

# THARAKA NITHI COUNTY ASSEMBLY

## THE HANSARD

15<sup>th</sup> February 2022

*The County Assembly met at the*

*County Assembly chambers in Kathwana at 9.30am*

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

## PRAYERS

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

## COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable members, good morning and welcome to this sitting. I do wish you all the best as you discharge your constitutional mandate. Thank you.

## MOTIONS

MOTION ON ANNUAL STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS 2021

BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

**Hon. Speaker:** Yes, Honourable minority leader.

**Hon. Derebia:** Thank you Mr Speaker. First and foremost, for your information, I changed my name, I am no longer Wilson, I am Muisraeli Nyaga Derebia.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you and that is noted.

**Hon. Derebia:** Mr Speaker, that the thanks of the Assembly be recorded for the exposition of the public policy contained in the address of the Governor. Thank you Mr Speaker.

**Disclaimer:** *The Electronic version of Tharaka Nithi County Assembly is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Clerk, Tharaka Nithi County Assembly. pg. 1*

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you. Any seconder?

**Hon. Derebia:** Yes, Mr Speaker I have a seconder Honourable Njagi Mucee.

**Hon. Speaker:** Yes, Honourable John Njagi Mucee.

*(Honourable John Njagi stood at his place and bowed to second)*

Honourable members, allow me now to propose the question, that the thanks of the Assembly be recorded for the exposition of the public policy contained in the address of the Governor. Honourable members, the floor is now open for debate. Yes, Honourable John Njagi Mucee. You reserved your comments.

*(Laughter)*

**Hon. Njagi:** Thank you Mr Speaker for granting me this opportunity to contribute on the Governor's address. One, I thank the Governor for obeying the law of Kenya that every year he should address the public on the state of the County on what he has done and what he intends to do. This time he did it in a very smart manner because members of the public were involved and granted an opportunity to listen. He explained what he has done in all the departments. For example, in the Education sector, he said that he has employed ECDE teachers on permanent and pensionable terms. In terms of classes, he said that he has built several classes. The ones that are already complete are ten in number in every ward but there are few wards with five classes but he said that the remaining classes will be built before the end of the five years' term. In the department of roads, he said that several roads have been opened and our electorates are now able to move freely, they can be able to take their produce to the markets without much strain. He also said that the maintenance of roads is now lower because they have Machines. He also said that in line with that, the operators of these machines have been employed to do this work. In the livestock sector, he has worked on improved artificial insemination services whereby they have put up a number whereby a livestock keeper can dial that number and have the services delivered. Since I am not the only Honourable member in this Honourable House, Honourable Speaker, allow me to rest my case there. Thank you.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you Honourable John Njagi Mucee. Honourable members, the floor is still open for debate. Yes, Honourable member for Chogoria ward.

**Hon. Margaret:** Thank you Mr Speaker. First of all, I want to congratulate His Excellency the Governor of Tharaka Nithi County for coming in this Assembly on 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2021 to deliver the state of our beloved County of Tharaka Nithi. I want to believe that this is almost the last state of the County address by His Excellency the Governor in this term as the next Government takes office on 10<sup>th</sup> of August 2022. I appreciate the Governor for realizing that this work has come to be because of the cordial relationship and working together as a group between the Assembly and the Executive and the role played by this House of oversight and budget making process so that the projects that have been put in place are there. I therefore want to thank you Mr Speaker, because of allowing a conducive environment for us to be able to move as an Assembly from one level to the other. I also want to thank the Executive because from what His Excellency the Governor said in his speech, he talked about different departments and if I can mention something about Agriculture and livestock, we have seen that we have been able to give out seedlings and seeds to our people in the entire County and they have been able to plant and harvest. We still have a long way to go because the distribution of seedlings and seeds should be factored throughout so that each one of us from different zones, enjoy what we are supposed to enjoy. If it is the upper zone, they plant maize, beans and also tree seedlings. When we come to the lower zone, they plant Ndengu, sorghum, millet and other crops. Mr Speaker, God has also been very faithful to us because the rainfall has been almost sufficient and farmers have been able to harvest during that period. We have been having challenges of livestock diseases, and I pray that if we get such diseases in future, the department should make sure that they liaise with the local leaders so that this administration can be done as per the request by the farmers. You find that we have farmers who have got zero grazing and may not be able to move to those collective areas where cattle is taken for immunization or injection and moving from door to door where there are zero grazing farmers at no extra cost because this is service to the citizens that elected us.

If I move to trade; trade has also been factored very well in this report and what has been done and what is to be done. Trade carries the backbone because without trading we may not be able to take our harvest from the gardens to the respective people who are supposed to consume. First of all, I appreciate because we have these cereal stores and they have assisted so much in making sure that the farmers do not keep their food in the houses until it rots. Also when there is food that is being brought to this county maybe for distribution either consumption or planting there are good places where they are kept. I want to believe that we have got those food stores in Maara, Chuka Igamba Ng'ombe and also in Tharaka.

I want to thank God because when we came we found the county headquarters it was just a shell but right now what we can see is that the county headquarters; am going as per the speech of the governor.

**Hon. Speaker:** You are doing quite well Honourable Margaret kindly proceed.

**Hon. Margret:** Thank you very much.

*(Loud consultations)*

Mr. Speaker protect me am giving my speech and everybody is supposed to give a speech.

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable members kindly let's consult quietly.

**Hon. Margret:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I am normally very sensitive when people talk while am talking so can I be given space Mr. Speaker.

I also want to thank the department of Health because of making sure that the shell buildings that were there before we joined this government are almost complete. In almost all the wards, there were dispensaries that were not complete and I want to applaud the department because very few are remaining and it is my prayer that these few ones remaining are going to be completed before we go to the general elections because it is our mandate to make sure that before we start new projects, we first of all finalize with the ones that were incomplete.

Like in my ward, I want to thank the department so much because they have been able to operationalize Munga dispensary, Kiriani dispensary is almost complete, Wiru dispensary is complete and patients are going there but we have got a few remaining that are not completed that is Kiamuchai, there is a ward that has not been completed, Mutindwa dispensary there is a kitchen and Baragu there is a male ward that is not complete. It is my prayer that before we leave for the other government we make sure that we complete them so that the next government will start with the new projects that we were unable to start because we found so many incomplete projects and I want to thank God because they are complete.

Mr. Speaker there are many areas but I cannot sit down before mentioning something about water and environment where I chair. Water remains a big challenge in this county; maybe in the upper zones we may not feel it but when we come to the lower zones it is felt and felt in a big way. We cannot talk about water without talking about environment conservation. The other day we sat with my committee to check how the CFSP that will determine how the budget of 2022/ 2023 will be and it is very sad to realize that there is no money set aside for environment conservation.

Five million is very little and we cannot talk about water, education, health or any anything without making sure that environment is protected. As you will see in the report we proposed that environment should be given enough money to be able to conserve environment and after conserving our environment we will be able to protect our water catchment areas.

We also talked about uprooting of eucalyptus from the catchment areas. It should be very clear catchment areas not from all over. I thank God because the department of environment invited me the other day they had a technical working team and they want to come up with a Bill that will make sure that eucalyptus is removed from those very key areas that is water catchment areas and replaced with seedlings like bamboo and other plants that will make sure that our water levels go back to where they were a few years ago. I want to believe that bill will be ready and when it is ready it will be brought to this house so that we start the process of uprooting the eucalyptus trees.

I pray that we will not leave this assembly without having the report that we tabled sometimes back about the boreholes so that we may be able to close those books and open other books when we come to the next government of which I will be part of it.

The greatest problem that we have as a county the governor has done a lot to make sure that infrastructure is done all over this county but it remains a big challenge. I normally tell my constituents if they have to give me marks because of the roads they will give me five percent because we do the roads and immediately within a short time when the rains come the roads are back to where they were gulley's are there on the road.

This is the biggest challenge, we bought equipment's which have not been able to do what they were supposed to do because if they had done the work they were supposed to do this county everyone would be saying I have seen it for a week or two weeks. I want to believe that the department is doing all what is possible to make sure that our wards where they have not reached, six months is a long time to make sure that they go there so that our constituents will see that they sent us to do the work of making sure that they have got good roads to be able to transport their produce and other things.

I want to say that this is a good report, when I go through it I see everything has been factored but we have a long way to go as a county because we want to make sure that especially our youths in this county are taken better care of than what we are doing. I thank God because just the other day we were able to give youth group projects and the executive was able to buy equipment to assist the youth. I want to believe in the next government the youth will be top of the list to make sure that we give them what they require so that they will stop saying that they are not remembered or they are not taken care of. I want to urge the youth of this county to make sure that they have youth groups because it is only the groups that will be assisted; individuals may not be assisted. Because there are no white collar jobs I want to believe that when they have groups and we have at least ten groups from each of the wards will be able to penetrate to where the youths are.

Mr. Speaker thank you so much let me not pre-empt what other members have to contribute on this. I really support this report.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you Honourable member for Chogoria, Honourable Margret Gitari. Honourable members the floor is still open for debate. Yes, Honourable member for Mugwe, Honourable Dennis Mutwiri.

**Hon. Dennis:** Thank you Mr. Speaker for this opportunity to participate on the motion that is in front of this house. The report itself has elaborated so many things especially the position of what has been achieved within our county. By trying to interrogate that report one can be able to see the milestone that has been taken for close to four years. It's a true reflection that the public can consume and judge what has been done. In every department, both qualitative and cumulative, one can be able to ascertain that a lot has been done. The greatest thing is that the report itself acknowledges that the success of much that has been done, it is attributed to this House by having done the legislation that facilitates those activities to be undertaken. By that, I mean that the honorable members of this house should take the greatest credit because of passing those regulations that enabled the executive to be able to execute and achieve those activities. In all the departments, it is very clear that the engagement that has been done must be accomplished. If KCEP itself can be able to support around 225 groups within the county, that is to mean that majority of these groups our social groups amongst them being the youths, because it's always said that youth is a passage and not a requirement and that because someone is a youth, you have to get a certain thing if you have not worked for it. It also acknowledges that the effort that is being done to attribute to our success. One thing that should be looked at is quality of some of the activities because you find we have done so many kilometers of roads but not properly maintained or we have done so many activities/ projects which have not been completed and it is still our responsibility to do that. Finally, I want to acknowledge the seamless operations in this House. Today I have observed that it is the minority leader who has forwarded this motion, that is a true indication that those who think that handshake does not work, it works. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

*(Laughter)*

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you honorable Dennis Mutwiri the honorable member for Mugwe. Yes, the honorable member for Nkondi, Honourable Gitonga.

**Hon. Gitonga:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Otherwise Mr. Speaker noting that due to the time factor and the minutes that are remaining, and taking into account the number of members who have contributed and the many other members who have not contributed. I request that we adjourn this morning sitting so that the remaining members I included can have ample time to contribute to the afternoon sitting. Thank you.

**Hon. Speaker:** Is there any Honourable member who has any objection?

*(Loud Consultations)*

Honourable members, pursuant to the clear provision of standing order number one, that confers unfettered discretion upon the Chair, read together with standing order number 73, and regard being taken to the fact that this motion according to our standing orders, it is supposed to be debated in a period of not more than four days, I hereby grant the request sought by Honourable Gitonga. That being the case and there being no other business in our order paper, this house stands adjourned until our next sitting.

**\*\*\*The House Rose at 9:55Am\*\*\***