

# THARAKA NITHI COUNTY ASSEMBLY

## THE HANSARD

15<sup>th</sup> February 2022

*The County Assembly met at the*

*County Assembly chambers in Kathwana at 11.30am*

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

### PRAYERS

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

### MOTIONS

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE INTERRUPTED ON TUESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2022  
DURING THE MORNING SITTING ON ANNUAL STATE OF THE COUNTY

ADDRESS 2021 BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable members, this debate is deemed resumed and now the floor is open for debate. Yes, Honourable Gitonga Leonard, Honourable member for Nkondi.

*(Loud consultation)*

**Hon. Gitonga:** Thank you Mr. Speaker for this opportunity. First let me thank your office on the state of the County address for enabling us to have an open session in a place that is well designated so that the members of the public that were there could also listen to what the Governor had to tell us about the County.

Mr. Speaker, I think the Governor what he did was to give us a score-card about the performance of this regime for the last 4 and half years. what was able to be achieved and what was left because many members contributed on the same in this area.

*(Interjection)*

**Hon. Speaker:** Yes, Honourable member for Magumoni, Honourable Justin Kithinji.

**Hon. Kithinji:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I am standing to seek clarification from the mover of the motion through the chair, whether it is the speaker's office that facilitated us being in the open forum or it was by a way of motion done by this Honourable house so that the records are made straight because as far as I know, a motion was moved in this house, and we debated or rather we passed a motion that we want a house extension. So I wanted the Honourable member on the floor of the house to clarify on that.

**Hon. Speaker:** Kindly proceed Honourable Leonard.

**Hon. Gitonga:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Honourable Kithinji, I know you are a house debater but ultimately the head of this assembly is the Speaker who also happens to be the chair of the board. So having the speaker as the chair I think it's in order because he represents us at the end of the day but we know that the assembly passed.

*(Interjection)*

**Hon. Speaker:** I think for the purpose of record, the two Honourable members are all correct looking at it from whatever position, because this house facilitated the legal matters or legal procedural issues but the office now facilitated the tents and the rest that followed. Thank you.

**Hon. Gitonga:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. In the sector of agriculture, we know the County has done a lot through the provision of the certified seeds to the farmers which has enabled crop production to improve over the years and our farmers get better yields from their crops. Also we know that the artificial insemination services were also introduced during this time which is also subsidized and we believe all these things are geared towards helping our residents to get the maximum benefits that can be offered by the County Government as a devolved function in agriculture.

From the speech we know that various water projects were funded especially Nkondi we have about 2 projects that are underway which we expect, moving forward, more funds

will be availed to those projects so that the farmers can get much water required for irrigation and this will improve their productivity as we move forward.

In terms of education, we know that the County Government and from the speech, the Governor also highlighted that they have supported education sector especially primary schools through the construction of ECDE classrooms. I believe some of the wards have 10 complete classrooms others have 5, others are ongoing projects and we expect by the end of this term all those classrooms should be complete so that we can achieve the desired number of about 150 classes in the whole County are constructed afresh.

In education sector the County has strived a lot to ensure that the parents who lack fees are also assisted with the issuance of bursaries, through the ward bursaries committees and this has been a success though not every parent got the opportunity to get the funds but at least we are moving in the right direction and expect in the coming budget to have more allocation so that we can improve our education because dealing with people who are educated or learned it is easier than dealing with people without education

On trade we note that the County Government has done a lot. The Government has constructed so many markets across the County especially in Chogoria, Chuka Igamba Ng'ombe and Maara constituencies and Mr. Speaker those traders who are trading in the open have been greatly aided to ensure that they operate from good working conditions and all areas are good for operating their businesses.

We also have the construction of markets where large traders avail their produce to the consumers. This is a great step and it is a step in the right direction, we have other markets that had no opportunity to have their markets constructed but we believe that once this program starts other markets will also be constructed. It is a lot that has been done and still it's a lot that is not done. As we go forward, we expect the next Government will have the opportunity because there is so much services that needs to be improved across the board, and some that have been done Mr. speaker we cannot actually say that 100% that they have reached the intended common *mwananchi* in all the areas of Tharaka Nithi. We are doing well I believe we will be here once again to do better. Thank you Mr Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you, Honourable member for Nkondi. Honourable members the floor is still open for debate. Yes, Honourable Justin Kithinji Honourable member for Magumoni.

**Hon. Kithinji:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Am rising to support this Governor's address. It was far reaching and touching on various areas. That day the Governor put it very clear that all what he has achieved he has achieved because of the good working relationship particularly this house. It went outside there to the citizens and it was a great honour for us, because when you mention the number of Bills we have passed like Bursary Bills, Subsidiary Bills and the rest which we have made everybody to undertake several programs, not forgetting the Main budget and Supplementary budget which has ever been presented in this house, it was such a great honour.

Looking at where we are coming from, and the number of things that we see, definitely we can attest to the fact that most of what has been captured here is true apart from few things here and there like production of milk and fish. The report captures that the production of fish has really increased. It also captures that they really supplied what was needed for the fish to develop or grow. Personally, I was approached by my residents in a number of occasions to assist them. Sometimes to help them with fingerlings whether that what we can refer to, other times they have approached me to ensure that we get good market for them. They have also looked for me to help them with the food that is consumed by these fish. So that shows maybe there could be a gap between the Governor and people who work at the fishponds if that is the kind of report they have given him, then it means that there are some gaps that are in place. We are doing well because we are talking of additional fishponds. There is a time these Honourable Members, I remember we went round, and we were taught on how to rear those fish. I know very soon that there is a consensus that is coming up within our county, I want to believe that the Governor will expedite or rather he will liaise with the national Government so that the same can be put in place in good time because for sure fish farming can improve the livelihood of our people.

There was a lot that had been budgeted for, and it is well captured that the development partners mainly the donors have let us down in one way or another. This is because most of the major water projects which have been captured in various development plans have

not been accomplished because of the reliance on those donors. I don't know for what reasons that they have not been able to honour their pledges. I remember there was a time they even came and announced that they are going to do several things, particularly in this Kathwana Municipality, and the kind of money they were talking of; if you look around you cannot see. So I think on that part of the donors they have really made us sometimes get a bad impression. I remember they had donated 80 Million for Mukui uri-Mbugi and 70 Million Kinoru-Mukuuni, and up to now, that project is history. I want to thank the Governor and his Government because in a way they went ahead and constructed some kind of intake and we keep telling our residents that water is about to flow where they are. I want to believe with time it will work or rather it will happen.

The Governor talked on the matters of health in his speech. He has done a lot in construction. I want also to thank the national Government because when Corona came, they added some workers because I remember they were around 283. I think their contract was to end in three years' time, and since that period is soon approaching, it's my prayer that their contract will be extended or maybe get permanent jobs. I am trying to imagine if such a number exits from service, what would really happen to our health facility which looks like it is already overstretched.

I am a frequent visitor to our Level- 4 hospital which we are very hopeful that very soon it shall move to level -5. Sincerely, the kind of services which are given their sometimes are not really pleasing. It does not give a very good impression to our County. We have very many communications in our various capacities like representatives and we are just hoping that they will keep on improving. So on part of the construction is okay but when it comes to issues of services it explains something else.

This looks a very detailed and a good report and of course it is. I really wish that people, who work under the Governor, will execute their services well and those who are supposed to give their services to give at their level best so that at least everybody feels that something has been done. Even as the slogan of this year is that now, 'it is eyes', I have used my eyes on this report and am confirming now that 'it is eyes'. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

*(Laughter)*

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you, Honourable member for Magumoni, Honourable Justin Kithinji. Honourable members the floor is still open for debate.

Yes, Honourable Charles Nyaga, Honourable Member for Mitheru.

**Hon. Nyaga:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Let me also enrich this motion by saying that there are certain projects our Governor has done uniformly. Like the building of ECDE classes which are excellent. There are others that have not been done uniformly, and of course we know everything cannot be done in a day. In ICT, he has done a lot, in hospitals and even in Matatu stage.

In hospitals, he has put in place projects like; the oxygen plant. Let me tell our people that not all hospitals have oxygen plant. On the side of youths, the Governor has excelled. He has outdone all the other counties which has no projects for the youths, and of course he has set a very high bar for any incoming Governor to compare his notes on youth side and youth's projects. Finally, let me say that phase 1 and 2 are very well done and we are waiting for the final phase for all of us to use his slogan '*No Metho*'. Let me also say that we need a master plan for our Roads, Water and Environment. We need a master plan too for our towns and to have proper sewerages for future generations. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you Honourable Charles Nyaga, Honourable member for Mitheru. Yes, Honourable Asumptah.

**Hon. Asumptah:** Thank you Mr. Speaker sir. Let me take this opportunity to give my views on the report which was addressed by the Governor on the previous months. This report is cutting across and it shows that every department is included without forgetting that being one of the people living with disability, the county Government has done a lot because it has never detached itself from persons abled differently, and I can see the county Government has supported the department of social services considering the persons living with disability in Tharaka Nithi County, and Provision of a system device which can make their mobility easier. I also thank the Government for seeing that it is better for the legislation which was made by this house passing the Tharaka Nithi youth empowerment Bill which is inclusive of persons living with disability. Without talking

much Mr. Speaker, even the public participation, it is being exercised in this county, whereby everybody knows what is going on whereas, if we are not called for public participation, we cannot know what is going on. I thank the Government for following the constitution whereby we also have to follow the constitution which will be the Government of the community. The public participation makes everyone open and that is why he made the speech that day publically so that we can know what he has done.” *Riu ni Metho*”. Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you Honourable Asumptah. Honourable members the floor is still open for debate.

*(Loud Consultations)*

Honourable members, regard being taken to the mood in the house and pursuant to the standing order number 106 (4), allow me now to I call upon the mover to reply.

**Hon. Derebia:** Thank you Mr. Speaker for this opportunity. I want to thank the Honourable members for their contribution. Everyone was here and we know all the projects which were projected and we are eye witnesses of whatever is written in this public address or state of the county which is constitutional and also a requirement for every county Government. I want to echo the sentiments of all Honourable members in what the Government has done. It has done in collaboration with this Assembly. They cannot succeed not unless we team up and work together. As i thank the Honourable members, I also want to thank the Government for what they did. We have 6 wards in our county where they haven't worked in collaboration with KCAP. They have improved the livelihood of our habitants of those 6 wards and if you happen to visit those homesteads, you can see there is a great change. There is transformation in our county. I want to thank the Honourable members and also is good because that slogan of his Excellency the Governor, also we as the M.C.As because we are working together in our wards, we should carry that slogan and say “*Riu in Metho*” in our wards because what has been done by the Government, we have done it in collaboration with his Excellency the Governor. I want to thank all Honourable members and also say may we live longer because this is the year of election. You can see the chamber is almost half, the temperatures are high because there are some people who have already removed clothes and they are trying to

swim in our ocean but the crocodiles are ready to remove their noses and swallow them alive. Thank you Mr Speaker.

*(Laughter)*

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you Honourable Muisraeli the Honourable Minority leader. Honourable members, pursuant to standing order 33(5) read together with standing order 73(2), allow me now to put the question.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

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

**\*\*\*The House Rose at 12:05Pm\*\*\***