

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
KITUI COUNTY ASSEMBLY
THIRD ASSEMBLY- FOURTH SESSION
OFFICIAL REPORT
(THE HANSARD)

Tuesday 8th July, 2025

The County Assembly met at 3.24 p.m. in the County Assembly Chambers

[The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya) in the Chair]

[H.E The Governor Dr. Julius Makau Malombe in his seat]

PRAYERS

*(Loud protests by some members as Hon.
Harrison Maluki Mawia and Hon. Boniface Mukwate Katula
sat on the Majority Leader and Majority Whip seats respectively)*

(Prolonged loud protests)

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): Hon. Members... Hon. Members Order!

(Prolonged loud protests that disrupted the House)

Order Members! Order Members! Members take your seats. Take your seats Members! Take your seats Members. Serjeant-at- Arms please. Let *Mheshimiwa* sit there. *Mheshimiwa* Ngoima can sit there. *Inua hii, inua hii* (lift this, lift this) ... Please take your seat Hon. Munyoki Mwinzi. Hon. Ngoima... Hon. Ngoima please take your seat. Take your seat. Members let's take our seats. Kindly! Serjeant-at-Arms... *inua hii* (lift this) ...

(Continued protests)

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Members... *Mheshimiwa* Ngoima please come...

*(Prolonged loud consultations as
(Hon. Ngoima consulted with the Speaker at the Speaker's podium)*

Members please...Take a seat. Take a seat for one minute. *Sawa, sawa (it is okay, it is okay)*. Take a seat. Take a seat. *Sawa (okay)*, take a seat. Members you know, how do you expect me to make a ruling when you are talking? Please take your seats. Members take your seats. It is okay. I want to make a ruling here. Please take your seats. Members take your seats. It is okay. Members take your seats. I want to make a ruling. *Mheshimiwa* Bakari please, let's take our seats. Let's take our seats. No problem. Take your seat. Let's take our seats. *Mheshimiwa* Sylvester, please let's take our seats, I make a ruling.

(Loud consultations ensued)

It is okay, take your seats. Take your seats Members. I want to make a ruling now. Kindly *Mheshimiwa* Ngoima take your seat. You know we have spoken, *Mheshimiwa* Ngoima please take your seat. Members I want to make a ruling.

*(Some calmness among the members that were screaming
on the floor of the House witnessed)*

Members I want to make the following ruling. Members please even if you are not sitting down, at least give me your ears. You know we have visitors here.

(Hon. Munyoki Mwinzi spoke off-mic)

Don't worry. Don't worry *Mheshimiwa* Munyoki Mwinzi, don't worry. At least give me your ears. Please take your seat Members, I beg you.

(Hon. Members took their seats)

Thank you very much. Thank you very much. Members, I want to use Standing Order number one (1) to communicate the following; That, I acknowledge there is a letter which I received from Hon. Ngoima. Was it yesterday Hon. Ngoima? I was in the office this morning. I saw the content of that letter. For the Speaker to make a ruling or a communication, he has to get a legal opinion from the legal Counsel through the Office of the Clerk.

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(Members grumbled loudly in objection)

Let me finish. Let me finish. Let me finish...

*(Loud protests by some members with
Hon. Ngoima shouting in protest off-mic)*

Let me finish. Wait. Let me finish. Hon. Ngoima, we have spoken. Let me finish *Mheshimiwa* Ngoima. Let me finish kindly. At least you know you are Hon. Members. I had not finished. Why can't you be patient for only one minute. I requested for one minute.

(Hon. Munyoki Mwinzi spoke off-record)

Hon. Munyoki Mwinzi, you are a leader. So please... No, no *Mheshimiwa*, *Mheshimiwa*. Let me continue.

(Hon. Mercy Muema Muliwa uttered something off-record)

Thank you *Mheshimiwa* Mercy, let me continue.

Members, that issue I am aware of it. We have a matter at hand and I had not prepared a communication to that effect. I want to rule as follows; That, Majority Leader, kindly there is an issue with that seat so Majority leader vacate that seat we finish with the...

(Loud applause)

Wait, wait. So today that seat will be vacant. Let us listen to the Governor...

(Applause supervened)

Wait, wait, wait. Wait Members. Let me finish. No, let me finish. Order! Order Members! Order!

(Continued applause)

Then... wait. *Mheshimiwa* Majority Leader please... Then Members...
Order!

Members, I will issue a detailed communication tomorrow. So kindly... I have not prepared the communication. For now, let's sit down, we proceed. Members, let's sit, we proceed.

(Loud protest chants on the floor of the House by some members)

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Thank you, Members. Thank you. Now we need to proceed. Hon. Cyrus, we need now to proceed. Members, Order! Clerk, next order.

Let's proceed kindly. We shall sort out this matter. Kindly. We have visitors. Let's proceed. Clerk!

CONVOCATION BY THE CHAIR

Members, allow me to issue a communication that today we have visitors. It is a big day for our County...

(Interruptions from the floor of the House)

Kindly, kindly...Hon. Members, I would like to issue communication from the Chair, Communication no. 31 of 2025.

(Silence as the Speaker began to read the Communication)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR ON VISITING DIGNITARIES

Honourable Members, I would like to acknowledge the presence, in the Speaker's gallery this afternoon, of visiting dignitaries as follows, H.E Augustine Wambua Kanani - Deputy Governor, please waive.

(Applause)

Members, we had invited all the MPs. I think I have seen Hon. Paul Nzengu, Member for Mwingi North.

(Hon. Nzengu waved from the Speaker's gallery and members applauded)

Thank you very much. Any other MP present? I think Hon. Charles Nguna was to join us. Thank you.

I also want acknowledge all the CECMs who are present. Please stand up and wave.

(They all waved from the Speaker's gallery, members applauded)

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Thank you very much.

Members, I want to acknowledge the Kitui County Public Service Board led by the Chair Dr. Florence Makindi. Please wave.

(Applause)

Thank you very much.

I also want to acknowledge all the Governor's Advisors present. Please wave I can see all of you. Thank you very much Mwangi wa Ivuti, Sammy and Dr. Grace I see all of you.

(Applause)

I also want to acknowledge Mr. Mr. Bonnie Musambi - Director Coordination, State House. Thank you Bonnie Musambi.

(Applause)

I also want to acknowledge Mr. Benedict Muasya Mutiso- Commissioner, Commission on Revenue Allocation. Thank you, Commissioner.

(Applause)

I also want to acknowledge Mr. Moses Banda – Financial Services Advisor, Presidential Economic Transformation Secretariat.

(Applause)

Thank you *Mheshimiwa* Banda.

I also want to acknowledge Mr. Wilson Muange - Member, Kitui County Assembly Service Board.

I also want to acknowledge Ms. Ruth Nzambi Joseph - Member, Kitui County Assembly Service Board.

I also want to acknowledge Mr. Augustus Kyalo Muli, Party Leader National Liberal Party.

(Members applauded)

Thank you. I also want to acknowledge the County Chief Officers present. Please stand up and wave.

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(Applause)

Thank you very much.

I also want to acknowledge the municipal managers present. Mwingi Municipal Manager, is he here? Thank you. Kitui Municipal Manager. Yes, thank you Madam.

(Applause)

For the Judiciary, we had invited the Presiding Judge but present with us is the Deputy Registrar Hon. Elizabeth Karani. Thank you Madam DR.

(A Hon. Member spoke off-record)

We also have with us....

(Laughter)

Thank you. The DR is... Thank you Hon. Members. I want also to acknowledge Hon. Ogutu J. Ochieng - Resident Magistrate. Thank you, your Honour.

I also want to acknowledge Hon. Margaret Kyalo - Deputy Registrar, Environment and Lands Court. Thank you, Your Honour.

I also want to acknowledge LSK, Kitui branch Chair Madam Grace Muatha.

(Hon. Rose Kathoka spoke off record)

Thank you *Mheshimiwa* Kasyoka, we hear you loud and clear.

Members, I want to acknowledge Mr. Mr. Kipchumba Rutto - County Commissioner.

(Applause)

Thank you, County Commissioner and all the members of the County Security Committee Present. Those who are present, thank you very much we acknowledge you.

I also want to acknowledge Florence Ndeti, Director Caritas. Thank you, Madam.

I also want to acknowledge Dr. Gichichi Macharia, County Elections Co-ordinator, IEBC. Thank you Dr. Macharia.

I also want to acknowledge Mr. Peter Gitau Karanja, OCPD Kitui Township. Thank you.

I think for the Clergy those are present here with us, Emeritus Archbishop, Bishop Benjamin Nzimbi.

(Applause)

Thank you, Archbishop. He will pray for us.

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(Loud applause by members chanting, 'pray for us')

We also have.... Order! Order Members! We also have Ustadh Jaffer - Deputy Imam, Jamia Mosque- Kitui.

(Applause)

Thank you.

We also have Bishop Joseph Nganda - Evangelical Alliance of Kenya. Thank you. We have Rev. John Wambua. Thank you Reverend and all members of the clergy present please feel acknowledged. We also have with us Timothy Mbuvi, Chair County Government Workers Union. Thank you very much. Hon. Members, we also have Members of the public who are at the public gallery. We acknowledge all of them and any other visitor whom I invited, please feel welcomed

Hon. Members in our tradition of receiving and welcoming visitors to the County Assembly, I extend a warm welcome to them and on behalf of the County Assembly of Kitui and my own behalf I wish them a fruitful visit. Members, allow me issue another communication from the Chair, Communication no. 30 Of 2025 on communication from the chair as relates to the State of the County Address by H.E, Dr. Julius Makau Malombe; Governor, Kitui County.

(Applause)

Today Members you are on fire. Keep up the fire and don't sleep.

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR AS RELATES TO THE STATE OF THE COUNTY
ADDRESS BY H.E, DR. JULIUS MAKAU MALOMBE; GOVERNOR, KITUI COUNTY**

Your Excellency, Dr. Julius Makau Malombe; Governor, Kitui County, your Excellency, Augustine Wambua Kanani; Deputy Governor, Kitui County, Honourable Members of National Assembly present, The County Commissioner, Honourable Members of the County Assembly, The Acting County Secretary, County Executive Committee Members and Governor's Advisors, Chief Officers, Members of Staff from both the Assembly and the Executive, The Clergy, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, good afternoon.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to this Sitting of the Fourth Session of the County Assembly. This day marks a significant occasion in our legislative calendar — the delivery of the State of the County Address by His Excellency the Governor.

Today's sitting is informed by the Kitui County Assembly Standing Order No. 18 which stipulates that *"The Governor shall address a special sitting of the Assembly once every year and may address the Assembly at any other time within the convenience of the County Assembly."*

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During the evening sitting of Thursday, 26th June 2025, I informed this House that my Office had received a communication from His Excellency the Governor conveying his intention to address the Assembly today.

Your Excellency; this Assembly warmly welcomes your address, marking the third of its kind since the commencement of this Third Assembly, and given that it has been a year, four months and twenty-four days since your last address to this August House which you did on Wednesday, 14th February, 2024.

Your willingness to engage with us underscores the pivotal role this Assembly plays in your agenda of the ‘Kitui Promise’, and that you are ready to continue working with us in order to realize the gains of devolution. We are indeed honoured to host you once again.

Honourable Members; Section 30(2)(k) of the County Governments Act, 2012, mandates the Governor to deliver an Annual State of the County Address. In this regard, the address should include, but is not limited to, the following:

A report on measures taken in the realization of the national values as provided under Article 10 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010;

An annual report on the implementation status of County policies and plans pursuant to Section 30(2)(j) of the County Governments Act, 2012;

A report on the performance of the County Executive Committee and the County Public Service, pursuant to Section 47(3) of the Act;

A report on citizen participation in the affairs of the County government, pursuant to Section 92(2); and

Any other information the Governor may deem necessary.

Honourable Members, As provided for under law and established parliamentary practices, the Address must be delivered in the Assembly to accord it the legitimacy required for consideration by the House. This mirrors the national practice where the President of the Republic of Kenya, under Article 132(1)(b) of the Constitution, addresses a joint sitting of Parliament annually, and may do so at any other time.

At the conclusion of the Governor’s address, the sitting shall stand adjourned. As per Standing Order Nos. 20(4) and (5), the Address shall be laid on the Table of the House as soon as practicable, and debate thereon shall not exceed four sitting days.

Honourable Members, allow me to express my appreciation to all who made time to attend this Sitting - the Representatives of the National Government, Political Leaders, County Executive Committee Members, Governor’s Advisors, Chief Officers, Clergy, Civil Society Groups, and members of the general public.

I also take this opportunity to thank His Excellency the Governor for his unwavering support in enabling the Assembly to discharge its mandate, particularly through budgetary allocations to support:

The construction of the Kitui County Assembly modern office block;

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The purchase of land and commencement of the construction of the Speaker's Residence, and

The acquisition of land and initial funding for the construction of Members' Ward Offices.

Your Excellency, while we recognize your support, I take this opportunity to kindly urge your Office to continue promoting cordial relations between the Assembly and the Executive by facilitating consultative forums between the two arms of government.

I also wish to raise an issue of concern among Members of the County Assembly regarding site handovers. Members have expressed dissatisfaction over not being adequately notified or involved in these events. I kindly request your esteemed Office to ensure that Members are informed in good time, preferably at least a day in advance, to enable proper scheduling of their engagements and to enable their effective participation.

Honourable Members, in accordance with Article 6(2) and Article 189(1) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 which provide for cooperation between the National and County Governments, I wish to humbly appeal for a continued and strengthened working relationship between the County Government of Kitui and the National Government, led by the Office of the County Commissioner at the County level. We deeply appreciate the support already extended by the National Government, including in areas of security, infrastructure and development programs. May this cooperation continue to flourish for the benefit of our people.

I also wish to appeal to the Judiciary to support and complement the County Government in the process of shaping sound and responsive policies and laws. The Judiciary remains an essential partner in interpreting laws and ensuring justice and fairness for all, and we look forward to a collaborative relationship that promotes the rule of law and equitable service delivery.

To the Clergy present, we recognize your ever-present role in nurturing moral values in our society. We humbly seek your continued spiritual guidance and prayers as leaders, so that we may act with wisdom, compassion and integrity in service to our people.

Fellow leaders and stakeholders, I extend a warm invitation to all development partners, community-based organizations, private sector players and individual citizens to actively participate in public engagements and forums organized by the County Government. Public participation is not only a constitutional imperative under Article 10 and Article 174(c) but also a cornerstone of devolution. It ensures that decisions made truly reflect the will and aspirations of the people.

Your Excellency, Honourable Members, Ladies and Gentlemen, let me also take this opportunity to highlight that in the recent past, the working relationship between the County Assembly and the Executive experienced certain challenges. However, I am pleased to report that those differences are now water under the bridge. Today, the two arms of government are working closely together in harmony, guided by mutual respect and a shared commitment to the service of the people of Kitui.

(Loud consultations)

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As of today, it is exactly two years, one month, and two days to the next General Election in Kenya, which is scheduled for Tuesday, 10th August 2027. With such limited time remaining, we must rise above partisanship and focus our energies on unity, cooperation and impactful leadership. There is neither room nor time for unnecessary conflicts or political distractions.

(Loud consultations)

Our priority must be the fulfilment of the promises we made to our people when they entrusted us with leadership.

Your Excellency, we reiterate our unwavering commitment to collaboration and mutual respect. The Assembly will continue to constructively engage the Executive while remaining steadfast in its constitutional mandate of legislation, oversight and representation.

In the same spirit, we kindly appeal for your continued support in addressing the Assembly's outstanding infrastructure needs, particularly the completion of the Modern Office Block and the construction of Members' Ward Offices through adequate and sustained budgetary allocations in subsequent financial cycles.

Honourable Members, Ladies and Gentlemen, with these remarks, it is now my honour and privilege to invite His Excellency the Governor, Dr. Julius Makau Malombe, to deliver the State of the County Address.

(Hon Alex Nganga rose on a point of order)

Thank you, Members. I am sure we have seen a copy of the Standing Orders and today is the day for the Governor to issue his address, however Minority Leader you have a procedural matter you wanted to highlight? I can give you a minute.

Hon. Alex Nganga(Leader of Minority Party): Thank you, Hon. Speaker. Mine is a procedural matter and I want to refer you back to the Standing Order you've referred to and basically sub-section two of the same and I seek your guidance on the same that when the Governor makes an address the Speaker shall be seated on the right side of the Governor and the Senator on the on the left side of the Governor. And because there is no vacuum in leadership, that this County has got a substantive Senator, whether Hon. Speaker, you can vacate your seat and allow the Governor to speak from where you are. That you sit on his right hand seat as is envisaged that we have a substantive Senator probably not present here today, that for the observance of decorum and our Standing Orders. Thank you Hon.Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): Thank you *Mheshimiwa*. Members, I want to confirm that I have official apology from the 'Speaker'. So, consider the apology as conveyed. I know we have a lot to discuss but today is the Governor's day. We are already at the next order. I will now request the His Excellency the Governor to start and make his State of the County Address and Members let us give the Governor all the attention.

(H.E the Governor, Dr. Julius Makau Malombe took to the podium for the Address)

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The Governor (H.E. Dr. Julius M. Malombe, EGH): Hon. Speaker of the County Assembly, Honourable Members, The People of the Great County of Kitui, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, it is my honour and privilege to address this august House and the great people of Kitui County as I deliver the Annual State of the County Address, in line with Section 30(2)(k) of the County Governments Act, 2012.

Hon. Speaker, I am delighted to report that as we mark approximately two years and ten months since I assumed office on 25th August 2022, my administration has made substantive and transformative strides in advancing the development agenda of our county.

My address will reflect on key milestones achieved in the implementation of the county's lifechanging projects, programmes, policies, and strategic initiatives in enhancing healthcare service delivery, access to clean water, road connectivity, basic and vocational education, food and nutrition security, urban development, trade and investments, and strengthening collaborations with the National Government and development partners - all anchored in the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2023–2027 and “The Kitui Promise” - the 16 Sector Manifesto on whose basis the people of Kitui overwhelmingly gave mandate to my administration. I will also outline our progress in critical governance areas, including budget performance, own-source revenue collection, settlement of pending bills, promotion of staff welfare, and county legal services.

Further, I will highlight the performance of the County Public Service, as well as the strides we have made in citizen participation, consultation, and engagement, as enshrined in Article 10 of the Constitution and Sections 47(3) and 92(2) of the County Governments Act.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I will briefly state the challenges we have encountered along the way, the mitigation measures being undertaken, and offer insights into our future plans.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, On the implementation of the county's life-changing projects, programmes, policies and strategic initiatives, I am pleased to report that, in just two years and ten months, my government has so far implemented a total of 1,921 infrastructural projects and programmes in all the 40 Wards and 247 Villages of our county.

Out of these, 989 projects were implemented under the Community Level Infrastructure Development Programme (CLIDP) – a key initiative that we conceptualized during my first tenure as the pioneer Governor, for equitable development, poverty alleviation and improvement of the livelihoods of our people in all wards and villages of our county.

These development projects are spread across the 16 Priority Sectors: Agriculture; Water; Health; Education; Urban Development; Roads & Construction; Trade & Investments; Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs); Cooperative Societies; Tourism & Hospitality; Women, Youth & Persons with Disabilities; Transport & Boda Boda; Energy, Environment, Climate Change Adaptation, Forestry, Natural & Mineral Resources; Information & Communications; and Security.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, “Agriculture not only gives riches to a nation, but the only riches she can call her own.” These are the words of Samuel Johnson, an English

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writer, poet, playwright, and essayist, that underscore the unmatched value of agriculture to any nation's prosperity.

Indeed, agriculture is more than just farming; it feeds the population, creates jobs, and drives economic growth. In Kitui County, agriculture stands as the primary economic activity, employing approximately 66.37% of the workforce and contributing to about 87% of rural household incomes (Source: Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security – CCAFS, 2021).

In cognizant of this, my government has identified food and nutrition security as a strategic pathway to ensure a healthy, productive population for sustainable development. We have prioritized the provision of agricultural extension and advisory services aimed at enhancing agricultural production, productivity, and profitability. The said extension services comprise individual and group farm visits, residential and non-residential trainings, farm field days, on-farm demonstrations, and farmer field schools by our agricultural extension officers.

The prioritization of extension service is borne out of the realization that governments, both national and county, cannot do farming for individual farmers. It is only individual farmers or those organized as cooperatives or business ventures who can effectively do so - whilst the government supports them with education, knowledge and capacity building on modern agriculture, including climate-smart agriculture. Through these efforts, a total of 527,208 farmers have been trained on modern farming and livestock production technologies, climate-smart agricultural practices, agribusiness skills and value chain development to boost productivity and resilience.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, as you are aware, over the past two years, we successfully hosted the Kitui Agricultural Show and Trade Fair, which we revived after a five-year hiatus. The Show attracted 30,440 participants in 2023 and 52,355 in 2024 and served as a vital platform for showcasing modern agricultural technologies, innovations, and market linkages for our farmers and agribusiness stakeholders.

Mr. Speaker, at this juncture, I wish to inform the public that this year's Agricultural Show and Trade Fair has been rescheduled from July 2025 to February 2026. This adjustment has been necessitated by the ongoing construction of a stadium at the Ithookwe Showgrounds, in preparation for the upcoming Mashujaa Day celebrations, which will be hosted in Kitui on Friday, 20th October 2025. The national event will be presided over by His Excellency the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces, Dr. William Samoei Arap Ruto.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, through our sand dams and sump-wells programme, the County is significantly improving access to reliable water sources for both domestic use and irrigation.

This initiative is a cornerstone of our strategy to promote climate-resilient and sustainable agriculture by reducing dependency on rain-fed farming. This shift not only boosts food security but also creates new economic opportunities, particularly for women and youth involved in kitchen gardening and small-scale irrigation. The sand dams and sump-wells we have constructed will be revisited under the Water and Irrigation Sector.

In partnership with the National Government and development partners, we have implemented a range of projects aimed at building resilience among our farmers. Under the Emergency Locust Response Programme (ELRP), 486 groups in Tharaka, Tseikuru, Mumoni,

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Kyuso, Ngomeni, Nguni, Waita, Kivou and Mwingi Central Wards were supported with Kshs.79 million for micro-projects in pulses, cereals, goats, and pasture.

Moreover, a total of 4,381 farmers in four Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) - Mwekaka in Waita, Thagicu Arimi in Tharaka, Mikaki in Ngomeni and Goat2Farm in Kyuso - received inclusion grants of Kshs.500,000 each. These funds were for recruitment of more members and office establishment.

The Emergency Locust Response Programme also saw the implementation of eight water projects. These include rehabilitation of Ikaaie borehole in Ngomeni and Kalisasi Rock Catchment in Mwingi Central, desilting of water pans in Mutingwa in Kyuso and Thitha in Kivou, and equipping and hybridization of boreholes in Masukanioni in Mumoni and Masavi in Nguni, benefiting over 4,000 farmers.

Under the Small-Scale Irrigation and Value Addition Project (SIVAP), we established nine small-scale irrigation schemes in Kauwi, Nguutani, Kyome/Thaana and Mutonguni Wards, benefiting 4,456 farmers. We also drilled and equipped eight boreholes with solar-powered pumping systems in Zombe/Mwitika, Kauwi, and Nguutani wards, benefiting 2,324 farmers. Similarly, Muangeni Livestock Sale Yard and Meko Ma Kaongoa Market Shed in Athi Ward were constructed to improve marketing infrastructure and open new economic opportunities for our farmers.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, Through the National Agricultural Value Chain Development Project (NAVCDP), we profiled 229,396 farmers and onboarded 280 youth agripreneurs (seven per Ward) to enhance agricultural outreach. Agripreneurs are persons who undertake business ventures within the agriculture sector, aiming to provide innovative solutions, add value to products, and involve rural human resources.

Under NAVCDP, the youth agripreneurs will link smallholder farmers with farm input suppliers, market offtakers, and financial institutions. In addition, we also issued 21 additional motorcycles to extension officers, bringing the total to 99 motorcycles, thus improving mobility and service delivery to our people.

To ensure access to affordable credit facilities for our farmers through the NAVCDP programme, 40 Word-based SACCOs have also been established.

Mr. Speaker, through our collaboration with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), eight women's groups from three Wards received 164 water tanks of 10,000litre capacity each, to support kitchen gardening besides improving household nutrition and incomes.

These groups are: Kimusyi Self Help Group, Kandae New Generation, Ngunga Farmers and Kawelu Farmers in Mutomo/Kibwea, Mwamba Isyuko and Wikwatyo Wa Makaiye in Athi, and Mwanzo Mpya, Mang'elu Ndyukila Mana and KUDP Mutanda in Kauwi Ward.

Under this collaboration, we also Wikwatyo wa Makaiye Women Group in Athi Ward with a poultry feed crusher and mixer for the enhancement of their poultry value chain.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, Post-harvest loss is a significant challenge facing our farmers. Despite their hard work and dedication, many farmers experience substantial losses after harvesting their crops, affecting their income and food security. Leveraging on the establishment of the Kitui County Aggregation and Industrial Park (K-CAIP)

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will significantly reduce post-harvest losses. The Aggregation and Industrial Park will provide farmers with access to modern storage facilities, processing, and marketing infrastructure, enabling them to preserve their produce, add value, and access better markets.

Mr. Speaker, A key constraint we continue to face is the shortage of agricultural extension officers. The current ratio stands at one officer for every 2,414 farmers, against the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)-recommended ratio of 1:400. To bridge this gap, my administration will recruit 128 additional agricultural extension and animal health officers to replace those who have exited the service through retirement, resignation or natural attrition.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, I now turn to water and wish to state as follows and I will start with a quote “Thousands have lived without love, but not one without water,” so goes a common saying attributed to British-American poet Wystan Hugh Auden. Water is critical for sustainable development, including environmental integrity and the alleviation of poverty and hunger, and is indispensable for human health and wellbeing.

Our county is endowed with major rivers – River Tana and Athi River – as well as five river basins comprising Nziitu, Enziu, Tyaa, Thua and Tiva. Therefore, the real challenge in Kitui is not water scarcity, but rather limited accessibility. In recognition of this fact, my administration has prioritised the construction of sump-wells and sand dams which are cost-effective, reliable and sustainable water solutions.

Notably, a single sump-well has the capacity to yield approximately 200,000 litres of water per day, which can serve an estimated 2,000 households daily.

So far, we have constructed 19 sump-wells serving over 5,000 households across all eight sub-counties, including Mwitasyano–Kwa Vonza in Yatta/Kwa Vonza Ward, Imuumba in Voo/Kyamatu, Kalambani in Mutha, Ndiang’u in Matinyani, Yambuu in Mulango, Kamenkia–Gankanga in Tharaka, Kaki–Kilali in Mui, and Tyaa– Wimbondo in Kiomo/Kyethani.

In addition, a total of 347 sand dams have been constructed across many rivers within the county’s 40 Wards.

Further, to enhance food production through irrigated agriculture, my government has established 32 solar powered cluster irrigation projects. These include: Kithiini Ndiani in Kanziko/Simisi, Kitwa Mikeu in Waita, Mamuluni in Kyome/Thaana, Mbaa Nzei (Kaumu) in Zombe/Mwitika, Mumbuni Farmers in Kithumula/Kwa Mutonga, Muthoo Farmers in Miambani, and Katangini in Kisasi, among others.

We aim to progressively expand the acreage under irrigation from the current 3,900 hectares to 7,200 hectares by the end of the 2025/2026 Financial Year.

We have also constructed and desilted 60 earth dams across the county, among them Kwakwai in Endau/Malalani, Moomoka Kwa Mulu in Mui, Kitoo in Mutomo/Kibwea, Mbuani in Kyuso, Kikunduu in Kiomo/Kyethani, Matiliku in Kanyangi, Kwa Mukuti in Kyangwithya West, and Kwa Munzyu in Mutonguni.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, we have drilled 55 and equipped 33 boreholes in strategic locations across the county, benefitting an estimated 8,550 households. They include Gatoroni in Tharaka, Myaani in Athi, Itoloni in Migwani, Ithookwe Showground in Kyangwithya West, Kanyangi Primary School in Kanyangi, Mutitu Girls in Mutitu/Kaliku, Nyanyaa/Katitika in Waita, and Kithumula in Kithumula/Kwa Mutonga.

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Additionally, we have solarized 31 boreholes, significantly improving water access for over 3,000 households. These include Masukanioni in Mumoni Ward, Kyanda in Kyome/Thaana, Ingamba in Nuu, Itaani in Voo/Kyamatu, Katuku in Kwa Mutonga/Kithumula, Kamutyanzuku in Mutha, Kilinditini in Kisasi, and Kwa Kisini/Kathungu in Mulango.

In our efforts to reduce distance covered to access water points, my administration has installed and rehabilitated a total of 134 kilometers of water pipeline extensions across the county. They include: Nzeluni earthdam to Kilungu pipeline in Migwani Ward, Tyaa sump-well to Mboru Primary School in Mwingi Central, Konani Kwa Kalondu to KITWASCO Manyenyoni in Township, Kaunguni borehole to Mungatu Shopping Centre in Athi, Mang'ola to Kiema Kilonzo Primary School in Chuluni, Kwa Mwatu to Kwa Kamula in Kanyangi, Kwa Mutuku to Sangala Market in Kauwi, Matingani to Kwa Kitavi to Kwa Ngungu in Kyuso.

We have also installed a total of 180 plastic water tanks, each with a 10,000-litre capacity, in various public and learning institutions, market centres and community water points across the county, including Enziu ECDE in Kivou Ward, Kamutekeo ECDE in Kyome/Thaana, Munathi Primary in Ikanga/Kyatune, Kyamboo Dispensary in Migwani, and Kathivo VTC in Kwa Mutonga/Kithumula.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, in fulfilment of my campaign pledge to revive, complete and commission the stalled Kangu Kangu Water Project in Kitui South, we have, in collaboration with World Vision our partner, developed a new intake, installed modern pumping systems, and installed and rehabilitated key pipeline networks, including the Kamutei–Mutomo main gravity line, the Mutomo–Syunguni–Kandae–Syuma Nzeke–Makongoni return line, the Mutomo–Ikutha line, and the Mutomo–Mutha line.

We have also installed new valves, replaced faulty ones, and constructed water kiosks at strategic points across Kitui South Sub-County to improve last-mile distribution. This Kshs.839.7 million flagship projects, being jointly funded and implemented in partnership with World Vision, will provide reliable access to potable water for over 25,000 households, that is 100,000 people, in Kitui South and parts of Kitui Rural Sub-County once operationalized. Specifically, the project will serve six Wards - Mutomo, Kaziku, Mutha, Ikutha, Athi, and Kanyangi.

Mr. Speaker, we had earlier planned to launch the Kangu Kangu Water Project on 20th June 2025, but due to the ongoing final testing, we have rescheduled the launch to Friday, 22nd August 2025.

Regrettably, the implementation of this critical project has been hindered by incidents of vandalism in certain sections, acts we believe are being perpetrated by individuals acting at the behest of political detractors and development saboteurs who seem bent on denying the people in the area the enjoyment of piped water access.

I wish to strongly condemn these unlawful activities, which undermine our collective progress and deny our people the services they rightfully deserve. I therefore call upon members of the public, local administrators, and the security agencies to remain vigilant and promptly report any suspicious activities or individuals to the relevant authorities for swift lawful action.

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Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, the long-term sustainability of our water and irrigation investments requires sound governance and professional management. In this regard, water supply schemes, including sump-wells, boreholes, and pipeline extensions, have been placed under the management of our two main water service providers - the Kitui Water and Sanitation Company (KITWASCO) and Kiambere-Mwingi Water and Sanitation Company (KIMWASCO) in Kitui and Mwingi sub-counties respectively, to ensure efficiency and sustainability.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, I now wish to turn to the Health and Sanitation Sector and start by quoting an American essayist and philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson who said and I quote “The first wealth is health.” End of quote. We all agree with Ralph Emerson that the health of our people is their greatest wealth, hence, the need to ensure that our Health Sector is functioning properly.

In recognition of this, my government has prioritized health as a key sector in our development agenda, investing in promotive, preventive, curative, and rehabilitative healthcare to improve the well-being and productivity of our people.

To enhance access to healthcare services, we have increased the number of healthcare facilities from 306 in 2022 to 311 in 2025 through the construction, completion and operationalization of Kiviu dispensary in Mutomo/Kibwea, Kilulu dispensary in Kyuso, Vinda dispensary in Miambani, Ngungi dispensary in Zombe/Mwitika and Kangondi dispensary in Mutonguni.

We are also constructing and renovating 34 healthcare facilities in villages that previously lacked functional infrastructure, such as Kaluluini in Kaliakatune in Mutha, Gatoroni in Tharaka, Katuyu in Nguutani, Kyeng’e in Kauwi, Nyaanyaa in Yatta/Kwa Vonza, Mulang’a in Mwingi Central, Kalundu in Township, Ndili in Ikutha, and Kimela in Ngomeni. This bold initiative moves us closer to achieving the vision of a dispensary in every village, ensuring equitable access to healthcare services and accelerating progress towards Universal Health Coverage.

Mr. Speaker, to enhance access to cancer care services, we operationalized the Phangisile Mtshali Cancer Centre at the Kitui County Referral Hospital in November 2023. So far, 3,806 patients have been attended to at the Centre with 188 currently receiving treatment.

Moreover, new outpatient blocks at the Kitui County Referral Hospital, Mutomo, Zombe, and Kyuso Sub-County Hospitals have been operationalized, reducing congestion and enhancing timely consultations and treatment.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, to improve maternal and child healthcare, we operationalized the maternity theatre at Migwani Sub-County Hospital and equipped another at Kanyangi Sub-County Hospital, increasing by 18 the number of operational maternity units from 81 in 2022 to 99 in 2025. The new maternity units include: Kisayani dispensary in Mutomo/Kibwea, Endau dispensary in Endau/Malalani, Ndiuni Health Centre in Kwa Mutonga/Kithumula, Tiva dispensary in Kyangwithya West, Usueni dispensary in Tseikuru, Nguni Health Centre in Nguni and Kalisasi Health Centre in Mwingi Central.

In our continued efforts to reduce infant mortality, we constructed a 70-bed Newborn Unit at the Kitui County Referral Hospital and a Maternity Unit at Nuu Sub-County Hospital in

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collaboration with the Catholic Medical Mission Board (CMMB), reducing infant mortality from 47 to 13 per 1,000 live births.

Our Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at the Kitui County Referral Hospital continues to provide critical care, having treated 196 patients to date. The Hemophilia Clinic has also been instrumental in managing hemophilia, a rare genetic bleeding disorder, for 12 patients. Additionally, plans are underway to operationalize Intensive Care (ICU) and High Dependency (HDU) units at the Mwingi Level IV Hospital.

To improve rehabilitative care for patients recovering from injury, surgery, or persons with disabilities, we have equipped the Kitui County Referral and Mwingi Level IV Hospitals with essential assistive devices.

To strengthen diagnostic services, my government has reinstated the previously non-functional Computed Tomography (CT) Scan services at the Kitui County Referral Hospital, and completed laboratories in 11 facilities which include; Mutomo, Katulani, Kanyangi and Kyuso hospitals, and X-Ray units at Tseikuru and Kauwi Sub-County Hospitals.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, in our efforts to enhance emergency response and healthcare delivery, my administration has rehabilitated nine ambulances, raising the operational fleet to 26. We have also ensured the consistent restocking of essential drugs and non-pharmaceutical supplies across all county health facilities, strengthening uninterrupted service delivery.

Moreover, in response to the persistent threat posed by snakebites, particularly in high-risk areas, my administration has equipped 96 healthcare facilities across the county with life-saving anti-snake venom.

These facilities include Kitui County Referral Hospital, Katulani Sub-County Hospital and Mikuyuni Dispensary in Kitui Central; Malalani Health Centre, and Zombe and Mutitu Sub-County Hospitals in Kitui East; Katse Health Centre, and Tseikuru and Kamuwongo Sub-County Hospitals in Mwingi North; Thitani, Winzyeei and Nzawa Health Centres in Mwingi West; Nyaani Dispensary, and Nguni and Ukasi Health Centres in Mwingi Central; Kivani Dispensary, and Ndiuni and Tulia Health Centres in Kitui West; Mutha Health Centre and Ikanga and Ikutha SubCounty Hospitals in Kitui South; as well as Mbitini, Kisasi and Kwa Vonza Health Centres in Kitui Rural.

Other initiatives include the completion of stalled mortuaries at the Kitui County Referral Hospital, Mwingi Level IV Hospital, Thitani Health Centre in Kyome/Thaana Ward, and Yatta Health Centre in Yatta/Kwa Vonza Ward. Going forward, we will fast-track the implementation of the Facilities Improvement Financing (FIF) Act, 2023 to enhance mobilization of local resources, thus ensuring sustainable funding of our healthcare facilities.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, As President Nelson Mandela, South Africa's first African President observed, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

In our continued effort to provide a conducive learning environment for our children, we have constructed 179 ECDE classrooms, benefitting over 7,300 ECDE learners across the county. We have also supplied a total of 2,040 coloured tables as well as essential teaching and learning materials to ECDE Centres countywide, benefitting over 53,000 ECDE learners.

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Our ECDE learners continue to benefit from the motivated workforce of the 1,688 ECDE teachers whose terms of engagement were converted into permanent and pensionable on 1st July 2023. Through the Pro-Poor Fees Support Programme Mr. Speaker, we have disbursed a total of Kshs.244.8 million to support 31,573 learners from economically disadvantaged backgrounds in universities, colleges, secondary schools, vocational training centres, and special needs institutions.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, Skills development is the foundation of empowerment. When we equip our youth with practical, hands-on skills, we are not just training workers, we are building innovators, problem-solvers and leaders for tomorrow. In our county Vocational Training Centres (VTCs), we endeavour to equip our youth with relevant, hands-on skills to shape a generation that creates jobs, solves societal problems, drives innovations, and is self-reliant.

To achieve this, we continue to improve infrastructure and learning conditions in our VTCs. Three modern workshops have been completed in Mutomo VTC in Mutomo/Kibwea Ward, Ngwani VTC in Ikanga/Kyatune and Kyambiti VTC in Mulango. We have also renovated nine workshops in various VTCs including Ngomeni, Katse in Mumoni, Ithiani in Kyangwithya West, Mwingi Baptist in Mwingi Central, Mutwaathi in Migwani, Mutonguni, Syou in Endau/Malalani, Kyatune and Mui.

As part of our efforts to mainstream Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in our vocational institutions. Mr. Speaker, we constructed and equipped three ICT classrooms at Ikutha, Kauwi and Mwingi Baptist VTCs. Likewise, we supplied modern training tools and equipment, including 660 sewing machines, to various VTCs across the County.

These efforts have borne fruits as evidenced by the increasing enrolment in vocational training institutions which has more than tripled, rising from 2,506 trainees in 2013 to 8,003 in 2025, an increase of 219.4%.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, Urbanization is not just the growth of cities, it is the engine of economic transformation, social progress and innovation. We recognize that “the future is urban” as urban centers increasingly support more people and generate more employment. Urban areas also serve as hubs for innovation, investment, and economic transformation, hence vital in shaping a more inclusive and resilient future for all residents.

In recognition of this, we have undertaken deliberate and strategic interventions to modernize our urban centers through infrastructure investments, spatial planning, and service delivery, to improve quality of life and stimulate trade.

To enhance the business environment in our urban centers, we rolled out the Dustless Towns Programme — starting with the tarmacking of streets in Kiusyani Market, Yatta/Kwa Vonza Ward and in the current financial year, we are set to expand this initiative to other key trading centers, beginning with Tseikuru Town, as we work to create cleaner, more accessible, and investor-friendly urban spaces across Kitui County.

Additionally, we have enhanced pedestrian safety in our urban areas by constructing cabro-paved walkways in Mwingi and Kitui municipalities, and tarmacked the 500 metre St. Ursula Tungutu–Ithookwe Showground Road, including walkways and drainage systems for the same.

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Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, in pursuit of cleaner, healthier urban environments, we are constructing 13 ablution blocks in various urban areas such as Katse, Nuu, Thokoa, Kwa Vonza, Zombe, Mutito, Ikanga, Mutha, and Kavisuni to improve public sanitation standards.

To strengthen solid waste management, we procured a skip loader, a dump truck, and 21 fabricated skip bins for use in Kitui and Mwingi municipalities, as well as in Mutomo and Kyuso towns. Further, we constructed a perimeter wall around the Mwingi Town dumpsite to secure and manage waste disposal activities.

To ensure orderly growth and sustainable development, we are preparing land use development plans for Kanyangi, Kabati, Zombe, and Migwani towns, alongside the preparation of 16 market layouts to enhance land use efficiency and protect public land from encroachment.

Additionally, we have finalized the Mwingi Municipality Integrated Development Plan (IDEP) to guide structured planning, zoning, and prioritization of development initiatives. Particularly, as we look ahead to implement the Kenya Urban Support Program in the near future.

As part of our long-term vision for coordinated and sustainable development across Kitui County, we have allocated funds in the FY2025/2026 budget to commence the formulation of a County Spatial Plan — which is a critical framework that will inform physical and socio-economic development countywide.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, turning to roads. We know effective road transport systems are vital for rapid economic growth. They connect people to opportunities, transportation of goods to markets, and communities to essential services.

To improve our road network, we have graded over 4,000 kilometres of roads across the 40 Wards, easing mobility for over 50,000 road users per day. We have also opened and widened more than 500 kilometres of roads across the county, thereby opening up remote areas and connecting them to the rest of the road network within the County.

To date, we have gravelled a total of 27.8 kilometres of roads among them Tseikuru-Nzanzeni-Usueni Road (12.3km) in Tseikuru, Thaana Nzau - Kithyoko River Road (1.2km) in Kyome/Thaana, Kinakoni-Imali-Kiangini-Kivwauni Road (2km) in Voo/Kyamatu, and Kwa Mbuvi-Muangueni (2km) in Athi.

Mr. Speaker, we have also constructed 41 drifts, including River Katse Drift along the Katse–Musosya Road (150m) in Mumoni, Kithyoko River Drift along the Kithyoko– Thaana Nzau Road (140m) in Kyome/Thaana, Ngunga River Drift along the Kisaayani–Imwange–Kilui Road (70m) in Mutomo/Kibwea, Thua River Drift along Kinakoni-Emale-Kiangini-Kyuukuni Market (150m) in Voo/Kyamatu, Kisiiyo River Drift along the Inyuu– Kyamusivi Road (90m) in Chuluni Ward, Mui River Drift (40m) in Mui, and Masyungwa Drift along Kalambani-Kairungu in Kyuso.

In addition, we have constructed 11 slabs along various roads throughout the county. Some of these slabs are along Mutula Market-Kwa Wewa-Junction-Kilingile Road (120m) in Miambani/Chuluni Wards, Mbitini/Voo Road Junction to Kinakoni Market (270m) in Voo/Kyamatu, Kwa Lele-Maiyuni-Ithiiani Road (100m) in Kyangwithya West/Township Wards, and Kiteeti slab along Mwaani Wa Nguku-Kimwele Road (150m) in Kauwi Ward.

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In addition, the 600-meter Kitui–Ithookwe Showgrounds exit road was upgraded to bitumen standards during the 2023/2024 financial year as I mentioned earlier.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, as you are aware, during the 2024/2025 Financial Year, my administration had earmarked the construction and improvement of 45 roads across the county under the Road Maintenance Levy Fund (RMLF), with a total allocation of Kshs. 445 million in our budget which you approved.

Unfortunately, the implementation of this vital infrastructure program was delayed due to a protracted court case concerning the disbursement of the funds.

I am pleased to report that the matter has now been resolved in favour of county governments, and as a result, the National Government has released through the Kenya Roads Board Kshs. 152 million, to Kitui County to enabling us to initiate...

(Applause)

Phase I of the Road Maintenance Levy Fund program. Fifteen out of the proposed 45 roads have been prioritized for implementation under this phase, as we await the disbursement of the remaining funds which are over 290 million because initially they were 445 million.

Some of the targeted roads include: Improvement of Kanyagi/Kanyongonyo Junction – Ndovoini –Nzambia Road in Kanyangi Ward, upgrading of Kalimbui Junction–Kakauni–South Eastern Heritage Centre Road in Tseikuru Ward to bitumen standards, construction of Muthungue–Masikalini–Imumba Police Station Road in Voo/Kyamatu, construction of Muthue– Mwangala–Kanziku Road in Kanziku/Simisi, including a box culvert at Kwa Vai, and construction of Waluku– Vinda–Makaani–Ndivuni Road in Miambani Ward.

In collaboration with the Kenya Roads Board, the following three projects have also been implemented: Tseikuru–Nzanzen–Usueni Road and River Nzanzen Drift (135m) in Tseikuru as well as Thitani Market–Kavaini Loop Road in Kyome/Thaana.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, Today, we recognize and appreciate the crucial role that our Boda Boda operators play in driving local economies, supporting livelihoods, and bridging mobility gaps across our communities.

In Kitui County, we have an estimated 22,000 boda boda operators, with the highest concentrations operating within Kitui Municipality, Mwingi Municipality, Kwa Vonza, and Mutomo towns.

To support their operations and improve their working conditions, we have constructed 42 modern sheds across the county, including Kyulungwa in Waita, Kivwauni in Voo/Kyamatu, Kwa Kilui in Yatta/Kwa Vonza, Syongila in Township, Mukuyu in Tharaka, Nzauni in Nguutani, Mutha Lower Town and Soweto in Matinyani. These facilities provide safe, dignified, and weather-protected spaces for riders to operate from.

We have also trained 1,140 boda boda riders countywide on road safety, professionalism and best practices in the transport sector. My government has developed a

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draft Boda Boda Policy aimed at establishing a well-regulated, efficient, and sustainable Boda Boda industry that promotes mobility, safety, and economic empowerment in Kitui County.

The draft policy is currently awaiting approval at the Cabinet level, after which it will be presented to the County Assembly for further processing.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, Trade and investment are the mainstay of economic development, job creation and social progress. In this regard, my Government has collaborated with the National Government in establishing the Kitui County Aggregation and Industrial Park (K-CAIP) at Kanyonyoo along the Thika-Mwingi-Garissa Highway. The park is designed to enhance productivity of the agriculture sector, increase farmers' income, create jobs, and attract investments.

Mr. Speaker, to promote local investment in the county, we organized the Kitui County Investors' Sensitization Forum in March 2025. The forum sensitized over 3,000 participants on the county's investment opportunities in the six Economic and Investment Zones (EIZs) of the Kyuso-Mumoni-Tseikuru, the Mui Basin, the MutomoIkutha-Kanziko, the Kanyangi-Kwa Vonza Kanyonyoo, the Kitui Town and Environs, and the Mwingi Town and Environs.

We have mapped the resource endowment and investment opportunities in each of the six EIZs to attract both local and foreign investors, creating employment opportunities and ultimately boosting the county's overall economic development.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, To support the growth of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and provide dignified trading environments, my government has improved market infrastructure by constructing 45 market sheds, 15 market toilet facilities and installed 129 market solar lights in various trading centres across the eight Sub-Counties, among them Kamaembe Market in Chuluni, Endau Yiuku Market in Endau/Malalani, Nzamba Market in Ikutha, Ngiluni Market in Kisasi, Kyethani Market in Kiomo Kyethani, Syumikuku Market in Kivou, Waluku Market in Kyangwithya East, Twimyua Market in Kyuso and Kwa Mulungu in Kwa Mutonga/Kithumula.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, in our continued efforts to strengthen cooperatives as a driver of socioeconomic empowerment, my administration has trained 261 cooperative societies, with over 12,300 members, on best practices in governance and management.

We have further enhanced transparency and accountability through the auditing of 127 cooperatives. To catalyse growth within the sector, we have facilitated the registration of 94 new cooperative societies, including Kanziku Faith Leaders Sacco in Kanziku/Simisi, Aithi Farmers in Kivou, Kikavi Sacco in Kisasi, Thagicu Farmers in Tharaka, Kakwa Sacco in Kwa mutonga /Kithumula, Vookya Farmers in Voo/Kyamatu, Pamoja Miambani Scco in Miambani and utu wema Cooperative in Migwani.

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Additionally, we successfully revived 26 previously dormant cooperatives across the county. These include Kanguka Farmers in Nguutani, Mikaango in Ngomeni, Endui Farmers in Waita, Matimu Sacco in Mutha, Malaenda Livestock Cooperative in Endau/Malalani, Kiusyani Rural Sacco in Yatta/Kwa Vonza, and Kitui Township Livestock Cooperative.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, to tap into the great potential of Kitui's rich cultural heritage, scenic landscapes, and unique ecological attractions, my administration has stepped up efforts to revitalise the Tourism and Hospitality Sector as a strategic driver of economic growth.

In collaboration with the Kenya Tourism Board (KTB), we have developed the Kitui Tourism Circuit that connects our local attractions with the national tourism network, enhancing their visibility and accessibility. The official launch of the Circuit is scheduled for Friday, 17th October 2025.

Further, we are in advanced discussions with the Board of Utalii College to establish the South Eastern Utalii College at Tiva, Kitui County. This institution will be instrumental in building local capacity and providing world-class training for the region's tourism and hospitality professionals.

In strengthening conservation and eco-tourism, my administration has deployed 37 game rangers to key sites including the Mutomo Reptile Park, South Kitui Game Reserve, Mwingi Game Reserve, and Kalundu Eco-Park.

As part of our efforts to operationalize the Mutomo Reptile Park, we have completed key infrastructure, including a snake house, snake cages, a crocodile pen, as well as a snake pit and habitats. The Park is set to serve as a centre for tourism, scientific research, breeding, and venom harvesting.

In addition, we drilled the Kaningo borehole in Tseikuru Ward, solarised the Kalalani borehole in Mutha Ward, and renovated the Masyungwa entrance gate, Kalundu Eco-Park and Kalalani Rangers Camp. We also graded 15 kilometres of road from Masyungwa Gate to the Kora National Park and Mwingi Game Reserve cutline.

Despite the significant progress we have made in promoting tourism in our county, we continue to encounter challenges, including the encroachment of protected areas, particularly the South Kitui Game Reserve. Human-wildlife conflict has also continued to adversely affect communities living near conservation zones. In response, we are working in collaboration with relevant national agencies to enhance the protection of these ecological areas and implement sustainable, community-driven solutions to mitigate the impact of such conflicts.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, in our county, we believe in the motto: "Leave no one behind!" A just and thriving society is built when youth are empowered, women are uplifted, and persons with disabilities are fully included — not as a favor, but as a right.

In our continued commitment to inclusive development, my administration has prioritized the empowerment of women, youth, and persons with disabilities as a strategic investment in the long-term prosperity of Kitui County.

To promote youth engagement and nurture sporting talent, we have upgraded 21 public playgrounds, benefiting over 20,000 sportsmen and women. They include Kituti in Athi, Vutu and Kanziko in Kanziku/Simisi, Ithumula in Chuluni, Ndulikye in Voo/Kyamatu, Kaumu in Zombe/Mwitika, Kathungu in Mulango, Kalawa in Kyangwithya East, Kathivo in Kithumula/Kwa Mutonga, Katuka in Mumoni, Ciampiu in Tharaka, Yumbe in Waita, Nzouni in Nguni, Mathuki in Mui, Mukameni in Kisasi, Maangani in Mbitini, Yenzuva in Kyome/Thaana, and Kyethani in Kiomo/Kyethani.

In addition, we have initiated the development of Kivou and Kyoani stadia, with fencing, gating, and preparatory works currently in progress. Upon completion, these stadia will provide modern training facilities for our youth to nurture their sporting talent.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, In November 2024, we hosted the Kitui County Youth Engagement Forum at the Ithookwe Showgrounds, bringing together 1,302 young men and women from all the 247 villages. The forum served as a platform for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and inspiration. We showcased outstanding young entrepreneurs from diverse sectors, whose compelling success stories not only ignited ambition and expanded perspectives, but also demonstrated that with the right mindset and a positive attitude, even the seemingly impossible can be achieved.

In line with our commitment to inclusive economic empowerment, my administration has strengthened compliance with the Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) framework by reserving 30 percent of all county procurement opportunities for youth, women, and PWDs. Notably, in the 2024/2025 financial year, for example, CLIDP contracts worth Kshs.404,890,512.79, which is 55.7% of the total allocation of Kshs.727.5 million were awarded to enterprises under this special category. The women emerged as the leading beneficiaries, receiving Kshs.207,797,514.30 (28.6%), followed by youth with Kshs.167,816,518.50 (23.1%), and persons with disabilities with Kshs.29,277,480.49 (4%).

To enhance their participation and competitiveness, we have trained and sensitized 2,000 youth, 1,000 women, and 600 PWDs across the county on AGPO requirements and procedures.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, to guide youth development, we have formulated the Kitui County Youth Empowerment and Development Policy 2025. The Policy will be submitted to the county Assembly by the end of this week. This is a bold and timely step in our collective journey towards the realization of the aspirations of our young people.

The policy is not merely a framework of intentions, but it is a strategic instrument that seeks to mainstream youth issues across all sectors and ensure coordinated, well sourced and impactful interventions.

To the youth of Kitui, you are not a problem to be solved, you are the solution. I urge you to take ownership of this policy, embrace the opportunities it presents and lead with courage and purpose. Ralph Waldo Emerson, a renowned 19th Century American philosopher and poet, once said, “Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.” His words call on our youth to lead with courage, carve new paths, and become the trailblazers of Kitui’s future.

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To strengthen the county's response to Gender-Based Violence (GBV), we have acquired 1.5 acres of land in Ikutha for the establishment of a GBV Rescue Centre. The administration block for the GBV Centre, a four-door pit latrine, and a chain-link fence have already been completed.

In our continued efforts to support persons with disabilities, my government has distributed 1,000 assorted assistive devices across all 40 wards. We also partnered with the Walkabout Foundation to issue 600 wheelchairs to PWDs, and provided eight PWD groups, one per sub-county, with a 100-seater tent and 100 chairs each. These groups include Twaweza Thua Disability Group in Zombe/Mwitika, Kitui United Disabled People in Matinyani, Wakonie Kitise Disabled Self-Help Group in Mui, Ndaluni Disability Self-Help Group in Kyome/Thaana, Kiliko Self-Help Group in Yatta/Kwa Vonza, Kamane Kituti PWD Group in Ikutha, and Wikililye Wikwatyo Group in Mulango.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, "The generation that destroys the environment is not the generation that pays the price." This quote is from our very own Nobel Laureate, Prof. Wangari Maathai. It is our collective responsibility to protect and conserve our environment so as to meet our current needs and those of generations to come.

In appreciation of this, the county has undertaken a series of ecosystem restoration initiatives focused on key environmental assets, including the county's water towers, wetlands, rock catchments, and riverine ecosystems. These efforts comprise the planting of over 60,000 tree seedlings and dispersal of 2,500 kilograms of seed balls in areas such as Mumoni, Mutha, Endau, Mutito and Nuuhill forests as well as Kyui Ranges in Mui Ward.

Under the Financing Locally-Led Climate Action (FLLoCA) Program, we have constructed 24 mega sand dams which have boosted soil water retention, provided water for both domestic and livestock use, and supported small-scale irrigation. Some of these sand dams are Kiteeti in Kauwi, Kaitha Kwa Karungu in Kivou, Ciacaba Kwa Mutugi in Tharaka, Nzeeu Seekea in Nzambani, Mumbuni Kwa Kisenga in Nguutani and Kyalalaka in Ikanga/Kyatune.

Additionally, the construction of three mega sump-wells — Katse-Nguuku in Mumoni, Kaningo-Karumu in Tseikuru and Tiva Ivovoa in Kyangwithya West — is underway. Once completed, by the close of this calendar year, these water projects will enhance access to and reliability of water supply for our communities.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, as part of our continued efforts to conserve our river basins and promote the sustainable harvesting of sand, we enacted the Kitui County River Basins Sand Utilization and Conservation Act, 2024. To operationalize this legislation, the Kitui County River Basins Sand Utilization and Conservation Committee has been duly established and is now functional.

The Committee has already developed comprehensive guidelines, checklists and templates to support a structured licensing and permit issuance process. In line with its mandate, it has also identified designated sand conservation and harvesting sites for gazettement.

Further, the committee recommended the suspension of operations in seven sites that are either depleted or environmentally degraded, in order to allow for natural regeneration. These sites are Kyaaoni (near Tiva Market), Kasiviluni/ Ivovwe and Kyaaoni A (near KEFRI woodland) in Tiva River, Mikuyuni/SEKU in Mwitasyano River, Nguutani in Luli River, Kwa Nduuthi in Kivou River and Mwanja River near Nguni Market.

The Committee is in the process of vetting and approving for licensing and registration of all persons/institutions/ vessels/premises engaged in the sand value chain. Working closely with River Basin-Based Cooperative Societies, it is finalizing the identification of sustainable harvesting sites and aggregation yards, while also developing robust grievance redress mechanisms to safeguard the interests of all stakeholders within Kitui County's sand value chain.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, turning now to matters energy. We observe access to energy and connectivity are crucial enablers for socio-economic development, impacting various aspects of life from basic needs to economic growth.

My government has installed and repaired a total of 1,454 poles of solar security/streetlights across the county. Out of these, 319 have been installed in Kitui Municipality, 244 in Mwingi Municipality, while the rest are spread across various towns and markets, including Kyuso, Migwani, Tseikuru, Kabati, Kwa Vonza, Mutomo, Zombe, Mutha, Ukasi in Nguni, Kisasi, Ekani in Kanziku/Simisi, Kangweni and Kamulewa in Chuluni, Ciampiu in Tharaka, Ithiani in Kyangwithya West, Myuuni in Nuu, Kyenini, Kamali, Kisayani in Mutomo/Kibwea, Makaani and Kivuuni.

Additionally, to reduce water pumping costs and enhance efficiency, we have hybridized 10 boreholes, serving over 3,400 residents and 10,000 head of livestock. The boreholes are Kyume in Mui, Katse in Mumoni, Ngungi in Zombe, Kakeani in Mutonguni, Ikanga in Ikanga/Kyatune, Matinyani Primary in Matinyani, Miambani Catholic in Miambani, Itangini in Mutito, Mutomo Ndovoini in Mutomo/Kibwea and Kangilwa in Mui.

Moreover, we have collaborated with the State Department for Mining to establish an artisanal mining Committee to manage permits for mining. So far, Kakinga and Kathathi artisanal cooperatives have been licensed while Kitui artisanal, Kitui South, Mwingi, Timboni, Mithikwani and Kaliku Muungano have been recommended for licensing.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, to expand access to digital opportunities, we installed internet connectivity at Mutomo, Ithiani and Mwingi Baptist Vocational Training Centres, directly benefiting approximately 3,000 learners. Additionally, Mulango and Kathivo ICT Centres were equipped with wireless internet, serving over 1,000 youth.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, on matters security. We know the security and well-being of the people of Kitui County are paramount. By ensuring the safety and stability of our county and people, the county lays a foundation for investment, industrialization, trade, and a prosperous future.

As part of our commitment to help enhance security and restore law and order in volatile areas along our Eastern border, my administration has collaborated with the National Government to establish eight police stations in the most affected Wards.

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We have completed the Mandongoi Police Station in Ngomeni Ward, while construction of four additional stations - Imuumba in Voo/Kyamatu, Twambui in Endau/Malalani, Kwa Kamari in Tseikuru, and Kwa Ngongoo in Nuu - are ongoing.

Further, plans are at an advanced stage to construct new police stations at Katumba in Nguni Ward once the beacons are placed by the national government and Kituvwi in Kanziko/Simisi Ward.

These security installations are not just about protecting lives, they are a strategic investment in our county's future. A secure environment is the foundation of investor confidence, and without it, no serious investor will commit their capital and money in this County. By strengthening security, we send a clear message: our county is open for investment and business, is stable, and ready for sustainable growth.

While we have made commendable progress in ensuring the safety of our people, our efforts have encountered significant challenges. The ongoing border dispute with Tana River County has delayed the construction of Katumba Police Station in Nguni Ward. In addition, the recently completed Konakaliti Police Station in Mutha Ward was vandalized, slowing down our collective mission of safeguarding the lives and property of our people in these insecurity-prone areas.

Mr. Speaker, to address these setbacks, my administration has proactively engaged national agencies, including the Ministry of Interior and the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC), to fix the beacons along the well-established boundaries as per the 1992 Districts and Provinces Act and the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 – to help restore calm and pursue lasting, peaceful solutions to the inter-county boundary impasse.

Let it be known: we remain steadfast and unyielding in our resolve to secure Kitui. Our people deserve to live in peace and dignity — and we owe them a future anchored in safety, stability, and hope.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, let me now turn to County Legal Services. The Office of the County Attorney, which was established under Section 4(1) of the Office of the County Attorney Act No. 14 of 2020, serves as the principal legal advisor to the Executive of the County Government of Kitui. The office plays a critical role in providing legal counsel to the County Executive, representing the county in legal proceedings, drafting and reviewing legal documents, and ensuring that our laws and policies align with the constitutional and statutory framework necessary for sound governance.

Upon assuming office, I inherited a county burdened by numerous court cases and inadequate legal representation, an unfortunate situation that had exposed the county to mounting litigation costs and significant financial risk. A report by the Kitui County Pending Bills Review Committee, 2022, revealed for example, that court decrees and arbitral awards against the county government amounted to Kshs.533,631,481.37.

Through targeted policy reforms and strategic operational improvements, the Office of the County Attorney has since significantly strengthened legal representation. Today, Kitui

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County is being robustly defended in court, and the interests of our people are better protected. We are also embracing Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms to proactively address potential legal disputes and minimize litigation.

Notably, the Office of the County Attorney has been instrumental in negotiating the settlement of outstanding court decrees and arbitral awards through the Pending Bills Review Advisory Team (PBRAT). As a result, 14 out of 17 court decrees have been successfully settled, most with decree holders agreeing to waive interest, saving the County an impressive Kshs.289,865,657.01.

In addition, the office has successfully defended court claims against the county totalling approximately Kshs.450 million. To sustain these gains and enhance the office's capacity, we are in the process of recruiting additional legal professionals. In this regard, we officially advertised the position of County Attorney alongside that of County Secretary and Board Secretary, Kitui County Public Service Board, on 30th June 2025.

I take this opportunity to encourage all qualified and passionate professionals to apply and contribute to the continued strengthening of our legal framework and governance systems.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, I now turn to matters budget performance and revenue. Kitui County is among the Top 10 counties that have demonstrated consistent improvements in transparency between successive surveys according to the County Budget Transparency Survey (CBTS) 2024 report. On average, Kitui County ranks in position 6 among the counties that have shown consistent improvement on CBTS transparency.

In 2024, for example, the International Budget Partnership, a non-profit organization promoting more responsible, effective and equitable management of public funds, ranked Kitui County Position 1 nationally for publishing the most comprehensive Finance Act.

The County scored 100 out of 100 points on the required information. One of the most notable indicators of our progress as a county has been the consistent growth in Own Source Revenue (OSR) collection. When we assumed office in August 2022, the annual revenue stood at Kshs.361,271,341 in FY2021/2022. This OSR figure increased to Kshs.473,138,519 in FY2022/2023, Kshs.517,049,815 in FY2023/2024, and most remarkably, Kshs.895,416,036 in FY2024/2025. This represents an impressive 147.8% growth in just three years.

This significant growth reflects improved efficiency due to deliberate reforms, tightened systems, and automation of most of our revenue streams, as well as the trust and cooperation we have received from the people of Kitui.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, on budget absorption, the approved budget for the 2024/2025 financial year was Kshs.14,305,355,310, comprising Kshs.4,751,753,572 (33.2%) for development expenditure, and Kshs.9,553,601,738 (66.8%) for recurrent expenditure.

By the end of the financial year, 30th June 2025, the total expenditure amounted to Kshs. 12,302,605,566.60, reflecting a gross absorption of 86%.

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However, this progress has not been without challenges. Persistent delays in the disbursement of funds from the National Exchequer have adversely affected the timely implementation of development projects and the prompt settlement of payments to contractors and suppliers. This challenge is not unique to Kitui County, but it is an issue affecting all 47 counties.

In response, the County Governments, through the Council of Governors and other constitutional bodies, are actively engaging the National Government in ongoing consultations aimed at streamlining and expediting the flow of funds to the counties.

In the interim, we continue to strengthen partnerships with development partners, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector to mobilize alternative resources. Additionally, we have adopted a phased implementation approach to projects and programmes to ensure continuity in service delivery despite fiscal constraints.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, I now turn to pending bills. Accumulating pending bills can have several negative consequences, including hampering the operations of businesses that rely on timely government payments, eroding public trust, and potentially leading to legal disputes.

In October 2022, I constituted the Kitui County Pending Bills Review Committee (PBRC) 2022 to receive and verify all pending bills owed to the County Government.

The Committee received claims amounting to Kshs.2,560,718,639. Of these, pending bills worth Kshs.1,431,226,010 comprising of Kshs 897,594,528 for works, goods and services; and Kshs 533,631,481 court decrees & arbitral awards and they were verified and cleared for payment, while the remaining claims totalling Kshs.1,129,492,629 were flagged for further verification, valuation, and validation.

To address the unresolved bills flagged for verification, valuation and validation worth Kshs.1,129,492,629, I formed an internal team, the Pending Bills Review and Advisory Team (PBRAT), to verify, value and validate the above claims, including site visits to determine if the actual work was done. To date, the team has reviewed a total of Kshs. 468,200,079, and cleared claims worthy Kshs.333,553,837 for payment, and declared bills worthy Kshs.134,646,242 ineligible claims.

Mr. Speaker, in summary, with respect to pending bills both the PBRC and PBRAT have cleared a total of Kshs 1,764,779,847 for payment, out which Kshs 1,459,243,457 (or 83%) has been settled while Kshs 305,536,390 (or 17%) is still outstanding. The PBRAT will continue reviewing and verifying the remaining bills to determine the eligibility or ineligibility of the claims for settlement.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, I now turn to performance of the County Public Service and observe that, the institutionalization of Performance Contracting within the Kitui County Public Service has significantly strengthened the culture of accountability, transparency and efficiency in public service delivery. It remains a central tool in our commitment to prudent resource utilization and the consistent achievement of measurable, impactful results.

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With support from the National Ministry of Public Service and Performance Management, my administration has undertaken external performance evaluations of all county ministries. The top three performing ministries during the performance evaluation for the FY2023/2024 were; Water & Irrigation, Roads, Public Works & Transport, and Trade, Industry, MSMEs, Innovation & Cooperatives with composite scores of 2.5120, 2.5752 and 2.7857, respectively.

Notably, all the 12 ministries of the County met their performance targets, posting an average composite score of 2.8034, which is a 'very good' rating; hence, no ministry performance was rated as either good, fair or poor and non-therefore was sanctioned.

In order to enhance output and accountability of the limited resources and ensure efficient and effective service delivery to the people of Kitui, my government has incorporated Productivity Mainstreaming as one of the indicators in the Performance Contracts for the FY2024/2025 and the evaluation will be done later and will know results around December.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, I now turn to citizen participation consultation and engagement. And I will start with a quotation by Alain de Benoist, a French political philosopher and journalist, once said (and I quote): "The highest measure of democracy is neither the 'extent of freedom' nor the 'extent of equality', but rather the highest measure of participation."

Citizen participation is a key tenet of governance as provided for under Article 10 (2) as read together with Article 201 (a) of the Constitution of Kenya, and Sections 47(3) & 92(2) of the County Governments Act 2012. This principle requires openness, accountability and participation of the people in public decisions and matters affecting them. To this end, my administration has consistently and actively engaged the people of Kitui in all facets of development from planning and budgeting to the implementation of projects and programmes, as well as the formulation of key public policy decisions.

Some of the major public participation forums we have organized during the year include, but are not limited to; the CLIDP, sand dams project identification and validation forums, the Pro-Poor Fees Support beneficiary's identification and cheque issuance process, Annual Budget Estimates, the Kitui Finance Act 2024, Kitui County Fiscal Strategy Paper, and the Kitui County River Basins Sand Utilization and Conservation Act 2024, among others.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, the most valuable resource in an organization is its human resources, who are key to effective governance and efficient service delivery. In recognition of this, my administration has made significant strides in enhancing the welfare, motivation, and working conditions of our county staff who remain the engine driving our development agenda.

Upon assuming office in August 2022, I found a demoralized workforce, weighed down by delayed salaries and unpaid allowances, stagnant career progression, limited training opportunities, a dysfunctional Health Insurance Scheme and inadequate workspaces, tools and equipment.

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I am proud to report that we have since reversed this trajectory. Despite persistent delays in Exchequer releases, we have consistently paid staff salaries on time without any borrowing and ensured the prompt remittance of pension contributions to all relevant bodies, including NSSF, LAPFUND, and County Pension Fund (CPF). We have also made commendable progress in clearing historical pension arrears, most of which were inherited from defunct local authorities.

Notably, in recognition of our outstanding performance, we were honoured last year as the Overall Winner in pension fund remittances by the County Pension Fund (CPF). This year, we have also emerged as the winner for CPF's Award of excellence for consistency in pension remittances.

(Applause)

My government is committed to ensuring that County Government Staff allowances are promptly paid to all officers on approved work assignments that are aligned with the ministries and departments' annual work plans and budgets.

In this regard, during the 2025/2026 Financial Year, ministerial and departmental budgetary allocations will be streamlined and implemented in accordance with the Controller of Budgets' advisories on the management, processing and payment of staff allowances.

Ministries and departments shall henceforth be required to requisition staff allowances in time as per their annual work plans and budgets for timely processing and payments before embarking on approved work assignments.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, in our commitment to meritocracy and fair labour practices, we have promoted 1,372 deserving employees to higher grades, and re-designated 101 in line with their career progression paths. For example, in the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, a total of 1,076 officers have been promoted, and 61 redesignated. In Agriculture and Livestock, a total of 84 officers have been promoted, and three redesignated, while in the Office of the Governor, a total of 69 have been promoted, and four redesignated.

Further, to address staffing gaps, we are aligning human resource needs with the approved staff establishment. Priority has been placed on the recruitment and replacement of personnel in critical sectors, particularly health. In this regard, a budgetary allocation has been included in the FY2025/2026 to support targeted recruitment in these essential service areas.

Mr. Speaker, we have also ensured that our staff enjoy access to quality and dependable healthcare services through the procurement of a comprehensive medical cover. This move has significantly improved employee well-being, reduced absenteeism due to illness, and boosted overall productivity within our workforce.

To entrench transparency, legal compliance, and fairness in the engagement of short-term personnel, the County Public Service Board is currently developing a comprehensive policy framework to guide the recruitment and management of staff on casual terms, internships, and industrial attachments.

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In support of continuous professional development, we have actively facilitated both short-term and long-term staff training, aligned with our institutional priorities. Course approvals have also been granted for self-sponsored studies. To institutionalize this effort, the County Public Service Board has developed a robust Training and Development Policy, which ensures that all capacity building programmes are aligned with the strategic goals of the County Government.

To promote a conducive work environment, we continue to invest in the provision of adequate office space, essential working tools, and equipment.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, As I conclude, allow me to sincerely thank this Honourable Assembly for the cooperation you have demonstrated as we work to deliver quality, timely, and impactful services to the people of Kitui.

The profound duty and privilege of transforming the lives of our people falls squarely upon us as leaders within both the County Executive and the County Assembly. It is a responsibility we must discharge with humility, integrity, and determination.

As a team, we must continue to uphold unity of purpose, staying firmly on course and refusing to be distracted by shifting political dynamics. The people of Kitui are not interested in petty politics...

(Applause)

They are not looking for discord...

(Applause)

They are looking for results...

(Applause)

They are yearning for better healthcare services, fairly well-maintained roads, improved water access, a functional local economy where money is in circulation,

(Applause)

An environment that promotes investments and the creation of jobs, opportunities and wealth.

(Applause)

Let us give our people their rightful return for the immense trust they placed in us when they elected us in August 2022 and when we were sworn into office even if we are nominated...

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(Applause)

Let us not betray the hope they pinned on our leadership. John C. Maxwell, an American author, said, “Teamwork makes the dream work.” Our vision is to make Kitui a model county of inclusive development, a beacon of service delivery, and a home of opportunity for all.

To the great people of Kitui, I thank you, deeply and wholeheartedly, for your resilience and enduring belief in our ability to deliver. Your trust continues to fuel our passion, sharpen our focus, and reinforce our resolve to continue serving you in excellence.

Thank you, let me stop there because it looks like there is something repeated here. So, I won’t go through it, Hon. Speaker, I rest my case. Thank you and God bless you.

(Applause)

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): Thank you very much, your Excellence the Governor for that elaborate address.

Next Order!

ADJOURNMENT BY THE SPEAKER OF THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): Hon. Members, before we adjourn, allow me to announce that after we adjourn the House, all our visitors and all of us Hon. Members, there is a luncheon organized in honor of our Governor at Parkside Villa hotel where we shall engage more informally and be able to compare notes between the various stakeholders who are here.

However, before that, I want to inform you Hon. Members, that the Governor will be addressing our people in our local dialect (*Kikamba*) just outside our offices. So, kindly, don’t be quick to rush there but our visitors can rush there and wait for us, so that we can join them later.

Thank you very much Hon. Members, thank you very much Governor. We have keenly listened to you and I appreciate all of you Hon. Members for keenly listening to our Governor.

Thank you, our visitors, for also joining us. Members consulted well, at some point they were consulting loudly but that was consultation!

(Laughter)

In the Assembly whatever happens is consultation, it can be loud, it can be physical but it’s consultation...

(Laughter)

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...and whatever happens here stays here. So, thank you, our visitors. I am sure, you have seen how we consult...

(Laughter)

...as we serve our people. So, thank you Governor for staying put and delivering a wonderful State of the County Address. Hon. Members, with those few remarks. Let us now be upstanding so that we adjourn the House.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Members, this House now stands adjourned until tomorrow Wednesday 9th day of July 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

The County Assembly rose at 5:48 p.m.

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