

# THARAKA NITHI COUNTY ASSEMBLY

## THE HANSARD

10<sup>th</sup> February 2021

*The County Assembly met at the  
County Assembly chambers in Kathwana at 10.00am  
[The Deputy Speaker (Hon. John Njagi Mucee) in the Chair]*

### PRAYERS

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Honourable members let's get seated.

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Honourable members allow me to welcome you to the House as you discharge your constitutional mandate and to also pass the greetings of the honourable Speaker who is attending an important meeting. Thank you.

### NOTICES OF MOTION

#### APPROVAL OF THE ASSEMBLY CALENDAR FIFTH SESSION

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Yes, honourable Karen.

**Hon. Karen:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise to give notice of the following Motion: That pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 36 the House approves the Assembly calendar for the Fifth Session.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you. Yes, honourable Muthini Karangi.

#### GUBERNATORIAL ADDRESS 2020

**Hon. Karangi:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise to give a notice of the Motion on the Annual State of the County address 2020 by his Excellency the Governor.

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That the Thanks of the Assembly be recorded for the exposition of public policy contained in the Address of the Governor. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you honourable Muthini Karangi. Yes, honourable Godfrey Muchiri.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE BUDGET AND  
APPROPRIATIONS ON COUNTY BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION REPORT  
FY 2019/2020 AND THE COUNTY BUDGET REVIEW  
AND OUTLOOK PAPER 2020

**Hon. Muchiri:** Thank you honourable Speaker. I rise to give a notice of Motion on the adoption of the report of the committee on finance budget and appropriations on county budget implementation report FY 2019/2020 and the county budget review and outlook paper 2020.

That the House Adopts the report of the Committee on Finance, Budget and Appropriations on the County Budget Implementation Report FY 2019/2020 and the County Budget Review and Outlook Paper.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you honourable Muchiri.

## STATEMENTS

### CHUKA TOWN COMMITTEE

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Yes, honourable Godfrey Muchiri.

**Hon. Muchiri:** Thank you Honourable 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 Land Housing and Physical Planning.

Section 31 of the Urban areas and Cities Act, 2011 provides for the governance and management of towns including the formation of a town committee whose functions include control land use, land sub-division, land development and zoning by public and private sectors for any purpose among others.

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In the Statement the Chairperson Committee on Land Housing and Physical Planning is to respond to the following:

- i. Why has the Chuka town committee not been constituted as provided for in the Act?
- ii. Who is currently performing the functions that ought to be performed by the town committee? I.e. the issues of land transfers especially and other issues.

I seek that Statement. Thank you honourable Speaker.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you honourable Muchiri. Yes, Chair Land Housing and Physical Planning, can you respond on the amount of time you want to be given to respond to the Statement.

**Hon. Kithinji:** That is a Statement that we can respond to in this House in 2 weeks because it is for the executive to answer.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you, honourable Muchiri are you comfortable with the two weeks?

**Hon. Muchiri:** Honourable Speaker yes I may be comfortable but this Statement was here the previous session and you gave a direction that it is supposed to be brought to this House within 21 days and the 21 days lapsed three months ago and now I am seeking it once again and I think with 7 days the chair can bring that Statement here. This because it is for the benefit of the people who transfer their lands and those who are buying. Thank you honourable Speaker.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you honourable Muchiri. Is it possible chair for the response to be ready within 7 days.

**Hon. Kithinji:** Honourable Speaker I know that the honourable member for Karingani is well aware that upon the lapse of the time the honourable Speaker did yesterday communicate that the members who sought Statements should seek them afresh. The issue of the Statement being already in this House does not arise. We are starting afresh and two weeks is reasonable considering that we have these issues of BBI. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you chair. I direct that the response be brought to the House after 14 days. Next order.

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## STATEMENT ON NDAGANI BARTER MARKET

**Hon. Muchiri:** Honourable Speaker I rise pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No.55 (1) (a) to seek a statement from the Chairperson Committee on Land Housing and Physical Planning.

Ndagani is one of the fast-growing commercial urban centres in the County of Tharaka Nithi as its growth is accelerated by a growing population. However, it is currently lacking in infrastructure as many traders are forced to sell their goods along the pavements and the road. Which is very dangerous.

In the Statement the Chairperson Committee on Land Housing and Physical Planning is to respond to the following:

- i. Are there plans in place to construct a barter market in Ndagani? If yes, what are the plans?
- ii. Are there plans to improve the roads network in Ndagani market? If yes, what are the plans?

Thank you honourable Speaker.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you honourable Muchiri. Yes, Chair Land Housing and Physical Planning, can you give us a timeframe.

**Hon. Kithinji:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. That Statement appears to be crossing two separate committees because it talks about the construction of an open air market. I think from what I see happening, that is done by a different entity. It is done by his committee, the committee on Finance, Budget and Appropriations. And the Trade committee. They are the ones who are engaged in the construction of markets and when it comes to the issues of the construction of pavements and roads I feel that is the function of the roads committee. If we sought on whether there are provisions for such facilities, then my committee comes in. thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Honourable Muchiri are you comfortable with his sentiments.

**Hon. Muchiri:** Mr. Speaker when I talk about the markets I am talking about urban areas and that is why I am very specific when it comes to the committee because when we talk about

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the planning department, it deals with planning. But other departments give proprieties to the projects. That is why when we talk about the markets right now it is his department that is building markets stalls. I am very specific. When I am talking about roads I am not talking about the roads in Karingani. I am talking about the roads within that market. That market is growing at a very fast rate. I wasn't also referring to the Chuka market that was done by his department. That is why I am very specific when it comes to Ndagani market. Thank you.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you. Allow me to...yes honourable Kithinji.

**Hon. Kithinji:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Thank you for giving him the opportunity to expound. I wanted this House to realize the confusion that is caused by these departments. Because when you talk of urban and urban planning, in duty, it is supposed to engage itself in issues of planning. When it comes to the issues of construction that should be the issue of another department. Nevertheless, now that we agree that my committee is the one that oversights what is done in markets I think one month is enough for us. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** What time would like to be given to respond?

**Hon. Kithinji:** I have already said one month Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Okay, thank you. Yes, continue.

**Hon. Muchiri:** Mr. Speaker, we are in the process of budget making. Anytime from now we may start allocating funds to departments. When we talk about one month that will lapse in March and the CFSP is on the way. Maybe the committee will not have factored the matter in the budget. Failure to plan is planning to fail honourable Speaker on this matter. Thank you honourable Speaker.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Looking at the concerns of the member seeking the Statement and the concerns of honourable Kithinji, chair for lands and housing, I now direct that the response be brought to this House after 21 days. Next order.

#### STATEMENT ON MWEMA TEA BUYING CENTRE-NDAGANI

**Hon. Muchiri:** Thank you honourable Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Sir. I rise pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No.55 (1) (a) to seek a Statement from the Chairperson

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Committee on Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries on the issue of Mwema tea buying centre which is situated in Ndagani.

Mwema tea buying Centre was among the tea buying centres budgeted to be improved in the Financial Year 2018/2019. It is alleged that the contractor awarded the contract was paid a total of Kshs 204,000 whereas there were no works done at the tea buying centre.

In the Statement the Chairperson Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries is to respond to the following:

- i. What was the scope of works that was to be done at the tea buying centre?
- ii. How was the certificate of works done raised for payment?
- iii. How much was paid to the contractor?
- iv. Has the contractor in question been awarded any other contracts in the County?
- v. What action will the department take to recover the lost money?

Thank you honourable Speaker.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Yes, honourable Anita.

**Hon. Anita:** Thank you honourable Speaker. The member on the chair happens to be the chairman of the committee and I wish that the chairman Liaison writes an urgent letter to the clerk so that the committee can have a re-election because you cannot be the chairman of Chairs and still a chairman of a committee. It would be in order if the committee elected a new chairperson. I stand guided.

We were set to visit the site in two weeks' time but I don't know whether it will be possible with the BBI issue but the committee is doing everything possible so that the issue can be resolved. We had already written a report and realized that there were loopholes so we are back on the ground assessing what was done so that we can bring a comprehensive report and not an essay. Thank you.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you honourable Anita.

**Hon. Kithinji:** Mr. Speaker...

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Honourable Kithinji on what Point of Order are you standing on?

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**Hon. Kithinji:** I was just seeking clarification from the chair Mr. Speaker because the seeker of the statement but now a stranger just rose and started replying. Is honourable Anita the chair agriculture committee.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Honourable Kithinji the member who has responded is more than able of being the chair of the committee and she has responded in a smart way. I end the debate about it. Let us continue. Yes, honourable Muchiri.

**Hon. Muchiri:** Mr. Speaker I am the one who has sought this Statement and there is a need to take a lot of seriousness when it comes to the one who is replying because at the end of the day she may come here and say she is not the chair.

*(Applause)*

This needs a lot of seriousness because already the county has lost a lot of money through the contractors and also the issuance of certificates which is something very serious. This House is supposed to be oversighting what is going on. I am aware that this money has been lost. It is very important that the response to this Statement be brought to the House immediately so that we can know the action that has been taken to these people who issued the certificate and also the contractor. Thank you.

**Hon. Anita:** Thank you honourable Speaker. A few minutes ago a paper from the HBC was tabled in this House and it is not the Chair that tabled it and I have not heard a complaint about it from any member. I have rose as a competent member of the committee on agriculture and I have explained that the chair of the committee is acting as the Speaker and the vice chair who happens to be the minority leader is not present. I being a member I am capable of replying.

I have categorically said that we had even put it in it in our timetable that we are going on site in the next week so that we can bring to the House a comprehensive feedback. I don't think that makes me incompetent to reply to the statement when I am a member of the committee. When I said we are going on the ground I meant it. We cannot write stories like some we have been receiving from other quarters and bring to the Assembly. We need to go to the ground, verify and maybe call the CEC to explain why a certificate was issued and get relevant confirmation and bring a comprehensive report that will not result into the member

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that sought the statement to tell us to go back and verify what was stated. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you honourable Anita. Honourable members, I will not allow any more debate on the Statement.

*(Loud consultations)*

Honourable Muthini, order! Next order.

## MOTIONS

### APPROVAL OF THE ASSEMBLY CALENDAR FOR THE FIFTH SESSION

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

**Hon. Karen:** Thank you Mr. Speaker I seek leave of the House to move the motion on the approval of the Assembly calendar for the fifth session. I request honourable Margret and honourable Anita to support.

*(Hon. Margret and hon. Anita stood in their place and bowed to indicate support)*

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you. The leave of the House is hereby granted. Honourable Karen move the motion.

**Hon. Karen:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise to move that pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 36 the House approves the Assembly calendar for the Fifth Session. I request honourable Muthini to second.

*(Hon. Karangi stood in his place and bowed to second)*

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you honourable Muthini. I now propose the question that pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 36 the House approves the Assembly calendar for the Fifth Session. The floor is now open for debate. Yes, honourable Godfrey Muchiri, member for Karingani.

**Hon. Muchiri:** Thank you honourable Speaker, I rise to support. When it comes to the calendar of the House it is for all of us and we need something we can follow from now up to



the end of this session. Sometimes we may not be in session but having not approved it may not be ours and so that own it I stand to support. Thank honourable Speaker.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you. Yes, honourable Anita.

**Hon. Anita:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise to support. Even a school without a timetable would be dysfunctional. For the ones who never liked mathematics and the mathematics teacher would like to teach quadruple lessons. Without a timetable we would end up carrying on with business that is not allowed. I support so that we can move on, we only have 17 months so we need to move and implement our agenda. I support.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you honourable Anita. Yes, honourable Muggana.

**Hon. Muggana:** Thank you honourable Speaker I support.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** The floor is still open for debate. I now put the question.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

#### GUBERNATORIAL ADDRESS, 2020

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Yes, honourable Muthini.

**Hon. Karangi:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I request for your guidance on whether I need to seek the leave of the House to move.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Yes.

**Hon. Karangi:** Thank you. I beg to seek the leave of the House to move the Motion on the Annual State of the County Address, 2020 by his Excellency the Governor. I request honourable Mutegi Rugia and honourable Muchiri to support.

*(Hon. Mutegi stood in his place and bowed to support)*

**Hon. Muchiri:** Thank you Mr. Speaker I support that we give the leave of the House so that we can continue.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you.

**Hon. Karangi:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I move that the thanks of the Assembly be recorded for the exposition of public policy contained in the Address of the Governor.

Mr. Speaker, if you allow me, I will not read this whole document because reading it will be akin to giving the State of the County address again. Since we were all present the members can debate based on what they heard from the Governor. Allow me not to go through the whole speech.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Permission granted.

**Hon. Karangi:** I will go through a few things that the Governor mentioned. On the issue of the health sector, the Governor listed the achievement that he has made and the challenges. Among the achievements is the queuing system whereby today when you go to various hospitals in the county you are treated like you are in a private facility or a private hospital. There is no such thing like Muthini is an honourable member he should be specially treated. He has to get a ticket and wait to get the services. The hospital queue management is something I have seen in Marimanti hospital and it is working. I thank the Governor and his government for a good job in this county.

On the issue of roads, he highlighted a lot of roads that are on progress and others that are ongoing but they are challenges as we know Rome was not built in one day. We shall continue supporting what is possible for the benefit of Mwananchi in Tharaka Nithi. I am not here to exhaust everything he said so let me give other members an opportunity to debate. Thank you Mr. Speaker. I move. I beg honourable Asumpta to second.

*(Hon. Asumpta stood in place and bowed to second)*

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you honourable Asumpta.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you honourable Asumpta. I now propose the question, that the thanks of the Assembly be recorded for the exposition of public policy contained in the Address of the Governor. The floor is now open for debate. Yes, honourable Margret, member for Chogoria ward.

**Hon. Margret:** Thank you Mr. Speaker I want to take this chance to thank his Excellency the Governor of this County because of coming to address the County, so that this County can know where we are and which direction we are facing.

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When the Governor was giving the address he mentioned almost all the areas that we have achieved for the last three years that we have been here. When you go to the ground, there is a lot of work when we go to the ground that has happened especially in my ward because this is where I especially go round. The only hitch is maintenance, operation and maintenance is becoming a big problem especially on the roads. The roads are done by the contractor that was put very clearly by the Governor, but those who are supposed to make sure that operation and maintenance takes good shape in the wards do not do it. The roads get worn out in the first rains because we don't have expertise on the ground that should be able to be maintaining the roads so that water does not spoil.

When we come to water there are a lot of pending projects that are yet to be realised so that people can get enough water. Even if the speech was rich, I urge the department of water to make sure that the project especially in our semi-arid areas, which require water during the dry spell, should get water that is through roof catchment, through small ponds and holes so that when it is so dry this people can get water. Our institution also there is a lot that is left to be desired because we don't have enough clean water to drink especially during the dry season. As we continue to give water to this County and as the report speak very well about the supply of water to Nithi, maybe we need to come up with a slogan that water for all by the year 2030 in Tharaka Nithi County. We still have people who go to fetch in the rivers not only in semi-arid areas even in the upper zones there are still people who fetch water from rivers. We really need to make sure that this County is rich when it comes to water because we know that water is life. Without water you cannot even have a home, you cannot even be clean, you cannot even be healthy because it is said that is done practically. You take 8 glasses of water in a day and you will be very healthy because it will wash your blood. When it comes to water we cannot live anything to chance. Water should be given because water is available. What is required is these project should be able to store their water so that it can be used when the rivers are at their lowest flow. There are times when you find the rivers are dry at times that there are just scooping sand because there is no storage. I am the chair of water and I have a lot of concern that we need to allocate more money in the budget so that the C.E.C water, the chief officer and the staff will be able to mark the areas that do not have enough water.

When we come to environment, also his Excellency the Governor talked so well. Yes, the county is trying but we have a long way to go. I will still talk about operation and

maintenance. Maintain even of the tress that were planted on the road sides. Some of them even are not there because when they were planted someone should have been tasked with maintenance. The Governor could be doing so much and doing it very well but when it comes to the staff who are supposed to maintain the tress and other issues they are not there. The other day my committee members and I just visited the dumpsite at Chuka town. That dumpsite needs to be relocated because when we interviewed the policemen who live just next they said sometimes there are unable to stay there because of the flies. As we continue to make sure that the environment in this County is taken care of we need to see how we can get dumpsites in different sub- counties, a dumpsite in Maara sub-county, we need a dumpsite in Tharaka sub-county, we need a dumpsite in Chuka but not in Chuka town because it is causing health hazard to the residence of the town.

We are continuing, we are just on the third year and we really need to do a lot. There are Motions we approved in this August House that we remove eucalyptus trees on the water sources and river banks. These trees are still there; our Motion left this House and nobody has ever implemented it. We also approved a Motion here on putting up smoking zones in major towns that is; Chuka, Chogoria, and Marimanti, as we think of other areas. Even this one has not been implemented. As we move on and give people services we really need to be taken seriously as a House there are many Motions that have gone through and implementation has become a problem.

I want to commend the Excellency because of the speech but the staff needs a lot of work to make sure what has been implemented is kept well for the benefits of our residents who voted for us and who we are supposed to take care of. Thank you Mr. Speaker I support the speech.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you honourable Margret, member for Chogoria ward, yes honourable Godfrey Muchiri.

**Hon. Muchiri:** Thank you honourable Speaker let me say that it was an important issue when it comes to the State of the County address that is something that I have been candid on. It is in our Standing Order and the Governor did his part and it is now for us to go through the address so that we can know the state of the county. It is very unfortunate that we did not get the copies due to the Corona virus pandemic but I believe we have it in soft copy. There are some of us who are still in the old age we have not adapted to the new age but we are trying to come up so that we can be together with our colleagues.

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Let me first of all say it was good that when the Governor came the first thing that he did is to assent to the Bills that were passed by this House. I felt sorry for myself and my colleagues when the Governor sat outside the chamber because we had no offices that he could sit in and assent to the Bills. The Bills are very important when it comes to the county issues and I believe those were the last Bills to be assented while the Governor is seated outside without us having somewhere to sit together. I believe that is something that was noted.

I also noted, I want to start with the negative so that I can go to the positive, I understood in this House we could not afford a public address system we had to hire one. We appropriate a lot of money in this House and we cannot afford to buy a public address system in this House that can be used when we have dignitaries in this House. That is something I have noted with a lot of concern and it is time that we update ourselves as an honourable House.

I think there are some issues that were discussed when it comes to the survey that was done, that is the INFOR-TRACK survey. That in most of the sectors this county tops in the survey. It is true because when it comes to the health sector I can say that we are somewhere. Considering where we came from and where we are, we are somewhere. Remembering we have a building that is being put up at Chuka level four hospital that is almost 90% complete and I believe that after completion we are going to get even the level five hospital that can at least be funded by the national government. When it comes to the dispensaries I think this government has commissioned several dispensaries and others are in the process and that is a milestone for the government.

I am the chair finance and budget and it is true what the Governor said that the financial statements of the county have improved seriously. It is true that when we came in this House we could even have budgets that had members of parliament but now we cannot get that in our budget. It is true we have moved somewhere. We have moved maybe from running know we are in the implementation stage.

We have Bills that were assented and the Bills that came from the Executive, we had several Bills that even the Governor mentioned that are remaining and needs to be fast tracked, although I never had the Bill that I tabled in this House the ward development/equalization fund being mentioned as part of the Bill that are in the process. I noted that and it was important. Although Mr. Speaker it may be catered for when it comes to the BBI. But the Governor mentioned the BBI concerning the ward development fund and even the money the

counties will get being raised to 35% but I don't want to discuss that because is something that is in the process and it is in this House.

When it comes to public participation, which is in the Constitution that is article 10 the executive does their public participation and we do ours and I want to note with a lot of concern when it comes to the written memorandum that is done in this county it is true public participation is carried out. We have also the customer care number that is 1513 which is there for emergencies. Personally I have ever tried that number it works although sometimes it is busy. I believe that once in a while it does not work, but mostly it works.

I want to discuss the issue fire engines. In this County we have operational fire engines. Before we had a lot of challenges when it comes to fires although we have not solved the problem of fire fully but at least it is a third solved. My ward hosts most of the slams and we have fires. I remember when we were elected the first one year there were so many fire that were burning houses within my ward and one time I remember the roads where in a pathetic state that the fire engine had to kill a resident of my ward but right now roads have improved. We cannot ignore the fact that roads have improved and even the community has accepted to expand roads.

I remember very well the Governor talked about the promotion of the staff. That is something that should be looked at when it comes to our staff so that we can motivate them. I think when our staff is motivated we will be somewhere.

On the issue of agriculture, although we have discussed some of the issues that have been brought in this house about the seeds how they were dispatched, the county has spent a lot of money when it comes to satisfied seeds. It is important as the oversight organ to come up with at least a Statement in this House to know how our people have benefited from the satisfied seeds if they are working or not. The twenty thousand kilogram beans they are very expensive and when we talked that the county has approved the twenty thousand kilogram beans I believe we are trying to reduce hunger within our county.

The Governor spoke about tea and coffee this is where I am confused because just some minutes ago I brought a statement about the tea buying centres. This is something I have followed several times and I thought the Governor will talk about it because I brought it so that we can know some contractors that are being given jobs in our county and are not working on them. We have some tea buying centres that have been improved and after

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improvement, twenty of them. After the improvement the farmers can feel they are part of this county.

I am a daily farmer and daily farming is done within my ward and we have the AI services and I it has helped our farmers to get quality cows. I know as a county because we have power and we have resources we can follow up how many cows have been served and how the farmers have benefited. We cannot be saying our farmers have AI services when it is not working within our ward.

I said that I am the chair budget and when it comes to revenue collection there has been an improvement. I believe members of the community are willing to pay the revenue without being forced because they can see what is being done. So when it comes to automation, I remember very well the Chuka stage was automated even the hospitals and this is helping us curb loss of revenue during collection. With 271.6 million as per now I believe in this financial year we will collect more without forcing people.

I want to say something on the issue of water, in our county we cannot say we are in good condition when it comes to water. We have so many areas where they are complaining that they don't have water. I remember very well there was the issue of boreholes that was brought in this House and still we may leave this House without sorting that issue. If we don't sort that issue out it might bring problems later. I know there are some area that the county has put up piped water others there are boreholes that are working, it is true, but we have to follow up to the last coin that the contractors have been given so that they can be answerable to our problems.

We have bridges that have been built, we have foot bridges it is true we have them. I remember very well this house we approved the budget to buy machines so that we can be making our roads without hiring. Although there are some ups and downs maybe it has helped us.

With that allow me to say we have our markets that have been put up, that is, Kaanwa, Tunyai, Nkondi and others. In that statement his Excellency the Governor mentioned the Nguruki market and Marimanti but honourable speaker I brought a statement on this House of Ndagani and he never mentioned it and I expected it to be mentioned on the Governors address and looking at where it is situated and the population in the area is growing at a very high rate.

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Personally I may thank the Governor because of Chuka because of Chuka picnic ground that is something that has helped my people when it comes to organising or even holding weddings in those grounds. It is something that if you went there you can rest comfortably without disturbance.

I want to recall the words that have been said here by honourable Margret on the issue of environment and where the dumpsite is, it was just a first aid because we need land where we can relocate the dumpsite because it is within the town. We have so many flies within town because of the dumpsite I believe this is something that will be sorted out within a very short time.

With that I will say that it is important to be having such State of the County Addresses every year because we are in the third year and the governor has addressed this county twice. I thank all the members because they have done a good job to listen to me and I believe in the next State of the County Address the Governor will mention Ndagani which it is a thorn in the flesh.

Thank you honourable Speaker.

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

**Hon. Anita:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I rise to applaud what the Governor did, by at least putting us in the know of what has been happening. Even before the Governor tells us what he has done, because we are supposed to offer oversight, representation and legislation; we should always be alert. I recognize the effort by one honourable Godfrey because most of the times he is the one who alerts us on what has been happening. I wish to comment on a few issues.

First, I want to thank Tharaka Nithi County Government and I also want to thank the committee on budget because if it was not for their sacrifice whereby they sit down burning the midnight oil trying to do scrutiny so that we can approve the budget, we would not get these budgets that we always brag on what we have done.

I want to applaud the effort by the Government on health sector. The other day I visited Chuka General Hospital and I have seen people complaining saying that Chuka General



hospital is congested. In fact, people are running away from other counties and coming to Tharaka Nithi county because at least the services have improved. If you go to Chuka General, you will find that half of the patients may be from Embu county, half from Kitui and then a few from our county. I believe that we are somewhere and I believe that before we get to 2022 despite the fact that various statements have been brought to the health committee and I have never heard of the feedback and I believe this time round the Government needs to improve on this. There is something that people tend to forget. When the Governor was sworn in, there was a recruitment of CHVs. I want to applaud the work that they have been doing. They even go to the villages. We could not even realize that most of our neighbours didn't have latrines. These are the people who are informing us. Although honourable Godfrey will tell me that the wage Bill is already overstretched, they need to get a better remuneration because of the work they are doing. We need to support their work so that our health can be at a better level.

Mr Speaker, I want to tell the assembly that when the Lizard fell from the roof, and he was not injured, the lizard looked around and realized that nobody was clapping for him, he decided to clap for himself. At least as an Assembly, we have done something. In the Governor's address, I have been going through it, if my memory serves me right, page 82 of the Governor's address, I remember last year, we had issues whereby we decided that we do not have privacy. During his address, the Governor promised us that the issue to do with our Chamber has been sorted and the Chamber will be built. I thought as we came in for this session, I expected that we would move to new Chamber but I believe something is being done. So that when I get out, I will not be blaming honourable Karangi that he went to tell the Governor what we were discussing because currently we have no privacy. Anybody can just pop in and record our discussion then he/she forwards the same to the social media. You might find others saying that some of us do not have good English. We therefore need the Chamber completed so that at least honourable members can move to an honourable Chamber. I don't believe there is any honour even in your own house if you cannot discuss your bedroom affairs with your wife where there is no privacy. Now that the Governor said that the stalemate that was there has been sorted, we can move to our new Chamber anytime, so that at least we can have a Chamber that has privacy. We do not want to be ranked as the Assembly that has the worst Assembly in the 47 counties.

I now want to go to Agriculture and I am a member of that committee. First of all, I want to thank the Executive for what they have been doing. We have been moving. This is one of the most active committees. Whenever a report came from the Agriculture department, since we have been involving the Executive in the whole process, at least we have something to report. We have KSAF, KSEF and other issues that the Agriculture committee has been doing. We have always moved together. During our recent recess, I have friends from various parts of the county I received some complaints regarding the artificial insemination (AI) officers. You heard some farmers saying that their cows were served more than four times unsuccessfully and remember you pay every time it is served. I believe the CEC in charge of agriculture should check on this. I do not to say that our AI officers are quarks but let the people in charge of the docket sit down and try to find whether they are having officers who are using Government property for their personal issues. Before I finalize on agriculture, for the last three days, we have been having locusts in Mwimbi, Mariani but I am not aware of any other place. I am not sure whether they have invaded Tharaka also but what I know is that the locusts are back. We very well know that even the devil, when he exits, he comes back with seven forces but I believe with the current weather we are experiencing, they might keep cool and fail to destroy our crops but they need to be acted upon before they get rid of our crops.

On the issue of water, I remember I raised two statements in this Assembly regarding water. In the domestic piped water, we have, we have been having complaints in the social media which we cannot ignore. For instance, where I come from, the people who were supposed to get piped water that was disconnected when the roads were being prepared, they have not been connected. We have passed budgets here with money that was set aside for piping water. I do not know when the committee will give us a report on the status and how far they have gone. Even if it means cleaning water for the residents who do not have piped water, it will at least offer some solution.

When it comes to trade, there are some markets that have been constructed, I believe as members, we are supposed to do oversight. I am in love with something that the Governor has said, whereby he is doing visits to the 15 wards. Oversight being one of our roles, we need to do visits even as we wait for the Governor, for the elected members, when the Governor is doing his visits, we can also do our visits so that we can get to know the projects that we feel have not been done properly in our wards so that when the Governor comes in, we can just give him memoranda telling him for instance certain project in Ciakariga ward

has not been done properly. This will help him in doing the oversight. This will enable the Governor and the CECs to perform better.

On Education, if my memory serves me right, we had a budget. We have four months to close the financial year remembering that we approved some money for the ECDE classes and you find in some wards, we have schools with more than forty kids who are all congested in one class. I do not know what the Chair budget will tell us about it so that we can have these schools taken care of. On the same, I do not think there is any school that has managed to have an employment of two ECDE teachers. According to the ECDE policy and the Education guidelines, one ECDE teacher should be handling at most forty kids. In this case, if a school has more than forty kids, it is not only going against the policy but also against the rights of these kids. The Chair Education can give us an overview of what is happening so that we can know if our kids are being taken care of.

Still on Education, on bursaries, we had our students who applied for the bursaries and I do not believe whether we should be delaying disbursements of these bursaries. There is no need of issuing a student a bursary in January, the student spends like three weeks at home and we end up releasing the actual bursary in the second term. This issue needs to be fast-tracked so that our children can be able to get bursaries and go back to school.

On youth, I am happy that the honourable member who tabled the Governor's address is one of the youth's representative. I believe we approved some money for the youth. I believe the two honourable members representing the youth will be able to fast-track on this so that our youth can stop being discussed as AOBs by the Assembly, Executive and even by the people on the ground. We always keep our youth very idle, then we complain that they are very busy throwing stones. We very well know that an idle mind, is the devils workshop.

On sports, which is also included in the youth department, I have been following since 2017 when we joined the Assembly, there are three stadiums. Now that the Governor said that 90% of the stadiums are complete, I believe we should recommend the National functions i.e. the Madaraka, Mashujaa be held on rotational basis. We have one at Kairuni, another one at Marimanti and also at Kathwana. We need to visit these stadiums so that at least know what has been happening. Even if we do not belong to the sports committee, we can be invited so that we can at least see what has been happening. Nowadays we are always told to use our

eyes more than our ears. What you are told, it can be a lie but what you can see, you can have a prove.

I also want to raise an issue on the people that are abled differently. I am a representative of the marginalized and therefore we fall in this category. I have been going round in most of these parts and you find that most of them do not know what is a disability card. I visited a certain place and when I asked them for their cards, they were giving me a passport photo. I believe we need to get out and empower them. I have also visited some who do not have legs. You find that we only focus on providing wheelchairs. If we started an income generating project for the people that are abled differently, whereby most of them are very hardworking. By doing this, we will have put them in a better position other than just providing them with wheelchairs for them to just be using the wheelchairs to go out and busk in the sunshine.

As I finalize, I want to go back on water. I have heard my colleague honourable Godfrey talking of water. On the Governor's address, some issues were captured. If I can put these issues together, and address it to the department of water and sewerage whereby my Chair is just seated on my right hand side, I want to put this across as a message. Mariani and Karingani wards, there is a water project by the name Mbwiru/Mwanjati water project where we have the Government sewerage system being put up. It is very sad that those people are removing water pipes so that they can connect a sewer system. It is TARDA which gave people permit to have the water. I want to believe that when the Chair water committee gets a sitting with the Governor, this issue needs to be checked. There is no way you can give me waste, then you remove my water. This issue needs to be looked into so that the people in upper Mariani and lower Karingani can have something to smile about. I believe if we followed this state of the County address and give our representation and oversight roles properly, Tharaka Nithi will not be just another county but instead people will be coming to benchmark with us. With that, I support.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you Honourable Anita. Yes, honourable Asumpta.

**Hon. Asumpta:** Thank you Mr Speaker Sir. I rise to support the Governor's address. I also want to thank the County Government for recognizing the differently abled people in Tharaka Nithi County. This is a very good idea for the County to identify these people. The last regime, only the mentally disabled people were the ones recognized as disabled.

*(Laughter)*

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In the current regime, I once again thank the County Government because they have managed to buy wheelchairs and other assisting devices. My colleague honourable Anita has talked about the identity cards for people living with disabilities. This is from the National Government. The County Government has not started issuing the cards to people living with disabilities. I urge the County Government to start this process because our people suffers especially when they go to hospitals because it is only Chuka general hospital which recognizes these people. Those who comes far from Chuka, they really suffer. I commend the County Government for the good work they are doing but they need to improve when it comes to dealing with persons living with disabilities. For this year, the County Government said that they have set aside a kitty for persons living with disabilities and I believe this will improve the economic status of people living with disabilities. Mr Speaker Sir, I support the Governors address even as he continues to take care of our county and helping people living with disabilities and the marginalized. Thank you.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you honourable Asumpta for that smart contribution. Yes, honourable Karen.

**Hon. Karen:** Thank you Mr. Speaker I rise to support the Governor's address and also say that Rome was not built in a day. This government has done so far so good in the last three years and on the issues that were mentioned here by my colleague honourable Anita about the youths. I believe she should just sit with honourable Muthini outside here and congratulate him. So far we have a Bill; we didn't have regulations that would allow youths to have funds, in the next budget we expect that the youths of this county will be having cheques to do businesses that they want to do. Currently we still have money that was approved here I think Ksh 25 million and the equipment have been bought and will be distributed to the youths.

*(Interjection)*

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Yes, honourable Anita on what point of Standing Order?

**Hon. Anita:** Thank you Mr. Speaker I don't want to say am standing on any point of order but I am seeking clarification from honourable Karen. She knows she is a lady I love so much. I assisted and followed when these two were passing the youth bill but the administration has been going round approving money and giving it to groups. I don't know if this money was given because she talks of the next budget and I believe there is money allocated in this budget I think around Ksh 25 million. Was it illegal or is it legal?

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**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Honourable Karen reply.

**Hon. Karen:** Mr. Speaker my sister is not digesting what I said.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Allow me to guide you honourable members the debate you are contributing to is towards the address of the governor. Yes, continue.

**Hon. Karen:** She has sought for clarification which I will give Mr. Speaker. As I said we didn't have regulations that is why the Bill is allowing us in the next budget to have cheques. But currently we cannot be able to give out money. The government said they can only buy equipment for the youths. I don't know which part of my statement honourable Anita didn't get. These are things that we have been discussing with her she can see me outside when we are having a cup of tea. I support the speech Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you honourable Karen. The floor is still open for debate. Yes, honourable Kithinji.

**Hon. Kithinji:** Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me an opportunity to contribute to the Governor's speech on the state of the county. Much as you have told one honourable members that we are contributing I also feel that she was right or rather she was right in the sense that there were provisions for the youth and from the Governors speech particularly page 21 the Governor acknowledged that this Assembly did pass Youth Empowerment Bill, 2020 and there were monies for that in the budget. I want to believe these groups have been identified and what we are waiting to see is a list of beneficiaries.

On the issues of ECDE's where ECDE teachers were given permanent jobs and the others given a better contract that is a plus. Even though we need some more, but I would really rather wish, and this may not sound too popular, but I would rather wish we just hold on for just a few days. Yesterday the government wants to roll this other program called the CBC and from the look of things they may also distribute some teachers to cater for the PP1 and PP2. Should that one happens it will be a plus to our county because of course the monies we may have to use to employ a second teacher will be channelled elsewhere. I said it may not be very popular but it's a good management policy. I believe so.

On promotion of employees it is also a plus because we knew of a number of cases. I hear it was done transparently because so far we have not received any complaints and as you are

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aware am the de facto leader of opposition I have not been told by anybody that they were left out.

*(Laughter)*

You can be assured of that. Maybe it went on well.

On issues of health, there is this case of a baby who was born weighing 700grams and by the time the baby left the hospital was weighing 3kgs. I am a witness to that. In fact, that baby belongs to one of my friends. That one is a plus.

However, I started by mentioning the Youth Empowerment Bill, 2020. Let it be actualized because if it won't be actualized then we will have no good reasons to tell our youths that we care for them. Remember last time we even went ahead and identified these groups there were provisions for money to that effect and it was never actualized only that money was given to friendly groups and for other people to abuse. But now if the identified groups within the wards benefit then at least we will have something to tell our youths.

There is what they call county *Mashinani* it is a good idea but am opposed to the way it is done because like in Magumoni it was like a show of big vehicles and eating in local kiosks and after it was done there are no fruits to that effect and whatever project had stalled is still stalled. Instead of using a lot of county money on fuel and unnecessary trips it is important that they be organized in a better way. I hear people were told overnight that the Governor and his entourage will be passing by and much that they did is to eat chickens in one of the local hotels. I really don't think that is what should be entailed in county mashinani. They should hold public baraza's where they give people opportunity to air their grievances and those grievances should be looked into.

There is what they are calling rural appraisal. It is well on paper. But I want to bring to your attention again a case that was done in Kibugua Market where they looked for a consultant they engaged the locals and when it came to presenting that information to the county the county people disappeared. Actually that is how I came to know of it when the county people disappeared because they were not ready to receive the report from Wananchi about Kibugua market. It was a shame and again that is money that went to waste. They could have the audacity to listen to these people to receive the report and act on the report. It may just be on paper to benefit some consultants which will eventually not add any value to us but will

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create a lot of unnecessary war on our part. I had to sooth them and I took it up and tried to do a few follow ups and I did some promises. I want to believe those promises will materialize or else it will work on us on the negative.

Mr. Speaker there was a mention of the level 4 hospital which is good but we have been giving a lot of money to Chuka general hospital. I expected to hear something from him that now it has been passed as level 5 so that we start enjoying the Ksh 300 million. Otherwise much as we have improved the services there, if we don't work towards getting the Ksh 300 million that we were promised and that we were always enticed to think so then it may really not help. Mr. Speaker it is important at least they do something to make sure that Chuka gets the status of level 5. The services are okay I am agreeable to that but when it comes to cleaning there could be a problem. I don't know if we don't have enough water in Chuka general hospital or we could be having a problem with the managers. We may have good personnel but when you treat people in dirty environment I don't really think that auger very well with the public and also injures the character of our county.

There were seedlings which were being given. It was a good idea. But the way it was done I don't think if somebody was told to account for how and who benefited and I don't think that one can be done instantly. I am aware to the fact that especially in Magumoni sub chiefs and chiefs got a way of getting these seedlings and giving them to their people which was not a very good picture for a county that believes in zero corruption. It ought to have been done in a better way and of course very soon I will be seeking a Statement on how the distribution was done and who benefited and how much was spent.

Mr. Speaker there is a mention of how some tea collection centres were improved even to an extent of being ISO certified. A mention of it is Kiamuriuki A and Kiamuriuki B. I want to believe that is not true. The Kibanda was done but the same people have an harambee on 27<sup>th</sup> of march this year where I have been invited to just go and help them improve on what was already improved and has a certificate. Either these people who advise the Governor don't advise him well or rather when they are identifying what should be done they don't carry feasibility study. They just rush to that place paint and write names and all over sudden the tea Kibanda has been certified. That's not true it paints a bad image and once we are out of this House I will be giving you a card for an invitation to that harambee so that you also come and see for yourself on what we are saying.



Mr. Speaker lastly there was a mention of the GIS lab and there was a mention of the spatial plan. This is a monster that has lingered this House for two years now and now we are entering the third year yet we can't see fruits. We need now to see fruits. Because we cannot keep on spending money on technical things which are not bearing any fruits to Wananchi. The University of Nairobi has been here now for a very long time we want t now to hear people in Magutuni have gotten leases to their plots. We want to hear people in Kathangacini have gotten their leases to their plots. Otherwise when you keep on giving them a lot of literature and a lot of jargons that we are working on a spatial plan we have now bought the GIS lab. We need results so that the Ciambai who is being mentioned severally in the state of the county address can also attest and say for sure I saw the machines and I have gotten my lease.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker there was a mention that tarmarking is going on. There is a road that transverses from Kambandi-Cheera which is supposed to get to Ruguti. There was a provision for that road in the current budget and from the looks of things that road has stalled. So when it is said it is ongoing I don't know where it is ongoing. We are the users of that road and we know that there is nothing that is happening on the ground. It is important to get contractors who have the capacity so that maybe even when the county funds delay they are also able to keep on working waiting for such a time when the county get money and get paid. I am not insinuating that is why the project has stalled I will also be seeking a Statement very soon on that one

Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you honourable Kithinji member for Magumoni ward. Still the debate is on.

The mover of the motion to respond.

**Hon. Karangi:** Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me this opportunity to respond to what honourable members have stated. First I want to thank them for dissecting of the Governor's address on that day. A few concerns have been raised including for the department or docket that I represent. I want to assure the honourable members that on the Ksh 25 million they can get assured, I am 90% sure, that the youth groups have already been identified, vetted and we are almost now giving them the equipment. The idea of giving the youths the equipment was brought by youth enterprise fund that is there. Honourable Anita and Muthini we know of

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Uwezo fund and have been a member of Uwezo fund. We tried to help the youth and there are so many funds that are going around. We have given so many groups we even have NGAF but we cannot see any impact on the lives of people or the youths on the ground. So, we decided we have a youth group that is already on course doing something then it is empowered much more to do something. They already have a project that is ongoing so they should be empowered. Very soon honourable members will get the fruits of the Ksh 25 million that we were talking about.

Lastly, because I don't want to talk too much bearing in mind that we are waiting for some white smoke somewhere. I was standing in for majority leader who is in charge of the government business in this House and I want to assure honourable members that whatever concerns that have been raised I will share with the majority leader and make sure that the concerns that have to be addressed by the executive have been addressed.

I thank honourable Kithinji. Honourable Kithinji without such characters in this House anything cannot move forward. He has highlighted so many cases that need to be addressed in Magumoni up and including inviting you for an harambee Mr. Speaker of something that was done. So, I think he has also given some directions on the committee on agriculture to go around and see all the tea buying centres in this county so that we see what we are told is true or is what is on the ground. I have taken the criticism from honourable Kithinji very positively and believe it is going to build the government of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I beg to thank all honourable members for their contribution.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you honourable Muthini Karangi.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

## ADJOURNMENT

Thank you very much for the active participation. There being no other business on the Order Paper the House stands adjourned until the next sitting.

*\*\*\*The House rose at 11.25am\*\*\**