the people. I strongly support.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you. Yes, honourable Millicent.

**Hon. Muggana:** Thank you honourable Speaker I rise to support. I will echo the words of honourable Gataya that a Bill is very tasking. And again as we do these extensions, we know Cap 403 of traffic licencing Act from the national government that we should be replicating has a lot of information on motorcycles on the side of traffic regulations. I insist that the committee that is dealing on this Bill, I remember a while back we had a statement on motorcycle noise and the way they are causing havoc in our county, now that we have

reduced number of accidents and people are a bit calm during this pandemic, the committee should look at the regulation of motorcycle conclusively and in detail so that by the time the bill is coming back it tackles the statement that was sought earlier. I support.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you. The floor is still open for debate. honourable members, regards being taken to the mood in the house, I now put the question.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

Next order.

THE THARAKA NITHI COUNTY ALCOHOLIC DRINKS CONTROL  
AMENDMENT BILL, 2020

**Hon. Speaker:** Yes, honourable Jones Kinegeni.

**Hon. Kinegeni:** Thank you Mr. Speaker sir. I rise to move that pursuant to the provision of Standing Order 153, the Tharaka Nithi County Alcoholic Drinks Control Amendment Bill, 2020 be read the second time upon this 28<sup>th</sup> day of July 2020. I request honourable Gataya to second.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you. Yes, honourable Mwenda Gataya.

*(Honourable Gataya stood in his place and bowed to second)*

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you. Honourable members I now propose the question that pursuant to the provision of Standing Order 153, the Tharaka Nithi County Alcoholic Drinks Control Amendment Bill, 2020 be read the second time upon this 28<sup>th</sup> day of July 2020. The floor is now open for debate. Yes, honourable Karen Karimi.

**Hon. Karen:** Mr. Speaker I don't know what we are debating here because we don't have the same in our Order Paper.

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable members, I am informed that the message that was sent to all the members contains some errors. And in the interest of expediency and justice for the members of Tharaka Nithi county I am urging that we proceed and do this motion. The motion is only procedural. Yes, honourable Margret Gitari.

**Hon. Margret:** Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me this chance. I think this honourable house will not be able to debate issues that are not in the Order Paper because we will be debating things that look...

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable Margret Gitari I am informed that it is on the Order Paper but there were some errors.

**Hon. Margret:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. But it is not in the Order Paper that is before us.

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable Margret Gitari I have already ruled as the Speaker kindly take directions. Let's proceed.

**Hon. Margret:** Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** The floor is open for debate. yes, honourable member for Karingani.

**Hon. Muchiri:** Mr. Speaker I think changes have problems sometimes. We are moving from analogue to digital and since maybe the one who was typing the Order Paper so that they can send to our phones is not the same person who did the Order Paper. And because honourable Speaker you have already ruled...

**Hon. Speaker:** ...and the motion is being argued by none other than my own member.

*(Laughter)*

**Hon Muchiri:** Yes, so honourable Speaker let us discuss this motion because it is a request that the second reading can be done on another day. Considering that that is what we have done for all other Bills because of the times and the need to consult the stakeholders. If this motion is not passed in this house today it won't be fair because the second reading will have to happen today. I request the honourable members to discuss the motion the way it is as we move from analogue to digital. I support honourable Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you honourable member for Karingani. Yes, honourable Erastus Kinyua.

Hon. Kinyua: Thank you chair we agree that there is a typo on the Standing Orders and therefore I stand to support the postponement of the second reading to the 28<sup>th</sup> and I commit as the chair of that committee to push it so that we can have a report here. Mr. Speaker I support.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you. Yes, honourable Karen Karimi.

**Hon. Karen:** Mr. Speaker I rise to support knowing very well that your mercy will come to me another time.

*(Laughter)*

**Hon. Speaker:** The floor is still open for debate. Yes, honourable member for Karingani.

**Hon. Muchiri:** Honourable Speaker I just wanted to thank the honourable member who noted that the motion is not in the Order Paper. It seems that the members are very serious when it comes to the business of the day.

**Hon. Speaker:** The floor is still open for debate. yes, honourable member for Mitheru.

**Hon. Charles Nyaga:** Thank you Mr. Speaker I stand to support but I have a comment to make.

**Hon. Speaker:** Kindly do not comment on the Speakers' ruling.

*(Laughter)*

**Hon. Charles Nyaga:** Mr. Speaker I would like to say that although you have the overall power you also should look at the Standing Order that supports the overruling message. The veto vote is with the Speaker. Thank you I support.

*(Laughter)*

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable member if you look at the provisions of the constitution more emphasis is placed on the substance than the form. Just a mere title cannot make us sit here another day. Thank you. Yes, honourable Wilson Nyaga.

**Hon. Derebia:** Thank you Mr. Speaker I rise to support the Extension of the second reading for the Bill. I want to echo the sentiments made by the member for Karingani. I will add that the Covid-19 has made us move from the first generation to the fifth generation. We have to experience some technical difficulties because we are all human beings. I support.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you member for Muthambi. Regards being taken to the mood in the house, I now put the question.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

Next order.

## COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable members, as you may recall on 5th May 2020 the Tharaka Nithi County Assembly and County Executive Budget Estimates for the Financial year 2020/21 were laid on the table of the House and committed to the Committee on Finance, Budget and Appropriation and Sectoral Committees as provided for under Assembly Standing Order 243.

Honourable Members, the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 Section 132 provides that each year the County Executive Committee Member responsible for Finance shall make pronouncement of the revenue raising measures for the County Government in the County Assembly.

Further, Section 132(2) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 provides that on the same date that the revenue raising measures are pronounced, the County Executive Committee Member responsible for Finance shall submit to the County Assembly the County Finance Bill setting out the revenue raising measures for the County Government together with a policy statement expounding on those measures.

Honourable Members, this is therefore to inform you that pursuant to Tharaka Nithi County Assembly Standing Order 36(a), I shall admit the County Executive Committee Member responsible for Finance and the assisting Officer in the Chamber after the conclusion of today's House Business. I also direct the County Executive Committee Member responsible for Finance to make pronouncement of the Budget revenue raising measures for the County Government together with a policy statement expounding on those measures as contemplated under Section 132(2) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012.

Further, I direct that the County Executive Committee Member responsible for Finance during the pronouncement of the Budget revenue raising measures shall be heard in silence and no question and comment shall follow.

The House is accordingly guided. Thank you.

*(The CECM Member for Finance and Economic Planning  
(Ms. Dorothy Igoki) was ushered into the chamber)*

## **THE BUDGET STATEMENT**

### **PRONOUNCEMENT OF BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS AND REVENUE RAISING MEASURES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2020/2021**

#### **The CEC Member for Finance and Economic Planning (Ms. Dorothy I. Naivasha):**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. My name is Dorothy Naivasha I am the CECM in charge of Finance and Economic Planning.

Honourable Speaker of the County Assembly, honourable members of the County Assembly, invited guests, ladies and gentlemen good morning.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, it is indeed an honour for me to stand before this honourable house to present the key Budget highlights as outlined in the budget for the

financial year 2020/2021. I take this earliest opportunity to deliver greetings and a message of goodwill from His Excellency the Governor, Hon. Muthomi Njuki and the entire County Executive.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to present the eighth budget statement being cognizant of the heavy constitutional, legal and moral responsibility bestowed upon all of us by the great people of Tharaka Nithi County. We can all attest that devolution was the most revolutionary aspect of the Constitution 2010, bringing governance close to the people. We are the custodians of the aspirations and dreams of our citizenry, to uphold Tharaka Nithi County as the Haven of Value Addition.

Mr. Speaker, the budget has been prepared amidst hard economic times and shocks brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. As we are all aware, on March 11<sup>th</sup> 2020, the World Health Organization announced that COVID-19 was officially a pandemic, the highest level of health emergency. It has spread to over 190 countries and 36 counties in Kenya. The pandemic is having a noticeable impact on the global economic growth. Estimates so far indicate the virus could trim global economic growth by as much 2% per month if the current conditions persist. Global trade could also fall by 13% to 32% depending on the depth and extent of the global economic downturn. A growing list of economic indicators makes it clear that the outbreak is negatively affecting global economic growth on a scale that has not been experienced since at least the global financial crisis of 2008-2009. Global trade and GDP are forecast to decline sharply at least through the first half of 2020. The global pandemic is affecting a broad swath of international economic and trade activities, from services generally to tourism and hospitality, medical supplies and other global value chains, consumer electronics, and financial markets, energy, transportation, food, and a range of social activities, to name a few. The health and economic crises could have a particularly negative impact on the economies of developing countries that are constrained by limited financial resources and where health systems could quickly become overloaded.

Mr. Speaker, the pandemic crisis is challenging governments to implement monetary and fiscal policies that support credit markets, strengthen health systems, scale up surveillance capacities and sustain economic activities. As County Government we are cognizant of the post-COVID-19 effects on the livelihood of our citizens. As a response, we allocated through supplementary budgets in the current financial year 2019/2020 additional medical supplies in our hospitals of Kshs 61 million, set aside Kshs 17 million for public health sensitization and

support to Community Health Volunteers (CHVs), and 39.7 million towards Various interventions to mitigate against the COVID-19 Pandemic such as purchase of Protection Equipment for our health workers, operationalization of the Isolation Centres, and Kshs 9 million towards emergency fund among others.

The development priorities that we focus on as a County Government are outlined in our various policy documents and embedded in our County Integrated Development Plan(CIDP) are guided by our vision, our mission and our values. Our county Vision, “A prosperous, industrialized and cohesive County,” informs our long-term goals and strategies aimed at positioning the county at a global competitive edge. Mr. Speaker, consistent with this vision, our Mission which focuses on “Enhancing sustainable socioeconomic growth and optimal utilization of resources” aligns the county to the Sustainable Development Goals and Vision 2030. Most importantly our values namely Integrity, Inclusiveness, Citizen-focused approach, Transparency, Accountability and Team work in collectively managing public affairs continue to be our guiding principles in our everyday engagements.

Mr. Speaker, this year’s Budget is governed by the theme that was expounded in the County Fiscal Strategy Paper 2020 of “Sustaining Development through Economic Transformation”. This means we need to remain resilient as county despite the anticipated negative effects of COVID-19.

Mr. Speaker, the county government continues to ensure commitment to prosperity of the county through implementation of programmes that are geared towards uplifting the living standards of citizens. This budget statement is going to outline the broad policy goals and strategies that have been earmarked to ensure that the fruits of devolution are fully realized along the Vision 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Mr. Speaker, Article 174 of the Constitution provides that one of the key objectives of devolution is to promote social and economic development and provide proximate, easily accessible services throughout Kenya. An Analysis of Public Participation engagements in counties, indicate that the people are more informed of the functions of county governments and they continue to demand for proper governance and accountability from public offices. The County Government, in a bid to fulfil its mandate has over the years engaged in development initiatives that have well defined inputs, outputs and outcomes and consequently improved the livelihoods of the people. The County aims at unlocking its full potential and

enhance service delivery in accordance with constitutional objectives on devolution. We shall continue to collaborate with the National Government, our development partners and other stakeholders in order to explore various strategies for resource mobilization. This will ensure that we harness enough resources to provide improved road networks, food security, quality education, universal health care, creating business opportunities for youth, women and people living with disabilities and foster economic development county wide.

Mr. Speaker, since the onset of Devolution, various agencies, through the Ministry of Devolution have partnered with the counties to develop policy documents to guide the implementation of devolution and have also developed capacity building programs to strengthen compliance to various statutes and improve service delivery. Consequently, notable progress has been made in development of County policies, Planning, Budgeting and monitoring activities. I wish to reiterate the County Government commitment to progressively and boldly confront the challenges we face today as we spearhead development for a better tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, the general policy direction by H.E the Governor and the County Executive Committee is to have a budget that ensures a shift from brick and motor to an approach that enhances economic development through completion and operationalization of all ongoing Projects. This will ensure that our people get value for money and enjoy utilization of these facilities which include but not limited to, the modern OPDs at Marimanti and Chuka Hospitals, the Agricultural Training Institute, the Various Health Centres and Dispensaries, the cereal stores, the County Social Hall at Kathwana, Small Scale Business stalls, modern markets and the County Vet lab.

Mr. Speaker, in summary the priorities set out in this year's budget are as follows:

- 1) Implementing measures to transform agriculture for improved production and productivity;
- 2) Ensuring access to quality and affordable health services;
- 3) Providing efficient, affordable and reliable infrastructure and services for sustainable economic growth;
- 4) Promoting quality, inclusive, diverse, accessible vocational and early childhood education.
- 5) Creating a conducive business environment;

- 6) Attaining efficient, equitable and sustainable use of land resource, spatial planning and development of urban areas;
- 7) Ensuring provision of efficient and effective public service delivery; and
- 8) Strengthening the democratic space and promoting good governance.

Mr. Speaker, the contribution, cooperation in facilitating legislative proposals in support of budget preparation and implementation, and the insights of this 2<sup>nd</sup> Assembly in the overall administration of the County cannot go unmentioned. In order to achieve our strategic objectives, we all have to pull in the same direction. This is a collective responsibility, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the Executive, I want to sincerely thank you all for your undying support amidst our myriad challenges. The estimable relationship between the two arms of the County Government is the catalyst of good governance and consequently a prosperous county.

The fiscal framework for the financial year 2020/2021 budget;

Mr. Speaker, the budget estimates for FY 2020/2021 and MTEF period have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 and the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act, 2012.

Mr. Speaker, the 2020/2021 financial year budget is Kshs 5.1 billion compared to Kshs 4.7 billion for FY 2019/2020 that I announced last year. The total budget projection constitutes equitable share from National Government of Kshs 3.8 billion, conditional grants of Kshs 993.1 million and own source revenue of Kshs 325 million. Therefore, our planned expenditure equals our planned revenues and is in compliant with Section 31 of The Public Finance Management (County Government) Regulations 2015.

The recurrent expenditure will take Kshs 3.4 billion representing 67.0 percent of total budget while development expenditure is at Kshs 1.7 billion (33.0 percent). This is in line with Section 107 Sub-section 2(b) of PFM Act 2012 which requires county governments to allocate at least thirty percent of total budget as development expenditure in the medium term.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to highlight key strategies and priorities featured in the FY 2020/21 budget.

Mr. Speaker, the economy of this county mainly depends on agricultural activities. In the last one year the County has experienced favourable weather that has enhanced productivity of the sector. However, availability of ready markets for the produce, high cost of inputs and the recent locust invasion has been the major challenge. Mr. Speaker, I have allocated a total of Kshs 704.4 million to the agriculture sector with Kshs 574.3 million being for Agriculture, Cooperatives and Industry while Kshs 130.1 million is for Livestock, Veterinary and Fisheries Development. In this sector, Kshs 500.9 million and 203.5 million has been set aside for capital and recurrent expenditure respectively. The total allocation of Kshs 704.4 million compared Kshs 186.8 million allocated in FY 2019/2020. The increase is consistent with sector's policy direction of transforming agriculture for increased production.

Specifically, Kshs 350 million has been allocated towards the programmes under Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture which is a joint initiative between the County Government and the World Bank, Kshs 21.1 million for the Agriculture Sector Development Programme covering the banana, cereal and dairy value chains, Kshs 25 million to operationalize the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) at Itugururu in Igambang'ombe ward, and Kshs 15 million to provide farm inputs to farmers under Crop Subsidy Programme. I have also allocated Kshs 17 million to support the coffee and tea sub-sectors through revitalization programme and Kshs 14 million to support the artificial insemination (AI) programme which is intended to improve livestock production and breed quality. This is one of our major flagship programs.

Mr. Speaker, as you are aware the County Government has continued to invest heavily in the health sector in a bid to provide the highest quality and accessible healthcare services to our citizens. In the last three years the County Government has been able to modernize infrastructure in our three major hospitals. For instance, at Magutuni Hospital we have built a modern laboratory, operationalized the theatre and general facelift of the hospital. At Marimanti Hospital we have established a modern pathology unit and an outpatient block which should be complete in a few months. At Chuka Referral Hospital, the County Government has established an oxygen refilling and reticulation plant, constructed modern amenity, paediatric and maternity wards, constructed a modern kitchen and a state-of-heart outpatient block which is 90% complete. Additionally, we have progressively completed and equipped other smaller health facilities countywide.

Mr. Speaker, in the Financial Year 2020/2021, I have allocated Kshs 1.64 billion to the health sector being Kshs 1.55 billion and Kshs 81.1 million for recurrent and development

expenditures respectively. The health sector spends most of our wage bill but it is a service industry. It also includes drugs and pharmaceuticals and other recurrent items. In order to strengthen primary healthcare systems, I have allocated Kshs 280.9 million for Public Health including enhancing the capacity of 1000 Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) offering level one primary healthcare at the community level. I have allocated Kshs 60 million for hospital equipment, being funded by Kenya Devolution Support Programme (KDSP) and Kshs 34 million for rehabilitation and completion of 16 health centres. I have also allocated Kshs 4 million for completion of KMTC Phase I, Kshs 11 million for construction of pathology unit at Chuka Referral Hospital, Kshs 27 million for operationalization of Chuka Hospital Outpatient Block and Kshs 3 million for construction of radiology unit at Kibung'a Hospital.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Education, Vocational Training, Youth, Culture and Tourism is a key sector in our county despite some of its functions not being devolved. The County Government has overall responsibilities over early childhood development, vocational training and culture while youth and tourism are partially devolved. The County has 434 of ECD centres with 261 of ECDE classes constructed since 2013.

Additionally, the County Government has issued a total of Kshs 19,640,165 to 5,190 of beneficiaries through the bursary and scholarship programme. The department has been provided with a combined allocation of Kshs 402.3 million with Kshs 285.6 and Kshs 116.6 as recurrent and development expenditures respectively.

Mr. Speaker, I have allocated Kshs 31.6 million for construction of ECDE classes, Kshs 60.5 million for rehabilitation and running of our vocational institutions and Kshs 31.7 million for the bursaries and County Government scholarships. The recurrent allocation of Kshs 285.6 million will cover the salaries needs for the 453 ECDE care givers who have been confirmed into permanent and pensionable terms, provide learning and other materials to the ECDE and vocational centres and ensure adequate monitoring of the institutions in the county.

Mr. Speaker, as part of efforts to boost trade during post-COVID-19 and unemployment accelerated by the pandemic, I have allocated Kshs 25 million to initiate youth empowerment programs in the county, Kshs 8 million to equip the Kathwana Social Hall and Kshs 10 million for development of Kairuni grounds. The County Government will continue to

support various cultural activities, sporting activities including the county marathon, intercountry games and other tournaments once it is confirmed safe to do so.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Roads, Infrastructure, Public Works and ICT target to improve accessibility and connectivity to trading centres, markets, dispensaries, schools and other public places through provision of reliable infrastructure including construction of bridges. To do this, frequent improvement of all-weather roads, feeder roads, market roads, public places, and regulating the transport system will need to be carried out. I am happy to hear there is a Bill on this. Further, funding for the development of office spaces and completion of the county headquarters will remain a priority within the administration to ensure that public officers have conducive working spaces that enhance public service delivery.

Mr. Speaker, transport infrastructure and communication systems are major contributors to economic development through promoting trade and access to socio-cultural services by easing movement of goods and people. The County Government has employed a mixed model in implementing road projects whereby major works involving county trunk roads and major access roads have been contracted while routine maintenance, opening and expansion of feeder roads and other minor civil works are carried out using county own machinery and staff. The benefits of the road equipment cannot be gainsaid. In the last financial year, we have been able to open 276.5 kilometres, expand 271.3 kilometres and marmam 183.4 kilometres using our own road equipment. This is equivalent of Kshs 320.8 million should the works had been contracted. However, Mr. Speaker, we have experienced numerous challenges when using our own equipment including transportation, capacity issues, and lack of proper schedule to guide utilization of the machinery. In order to address these challenges, Mr. Speaker, we have acquired a low-loader to help in transportation of the heavy earth moving machinery. We are also going to recruit additional operators and road inspectors, ensure key staff have adequate skills through continuous capacity building and training. This will be coupled by increased direct supervision by road inspectors and indirect supervision through continuous monitoring and evaluation of all works being carried out with our road equipment and machinery. Finally, Mr. Speaker, I have guided the respective department to develop a clear schedule of the planned works for the financial year 2020/2021 to be tabled in this August House for approval and adoption and strictly ensure that there shall be quarterly reports being submitted to this honourable House indicating the progress of implementation.

This will not only guarantee value for money for the resources used to acquire the machinery but also ensure that the equipment have been utilized effectively and efficiently.

Mr. Speaker, the county will receive Kshs 115 million as conditional allocation from Kenya Roads Board through the Roads Maintenance Fuel Levy Fund for maintenance of county major roads. This will be supplemented by Kshs 380 million contribution by the County Government for development of road infrastructure. In this regard, the financial year 2020/21 budget the department has a planned development expenditure of Kshs 495.08 million. Out of this this, Kshs. 150 million has been allocated for the ongoing tarmacking of Tunyai-Nthaara-Marimanti road, Mitheru-Kaanwa road and Chera-Kambandi-Ruguti road. A further Kshs. 25 million will be utilized to construct footbridges and bridges and Kshs 105 million has been set aside for the maintenance of key ward roads with each ward being allocated Kshs 7 million. In promoting gains made in improving our roads with our own machines we have also allocated Kshs 55 million to facilitate the operations of the road equipment and machinery including their maintenance, fuel and minor civil works such as installation of culverts.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Water Services and Irrigation has been allocated Kshs 194.4 million compared to 120.75 million allocated in financial year 2019/2020 budget. Kshs 51.2 million for recurrent operations while Kshs 143.2 has been allocated to development activities.

Mr. Speaker, access to portable water for domestic use and irrigation water is key priority of this government. In the proposed budget, we have identified 15 irrigation projects, 6 domestic water projects, 21 boreholes and 6 springs and shallow wells to be rehabilitated in addition to the numerous projects funded by our development partners. The Chiakariga market (Chiakamakama) water project will get additional funding of Kshs 8.5 million which is aimed at addressing the perennial water shortages at Chiakariga market by installation of a standby generator, water booster pumping system at KEWI tank and installation of watering points within the market. The Ura-Kathangacini-Kamacabi water project has also been allocated Kshs 7 million to re-install a section of 6 kilometres of damaged pipeline along Gatithini-Maua road. This water project serves the lower regions of Gatunga and Mukothima wards which are drought prone areas. Kshs 5 million has been allocated to Kithuru irrigation project in Chogoria ward for construction of intake along South Maara River while Kshs 7 million has been allocated to Mbogoni Irrigation Project serving Magumoni and Igambang'ombe

wards to redesign and realign a section of the mainline. The department has also prioritized harnessing of ground water through the Kshs 41.3 million allocated for drilling of boreholes in various places in our wards using county drilling rig.

Mr. Speaker, the 'Big Four Agenda' aims at realizing the key pillars of Vision 2030. Our own development plans are designed with this in mind and consequently aligned and linked to these fundamental blueprints. The investment in irrigation water projects is part of the efforts to ensure food security by increasing the acreage under irrigation and reduce over reliance on rain fed agriculture. In the last three seasons, we have experienced copious harvest due to the moderate-to-above average rainfall patterns. However, this was preceded by long period of drought. It is for these realities that we have provided Kshs 61.5 million to support 15 small holder irrigation schemes. Going forward, it is our greatest hope that through the national government and development partners we will provide sufficient water for irrigation by construction of dams across our major rivers, earth-dams and water-pans to complement our efforts in the sector.

Mr. Speaker, in order to recreate and ensure a clean environment within our county, the department of Lands, Physical Planning, Urban Development, Natural Resources and Environment has been allocated a total of Kshs 315.5 million being Kshs 107.4 million and Kshs 208.1 million for recurrent and development expenditures respectively.

Mr. Speaker, Kathwana Municipality being our headquarters is our inestimable 'child' as Tharaka Nithi County, we have to develop it. As a result, the Kathwana Municipality improvement programme devised to spearhead development has been ongoing and Phase I tarmacking of 1.2 kilometres complete with construction of pedestrian walkways remaining to be completed with the next two months. The next project in our Municipality will focus on improving the livelihoods of the traders by creating a conducive business environment through construction of a modern market to host over 500 traders once complete. Consequently, plans are underway to relocate the traders already using the old market to pave way for construction of the modern facility. Additionally, the Kathwana Municipality will get more resources through Sustainable Urban Economic Development programme (SUED) funded by the United Kingdom to a total of Kshs 800 million comprising of capacity building of municipal staff, technical support and direct investment in identified value chains.

Mr. Speaker, in order to create a conducive environment for doing business Kshs 10 million has been allocated to construct market stalls for small scale traders. This will not only improve the working conditions of the traders who are currently on makeshift structures but also boost their business incomes. Kshs 15 million has been allocated for improvement of small markets targeting each ward with an allocation of Kshs 1 million. Additionally, Kshs 5 million and Kshs 8 million has been allocated for cabro-paving of Chogoria Parking lots and construction of Mukothima Market respectively.

Mr. Speaker, the department will also receive Kshs 10 million for spatial plan development. Planning is core to any consequential development hence it needs to be strengthened. The ongoing development of the county spatial plan is in partnership with University of Nairobi and will help the county define utilization of land resources in a more sustainable and predictable manner. The planned Chuka Town physical plan will form the first update to the existing plan that was developed in 1988 which has resulted in latest demolitions of buildings that were established outside this approved plan. Therefore, the significance of these plans in identifying and developing social amenities, both for public and private use, in all markets and major towns cannot be overstated.

Mr. Speaker, The Department of Energy and Housing continues to support delivery of better services by ensuring there is reliable and sustainable energy and adequate housing facilities. Thus the department has been allocated Kshs 15 million for reticulation of power targeting the County Government facilities such as health centres, trading centres and ECD centres in addition to connecting unreached vulnerable communities.

Mr. Speaker, the highlights cannot be all painstaking. However, this is a phlegm and determination of County Government in delivering its promise to the people of Tharaka Nithi.

Revenue Raising Measures for 2020/2021 Financial Year Budget;

Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, the performance of the County Government is partly dependent on the amount of county-own revenue that it collects within a financial year. The county continues to double its efforts in local revenue collection and at the same time trying to achieve equity in tax incidence. We are also alive to the challenges and impacts of COVID-19 on our capacity to generate local revenue due to the depressed business

environment. We should aim to support of people by ensuring a proper balance between livelihoods and government policies through appropriate fiscal measures.

During 2018/2019 financial year, the Revenue Department collected over Kshs 242.5 million against a target of Kshs 300 million from a range of sources which includes single business permits, licenses, and market fees. The funds collected significantly contributed to an improvement of services such as provision of subsidized AI services and improved primary health care. For 2019/2020, the department had targeted to collect Kshs 350 million and has realized over Kshs 182 million as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 compared to Kshs 127 million collected in financial year 2018-19 for a similar period. This performance is underpinned by on-going reforms in revenue administration.

Mr. Speaker, the County Treasury through the Revenue Department continues strengthening this position by bringing to this house a number of legislative proposals that will help improve revenue administration, revenue management and improve institutional capacity. The following are some of the bills proposed for tabling to this honourable house in the financial year 2020/2021:

i) County Revenue Administration Bill

The Revenue Department in its effort to strengthen its internal administration intends to enact the Revenue Administration Bill. The Bill will primarily define the duties and responsibilities of the receivers of revenue (Director of Revenue) appointed under the Public Finance Management Act and expands their responsibilities to include oversight of county revenue administration and enforcement mirroring the functions of the Kenya Revenue Authority at the national level.

ii) County Rating Bill (for property taxes)

The bill builds on existing forms of rating and valuations of properties, including collecting rates for a calendar year. The County Government of Tharaka Nithi has over 30 million outstanding Land rates and Plot Rent arrears accumulated over time.

iii) County Trade Licensing Bill

The Bill relies on the existing categories of businesses and fees, including but not limited to collecting license fees for a calendar year.

iv) County Agricultural Produce Cess Bill

The object and purpose of this Act is to impose tax objects and purpose of the and/or levies on crop and animal produce grown in, and on transit within the county pursuant to the provisions of Article 209 (3) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010.

v) County Model Finance Bill that seeks to provide a framework for setting out: the annual amount of county rates and other taxes, trade licence fees, other fees and charges for services provided by county governments; and

vi) County Facility Improvement Fund (FIF) Act to guide on Health Facilities' Revenue Collection/Administration as part of the Revenue Laws customized for our County.

Mr. Speaker, at the same time, the County Treasury is proposing the following Amendments, inter alia, to the Finance Act 2019:

- i) Redefining the distributors license to capture small scale traders such as Tuk Tuk, Motor Cycle, probox & Personal Car who engage in the distribution exercise;
- ii) Creation of a category for distribution of petroleum products within the county;
- iii) Creation of a category for one off distributors who may be assigned to ferry a cargo from point A to B once in year;
- iv) Separating motor vehicle garages and motorcycle garages from the mainstream businesses due to the unique nature of their trade;
- v) Creation of charges for power saw, scrap metal and towing charges for traders; and
- vi) Harmonization of forest timber cess and lowering of macadamia cess to reflect practical fees in tandem with charges from other counties.

Mr. Speaker, in line with executive order issued by H.E the Governor, the Department proposes to retain the waiver on market charges to the market traders within Tharaka Nithi. It's prudent to note that the market fees constituted Kshs 31 million in the previous financial year.

Other measures to be implemented include continued and sustained modernization and automation of revenue collection aiming at simplifying rates collection and enhance the

revenue yield. This will target to increase the share of own source revenue to about 10% of the total revenue in the medium term.

Mr. Speaker, in order to further improve the county's own source revenue and to counter revenue payment avoidance we are proposing to implement the following:

- i. Continuous sensitization and consultation meetings with the tax payers both in some formal and informal fora;
- ii. We shall continue to make non-payment of fees and revenues expensive by proposing stiffer penalties through the Finance Bill 2020; and
- iii. We are going to initiate a discussion with the judiciary in establishing a County Court or allocate a day and time to expedite justice to offenders of revenue laws.

Mr. Speaker, an efficient and trusted revenue administration is one of the county's institutional strengths. Revenue unit has played an integral role in revenue enhancement by ensuring that expected levels of revenue are realized to fund spending programmes. The unit must continue to develop the skills and capacity needed to enforce legislation and strengthen its efforts to curb revenue collections avoidance and evasion and address illicit financial businesses. Continued strengthening of the capacity of revenue staff and enhancing its relationships with taxpayers is vital for our fiscal health.

In Conclusion;

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the approval by this honourable County Assembly of the 2020/2021 budget and further seek approval of Finance Bill 2020 and Appropriation Bill 2020. Finally, I take this opportunity to invite you honourable Members to the next planning and budgeting cycle which starts July 2020.

Thank you All. God bless Kenya, God bless Tharaka Nithi County. Stay home. Stay safe. Sanitize. Thank you.

*(Applause)*

Mr. Speaker I seek your permission to table the Tharaka Nithi Finance Bill 2020.

*(The Tharaka Nithi Finance Bill 2020 was accordingly tabled.)*

## ADJOURNMENT

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable members, there being no other business on the order paper this house stands adjourned until our next sitting.

*\*\*\*The house rose at 11.20am\*\*\**