

# THARAKA NITHI COUNTY ASSEMBLY

## THE HANSARD

Third Assembly

21<sup>st</sup> November 2023

*The County Assembly met at the  
County Assembly chambers in Kathwana at 9.30 a.m.  
[The Speaker (Hon. John Mbabu) in the Chair]*

## PRAYERS

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable members, please be seated. Let us proceed to the next order.

## COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable members, I wish to welcome you to our todays sitting. next order.

## PAPERS

THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS ON  
VARIOUS INTERGOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE  
NATIONAL- GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA AND  
THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF THARAKA NITHI

**Hon. Murithi:** Thank you, honourable Speaker, I rise to lay on the table of the House the report of the Select Committee on Finance, Budget and Appropriations on various Intergovernmental Participation Agreements between the National- Government of the Republic of Kenya and the County Government of Tharaka Nithi. Thank you, honourable Speaker.

*(The Paper was accordingly laid on the table)*

THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS ON THE  
REVISED ANNUAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/2025

**Hon. Murithi:** Thank you, honourable Speaker, I rise to lay on the table of the House the Report of The Committee on Finance, Budget and Appropriations on The Revised Annual Development Plan for the Financial Year 2024/2025. Thank you, honourable Speaker.

*(The Paper was accordingly laid on the table)*

THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH SERVICES ON THE STATUS OF HEALTH  
FACILITIES IN THARAKA NORTH AND SOUTH SUB-COUNTIES

**Hon. Maugu Morris:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I hereby lay on the table of the House the Report of the Committee on Health Services on the Status of Health Facilities in Tharaka North and South Sub-Counties.

*(The Paper was accordingly laid on the table)*

## NOTICES OF MOTION

MOTION ON APPROVAL OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT ON  
AGRICULTURE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT PROGRAMME (ASDSP)

**Hon. Murithi:** Thank you honourable Speaker. I give the Notice of Motion on approval of Intergovernmental Participation Agreement on Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme (ASDSP).

That; that Pursuant to the provisions of Section 191A of the Public Finance Management Act, 2023 the County Assembly approves The Intergovernmental Participation Agreement between the National- Government of the Republic of Kenya and the County Government of Tharaka Nithi on Implementation of Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme (ASDSP). Thank you, honourable Speaker.

MOTION ON APPROVAL OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT  
ON EMERGENCY LOCUST RESPONSE PROJECT (ELRP)

**Hon. Murithi:** Thank you honourable Speaker. I give the Notice of Motion on approval of Intergovernmental Participation Agreement on Emergency Locust Response Project (ELRP).

That; that Pursuant to the provisions of Section 191A of the Public Finance Management Act, 2023 the County Assembly approves The Intergovernmental Participation Agreement between the National- Government of the Republic of Kenya and the County Government of Tharaka

Nithi on Implementation of Emergency Locust Response Project (ELRP). Thank you, honourable Speaker.

MOTION ON APPROVAL OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT  
ON FINANCING LOCALLY-LED CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAM (FLLoCA)

**Hon. Murithi:** Thank you honourable Speaker. I give the Notice of Motion on approval of Intergovernmental Participation Agreement on Financing Locally-Led Climate Action Program (FLLoCA).

That; that Pursuant to the provisions of Section 191A of the Public Finance Management Act, 2023 the County Assembly approves The Intergovernmental Participation Agreement between the National- Government of the Republic of Kenya and the County Government of Tharaka Nithi on Implementation of Financing Locally-Led Climate Action Program (FLLoCA). Thank you, honourable Speaker.

MOTION ON APPROVAL OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT  
ON AQUACULTURE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (ABDP)

**Hon. Murithi:** Thank you honourable Speaker. I give the Notice of Motion on approval of Intergovernmental Participation Agreement on Aquaculture Business Development Programme (ABDP).

That; that Pursuant to the provisions of Section 191A of the Public Finance Management Act, 2023 the County Assembly approves the Intergovernmental Participation Agreement between the National- Government of the Republic of Kenya and the County Government of Tharaka Nithi on Implementation of Aquaculture Business Development Programme (ABDP). Thank you, honourable Speaker.

MOTION ON APPROVAL OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT  
ON INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (KISIP II)

**Hon. Murithi:** Thank you honourable Speaker. I give the Notice of Motion on approval of Intergovernmental Participation Agreement on Informal Settlements Improvement Project (KISIP II).

That; that Pursuant to the provisions of Section 191A of the Public Finance Management Act, 2023 the County Assembly approves The Intergovernmental Participation Agreement between the National- Government of the Republic of Kenya and the County Government of Tharaka Nithi on Informal Settlements Improvement Project (KISIP II). Thank you. Honourable Speaker.

MOTION ON APPROVAL OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA  
AND THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF THARAKA NITHI ON THE  
DANIDA PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SUPPORT PROGRAMME

**Hon. Murithi:** Thank you honourable Speaker. I give the Notice of Motion on approval of Intergovernmental Participation Agreement Between the National Government Of The Republic of Kenya and The County Government of Tharaka Nithi on The DANIDA Primary Health Care Support Programme.

That; that Pursuant to the provisions of Section 191A of the Public Finance Management Act, 2023 the County Assembly approves The Intergovernmental Participation Agreement between the National- Government of the Republic of Kenya and the County Government of Tharaka Nithi on the DANIDA Primary Health Care Support Programme. Thank you, honourable Speaker.

MOTION ON APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL DEVELOPMENT  
PLAN FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/2025

**Hon. Murithi:** Thank you honourable Speaker. I give the Notice of Motion on approval of The Annual Development Plan for The Financial Year 2024/2025.

That; Pursuant to provisions of Section 106 of the Public Finance Management Act 2012, Section 113 of the County Governments Act, 2012 and Standing Order 243 as read together with Standing Order 241 of the Tharaka Nithi County Assembly Standing Orders the County Assembly approves the Annual Development Plan for the Financial Year 2024/2025. Thank you, honourable Speaker.

MOTION ON ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON  
HEALTH SERVICES ON THE STATUS OF HEALTH FACILITIES  
IN THARAKA NORTH AND SOUTH SUB-COUNTIES

**Hon. Maugu Morris:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I give the Notice of Motion on adoption of The Report of The Committee on Health Services on The Status of Health Facilities in Tharaka North and South Sub-Counties.

That; that the County Assembly adopts the Report of the Committee on Health Services on the status of health facilities in Tharaka North and South Sub-Counties. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Next order.

## STATEMENTS

### STATEMENT ON MAINTENANCE OF ROAD EQUIPMENT

**Hon. Murithi:** 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 Transport, Roads and Public works on maintenance of road equipment.

Aware that that the county government purchased and operates road maintenance equipment. Further aware that it takes a considerable amount of time to service the and repair the equipment when broken down.

In the Statement the Chairperson Committee on Transport, Roads and Public works is to respond to the following:

- i. How much did the County spend on the operation and maintenance of road equipment in the financial year 2022/2023? Kindly provide a breakdown of the expenditure.
- ii. What measures has the department put in place to ensure that the time it takes to service and repair county road maintenance equipment is reduced.
- iii. Has the county employed a county mechanic? If not, why has the county not considered hiring a county mechanic to carry out repairs and service the equipment?

Honourable Speaker, I seek that Statement from the department.

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable Fatuma, the committee chair is not in the House so take charge.

**Hon. Fatuma:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We had a meeting yesterday with the CECM for roads. We deliberated on several issues and he was not really able to explain the questions that we asked...

**Hon. Speaker:** Let me get you right. The Statement has been sought today; I don't really understand how now yesterday you had a meeting with the CECM in charge of roads on the same. What I expect from you, honourable Fatuma, is that you give us a timeframe of when you can respond to that Statement.

**Hon. Fatuma:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, give us two weeks and then we will be able to respond. Thank you, Mr. Speaker sir.

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable Muchiri.

*(Hon. Murithi stood in his place and bowed to indicate concurrence)*

Let us proceed to the next order.

#### RESPONSE TO THE STATEMENT ON NITHI WATER AND SANITATION COMPANY

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable chair, water.

**Hon. Njagi Zacharia:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I stand to give the response to the Statement on Nithi Water and Sanitation Company that was requested for by the honourable member for Karingani. Before I give the response, I want to thank the members of the committee on water for giving me the chance to serve as the chair of the committee. I appreciate.

Mr. Speaker, the first question was what is the number of employees in the Company. Nithi Water and Sanitation Company (NIWASCO) has a total of 79 employees, both permanent and contract terms, as per the Financial Year 2023/24.

The next one was what are the current employees' terms of employment (provide the data on how many of the employees are on permanent, on contract or casual terms). The Company responded that it has the following terms of employees according to the Human Resource and

procedures Manual clause 4.6 on categories of appointment. The company employs on the following terms: on permanent and pensionable it has 33 employees, 46 employees are on contract, and casuals are employed on need basis.

The other question was how many employees were engaged when the company was incorporated in 2006? What are their current terms of employment (how many are permanent, contract, or casual as at now)? The company responded that when the company was incorporated, a number of 15 employees were seconded from the Ministry of water and irrigation. The mentioned 15 employees were on permanent and pensionable terms and are currently working with the county government of Tharaka Nithi. Currently, there are no seconded staff from the ministry as per financial year 2023/24.

The fourth question was what is the criteria used for promoting employees and engaging employees on permanent or contract terms? The company responded that according to the company human resource policy and procedures manual the promotions are as per section 4.19 which states:

- i. It shall be the policy of the Company to fill all vacancies by promotion of suitable employees.
- ii. Consideration for promotion shall be based on qualification and other requirements for appointment as stipulated in the job description guidelines.
- iii. In case of employees with similar qualifications, proven merit and suitability for the vacancy will be given greater weight than seniority. An elaborate appraisal system will inform promotion decisions by management subject to approval by the BOD.
- iv. In selecting candidates for promotion, regards shall be given to affording adequate and equal opportunities to all gender, youth, members of all ethnic groups, persons living with disabilities and minorities.
- v. The recommendations made to the BOD for promotion of employees, shall state whether or not the employee is the most suitable in the department for promotion.

Moreso, in section 4.7, 4.8 and 4.9 of the same manual, it gives and guides the Company on employees terms in engagement for both permanent and pensionable and contract terms of employment.

The selection criteria is through advertisement, interviewing and selection of relevant advertised qualification. The terms of service are usually stipulated on the advertisement.

Mr. Speaker in the report we have the annexes that we have already served the member with. I have also to say that we had decided to engage the Company Board of directors in a meeting but they had other issues to handle so we are scheduling to meet them, maybe next week, and we will invite the member for more clarity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** My understanding is that you are saying that you have given us a half-baked report. Let us hear the sentiments of the member who had asked for the Statement.

**Hon. Murithi:** Thank you honourable Speaker. I first of all congratulate the chairman for the committee on water. This being his first Statement to bring to this House he has tried. But as you have said, the report is half baked. Allow me, Mr. Speaker, to say that we should allow him to continue because he has said that they are inviting the Board of Directors and the Management of NIWASCO and that they will invite me so that we can get clarification. I feel that when it comes to issues of when the company was incorporated, they are saying that they only had 15 staff that were seconded from the ministry but according to what I know there were employees who were engaged during that time on contract basis and they are retiring at the same level. That is my concern. We should give the chair more time and when we meet the Company management, he can still bring the report here with the clarifications so that, if you look at the Standing Order number 63 it allows the members to debate on the response but we cannot do that when the response is half baked. Thank you, honourable Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** The chairman committee on water, the position is that you will be completing your report so give us a timeframe to bring the report. You can also invite all other interested members when you will be meeting the Board of Directors. Let us have that report in the House in the next sitting. Next order.

**Hon. Murithi:** Honourable Speaker I rise on a point of order pursuant to Standing Order number 60(2) that the Statement response is supposed to be given when the member who requested for the Statement is in the House and if he is not in the House... and maybe because we are interested parties, we can hear the response honourable Speaker.



**Hon. Speaker:** We have the vice chair of the committee in the House but I will nevertheless read that Standing Order:

“A Member of the Assembly Business Committee designated by the Committee for that purpose shall, every Tuesday or on the first sitting day, for not more than ten minutes, present and lay on the Table, a statement informing the Assembly of the business coming before the Assembly in the following week”.

That is Standing Order number 62.

**Hon. Murithi:** Honourable Speaker I have said Standing Order number 60(2). Thank you.

**Hon. Speaker:** Then honourable members the response stands deferred until the next appropriate time. Next order.

## MOTIONS

### APPROVAL OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT ON AGRICULTURE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT PROGRAMME (ASDSP)

**Hon. Murithi:** Thank you. Honourable Speaker I seek the leave of the House to move the Motions on the issues of the agreements between the National- Government of the Republic of Kenya and the County Government of Tharaka Nithi because they are several. I seek the leave of the House to move the Motions numbered 1-13 on the Order Paper Mr. Speaker. I have honourable Marengo and honourable Nancy in support.

**Hon. Speaker:** Majority leader.

*(Hon. Marengo Luke stood in his place and bowed to indicate support)*

Honourable Nancy.

*(Hon. Nancy stood in her place and bowed to indicate support)*

The leave of the House is hereby granted. Proceed honourable member for Karingani.

**Hon. Murithi:** Thank you honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker I rise to move the Motion on the approval of Intergovernmental Participation Agreement on Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme (ASDSP).

On behalf of the members of the Select Committee on Finance, Budget and Appropriations, and pursuant to the provisions Section 191A of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 as amended through the County Governments Additional Allocations Act, 2022 and Standing Order No. 221(3) of the County Assembly of Tharaka Nithi Standing Orders, it is my pleasant duty and privilege to present to this honourable Assembly the report of the Committee on Various Intergovernmental Participation Agreements Between the National- Government of the Republic of Kenya and the County Government of Tharaka Nithi.

Honourable Speaker, the following Intergovernmental Participation Agreements between the National- Government of the Republic of Kenya and the County Government of Tharaka Nithi were submitted to the County Assembly on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 pursuant to the provisions of Section 191A of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 as amended through the County Governments Additional Allocations Act, 2022:

<b>Agreement</b>	<b>Counter Party</b>	<b>Date Signed</b>	<b>Department/ Sector</b>
ASDSP (Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme)	GOK/State Department	14/06/2018	Agriculture
ELRP (Emergency Locust Response Project)	GOK/State Department	05/10/2022	Agriculture
FLLOCA (Financing Locally-Led Climate Action Program)	GOK/State Department	06/05/2022	Environment
ABDP (Aquaculture Business Development Programme)	GOK/State Department	12/10/2020	Agriculture
KISIP II (Informal Settlements Improvement project)	GOK/State Department	11/01/2021	Urban Development

DANIDA Primary Health Support Programme	GOK/State Department	27/08/2021	Health
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Honourable Speaker, we have the documents that as always when brought to our attention we look at their legal basis. We were guided by the Public Finance Management Act 2012. We were guided to the amendment on the PFM Act 2012 through the County Governments Additional Allocations Act, 2022 providing that all the agreements on any conditional grants will be approved by the House and I am happy that this is the second time that we are discussing these agreements because there is another agreement that we discussed in the previous sitting.

We are also guided by the County Government Act 2013 section 102 which provides for the principle of planning and development facilitation. And because we have all that in the report there is no need of going through all that. We are also guided by section 103 of the same Act which provides for the objectives of the County planning. We also have section 104 which provides for the obligation of planning by the county.

When the documents were committed to the committee, the first one we looked at was the ASDSP, i.e., the Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme. This agreement was entered sometimes back in 2014 and because it is a continuous process and the Act has been amended it requires the approval of this House so that we can continue with the agreement. The project is jointly supported by the Governments of Sweden and Kenya and the agreement outlines the responsibilities of the implementing partners.

The committee noted that it was indicated that the project would run for five years thus 2017 - 2022 thus implying the project had been concluded as per the agreement provided. We sought clarification from the CECM and the CECM commented the following:

The CECM highlighted that the project had received a no-cost extension up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 due to the delayed start of implementation of the programme that affected the realization of output objectives. The CECM provided the correspondence on the extension of the period as annexed to this report.

Mr. Speaker, I therefore move that this Assembly adopts the report so that the National government and the county government of Tharaka Nithi can enter the agreement without any

query. The reason that these agreements are being brought to our attention is because we are the people's representatives. In the amended Act it clearly stated that the CECM will conduct public participation. We have the documents to prove that public participation was carried out and that public agreed that the County Assembly should approve the agreements.

Honourable Speaker I move that; that Pursuant to the provisions of Section 191A of the Public Finance Management Act, 2023 the County Assembly approves The Intergovernmental Participation Agreement between the National- Government of the Republic of Kenya and the County Government of Tharaka Nithi on Implementation of Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme (ASDSP). I request honourable Marengo to second. Thank you.

**Hon. Marengo Luke:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I second the Motion.

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable Members, I will propose the question for debate that pursuant to the provisions of Section 191A of the Public Finance Management Act, 2023 the County Assembly approves The Intergovernmental Participation Agreement between the National- Government of the Republic of Kenya and the County Government of Tharaka Nithi on Implementation of Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme (ASDSP). Honourable Mwaura.

**Hon. Mwaura Mwangi:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. First of all, I want to congratulate honourable Zachary and honourable Nancy the new chairpersons for Water committee and the Trade committee respectively. Congratulations honourable members.

This is the right time to adopt this Motion because this programme is good for the county. I have heard honourable Murithi say that it is under partnership with the government of Sweden. It is a good intervention the new overarching draft agricultural policies. It is good we adopt because I think there will be no cost since the programme is funded by the Sweden government. It will be a good transformation for the crops, livestock and maybe fisheries in the county which will help our farmers. Our farmers will be able to do farming in a commercial manner. It is good that we approve the Motion because the farmers will also be able to provide the nutrition for the health of our people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** It is too early to start reading the mood of the House. Honourable Wanja.

**Hon. Purity Wanja:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I also rise to support the Motion because I have worked with NGOs in different places and I know that it helps a county. But there is one problem that I have noticed when working with NGOs in the community. If it is not structured in such a way that there are targeted groups that will be working with the ministry or the department of agriculture then it will be a waste. I know it is a good idea and it is going to improve Tharaka Nithi county. I wish that the department can get groups from the youth, the disabled and work with these people instead of working like we usually do when we are distributing the seeds when we do it in the fields. so, let us, as a County Assembly, every elected MCA who has a ward, know the number of groups who are going to be the target groups that will work on this programme so that at least get an advantage from what is going to be done. It should also include a lot of training. The training should be on things like marketing, finance and everything else. What I advise is that let us use target groups in this so that we can know who are benefitting from this. Otherwise, it will just be another NGO that will come into the county and we will never know who benefited from it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** The Mover.

**Hon. Murithi:** Thank you honourable Speaker. Let me thank the honourable members for the support they have expressed on the Motion. Let me also say that when it comes to the implementation of these agreements, the donors, that is, the national government and the other donors that are giving counties these monies, have the implementation formula and we have them. It is the high time now, because before the Assembly was not being involved, that we start looking at what they are doing at the ward level and at the county level. It is the high time that we realized that when it comes to conditional grants sometimes it is not countywide but it specifies which ward that will benefit from the same. As an Assembly we will monitor what is happening. Also, as the budget committee when we will be budgeting on the same, we will be looking at what the donors are doing in our county. Thank you, honourable Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable members I will put the question.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

Next order.

APPROVAL OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT  
ON EMERGENCY LOCUST RESPONSE PROJECT (ELRP)

**Hon. Murithi:** Thank you honourable Speaker. I once again rise to move the Motion on the approval of Intergovernmental Participation Agreement on Emergency Locust Response Project (ELRP).

That; that Pursuant to the provisions of Section 191A of the Public Finance Management Act, 2023 the County Assembly approves The Intergovernmental Participation Agreement between the National- Government of the Republic of Kenya and the County Government of Tharaka Nithi on Implementation of Emergency Locust Response Project (ELRP).

This is a world bank funded project together with the national government ministry of agriculture being the implementing agency and the participating county government being the executing agency. The committee noted that the document provided was an addendum amending the intergovernmental participation agreement entered into on 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2021. When we requested for the agreement itself it was brought to us by the CECM. The CECM acknowledged the error and submitted to the committee a copy of the Agreement entered into on 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2021 and the Financing agreement that are annexed to this report.

This is something that has been going on. Considering that the locust issue was a nationwide problem we are part of the counties that are benefitting from this and since the programme has not elapsed it is time for this House to adapt the agreement so that we can continue to get the funds from the Locust Response Project.

I beg to move and request honourable Nancy to second.

**Hon. Nancy:** I second.

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable Members, with the Motion having been seconded, I will propose the question that Pursuant to the provisions of Section 191A of the Public Finance Management Act, 2023 the County Assembly approves The Intergovernmental Participation Agreement between the National- Government of the Republic of Kenya and the County Government of Tharaka

Nithi on Implementation of Emergency Locust Response Project (ELRP). The floor is now open for debate. Honourable Mwaura.

**Hon. Mwangi Mwaura:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I also think that this is the high time that we adopt this Motion because I do believe that the agreement is there to strengthen the county projects and coordination of the Kenya Climate-Smart Agriculture. It is right that we approve this as a county Assembly. At the same time, these projects should be community driven and so the community should be sensitized on what is happening in the county. This is because, you know sometimes the community brings problems when something comes to their areas and they are not included. The planning and the budgeting of the same should be of the highest threshold. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable Nancy.

**Hon. Nancy:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I congratulate honourable Zacharia the new chairman of the committee on what. I urge this House to support the Motion that is on the floor of this House. Agriculture is basic and this programme is touching every Mwananchi in this county. So as our people are going to benefit from all the agriculture programmes especially the locust programme which is already benefitting our people because it is already on the ground. Most of our farmers who were affected by the locusts are benefitting and therefore I urge this House to support the Motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable Zacharia.

**Hon. Njagi Zacharia:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise to support the Motion because the last time that we were invaded by the locust everybody saw the need to have somebody to come and support the initiative. But again, I am worried because whereas the locust did a marvellous job in Tharaka we have only one member from Tharaka here. I think if they were in this House, they would be supporting this because it was in both Tharaka sub-counties and IgambaNg'ombe. We are trying to help them but they are not here. Nevertheless, because they are residents of Tharaka Nithi we support the Motion.

*(Laughter)*

**Hon. Speaker:** Even the member who is in the House is silent.

*(Laughter)*

Honourable majority leader.

**Hon. Marengo Luke:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. My hand was up but let me thank the honourable Zacharia for realizing that I am one of the persons who was attacked by these locusts. It is good to thank the National government for realizing that these locusts brought a lot of damage in our community. Because this programme commenced in our county in the year 2020/2021 and it will lapse in 2024/2025, I think it is good that we support this Motion. During that period, I visited the places that were attacked by these locusts and the image that the locust was bringing to the community was not good. Again, there were repercussions when the county government came to control these locusts because the chemicals that were used during the control of the pest had side effects. So, before this thing happens again the chemicals that are used within our county should be taken to the laboratory to be studied. This is because in those places where locusts were sprayed on, up to today.... Maybe this elnino will bring growth to these places... it completely destroyed everything. I support the Motion but when this thing happens again, I advise the people in charge to look at the chemicals they are using because the areas that are sprayed are left looking very ugly. Otherwise, I support and it is a good programme so we should support it as an Assembly so that we can continue benefitting from the National government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Mover.

**Hon. Murithi:** Thank you honourable Speaker. Once again let me thank the honourable members for the support on the Motion. When we talk about locusts, right now we do not have a locust invasion but there is something that we call post locusts effects that are already affecting our people. As honourable Marengo is saying the chemicals that were used maybe affected even farming itself. According to what I understand locust eggs can stay for a long time before they hatch so it is good that as a county, we prepare ourselves even for the future so that we can know how to tackle them because it is something that we cannot predict when they will come back again. But already the people that were affected it is the high time that they are taken care of.



The reason for bringing this agreement to this House, because it is something that is already ongoing, as I said earlier when section 191A was introduced it mandated this County Assembly to approve any agreement that the county government may enter into with any financier so that they may not be coming through the backdoor. We want it to be known that such agreements were entered into. I thank the honourable members once more for the support. Thank you, honourable Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable members I will put the question.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

Next order.

APPROVAL OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT ON FINANCING  
LOCALLY-LED CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAM (FLLoCA)

**Hon. Murithi:** Honourable Speaker, I rise to move the Motion on the approval of intergovernmental participation agreement on financing locally-led climate action program. That; Pursuant to the provisions of Section 191A of the Public Finance Management Act, 2023 the County Assembly approves The Intergovernmental Participation Agreement between the National- Government of the Republic of Kenya and the County Government of Tharaka Nithi on Implementation of Financing Locally-Led Climate Action Program (FLLoCA).

As I said earlier in my past statement, is that as a committee, we looked at all the legal basis and all the guiding laws when it comes to these agreements and with that, FLLoCA is a world bank group for financial support to strengthen the capacity of counties to devolve climate finance and build local resilience at the ward level so as to minimize the impact of climate change. The program covers the period 2021 to 2026 and on the same, we had some response and interactions with the CEC and the CEC noted that it was indicated that the agreement was to be read together with the FLLoCA program operations in the month of July 2021 and the FLLoCA program grants manual of January 2022. Consequently, the CECM furnished the committee with the FLLoCA program operations manual of July 2021 and the FLLoCA program grants manual of 2022 and copies of the same were sent to the Honourable members for their perusal. I am happy that this is the first document that has talked about ward the level. We need to think more about

the climate action program because it is affecting almost everybody. I wish to point out that when the Government realized that we are cutting trees and our country is becoming a desert, the other day, we had a national tree planting day. We planted trees and I believe now that we are experiencing El Niño rains, if that money gets to the counties, it will help our people so that we can continue dealing with climate action from the grassroots level. I believe that this is devolving every action. I therefore, beg the Honourable members to support this motion because it is vital to the lives of our future. Thank you honourable Speaker and I request honourable Zacharia to second the motion.

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

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable members, I propose the question that pursuant to the provisions of Section 191A of the Public Finance Management Act, 2023 the County Assembly approves The Intergovernmental Participation Agreement between the National- Government of the Republic of Kenya and the County Government of Tharaka Nithi on Implementation of Financing Locally-Led Climate Action Program (FLLoCA). Honourable Kiriko.

**Hon. Kiriko Jacob:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I wish to apologize for coming late. I wish to say that I happen to be so much acquainted with the FLLoCA program that is happening in this County. As a committee, we were inducted on the same and it is one thing that is going to help us and actually, this is what I call enjoying the fruits of devolution because if FLLoCA programs were happening at the National level, we would not even realize and we would not even feel the impact but I believe that now that the program is happening at the County level and at the lowest unit of devolution which is the ward level, I believe that this program is going to help us so much in arresting the effect of climate change and at the same time, we are going through a lot of problems in some of our wards within the County when it comes to floods and I believe that this program is going to help us so much in mitigating the effects of climate change. Therefore Mr Speaker, I support.

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable Murithi, the mover.

**Hon. Muchiri Godfrey:** Thank you Mr Speaker. Once again, I thank the Chair committee on Agriculture. I believe that this Motion affects his committee and I am happy that he is looking

forward in working together with other honourable members when it comes to the implementation part. I also wish to thank the honourable members because, honourable Speaker, silence means a lot. It means that we understand and we are in agreement. Therefore, I thank the honourable members for the support. Thank you.

**Hon. Speaker:** Silence means in support. Honourable members, I now put the question.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

APPROVAL OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT ON  
AQUACULTURE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (ABDP)

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable Murithi.

**Hon. Muchiri Godfrey:** Thank you Honourable Speaker, I move the Motion on approval of Intergovernmental participation agreement on aquaculture business development programme (ABDP), that pursuant to the provisions of Section 191A of the Public Finance Management Act, 2023 the County Assembly approves The Intergovernmental Participation Agreement between the National Government of the Republic of Kenya and the County Government of Tharaka Nithi on Implementation of Aquaculture Business Development Programme (ABDP).

Let me say that the committee on water seems to be having a lot of job in this House and also the department of water because they deal with farmers directly. When we talk about business development, it means that people will be taught, motivated and financed so that they can start the aquaculture programmes and I believe that this is something that has been going on. I happen to have interacted with several people who do this business and they do it to their best, and it is income generating. I believe that in the agreement, we felt that this is one of the best agreements that we will have. We felt that instead of it going to some of the wards, it be at the County level so that any farmer who feels like doing this business, he/she can be taught, helped and even be financed on the same. I believe that it will also improve the issue of food security in our County.

Thank you very much Honourable Speaker for giving me the opportunity to move this Motion and I request honourable Maugu to second.

**Hon. Gitonga Maugu:** I second.

*(Laughter)*

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable members, I propose the question that, pursuant to the provisions of Section 191A of the Public Finance Management Act, 2023 the County Assembly approves The Intergovernmental Participation Agreement between the National Government of the Republic of Kenya and the County Government of Tharaka Nithi on Implementation of Aquaculture Business Development Programme (ABDP). Honourable members, aquaculture basically stands for fish farming. Honourable Kiriko.

**Hon. Kiriko Jacob:** Thank you Mr Speaker. It happens that today is a good day for my committee members because this is something that we have learnt and it is like a culture because we have participated in many meetings where we have had the partners who are helping us in this ABDP program and we are not only looking at the business or the job opportunities that the ABDP has created in the past, but we are also looking forward to the level of improvement in terms of nutritional value that fish farming has added to Tharaka Nithi County. Last time, we had a meeting and we were looking at the areas that are affected so much by malnourishment and we were of the view that if we are going to support our farmers in terms of fish farming, we are going to improve on our levels of nutrition and therefore, we will have a healthy society. Again, it is also important for our people to note that as we receive more funds, we are creating job opportunities for our people hence generating income and by so doing, we are going to have a sustainable economy in Tharaka Nithi County where we can say that we are among the producers of fish. If you walk around in most towns around here, honourable Wanja Karuku is one of our fish farmers and I believe that she can attest to this House that this business, is one of the most lucrative businesses around that our farmers can thrive in. thank you Mr Speaker, and I support.

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable Nancy.

**Hon. Nancy Muthoni:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I rise to support the Motion. In fact, I am a beneficiary of the ABDP and myself and honourable Lucy, we are fish farmers and our motto is, *Kukuza, Kula na Kuuza*. That means...

*(Laughter)*

It is helping our people especially when it comes to nutrition and also financially. This is a project that is in fifteen counties in the whole country. Therefore, this is an advantage to us as the people of Tharaka Nithi County and I urge this Honourable House especially Honourable Muchiri who is aspiring to be a beneficiary and all the Honourable members to become fish farmers. In fact, even His Excellency the Governor is also a fish farmer. In fact, fish farming is very simple. You can have a small fish pond for just own consumption in case you do not wish to make money. You can have a small fish pond and your nutrition side of life will be okay, your pockets will be fine if we all become fish farmers. There is only one small challenge. We have a problem when it comes to market part of it. I therefore urge the County Government to develop better structures so that once our farmers harvest their fish, we can have a place where they can sell their fish and ensure value addition to their fish so that they can make more money. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable Mwaura.

**Hon. Mwangi Mwaura:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I rise once again to support this Motion because I do believe that it will create jobs to our youth. We have been telling our youth that there are no jobs but with this program, it will create job opportunities for our people. At the same time, I believe that as County Assembly, we should legislate laws to ensure that once our farmers harvest their fish, they can get ready market for the same. I therefore support honourable Nancy on this. I believe that there should also be accountability. Let it not be like a project that happened in Tharaka Nithi whereby when it was subjected to audit, it was claimed that the fish went with the river downstream.

*(Laughter)*

The other thing, I think that it should not be just a handful of farmers who will benefit from this project. Let all the farmers be informed of what is happening in this program. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable Wanja.

**Hon. Purity Wanja:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I also wish to say that today is a good day because every Motion that is coming on the floor of the House, it is touching directly on the community.

Nowadays, the economy is very hard and like I keep saying, people need to improve on their income and it is a good thing that we are talking about it here. As the representatives of the people, let us go down to grassroot and help our people start this program. It is very easy to bring more programs in this County but the problem is implementation. We cannot say that even the NGOs are usually very transparent. It is upon us as the representatives of the people to make sure that these programs are implemented down at the grassroot. Trainings are very important and one thing that I can also say in this House, is that Tharaka Nithi people are very hardworking especially where I come from. Those people have no time to rest but when you look at their income, they have no money in their pockets at the end of the day. As much as we are starting the program, we need also to start with marketing.

After they are done with fish farming, where are they going to sell their fish. Yes, for sure we can consume the fish but will this put money in our pockets? Therefore, what I would urge this House, is that before we do all these projects that we are doing, let us also think about the market because that is the most important thing. We have so many programs on the ground but when our farmers are selling their products only within Tharaka Nithi County, when you just sell to your neighbour. For example, Honourable Nancy is a fish farmer. Most of the times you find her selling her fish to me or to someone else who does not farm fish. I do not think she makes enough money to even pay for the cost of production for that fish. Therefore, the best thing we can do as a County, is to make sure that our farmers at the grassroots have the best market for their produce. Even if it means going outside the country.

Honourable Murithi was in Japan the other day. When we get out there, let us look for the market of our produce in the County because I believe that when we do international marketing, when we sell this produce to foreign countries, our farmers will make more money. The most important thing for us this time since nowadays life is very difficult, we are saying that the cost of living has gone up. They always say that when the tough gets going, the going gets tough. Therefore, if our farmers were making two shillings, it is now time for us as political leaders to make sure that they make four shillings so that at least, they can be able to take their children to school and in fact, these honourable members can even rest because when our people have problems in the grassroot, then we even have more problems because they think that we have money. Therefore, what I would urge this House to do first and foremost, is to look for the

market for these people whereby even if we know that they have a place where they can store their products and sell outside such that we know that when our farmers are working so hard, there is a market for selling their fish and we do not want to be the only ones eating our fish we want them to benefit financially from the same so that we can at least say that we are doing something for our farmers. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable Marengo.

**Hon. Marengo Luke:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I also rise to support the motion but there is one thing I would want this House to know. When we are discussing about fish farming, I do not know what happened today. I happen to be the only member from Tharaka constituency who is present today. As members from Tharaka Constituency, what we should be talking about is how we can first get water because you cannot farm fish without water. Allow me to inform the duly elected Chair for the committee on water, he should think on how the lower part of Tharaka Nithi will get water so that we can also benefit from this aquaculture program. It is good, it brings income, it is nutritional for every one of us but if this program happens especially the water projects that we have in the lower parts of Tharaka Nithi, and in fact, I am sure that the environment of that place, fish can perform very well there because at times, fish requires places that are not very cold. Therefore, as we talk about fish farming, I am also requesting the committee on water led by the able Chairmanship of Honourable Zachary to do something on that so that we can also benefit from this program because it is very important and it should cut across the entire County. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** May be, Honourable majority leader. In line of the same, in the proposed industrial park, you have a fish factory in that blueprint. Is that so?

*(Loud Consultations)*

Is that under the docket of the Chair trade? And also noting the fact that the principal secretary in charge of fisheries comes from this region. Therefore, it is an added advantage in terms of funding. Let us proceed Honourable Zachary.

**Hon. Njagi Zacharia:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I also rise to support the Motion, but as the honourable Majority leader has said, I think, he has read my mind because without water, for

sure you cannot do fish farming and also even with this fish farming, getting a fish pond is also very expensive. I believe that doing this fish farming, it needs some support to do the preparation of the fish pond including the setting up of the liners and I believe that the project will help our farmers. This project has been going on in our County through the department of agriculture and the department has been providing farmers with liners and the fingerlings but they have not been providing training on how to cultivate the fish pond. I therefore urge the Chair agriculture to intervene so that if they will be supported, let the project be supported fully including how to cultivate the fishpond because one might have the liners, but you have nowhere to cultivate the fishpond. This project has been going on and I am aware that most of the Honourable members in this House are aware of this. Some people were given the liners but they could only end up selling them because they could not afford the big pond that honourable Nancy talked about. Thank you, Mr Speaker, I support and as honourable majority leader has said, with his support, I know that very soon we shall be visiting Tharaka to see where there are issues about water, and with the support of the House leadership, I know we shall make it. Mr Speaker, I support.

**Hon. Speaker:** Having listened to all of you, your argument is based on fish farming for food production and I want to add something on that. I am also a fish farmer but I do ornamental fish. The golden fish which are poisonous but they are more expensive than the ordinary fish you rear as fish for food production. Therefore, you can go out of your way and do ornamental fish and I am sure you will get more revenue in your pockets. Honourable Muchiri, the mover.

**Hon. Murithi:** Thank you honourable Speaker. I think this motion has been heated because it has touched on food security and also the issue of having a shilling in the pockets. Once again, I wish to thank the Honourable members for supporting this motion, but I wish to say that I am not a fish farmer but I intend to be one. When we talk about food security, I wish to say that fish is very nutritious and I believe that if our people continue eating fish, they will benefit. In the same fishponds, we can also grow *azora*. This acts as food for our fish, pig and also for other livestock and I believe it will be an advantage. It reproduces more than four hundred times within an hour and therefore, I think this is one of the best crops to have in these fishponds. It has been mentioned that I have been to one of the most developed countries but let me say that I visited a place where they have kept fish within town. Part of it was ornamental and others for food. I came to realize that there are almost a million types of fish. When we are only talking about only



three types here, there are almost a million types of fish and they are kept somewhere for people to tour and see and we can also think outside the box. Not only fish for food purposes. For you, you rear ornamental fish but I do not know whether you charge those people who comes to visit or you sell the fingerlings but let me believe that since this is a project that is continuing within our county, we are also going to adopt it and our farmers will get food security. In Japan, they do not believe in getting food from outside their country because they believe that for example, most of the African countries, they cannot be trusted. They have invested a lot in having trust because they believe that even if you are told not to use some chemicals, you will just do it at night behind their backs. They also do not believe in exporting what they produce. They feed on what they produce and as a developed country, you cannot imagine that they do not invest outside their country. They invest within their country and they are the first customers to their products. Therefore, we can also be the first customers to our fish farmers because like me, I do not rear fish but I am a good customer to those who rear fish. Honourable Speaker, allow me to thank the Honourable members for supporting this motion. Thank you.

**Hon. Speaker:** I will now put the question.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

APPROVAL OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT ON  
INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (KISIP II)

**Hon. Murithi:** Honourable Speaker, I move the Motion on approval of intergovernmental participation agreement on informal settlements improvement project (KISIP II). That Pursuant to the provisions of Section 191A of the Public Finance Management Act, 2023 the County Assembly approves The Intergovernmental Participation Agreement between the National-Government of the Republic of Kenya and the County Government of Tharaka Nithi on Informal Settlements Improvement Project (KISIP II).

Honourable Speaker, let me say that the project is financed through International Development Association (IDA) with the ministry of transport, infrastructure, Housing and urban development being the implementing agency and the participating Counties being the executing agencies at the County level. On the same, we sought some clarifications from the CECM because we understood that this project being KISIP II, there must have been KISIP I. The committee raised

the question on whether the County Government of Tharaka Nithi was part of KISIP I and what has been achieved in the past days. The CECM enlightened us that Tharaka Nithi County was part of KISIP I but the project was already implemented by the National Government through the ministry of transport, infrastructure, housing and urban development. Let me say that I am one of the people who follows up on these issues when it comes to an informal settlement. I am one of the members of this Assembly representing also those people who live in the slums and also people who do not have good housing. The purpose of this, was to ensure that everybody has a descent house in these informal settlements and I think I have one area that was taken by the National Government i.e., Mugui and in part one, what they did was to do public participation for the people to get informed because the National Government feels that they cannot put money where the land is owned by an individual or may be by a community. They wanted the land to be owned by the Government and because I once attended their meeting, there is a time that they had to advise the people living in Mugui where they had only one Title Deed to transfer the same to the County Government of Tharaka Nithi so that the same can start and be done. I believe that in part one, what was there was not the initial buildings or initial infrastructure but what was there was just public participation and the office work. I know that if we will be at a position to be factored in this second phase, because the purpose for this is to make sure that everyone has his/her own Title, then there are some buildings that will be done for them, roads will be constructed, they will also need facilities like hospitals, schools and playgrounds where children can be playing. Therefore, that is the only purpose. Considering that Tharaka Nithi has very few or minimal informal settlement projects, I think that with the help of the National Government, our people will live decently.

Thank you, honourable Speaker, and I request honourable Mawira to second the Motion.

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable Mawira.

**Hon. Mawira:** I second.

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable members, the Motion having been seconded, I will propose the question for the purposes of debate. That Pursuant to the provisions of Section 191A of the Public Finance Management Act, 2023 the County Assembly approves The Intergovernmental

Participation Agreement between the National- Government of the Republic of Kenya and the County Government of Tharaka Nithi on Informal Settlements Improvement Project (KISIP II).

Honourable members, having read the mood of the House, I will now put the question.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

APPROVAL OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE  
NATIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA AND THE COUNTY  
GOVERNMENT OF THARAKA NITHI ON THE DANIDA PRIMARY  
HEALTH CARE SUPPORT PROGRAMME

**Hon. Murithi:** Thank you, honourable Speaker. I rise to move the motion on approval of intergovernmental participation agreement between the National Government of the republic of Kenya and the County Government of Tharaka Nithi on the DANIDA primary health care support programme. That Pursuant to the provisions of Section 191A of the Public Finance Management Act, 2023 the County Assembly approves The Intergovernmental Participation Agreement between the National Government of the Republic of Kenya and the County Government of Tharaka Nithi on the DANIDA Primary Health Care Support Programme.

Let me say that the memorandum of understanding is between the royal Danish Embassy, the National Government of the republic of Kenya, council of Governors and the County Government of Tharaka Nithi on the DANIDA primary health care support programme. The programme is aimed to improve primary health care with focus in reproductive, maternal, newborn child and adolescent health, regulation of engagement for the programme is January 2021 to December 2025. Let me say that DANIDA has been in Kenya for quite some time and if you go to most of the hospitals, the projects in those hospitals have been financed by DANIDA. They have done quite a good job in the country and I am happy that they are now dealing with our county and putting into consideration that health is wealth, I think that this is one of the best financiers of health in our County and also the Country at large and when we talk about reproductive, maternal, newborn, childhood and adolescent health, it means that everybody is catered for. Therefore, for the purpose of this House, we need to take note that the reason why this agreement has been brought in this House as I said earlier, when it came to the public participation, the document went through public participation that was done and the day before

yesterday, someone asked me where DANIDA went to because when it was here, they were doing quite a good job and I told them that there was a document that was going to the Assembly for adoption for DANIDA to continue supporting our county, I believe that the health sector will have some advantages because of the same and I am happy that our County has been ranked the best when it comes to wealth but we still have a lot to do because not everybody who is accessing health facilities always but others are travelling for quite a long distance to access these facilities but I am happy that when we get vehicles that are financed by the same, they will help us in carrying people from interior areas so that they can access the health facilities. I therefore request the Honourable members to support this agreement in the motion so that we can continue getting more finances from DANIDA. I request honourable Wanja to second the Motion.

*(Hon. Purity Wanja stood at her place and bowed to second)*

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable members, the Motion having been seconded, I propose the question.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN  
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/2025

**Hon. Murithi:** Thank you honourable Speaker. I seek leave of the House to move the Motion on the approval of the Annual Development Plan for the financial year 2024/2025. I have two members in support. That is, honourable Wanja and honourable Marengo.

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable Wanja.

**Hon. Karuku Wanja:** I support.

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable Marengo.

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

The leave of the Assembly is hereby granted.

**Hon. Murithi:** Thank you honourable Speaker. I rise to move the Motion on the approval of the Annual Development Plan for the financial year 2024/2025.

That; Pursuant to provisions of Section 106 of the Public Finance Management Act 2012, Section 113 of the County Governments Act, 2012 and Standing Order 243 as read together with Standing Order 241 of the Tharaka Nithi County Assembly Standing Orders the County Assembly approves the Annual Development Plan for the Financial Year 2024/2025.

Honourable Speaker, allow me to go through some of the highlights from the committees' report. First of all, I thank the honourable members of this House for their support during the process of the Annual Development Plan. This is a document that was brought in this House but as a committee we felt that the document was not satisfactory to this House and the committee recommended that the Executive resubmits the document. On behalf of the committee, I thank the honourable members for their support. I thank the members of the committee for their trust in me and the support that they give me as the chair. I also thank the office of the Speaker for the support that it always gives us as the committee. I also thank the office of the clerk. Honourable Speaker, without the support of your office and that of the clerk we would not be able to come up with this report.

Honourable Speaker, the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 Section 126 provides that every County Government shall prepare a development plan in accordance with Article 220(2) of the Constitution.

The County Annual Development Plan for the Financial Year 2024/2025 was laid on the Table of the House on 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2023. Upon being laid before the Assembly, the County Annual Development Plan was deemed to have been committed to each Sectoral Committee without question put, for each such committee to deliberate upon according to their respective mandates and, within twenty-one days, submit their views to the Finance, Budget and Appropriations Committee. Additionally, the Development Plan was committed to the Finance, Budget and Appropriations Committee to consider and review the Development Plan and make recommendations to the Assembly, taking into account the views of the Sectoral Committees, the views of the Executive Committee Member in charge of Planning and the public.

We considered all the factors and I am happy. Because this is the same document that we brought to this House in the previous sitting I will say that as a committee we look at the legal basis and the document adhere to it. So, I will go to the overview of the revised Annual Development Plan. The ADP is revised according to the advice of this House.

The Committee conducted a comprehensive review of the Revised Annual Development Plan (ADP) for the fiscal year 2024/2025, noting significant improvements aimed at addressing previous concerns and ensuring alignment with the approved County Integrated Development Plan for the period 2023-27.

Upon examining the overall profile of the County, the Committee acknowledges the updated information on administrative units in chapter one.

In the Road Network and Infrastructure section, concerns have been effectively resolved in the updated Annual Development Plan. The ADP now provides a more comprehensive account, addressing earlier inconsistencies and offering recent updates on roads upgraded to bitumen standards over the past five years. The Revised ADP further enhances transparency in governance by presenting a detailed overview of Education and healthcare facilities in the County.

Concerning the implementation status of the previous Annual Development plan for the Financial Year 2022/23, the Committee acknowledges a notable improvement in reporting, contributing to transparency and effective monitoring of the county's development initiatives. However, certain areas in the Education, Youth, Sports, Culture, and Social Services Sector, and Public Administration that were not comprehensively covered require further attention to ensure that the omitted data on the actual amount of funds spent in the said year is provided. Additionally, the remarks column in the said sectors were indicated as 'good' and 'average' and thus were not indicative of the status of the said programmes. We felt that when you say that on a project when you say that your achievement is good or average that is not effective communication. There must be something substantial and measurable to show the status of the project.

Concerns raised in the Monitoring and Evaluation report within the agriculture sector have been successfully addressed. The agriculture sector has provided an annex on ongoing projects, offering valuable information on the total number of tea buying centres and coffee factories, along with updates on the rehabilitated Tea Buying Centres and Coffee Factories.

This is commendable work by the agriculture department. This brought about transparency on the document because when we talked about the issue of the Agriculture Training Institute, they stipulated the phases very well and where they are on the ATI and I am happy. The members have the document. The same was done on the issue of tea buying centres and they have done it very well when it comes to elaborating where the tea buying centres are, their status and what they are planning to do this financial year. The same applied to the coffee value chain. The department illuminated light on the same and I believe that the committee is now guided on where to go and check the status of those projects. The same applied to other departments. This time they have tried their best to make sure that there is transparency in the document.

There is something that the committee noted. The discrepancies identified in the Infrastructure, Transport, Energy, and ICT Sector have since been addressed, but the misallocation of the "Construction of the County Assembly Chambers" under the County Assembly remains. Its classification under the "Roads, Transport, and Infrastructure Sector" in the Annual Development plan necessitates further adjustment for coherence in planning. We felt that this needs to be addressed. When it comes to the Assembly Chamber it still remains in the department of roads, transport and infrastructure. We felt is supposed to be brought under the County Assembly so that we can know how to monitor and how to have it done in the shortest time possible.

In the General Economics and Commercial Affairs Sector, the inconsistencies in program classification have been addressed, harmonizing the Annual Development Plan with the approved CIDP. This ensures a coherent and integrated approach to economic development, emphasizing the importance of aligning plans for effective implementation and sustainable progress.

In conclusion, the Committee recognized positive strides in the Revised Annual Development Plan (ADP) for the financial year 2023-2024. However, while successful resolutions had been achieved in various sectors, the Committee emphasized the need for attention to detail, particularly with respect to omitted data and proper project categorization. The Committee committed to transparency and precision in planning and implementation of plans for the sustainable development in the County.

Honourable Speaker, we invited the CECM and he acknowledged with thanks to the committee for what we did with the first ADP because the committee put them on their toes so that they can work. I thank the members for a job well done.

The committee has the following recommendations:

- The County Executive should invest in capacity-building programs for officers involved in the preparation of development plans. This investment in human resources will enhance skills and expertise, ultimately contributing to the development of more robust and well-structured ADPs.
- The County Executive should forge collaboration and communication among departments throughout the Planning process. This collaborative approach will ensure that diverse perspectives are considered, leading to a more comprehensive and integrated development plan.
- The County Executive Committee Member in charge of Finance should establish a multi-departmental team responsible for reviewing and verifying the accuracy of the Annual Development Plan and other planning and financial documents before their submission to the County Assembly and the public.

Those are the recommendations. They are administrative and I feel that something that is administrative should be taken with a lot of seriousness. We do not have to redo any other document in this House when there are people sitting in the offices.

It's the Committee's humble submission that the County Assembly adopts its report on the Revised County Annual Development Plan for the Financial year 2024/2025.



Those are the committee's observations and recommendations which are vital to this House for the future lies in the plans. If we fail to plan, we are planning to fail and we will be failing the county. With ADP being a plan, we are in the right track because this will lead to budgeting. I am happy as the chairman of the committee on budget and finance for the work that is being done. I want to throw this challenge to other committees to take our work seriously so that we can make sure that the monitoring and the evaluation has been done as well as oversight over the executive.

I move and request honourable Marengo to second. Thank you, honourable Speaker.

**Hon. Marengo Luke:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I stand to second the Motion on the ADP. When we are in the committee of budget, where I am a member, the issues of the budget are taken very seriously because we know that the budget is the one that carries all the activities that happen in the county. We thought that because the members were not satisfied with the ADP that was initially submitted so we agreed to have a reviewed one with amendments where possible. That is why we have brought this report that is fully equipped with all the details that we need so that we can move together as a county. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I support.

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable members, I will propose the question, that; pursuant to provisions of Section 106 of the Public Finance Management Act 2012, Section 113 of the County Governments Act, 2012 and Standing Order 243 as read together with Standing Order 241 of the Tharaka Nithi County Assembly Standing Orders the County Assembly approves the Annual Development Plan for the Financial Year 2024/2025. Honourable Mwaura.

**Hon. Mwangi Mwaura:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise to support this Motion because in way it touches the County Assembly because we really need the chambers like yesterday. Like now you see the members are quiet here because it has started getting hot. I think we need that Assembly chambers like yesterday. I do think that failing to plan is planning to fail and so I do think that we should start planning early. I think the committee has done a very good job. In these times that we are having the El Niño rains we need to move fast because at the end of these rains most of the rains will be impassable and they will need to be rehabilitated. So, I think they have done a good job. On accountability, I think the big amount of money that will be there means that we need to be checking as a committee on roads where I am a member. We are going to be

overseeing what will be happening. Transparency should be always there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Mover.

**Hon. Murithi:** Thank you honourable Speaker. I want to thank the honourable members for the support. Once again, I say thank you for the support this House giving to the committee on Finance and Budget. We have several budgets that we are supposed to go through. I believe that now we have the financial statements, we have the CBROP that we will also bring to this House for consideration. I am happy that when it comes to the support of this House, we get more energy for us to continue with the job. Thank you very much for the support. Thank you.

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable members I will put the question.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

Let us proceed to the next order.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH SERVICES ON THE STATUS  
OF HEALTH FACILITIES IN THARAKA NORTH AND SOUTH SUB-COUNTIES

**Hon. Maugu Morris:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I seek the leave of the House to move the Motion on the adoption of The Report of The Committee on Health Services on The Status of Health Facilities in Tharaka North and South Sub-Counties. I request honourable Wanja Karuku and honourable Murithi to support.

*(Hon. Karuku Wanja stood in her place and bowed to indicate support)*

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

**Hon. Speaker:** The leave of the Assembly is hereby granted. Proceed.

**Hon. Maugu Morris:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. May I take this opportunity to thank all the Members of the Committee for their valuable contributions, total commitment and time during the oversight visits to health facilities in Tharaka North and South Sub-counties and compiling of this report.

The Committee also takes this opportunity to thank the Offices of the Speaker and the Clerk of the County Assembly of Tharaka Nithi for the logistical support accorded to it during the exercise.

On behalf of the Committee on Health Services, it's my duty and privilege to present to the House the Report of the Committee on the status of health facilities in Tharaka North and South Sub-counties.

The Second Schedule of the Standing Orders of the County Assembly of Tharaka Nithi assigns the Committee on Health Services specific mandate to deal with all matters related to county health services, including, in particular county health facilities and pharmacies, ambulance services, promotion of primary health care among others.

In compliance to the provisions of the Standing Order 225 (1) and the Second Schedule of the Standing Orders of the County Assembly of Tharaka Nithi, the Committee on Health Services undertook oversight visits to the following Health Facilities in Tharaka North and South Sub-counties as per the schedule below:

S/NO.	HEALTH FACILITIES	DATES	TIME
1.	Marimanti Hospital	20 <sup>th</sup> July, 2023	9.00 am
2.	Gatunga Model Health Center	20 <sup>th</sup> July, 2023	2.00 pm
3.	Kibung'a Health Center	21 <sup>st</sup> July, 2023	9.00 am
4.	Tunyai Health Center	21 <sup>st</sup> July, 2023	2.00 pm

Committee Observations and Findings During the Oversight Visits to Health Facilities in Tharaka North and South Sub-Counties:

The Committee on Health Services undertook the oversight visit to following Health Facilities in Tharaka North and South Sub-counties and compiled their observations and findings: -

Marimanti Health Facility;

The health facility is a Level 4 Hospital located in Marimanti ward within Marimanti town. The health facility has a newly built outpatients block and a kitchen which are cleaned by Liste cleaning company outsourced by the County Government of Tharaka Nithi.

The outpatient block has a waiting bay which hosts the NHIF desk and the area where the patients' vital signs are taken. It also holds the cash office, customer care desk, pharmacy, minor theatre, laboratory and specialized clinics.

Marimanti Level 4 Hospital has a maternity wing, an acute paediatric ward with a capacity of two patients, medical and surgical general wards which hosts female and male patients, general paediatric and gynaecology wards and a morgue with a capacity of 45 bodies.

The Committee held a meeting with the health facility management and found out the following challenges;

- i. Maternity Wing
  - a) The maternity ward has a very rough floor which makes it an uncomfortable and painful process for mothers being moved on a wheelchair or a wheeled stretcher.
  - b) The linens for the patients are worn out and the staff uniforms are also inadequate.
  - c) The maternity theatre has only one pair of theatre scrubs which require the surgeons to undertake surgeries in shift. This poses high risk of maternal deaths from contamination or waiting for too long in queue.
  - d) The washrooms were dirty and stained despite having tiles. This was attributed to by inadequate support staff and lack of effective detergents for cleaning.
- ii. Settling of hospital bill waiver requests last up to three (3) weeks. This leads to pilling up of cost since the patient has to remain detained in the hospital or the body in the mortuary.
- iii. The facility has one ambulance which is used for all tasks within the facility such as movement of doctors, emergencies and oxygen.
- iv. The ambulance is also used to transport bodies from the wards to the mortuary. This was attributed to the lack of a paved walkway from the wards to the mortuary.
- v. The facility has a modern kitchen with one electric and eight gas cookers. However, at the time of the visit only one electric cooker was operational and none of the gas cookers was working.
- vi. The health facility purchases 24litres of milk daily on cash basis; this translates to 8,640litres per year which is neither cost effective nor efficient way of procuring the consumable.

- vii. The laboratory is not partitioned hence lacks privacy for the patients. In addition, there is no AC for temperature control in the Laboratory. The Committee noted that the biochemistry and Gene expert machine automatically switches off at 11.00 a.m. due to high temperatures in the area hence affecting laboratory services. Further, the laboratory has only one functional microscope hence delay in processing of test results.
- viii. The health facility is not fenced on the lower part bordering the Kathita river which poses high risk of interference to the facility and patients by strangers.
- ix. The waiting bay which hosts vital signs services, cash office and NHIF desk is not partitioned. This causes confusion and delays in service delivery.

#### Gatunga Model Health Facility

The health facility is located in Gatunga ward which operates outpatient and maternity services which incorporates Linda Mama and NHIF. The facility services between 50 to 400 patients daily. At the time of visit by the committee, there was an outbreak of kalahzar disease transmitted by sand fly hence frequent and high turn-out of patients.

The Committee held a meeting with the health facility management and compiled the following challenges;

- i. No provision of food to the patients in the maternity ward which was previously supported by DANIDA partners. However, after the contract expiry, no funds have been allocated by the County Government to supplement for the same.
- ii. There is a severe shortage of staff. These include nurses, a pharma-tech and support staff. At the time of the committee's visit, the pharmacy was manned by nurses contrary to the provisions of Section 9A of Pharmacy and Poisons Act (Cap 244 of the Laws of Kenya) No. 5 of 2019 which provides that the Registrar shall issue, in accordance with rules made under this Act, a practising license authorizing registered pharmacists or enrolled pharmaceutical technologists to practice as registered pharmacists or enrolled pharmaceutical technologists.
- iii. Gatunga Model facility being a health centre that does not charge any fees, serves many patients even from far places. This makes the facility run out of drugs and other non-pharmaceuticals quickly after supply.

- iv. The facility ambulance is also used as a utility vehicle since the facility's utility vehicle has been in the garage for a long time. In addition, the motorbikes have also broken down.
- v. The maternity wing lacks a delivery bed and a washing machine. Further, the facility has a dental unit which lacks a dental chair.

#### Kibung'a Health Facility;

The health facility is located in Marimanti ward which has been upgraded to Level 3B hospital serving between 100 to 150 patients daily. The facility has a maternity wing with an inpatient capacity of 50 beds and serves between 10 to 15 mothers per month, a theatre, a pharmacy, a dental clinic, a laboratory, a radiography wing and a standby generator. In addition, the facility has 10 county housing units which houses the facility staffers.

Kibung'a health facility generates income for the County Government which ranges between 15,000 to 30,000 shillings per month through Linda Mama and NHIF programs. This was attributed to adequate supply of drugs and other non-pharmaceuticals.

The Committee held a meeting with the health facility management and compiled the following challenges;

- i. The facility lacks an ambulance and a utility vehicle. Referrals are undertaken by the Marimanti ambulance which poses very high risk such as maternal deaths in case of unavailability during emergencies.
- ii. There is shortage of specialized staff such as medical officer, radiographer, nurses, Laboratory technician, dental clinician and a pharma-tech.
- iii. The facility does not collect revenue at night because the two cashiers work between 8.00am to 5.00 p.m. This was attributed to lack of an extra relieving officer to the cashier working on night duty.
- iv. The facility experiences delays in disbursement of funds for fuel and office imprest which affects efficiency in service delivery. A case scenario is of a power blackout where the facility has to transfer the vaccines to Marimanti hospital using motorbikes which is not the safest way to transport them.
- v. High water bills owed to NIWASCO as a result of water loss from a leaking tank.

- vi. The facility has an autoclave machine which is broken down and it also lacks a washing machine.

#### Tunyai Health Facility

Tunyai health facility is a health centre in Chiakariga ward and borders Mitunguu in Meru County. Despite the facility being a health centre, all the services offered are free and this attracts majority of patients from far and wide which largely affects the stock of drugs replenished.

The facility offers general medical checkups, maternity services, laboratory services and pharmacy which are supported by two clinical officers, nine nurses, one laboratory technician, one pharma-tech and nine support staff. In addition, the facility has four county housing units which accommodates the staff members.

The Committee held a meeting with the health facility management and compiled the following challenges;

- i. The facility is not fenced and has no watchman which poses high risk of interference to the facility, patients and the staff.
- ii. The facility has a functional laboratory but lacks adequate supply of laboratory reagents.
- iii. The facility's ambulance is broken down which poses a high risk of maternal deaths in case of emergencies.
- iv. The facility has a building that was constructed to be a male ward. However, the contractor locked the building and left the site in the year 2021 without inspection being done. Since then, the ward has not been operationalized.

#### Findings on other Health Facilities Within Tharaka North and South Sub-Counties

During the Committee's oversight visits to Level 4 and 3B health facilities in Tharaka North and South Sub-counties, the health facilities management teams made submissions to the committee on the urgent needs of other facilities within their jurisdiction.

The Committee on Health Services reviewed the submitted reports as annexed in appendices 1, 2 and 3 respectively and observed the following general challenges;

1. There is a shortage of staff in all cadres which affects the efficiency of service delivery.
2. Health facilities lack clear land demarcations and ownership documents which poses high risk of interference to the facilities.
3. Majority of health facilities lose on revenue generation through NHIF and Linda Mama programs which is attributed to lack of power and internet connections.
4. Majority of health facilities do not offer laboratory services which is attributed to lack or inadequate supply of laboratory reagents and vaccine fridges.
5. There is a severe shortage of water supply in health facilities which poses high risk in public health and sanitation.

Submissions by the County Executive Committee Member in charge of Medical and Health Services;

The County Executive Committee Member in charge of public health and medical services made the following submissions to the Committee on Health Services in regard to oversight visits to health facilities in Tharaka North and South Sub-counties.

The CECM stated that the county population is served by public, faith based and private health facilities distributed across the County as illustrated below in the table 1:

Facility level	Public health facilities	Faith based Organizations (FBO)	Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)	Private	Public Institution – Academic	Total
Hospitals	4	3	0	4	0	11
Basic Health Centre	15	4	0	0	0	19
Dispensary	91	22	1	0	1	115
Medical Clinics	0	1	4	45	1	51
Total	110	31	5	49	2	196



The CECM further stated that the table below illustrates the progression of the newly constructed and operationalized health facilities, in an effort to improve accessibility of health services. The progression report indicates that Tharaka Constituency accounts for 52% of the total new health facilities operationalized within a period of five years. The CECM reported that this was a deliberate effort to enhance equity among the vulnerable and marginalized communities.

The following Table 2 shows the distribution of Public Health Facilities by Sub-County:

Sub-County	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	No. Increase	% Increase	
Chuka	12	13	14	14	14	14	17	5	10%	24%
IgambaNg'ombe	8	9	12	12	12	12	15	7	14%	
Muthambi	6	9	9	9	9	9	12	6	12%	24%
Mwimbi	17	19	19	19	20	22	23	6	12%	
Tharaka North	7	9	11	15	16	16	18	11	22%	52%
Tharaka South	10	19	20	24	24	24	25	15	30%	
County Total	60	78	85	93	95	97	110	50	45.5%	

In regard to the observations and findings of the Committee, the CECM responded as follows:

1. Shortage of staff in health facilities

The CECM submitted that there is a severe shortage of human resource for various cadres within the health facilities which was attributed to the constraints of financial resources. He however confirmed that additional staff will be deployed upon completion of the ongoing recruitment process undertaken by the County Public Service Board.

2. Lack or Breakdown of ambulances, utility vehicles and motor cycles

In regard to ambulances, the CECM confirmed that Tharaka Constituency has three (3) functional ambulances based in Marimanti Hospital, Gatunga Health Centre and Kathangacini Health Centre which are utilized to pick and evacuate emergency cases upon notification by

either a community member, Community Health Promoter (CHP) or a health worker through the County toll free number 1513 or the respective hospital contacts. The CECM further reported that there are two nurses stationed at Marimanti Hospital who are exclusive for referral services who also covers Kibung'a Hospital and its environs.

In response to utility vehicles, the CECM stated that the department has provided two utility vehicles to serve Tharaka North and South Sub-County health facilities. One of the vehicles will be stationed at Marimanti Hospital while the other one will be utilized by other health facilities to support in supervision, coordination, Vaccine and other supplies distribution and re-distribution including collection of blood from the satellite at Chuka or Regional Blood Transfusion Centre in Embu.

In addition, the department has equitably distributed fourteen functional motorcycles across the two sub-counties which will be utilized by public health officers, nurses, bio-medical engineers and laboratory officers for disease surveillance, laboratory sample networking, vaccine cold chain preventive maintenance and repair.

The CECM also submitted that all vehicles and automobiles have fuel cards which are allocated fuel on monthly basis. The fuel distribution schedule is annexed to the CECM's submissions appendix 4.

3. Lack of a maternity bed, dental chair, washing machine and kitchen in Gatunga Model Health Centre.

The CECM submitted that Gatunga health facility has a functional maternity ward equipped with the essentials to comfortably conduct a normal delivery which includes one delivery bed complete with a modern newborn resuscitation equipment, twelve hospital beds out of which six are in use in the newly renovated maternity ward while the other six are in the store to be put into use as need arises.

However, dental chair, washing machine and modern kitchen shall be procured as a requirement for upgrade of the health facility to a level 4 hospital.

4. Lack of a washing machine and breakdown of autoclave machine in Kibung'a Level 3B health facility.

The CECM reported that the department has procured and delivered a new autoclave machine to the health facility while a washing machine will be procured within the financial year.

5. Partitioning of laboratory and installation of AC in Marimanti hospital.

The CECM confirmed that the department has procured and installed AC in Marimanti hospital while the bill of quantities for the partitioning of the laboratory has been prepared.

6. Settling of hospital bill waiver requests that last up to three (3) weeks.

The CECM stated that the hospital bill waivers are approved as per the set guidelines where the patient applies for waiver which is reviewed by the health facility committee. A home visit is conducted by the social worker and a report submitted to the County Waiver Committee for consideration.

#### Committee's Recommendations:

Upon consideration of the observations and findings from the health facilities' visit and the submissions from the County Executive Committee Member in charge of Public Health, Medical Services and ICT, the Committee on Health Services made the following recommendations:

That;

1. With immediate effect, Marimanti Level 4 Hospital cease the use of the ambulance to transport bodies to the mortuary.
2. The County Executive Committee Member in charge of Medical and Health Services upgrade Gatunga Model health facility to a Level 4 hospital to ease the work load in Marimanti Level 4 Hospital and improve on service delivery considering the geographical broadness of Tharaka Constituency.
3. Within three months upon receipt of this report, the CECM in charge of Public Health, Medical Services and ICT to operationalize 24-hour revenue collection in Kibung'a Health facility by deploying an extra accounts clerk.

4. Within sixty days upon receipt of this report, the CECM in charge of Public Health, Medical Services and ICT to submit a progress report on the operationalization of the male ward in Tunyai Health facility.
5. Within three months upon receipt of this report, the CECM in charge of Public Health, Medical Services and ICT to implement the Tharaka Nithi Facility Improvement Fund Regulations to facilitate the management teams of various health facilities sort out emergencies as provided for by the regulations.

#### Conclusion And Adoption of the Report

It's the Committee's humble submission that the County Assembly adopts its Report on the status of health facilities in Tharaka Constituency.

Mr. Speaker sir, I therefore move that this House approves and adopts the Report of the Committee on Health Services on the status of health facilities in Tharaka Constituency.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I hereby request Wanja Karuku to second.

**Hon. Karuku Wanja:** I second.

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable members, with the Motion having been seconded I will now propose the question that; that the County Assembly adopts the Report of the Committee on Health Services on the status of health facilities in Tharaka North and South Sub-Counties.

Honourable Zacharia.

**Hon. Njagi Zacharia:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. First, I thank the committee for the good work that they have done. But I have issues with that report. We have heard the chair of the health committee commenting that after they went out, they also called the CECM for health and he promised to do some things such as that there is an ongoing recruitment to cut the shortage of health workers. I think it would have been wise if they went back to those facilities because now the recruitment was done, to see whether the numbers now are okay; where they found in Gatunga a nurse dispensing drugs whether there is a pharma-tech. So that they can come to us with a conclusive report telling us whether everything is in order.

In their recommendations, I have heard the chair say they want to immediately cease the carrying of the bodies with ambulances. Now, it is not allowed for the ambulances to carry dead bodies. But now, where is the solution? Do we now have a vehicle that will be carrying these bodies? Or will the hospital remain to be stinking because now the bodies will not be collected? They should have told us that now after they cease the carrying of bodies with an ambulance, what will happen after that. Will these bodies be ferried on peoples backs? Or how will they be ferried?

Again, I say that it is unfortunate that today we are discussing matters of people from Tharaka and their members are not in this House. You can see the report is on Tharaka Constituency. In Gatunga ward, the Gatunga health centre has been mentioned, Tunyai in Chiakariga has been mentioned, Marimanti and Kibunga are in Marimanti ward. I think the work of an MCA is representation first and oversight and if these members are not representing their people in this House to say what is required, we might adopt this report when they don't want it to happen. This report, I think, was given to us yesterday, and they saw it, unless they are on official duty, we should wait for them to come and also contribute to the debate, tell us whether they want these things to happen or if they feel it is not appropriate.

For now, I have no comments until I hear the views of those members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable Muchiri.

**Hon. Murithi:** Thank you, honourable Speaker. I Stand, first of all to thank the chairman of the health committee and also to say that I am a member of this committee. The committee did quite a good job. Second, I want to inform the member that has just contributed to this Motion that the report is neither a document for a tribe nor a constituency but it is a report for Tharaka Nithi county that is supposed to be adopted by this House. When the committee started first to go and see what is happening in our hospitals and dispensaries that was a good move. I first realised that most of our hospitals have so many patients. This is not because the facilities are not many, the facilities are there, but it is because the services have improved. People are coming from far and wide to come and get the services from our county. I want to point out one area, that is, Tunyai, where, after going through the book that they use to indicate where people are coming from, we realized that most of the people are from other counties. A county that I may not mention here

because it is already mentioned every day on other matters everywhere and there is no need to repeat its name.

The reason why the committee is giving some of the instructions to the department in the recommendations, it is because it is very unfair to carry someone who is dead on an ambulance. An ambulance is for saving lives not for carrying someone who has already died. We felt that there is a shortage of utility vehicles. We also realized that if you go to Chuka hospital, which is a level 5 hospital, they don't use vehicles to ferry dead bodies from the wards to the morgue but the bodies are wheeled to the morgue using stretchers. Because of the distance of the morgue and the wards at the Marimanti hospital we felt that the only thing that they needed was pavements. If the pathways at the hospital are paved this will solve that problem. I think some of the problems have already been solved.

As honourable Zacharia has just said that we should have gone there before we bring this report to the House. The report is very clear that it is the status of Tharaka south and north sub-counties hospital. It is not about how they are right now but how they were then. This is because when we went there, we had to invite the CECM so that we can give him the status of the hospitals and then after the report has been adopted, we will go back there to see if they have followed what we have just directed.

The issue of human resource will never be solved because the human resource will never be enough at any given time. Even in my house, if you go to my house my wife will start telling you that the human resources are not enough when it comes to cooking because she wants someone extra to help her cook. That is why we employ house helps. But that is not the best thing. I think what we are supposed to make use of is what we have as at now as we think of increasing the number of employees in the county. This is because it will even affect even the wage bill. I want to point out one thing, when someone is working for six hours and exhausted, they will just go to their clinic and continue working up to 10 pm. So, what we need is to improve on staff. Maybe they need some motivation and we should motivate them so that they can even be working overtime. That is why the committee had to recommend that some hospitals need staff, like where we need someone to collect revenue at night. That is something that need to be done.

I also want to note that within three months, the committee has recommended, to make sure that some of these things that we have noted have been solved. I think that some of them are in the process of being done because the budget to do them was not available at that particular time and we have already approved the budget and I am happy to report that they have started working on the issues and as a committee we brought this report so that we can continue with the oversight.

If we go to the regulations, the facility improvement fund, we approved in in this House. we feel that if it is implemented fully, some of these problems will be in the past. This is because in most of the hospitals and dispensaries will be collecting revenue and they will use the same in that hospital. Some of the issues we have need very little amount of money. For example, when we talk about cooking gas, that needs very little money. I think the hospitals will manage that.

The last recommendation, we need to follow up on it. If it won't be implemented in the next sixty days, I will bring a Statement on it here. This one won't go to the committee but it will go to the majority leader so that we know why the county boss has not executed this even after the House recommended it.

I think the committee did a good job but it is unfortunate, as a member has said, that we are discussing hospitals that are within wards withing a constituency when the members representing those wards are not in the House. I think that those who are in today it is upon us to adopt the report so that the committee can continue on the issue of checking if the implementation will be done.

I thank the committee and even you officer, honourable Speaker. They did a good job. That was the time I realized that our hospitals need a lot of attention as much as we have given the almost 35% of our budget. They need a lot of attention so that we can get the facilities to be operational. In Tunyai, there is a male ward that was built back, I think in the first regime, the first government of Tharaka Nithi. And the contractor has closed down that building for all those years. The ward is not operational and the contractor went with the keys because he claims to not have been paid. I think there was an agreement between the county government and the contractor but we cannot keep that building closed until the contractor comes to open it. It is the high time that the contractor comes, opens the building so that we can continue doing our job in

it and the department will arrange on how they are going to pay the contractor. This is our money, these are our utilities, and we need them to be operational.

Thank you, honourable Speaker.

**Hon. Njagi Zacharia:** Point of order Mr. Speaker!

**Hon. Speaker:** Yes.

**Hon. Njagi Zacharia:** Thank you. Mr. Speaker I had raised my hand up before the member just sat. is it in order for the honourable member to tell us that the ward is closed and we have not seen it in this report?

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable member you can respond on whether you misled the House by saying that the ward is closed.

**Hon. Murithi:** Mr. Speaker I have not misled this House. I want the honourable member to go to the report on where the chairman read about Tunyai hospital. Allow me a few minutes to go to the report because it is there. It was reported but we felt that this is not something to put in the recommendations because it is something that can be taken care of administratively. It is in the report. I think the honourable member was not keen when the chairman was going through the report. Thank you, honourable Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Again, honourable members, you are allowed to use any other extra information when expounding on something that is or is not within the report that has been presented. Honourable Mawira.

**Hon. Mawira Nyaga:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker catching my hand. I would like to start by congratulating the committee led by honourable Maugu for the good report that they have been able to bring to the floor of this House. I also applaud them for being able to look at the areas that are really of essence to our people. I believe that a community is as wealthy as is the health of its people. When the people are healthy, they are able to contribute productively to any economy. At the same time, I would also like to say that this committee should be able to go across the other sub-counties to see the issues that we are facing. I was about to seek a statement on the floor of this House in regards to the health facilities in Chogoria; Kiamucairu dispensary



to be specific. I would like to welcome the committee there to see the state that we are in; including the state of the Kitchen and some unfinished structures there.

The new chairman for water mentioned something about the members that are not in this House. In my view, every health facility whether it is in Marimanti or anywhere else serves the interest of the people of Tharaka Nithi. And therefore, I believe that as House we should adopt this report with or without the members that are not here because those health facilities are not closed for members of the public from Chogoria and these are facilities that are open to all members of the public.

I would also like to urge the committee, the next time they are going to these health facilities, to check on the monies from DANIDA that we have passed today, to check with the people who are responsible in the health facilities on how they are spending these monies. This is because some of the challenges that we are facing in some of these health facilities are issues that could be addressed with a little amount of money and the money that they get every other month or the money that they get from DANIDA. Because if we are not very keen to oversight on how these monies are being spent this could be money going to waste in as much as we are approving our continued partnering with the entity. I would like to make that recommendation to the committee so that next time that they are coming to Maara and to Chogoria they can also countercheck on the monies that these facilities have received from DANIDA and other quarters to solve some of the challenges that they are facing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, those are my submissions and I support.

**Hon. Speaker:** The majority leader.

**Hon. Marengo Luke:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also rise to support this Motion. I congratulate the committee on health because, in fact, this committee has brought out the plain truth on what is happening in our hospitals down there. All other committees should copy from this committee. We might be seated in the Assembly here passing laws, allocating monies and all other things so that the Mwananchi in Tharaka Nithi can benefit and then find that our people are not benefitting.

On the referral hospital in Marimanti, it is true what the committee found. It was like that when they were there. After they visited, the CECM who is in charge and knows that things are not going well... because when they see the committee going round the hospitals and trying to investigate what happens there, in one way or the other, the people who are in charge of the hospital will start working better and it will improve. I have keenly looked at the recommendations by this committee and I am in full support of them. This is because most of our workers on the hospitals are very busy doing other things other than helping our people. I am happy with this committee because they are giving timeframes on when they want things to be done. They are saying within a period of three months... and this tells me that after this period has elapsed you will go back there to see what has been done.

I fully support and urge the same committee on health to tour Maara constituency and also Chuka-IgambaNg'ombe to see what is happening in our hospitals. Most of the wards in Tharaka constituency have been mentioned here; Marimanti, Chiakariga, Nkondi and other wards but Mukothima is not mentioned. This is not because the health centres in Mukothima are better or that they are operating well, it is because in Tharaka North we do not have any referral hospital. This, the Chair of the health committee needs to take very seriously because when you made your tour you only visited very few wards and Mukothima is at the extreme end of Tharaka Nithi where we border Meru County in Igembe. In those places the population is a bit high and therefore we don't have... you can imagine that when the CS interior gets unwell at his home, he will be referred to Marimanti. From his home to Marimanti its around 30 kilometres. The committee on health needs to take this one seriously so that we can improve at least one centre. I remember sometimes back H.E. the Governor said that we are not to construct any new health centres but we are going to improve the ones that we have. We have health centres in Mukothima and we can improve one so that we can have people being referred there and it will be good for us.

I support the Motion so that the committee, after the time they have given has lapsed, they will go back to those centres to see what has been done and if not, why it has not been done. I support, Thank you.

**Hon. Speaker:** The chairman health committee, give your closing remarks.

**Hon. Maugu Morris:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I take this opportunity to thank this House for expressing support for the Motion and the recommendations of the committee. I health everything is work in progress so next time we are going to Mukothima and other sub-counties that we did not go to. I beg this House to support when the question is put.

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable members I will now put the question.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

## COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable members, having come to the close of today's business, I have noted the active participation of the members in the debates today and more so the nominated members. This is very good. I want to take you to the Standing Order number 39(6). I will read: Whenever the Assembly is scheduled to sit in accordance with the Assembly Calendar and the Assembly Business Committee by its resolution is satisfied that the Assembly cannot sit, the Speaker shall cause a communication to be conveyed to the members twelve hours before the scheduled sitting. further, pursuant to our Standing Orders we shall be gazetting the date for the next sitting which shall be the State of the County Address by H.E. the Governor of Tharaka Nithi County.

## ADJOURNMENT

**Hon. Speaker:** Honourable members, having said that, and their having no other business in our todays Order Paper, the House will remain adjourned and shall be reconvened by a notice by the honourable Speaker pursuant to the House resolution of 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

*\*\*\*The House rose at 11.53 p.m.\*\*\**