

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KILIFI

THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 24th October, 2018

*The House met at the County Assembly Chamber,
Malindi Town, at 2.30 p.m.*

ARRIVAL OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

*(His Excellency the Governor (Hon. Amason Jeffah Kingi) escorted by the Speaker of the County
Assembly (Hon. Jimmy Kahindi) and accompanied
by the Mace entered the Chamber at fifty five minutes past two o'clock)*

(His Excellency the Governor (Hon. Kingi) took the Chair)

(The Mace was placed on the Table)

PRAYER

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

WELCOME TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

The Speaker (Hon. Kahindi): His Excellency the Governor, hon. Amason Jeffah Kingi, his Excellency the Deputy Governor of Kilifi County Eng. Gideon Saburi, hon. Members, the County Secretary, hon. Members of the County Executive Committee present, students from Mtondia Primary, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon.

Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 20, we are privileged to have the First Address to the Second County Assembly by H.E. the Governor today the 24th day of October, 2018. As a matter of Parliamentary procedure, practices and traditions; first, the Speaker takes the seat on the right of the Governor. When delivering an Address to the County Assembly, the Governor shall be heard in silence and the Address shall not be followed by any comment or Question.

Whenever the Governor delivers the Address to the County Assembly, a Member may as soon as practicable thereafter, lay the Address on the Table of the County Assembly following the reading of such Address. A Member will thereafter give a Notice of Motion that *"The Thanks of the County Assembly be recorded for the exposition of public policy contained in the Address of the Governor;"* but the debate on the Motion shall not exceed four sitting days.

Hon. Members, without much ado, I wish to invite H.E. the Governor, Hon. Amason

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Jeffah Kingi to make his First Address to the Second County Assembly. Thank you.

GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS

EXPOSITION OF PUBLIC POLICY

His Excellency the Governor (Hon. Amason Jeffah Kingi): The hon. Speaker (Hon. Jimmy Kahindi), the hon. Deputy Speaker (Hon. Stanley Karisa Kenga), the Leader of Majority (Hon. Adamson Mwathethe Kadenge), Leader of Minority (Hon. Valentine Matsaki Mwamanga), the hon. Members of the County Assembly, His Excellency the Deputy Governor of Kilifi County Eng. Gideon Saburi, the County Secretary, and hon. Members of the County Executive Committee present, the Acting Clerk of the Assembly and all the Assembly staff, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

It is my great pleasure to address the Second County Assembly today, one year after the second historic general elections since the promulgation of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010. I take this opportunity to congratulate all the Members of County Assembly on their successful election and nomination to this honourable House. Your presence here is a reflection of the choices the people of Kilifi made on the 8th day of August, 2017. I have full confidence that this Second Assembly will deliver on its mandate as clearly enshrined in the Constitution of Kenya, 2010.

Today, we need to reflect as county leaders on the past, the challenges we encountered, the opportunities we came across, the successful programmes we initiated and focus on what is ahead of us. The people of Kilifi are anxiously looking up to us to fully represent their interests and develop this great County to their expectations.

Mr. Speaker, on the 18th day of April, 2013, I first delivered my inaugural Address during the opening of the First County Assembly here. I vividly remember informing the then hon. Members that the County Assembly as a pillar of democracy in the devolved system of governance plays a very critical role of making laws for the welfare of the citizens and also exercise oversight over the Executive. I urged Members on the need to commit ourselves to implement initiatives and strategies that take cognizance of the political, social and economic dimensions of our County. I emphasized that the County Assembly and the County Executive must have a harmonious co-existence and mutual respect.

I highlighted that my Government was committed to fighting poverty, improving education standards, eradicating diseases, ensuring food security, improving access to clean and safe water, and improving road network amongst others. I also said that my Government would create an enabling environment for boosting businesses and tourism, ensure the youth, women and persons living with disabilities are given opportunities for business, support industrial development, Address land issues and ensure peace and security of our people.

Mr. Speaker; on the 20th day of February, 2014, I officially addressed this honourable House and clearly highlighted what my Government had been able to put in place. I also outlined various legislative proposals that would be forwarded to the Assembly for consideration and approval. I know that the legislative journey had its own setbacks, but I want to commend this House for the unity of purpose demonstrated even in times of adversity across the political divide. Despite the challenges faced, the number of Bills passed in the First Assembly is quite commendable.

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Mr. Speaker, since the Second County Government came into power, we have put in place the requisite administrative structures and systems to ensure effective and efficient Government operations. Today, we have a functioning County Executive Committee and a vibrant County Assembly ready to deliver on the aspirations of the people of Kilifi. Following therefore, are the highlights on the programmes being undertaken by each Department.

Mr. Speaker, on Finance and Economic Planning; I wish to commend this House for the unanimous adoption of the CIDP 2018-2022 during its sitting of Wednesday, 22nd August, 2018. The 2nd Kilifi County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP 2018-2022) presents the people of Kilifi with an opportunity to build on the gains registered under my first term. This five-year Plan provides a development roadmap for the County for the period between 2018 and 2022 and outlines the consensus on programmes and projects that the County Government and its partners are committed to implement during that period.

The CIDP 2018-2022 is anchored on the National Policy and plans as well as international development agenda. It is also informed by my manifesto, the aspirations of *Jumuia ya Kaunti za Pwani* and above all, the collective dream of the people of Kilifi County.

Mr. Speaker, my Government is committed to ensuring prudence in the management of public resources. This is reflected in budget making where the County has shifted from project-oriented budgeting to programme-based budgeting which focuses on results for citizens. This shift has streamlined resource mobilization and usage ensuring a seamless link between County plans and budgetary allocation. In addition, this is expected to enhance transparency and accountability in the usage of available resources through strengthening programme management and monitoring and evaluation systems. I wish to note the following achievements; that, we are one of the few counties that have decentralized their procurement functions and accounting services. The County Government is currently concluding the recruitment of principal procurement officers to enhance efficiency in its procurement functions in the Departments.

That, in the latest County Government Budget Implementation Review Report by the Office of the Controller of Budget, Kilifi County was ranked first nationally with the highest development expenditure absorption rate of 53 percent. The County is also among the first eleven (11) counties in the country with the highest overall absorption of their budgets.

That, the County Government of Kilifi is also one of the 18 counties that were rewarded by the Commission for Revenue Allocation (CRA) for growing revenue collection. My Government will get a share of the Kshs6.8 billion which is part of the fiscal responsibility allocation disbursed to counties that increased their local revenue collection in the previous financial year. In order to enhance our revenue collection and management, we have embarked on automation of our revenue processes, a journey that is almost complete. The automation, which is being supported by Strathmore University, is intended to enhance revenue collection efficiency by avoiding cash handling, sealing revenue leakages, and tightening control and accountability mechanisms.

My Government also intends to engage the World Bank on automation of additional revenue streams that are not covered in the Strathmore University automation initiative. In an effort to address revenue shortfalls and leakages on revenue streams outsourced to the private collection agent Raindrops Limited, my Government has placed Government personnel at each collection centre to ensure transparency and accountability on the revenue collected through Raindrops Limited. This has resulted into tremendous improvement in our daily collections of cess and parking fees. We hope the court case filed by Raindrops Limited challenging my

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Government's cancellation of the contract will be determined soon to enable us put more focus on improving our revenue collection.

Mr. Speaker, my Government is establishing donor relations with various development partners in an effort to expand its resource envelop. We have initiated discussions with donor agencies and think tank institutions such as Open Institute in collaboration with World Bank, United Nations Population Fund (UNPFA) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) among others.

Mr. Speaker, on Devolution, Public Service and Disaster Management; my Government is committed to responding to disasters and emergencies in the County such as fire, floods, cyclones, sea disasters and assisting with both food and non-food items. We have embarked on major repairs of our existing fire engines which had been grounded to address the recurring fire disasters. We have also established a sensitization unit on disaster prevention and mitigation. My Government has planned further to conduct assessments to establish the food security levels of our people as well as dissemination of safety information on monsoon winds, diseases and floods.

In the financial year 2018/2019, my Government has planned to continue undertaking the cash transfer programme to the elderly, orphaned and vulnerable children and persons living with severe disability. A total of 1,750 elderly, orphaned and vulnerable children will benefit from this programme. Regarding the legislative agenda, my Government shall establish a Disaster and Risk Management Policy and also forward to this House a proposal to amend the Kilifi County Disaster Management Act, 2016 to make it more responsive to the diverse and emerging disasters within the County. It is proposed to establish in each Sub-County and ward, a Disaster Management Committee to ensure effective response and management of the disasters.

Mr. Speaker, as a county, we recently suffered severe floods and many people were displaced. Homes and farms were destroyed. My Government working with other stakeholders made timely interventions to alleviate the suffering of the flood victims. I wish to report that my Government is working very closely with the National Government and non-Government actors on a resettlement programme of the flood victims. Devolution aims to create and encourage public participation in the decision-making process. Public participation remains a constitutional requirement and a right to all the citizens. As leaders, we have an integral role to ensure the people of Kilifi participate in the governance and decision making process of this County.

My Government will re-introduce to this House, the Kilifi County Citizen Participation and Civic Education Bill. This Bill shall give effect to paragraph 14 of Part 2 of the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution; the objects and principles of devolution set out under Article 174 (c) and (d) of the Constitution; and Part VIII of the County Governments Act, 2012.

My Government will also bring for deliberation by this House, the Kilifi County Village Administration Units Bill which will provide a framework to give full effect to Part VI of the County Governments Act, 2012. The Kilifi County Village Administration Units Bill proposes to establish 182 village administration units in Kilifi County so as to provide for further decentralization of the functions and provision of services in accordance with Article 176 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010. These units will ensure proper coordination and facilitation of citizen participation in the development of policies, plans and delivery of services.

To establish the Constitutional right of access to information, my Government will submit to this House, the Kilifi County Access to Information Bill in the interest of being proactively transparent and accountable to our people. My Government will also introduce to this

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House, the Kilifi County Law Enforcement and Inspectorate Bill, 2018 that seeks to establish the Kilifi County Inspectorate Unit and provide a mechanism for the establishment of a County Court in consultation with the Judiciary and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution to ensure compliance of all County laws.

Mr. Speaker, on Education and ICT, my Government is committed towards the achievement of quality pre-primary and vocational training education, incorporating digital literacy in pre-primary schools and vocational institutions and imparting skills for self-reliance among the youth in vocational training centres. Currently, the County has 813 Public ECD Centres and 706 privately owned ECD Centres. A total of 666 ECDE teachers have so far been employed in the Public ECD Centres since the inception of devolution. Over 500 ECD Centres have been supplied with furniture across the County. My Government plans to construct more ECD Centres and employ more ECD teachers to address the ever surging high enrolment in our ECD Centres.

Mr. Speaker, during the First Assembly, I refused to sign the Kilifi County Early Childhood Education Bill, 2016 and Kilifi County Childcare Facilities Bill, 2016 and referred both Bills back to the Assembly with a Memorandum pursuant to Section 24(2) of the County Governments Act, 2012. In my memorandum on refusal to assent, I proposed that both legislative proposals be combined into one law whose object will be to regulate early childhood education and childcare facilities, provide for registration, licensing and inspection of childcare facilities and early childhood centres in Kilifi County. I am aware that the First County Assembly did not finalize on these Bills after returning them. I urge this House to therefore expedite the process of passing this combined Bill that stipulates how the management and administrative issues concerning ECDE will be handled.

My Government is in the process of reviewing the Kilifi County Pre-primary Education Policy and the Kilifi County Feeding Programme Bill, 2018 for submission to this honourable House. The enactment of the Ward Scholarship Fund Administration Act cushioned households from the impact of poverty by increasing access, retention and completion rates in primary, secondary and tertiary learning institutions and universities. My Government will endeavor to automate the Ward Scholarship Fund through the acquisition and operationalization of Management Information System to improve transparency, accountability, efficiency, effectiveness and responsiveness in the administration of the fund. This will curb abuse of this fund by ill intended people.

Mr. Speaker, it is worth noting that we have achieved a lot on matters ICT. A County connectivity network is now in place and all seven sub-counties are connected to the Kilifi County Wide Area Network. There is an Electronic Data Management System in the County to manage workflows and reduce paper usage and all County Headquarter Offices have a unified communication system. My Government has also equipped 14 public Youth Polytechnics with ICT equipment to enable ICT capacity building in the County among the youth; Mpirani, Malindi, Mariakani and Kambe- Ribe Social Halls amongst others have also been constructed for the benefit of Kilifi County residents.

Mr. Speaker, on issues of agriculture, livestock and fisheries, the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries activities impact directly to over 60 percent of the population. Our County economy is dependent on this sector. My Government, therefore, plans to inject over five billion shillings into key flagship projects in this critical sector by 2022 through partnerships. My Government, through the CIDP 2018-2022, plans to construct five

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water dams for both human and animal use in Malindi, Magarini, Ganze and Kaloleni at a cost of Kshs50 million. The current Malindi slaughterhouse shall be relocated and a new one constructed and fully equipped as its current location is no longer feasible.

Mr. Speaker, rain fed agriculture in this County is no longer reliable. This has resulted to failure of successive crop seasons thus exposing our farmers to unbearable losses and poverty. To ensure food security, my Government plans to put more land under irrigation so as to mitigate on the unreliable and erratic rainfall patterns. In this regard, my Government has initiated the County Irrigation Schemes Productivity Enhancement Programme and established an Agricultural Development Centre (Cassava Processing Plant) in Tezo Ward.

Mr. Speaker, the cashew nut industry has since the early 1990s been on a decline trend. My Government has been working on a comprehensive long term revival plan for the sector through efforts to replant and rehabilitate existing orchards. Currently, my Government is collaborating with the European Union and Tenses Africa Ltd on an ambitious plan to plant over five million seedlings across the region which also includes a processing plant at Kakanjuni with a capacity to create up to 5,000 jobs. The cashew nut and simsim value chain project was successfully launched on 12th June, 2018. My Government has started providing cashew nut seedlings to the local farmers in support of this noble initiative. I urge this House to fully embrace the efforts to revive this important livelihood venture which holds the key to economic empowerment and freedom of our people. Approval of additional funds by this honourable House to the Department of Agriculture towards cashew nut farming will confirm the commitment of this honourable House and will go a long way in lifting our people out of poverty.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this hon. house to expedite the process for passage of the Kilifi County Livestock Sale Yards Bill and the Kilifi County Abattoirs Bill which I returned here for review and passage. This will ensure that our livestock farmers reap the most out of their herds.

Mr. Speaker, in Fisheries, my Government has laid out various initiatives to revamp and support the fisheries activities in the County in the medium term. The CIDP 2018-2022 highlights flagship projects that shall provide an enabling environment for fishermen and the residents along the County coastline. The Development of fish ports, boat building yards, marine culture and establishment of fisheries control and surveillance units are some of the plans my Government shall undertake in Fisheries Development. My Government plans to construct a boat building workshop in Malindi at a cost of Ksh21 million, promote crab cage farming technology at a cost of six million shillings and conduct pre-feasibility studies on the Blue Economy Initiatives along the coastline such as Aqua Park, fish market and fish port. To enable the Department to deliver on its mandate, my Government intends to submit the following Bills to the Assembly for enactment; the Animal Disease Control Bill, the Fisheries Management and Development Bill, the Agricultural Licensing Bill and the Horticulture Development Bill.

Mr. Speaker, Blue Economy is a complex undertaking touching on various sectors and as stakeholders, we ought to embrace it for the benefit of our people. I wish to inform and invite all honourable members to the Blue Economy International Conference to be held in Nairobi in November this year whereby the County intends to showcase its massive potential in this sector. As a county, we stand to immensely benefit from the investment opportunities during and after the conference.

Mr. Speaker, on Trade, Tourism and Cooperatives Development, my Government is focused on improving returns on investment through marketing and value chain development,

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training and capacity development. This will be done through the Cooperative Sub-sector by promoting access to sustainable and affordable credit facilities to businesses. Emphasis will be put in improving market infrastructure, leveraging access to business credit facilities, promoting fair trading practices and provision of an environment conducive to the flourishing of business enterprise in Kilifi. My Government will collaborate with the private sector to improve infrastructure and foster the establishment and expansion of export processing zones and industrial parks. Deliberate efforts shall also be made to improve incubation and skills development for micro & small enterprises. My Government will also take advantage of the County's Tourism niche by diversifying tourism products and services with focus on cultural heritage sites, sports, business and conference tourism.

Mr. Speaker, my Government is committed to the full implementation of the Mbegu Fund Act. This financial year, we have a target to disburse Ksh30 million to the MSEs. The completion of Mtwapa, Mariakani and Gongoni markets as well as construction of Mazeras and Bamba markets are part of the plans on trade development and promotion.

On Cooperative Development, my Government's target is to train, capacity build and facilitate at least 10 cooperatives to access loans from the Mbegu Fund, do sensitization and facilitate the registration of cooperative societies and provide cooperative extension and advisory services. To ensure the delivery of this mandate, my Government will submit to this honourable House the following Bills for enactment; Trade and Markets Bill, Investment and Development Bill, Weights and Measures Bill, Beach Management Bill and Cooperative Societies Bill.

Mr. Speaker, on health, since the advent of devolution in 2013, there have been deliberate efforts to increase the human resource for health facilities to improve access to quality health service delivery to the population in all our health facilities. The number of health workers has since increased from 907 before devolution to 1,449 by end of 2017 which is a 32 percent increase. The number of medical specialists stands at 17, medical officers (doctors) at 75 and nurses at 630. This puts the doctor population ratio in the County at 10:100,000 which is still below the WHO (World Health Organization) standard of 36:100,000. The nurse population ratio in Kilifi County stands at 40:100,000 which is still below the Country's target of 166:100,000 and WHO standards of 356:100,000.

My Government will continue to gradually increase the health workforce to ensure quality and efficient provision of health services. My Government recently concluded the development of the Health Workers Incentive guidelines to address the challenge of retaining staff especially in the hard to reach areas. Mr. Speaker, health infrastructure is a key pillar in health service delivery. Since 2013, the County has made significant investment in infrastructure including the leased medical equipment. There has been a 36 percent increase in health facilities since 2013 with public health facilities increasing from 91 to 143 by end of 2017.

There are major flagship projects that are at different stages of completion among them the Kilifi County Hospital Complex, the County Warehouse, Mariakani Maternity Wing, Bamba Hospital Maternity and Theatre, Jibana Maternity, Rabai Maternity and Theatre and Marafa Maternity and Theatre. These facilities and the investments made in modern medical equipment once fully operational will revolutionize healthcare delivery in Kilifi County.

Mr. Speaker, to ensure availability of drugs in our facilities, my Government in the 2018/2019 Budget did allocate and this honourable House did approve Kshs250 million and Kshs151 million for pharmaceuticals and non-pharmaceuticals respectively. Already, orders

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have been placed with KEMSA (Kenya Medical Supplies Authority) for timely delivery to all our health facilities.

Mr. Speaker, all health facilities in the County are obliged to routinely file reports on all services rendered through the various health programmes. Our reporting rates have been consistently above 85 percent. The information collected is analyzed to generate evidence for betterment of health service delivery in our County. There are plans to automate services (install Electronic Medical Record Systems) in our five main hospitals and the health centres which will greatly reduce patients waiting time and enhance service delivery as a whole. The health budget has been increasing over time from one billion shillings which translates to 13 percent of the total County budget in the 2013/2014 financial year to Kshs3.7 billion in the current financial year, which is 28 percent of the total County budget. This is on the realization that a healthy county is a productive county. Mr. Speaker, to enable the Department to deliver on its mandate, my Government intends to submit the following Bills to the Assembly for enactment; Health Services Bill and Environmental Health and Sanitation Bill.

Mr. Speaker, on Roads, Transport and Public Works, my Government's objective on this sector is to achieve road network connectivity across the county through opening up of new roads, maintaining, rehabilitation and upgrading existing roads. About 20km of tarmac/cabro roads and bridges on major roads and bridges shall be constructed in the medium term. My Government is also targeting to have 1,050 km of major roads graveled and pot-holes patched. The recently acquired County Government graders shall open 560 km of new roads. To improve road safety and to curb over speeding, road bumps shall be installed at selected market places within the County.

Mr. Speaker, my Government is planning to construct a bus park in Kilifi town to address the parking of motor vehicles on the shoulders of the busy roads and streets within the town. There is an elaborate plan to improve maintenance works for County owned vehicles by rehabilitation of Concorde Garage Yard in Kilifi Town, where all repairs and maintenance works of County owned motor vehicles will be handled at this facility. This will ensure fewer costs on routine maintenance and quality service to Government vehicles. Construction of lorry parking yards in Kilifi, Malindi and Mariakani Towns remain a priority for my Government. Mr. Speaker, my Government also plans to construct and rehabilitate storm water drainage works in Malindi, Mtwapa and Kilifi.

Mr. Speaker, on Lands, Energy, Housing, Physical Planning and Urban Development, during my first term as Governor of this county, much was achieved in terms of provision of security of land tenure to our people in Kilifi. My Government facilitated the registration of over 45 adjudication sections and settlement schemes throughout the County with titles issued to five adjudication sections and settlement schemes last year for Kaliang'ombe/Jimba in Rabai, Bureni I and II and Gongoni Schemes in Kilifi South and Chakama I in Magarini Sub-County.

Mr. Speaker, this year, my Government has issued over 1,200 allotment letters to Ukombozi and Mwatundo informal Settlement Schemes. In line with our Annual Development Plan 2019/2020, focus is now on provision of security of land tenure, both to public utilities and to private citizens. Further, the 16 Local/Physical Development Plans for our various urban areas, awaiting approval by the County Assembly will be surveyed and letters of allotment issued so that we spur further commercial ventures in our urban areas and curb slums development by securing security of tenure to those in residential, commercial and industrial zones. These urban areas include Marereni, Kaloleni, Marafa, Kakuyuni, Gongoni, Majengo,

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Ramada, Kakoneni, Kanamai and Kikambala. This way, it is our intention to upscale our revenue base through land rates for better and more provision of services to our people.

A key development that my Government is undertaking is the development of GIS (Geographic Information System) laboratory for purposes of automation of land records among others in the development of land management information system. Mr. Speaker, my Government has been reforming the valuation roll with the aim of streamlining the management of the Land Asset Portfolio pursuant to the two prime legislations passed by this House namely The Rating Act and the Valuation for Rating Act. The new Valuation Roll shall consolidate the numerous old Rolls into one for ease of administration. The new Valuation Roll endeavors to observe fairness and equity in assignment of land values that will affect the amount of rates payable by land owners. The new Roll promises to improve accountability for land value but also enhance our land revenue base to be directed towards improvement of service provision. The new valuation role will be ready for public inspection by November, 2018. This will be key in revenue management by the Finance Department in the area of land rates.

Mr. Speaker, my Government is finalizing on the Kilifi County Spatial Plan for submission to the County Assembly before December, 2018. Over 10 urban plans for towns have been finalized for submission as well. Submissions have already been done for the upgrading of two towns - Kilifi and Malindi to Municipal status. Their subsequent Board Memberships have been nominated and submitted to the Assembly for vetting and approval. Our two municipalities will be getting an upgrade through the Kenya Urban Support Programme which has attracted Kshs330 million for infrastructure improvement.

Mr. Speaker, my Government in conjunction with the National Government and the World Bank will carry out a project that will benefit the people through provision of access to energy services through a programme called KOSAP- Kenya Off-grid Solar Access Project where mini-grids, stand-alone home systems for households, stand-alone home systems for community facilities and solar water pumping for drinking water will be undertaken. Beneficiaries have already been identified in the county. To enable the Department to deliver on its mandate, my Government intends to submit the Physical Planning Bill to the Assembly for enactment.

Mr. Speaker, in line with the National Government's agenda on affordable housing, my Government is laying the ground work to ensure that both affordable and social housing are constructed through joint efforts with development partners. This will boost the growth of municipalities and towns as housing is the cornerstone of urbanization. To support the affordable housing agenda, my Government recently signed an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the National Government for a strategic partnership towards the attainment of that agenda.

Mr. Speaker, on Water, Environment and Natural Resources, the provision of clean, safe, accessible and affordable water remains one of the top priorities for my Government. We have heavily invested in extension of water infrastructure, encouraged community participation in water management issues, constructed water pans and dams and desalinated underground water to make it fit for both domestic and livestock consumption. Piped water supply remains the safest way of availing water to the residents of Kilifi. My Government is today fast tracking water supply initiatives through a structured master plan. Piped water supply coverage has greatly improved from 48 percent in 2014 to 63 percent today. Key market centres in the County were connected to water supply. They include Kokotoni-Rabai, Chakama-Magarini, Mrima wa Ndege- Ganze, Kiroso, Kamale, Gongoni and Marereni-Magarini among others.

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The County is tapping on ground water potential through drilling of boreholes. The County acquired a borehole drilling rig currently working in Mwawesa Ward before it replicates the same to other parts of the County. 46 boreholes have been developed so far. The success of Kadzandani and Kambicha boreholes in Magarini and Mwamrama borehole in Rabai Sub-County show the ground water potential in this County.

Mr. Speaker, my Government has made substantial investment in developing water harvesting structures like water pans and medium size dams in the first five years. 65 new water pans and dams were developed in this period. Currently, there's a great synergy with strategic partners and development players in a bid to close the funding gap.

Mr. Speaker, my Government has so far invested more than Kshs1.5 billion in the provision of safe water to the residents of this County. 258 different water projects have been done all across the County directly benefiting an additional 466,406 people. 674 kilometres of additional water supply network have been put in place and 46 additional boreholes have been sunk. 65 dams and water pans have been constructed and there is increased awareness on environmental matters with the introduction of Green Schools Initiative. I am also happy to inform this House that over 2.5 million trees have been planted across the County to combat climate change menace. My Government has ensured that villages previously locked out of water supply have been redeemed releasing the burden of long trips in search of water especially by women and the girl child. Today, the Kilifi girl child has more time to concentrate on studies as a result of these interventions. The average distance to the nearest water source has reduced from 5 kilometres (CIDP) to 3.5 kilometres in five years.

Today, we enjoy vibrant partnerships and stakeholder collaboration such as World Vision, European Union, Water Services Trust Fund, and National Drought Management Authority amongst others. Mr. Speaker, my Government will escalate rain water and surface runoff harvesting through construction of water pans and medium size dams. 140 water pans and dams are targeted to be constructed by 2022. We will also enhance construction of water supply pipelines in the remote parts of the County and ensure investment in water storage facilities to cushion residents from losses arising from poor storage. My Government is also embracing green energy in most of our installations to cut down on the cost of power. My Government has developed and shall implement beautification programmes and urban forestry of all major towns of Kilifi County as a way of attracting tourists and investors and provide recreational services to Kilifi residents.

Mr. Speaker, the County Government is in the process of engaging a private investor to turn solid waste into energy thereby keeping our towns clean and providing the much needed energy to our people. My Government is committed to ensuring sustainable and equitable natural resources management through education for sustainable management. We plan to increase forest cover by 40 percent through school greening programmes, forest enrichment and farm forestry and provision of alternative sources of livelihoods to address issues of over-harvesting of resources. A mangrove restoration programme will also be undertaken in major areas of Mida, Nyaole, Marereni, and Ngomeni. To enable the Department to deliver on its mandate, my Government intends to submit the following Bills to the Assembly for enactment; The Solid Waste Management Bill, The Forest Conservation and Management Bill, The Sand Harvesting and Quarrying Bill, The Outdoor Advertising Bill and The Control of Pollution Bill.

Mr. Speaker, on Gender, Social Services, Culture, Youth and Sports, my Government has initiated programmes that will develop and promote sports in order to identify, nurture and tap

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sports talent. Plans are in place to develop and improve sports infrastructure to ensure access to quality and standard sports facilities. The Kilifi Stadium (Uwanja wa Water) is one of the sports facilities earmarked for development into a modern stadium. My Government will also help some community sports teams and clubs by equipping them with uniforms, balls, and training and competition equipment. Sports personnel will be trained to improve management of sports in this county.

My Government plans to construct a youth empowerment centre in Sokoni Ward to promote, empower and nurture youth talent. The youth will also be trained on sexual reproductive health and gender mainstreaming to improve their sexual behavior aimed at reducing number of teenage pregnancies and early marriages. My Government will undertake programmes to develop ICT skills among the youths aimed at addressing unemployment in the sector. Opportunities will be created to increase youth Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO). Intervention plans have been put in place to address cases of drug abuse by youths in the County.

Mr. Speaker, to reduce the alarming school dropout rates by our girls due to teen pregnancies, one of the measures my Government has put in place is the total ban on the discos played during funerals popularly known as “*disco matanga*” which has been a breeding ground for unwanted teen pregnancies.

Mr. Speaker, on culture, my Government will identify, safeguard, and preserve cultural sites, cultural attires, cultural values and norms, traditional dances and songs, indigenous knowledge and skills, cultural artifacts, celebrate cultural events and festivals and facilitate Gazettement and renovation of cultural and historical sites in the county.

Mr. Speaker, my Government is not gender biased. We believe in equal opportunities for either gender. To underscore this fact, Kilifi County is the only county in the entire country that has a ratio of 50:50 of either gender sitting in the County Executive Committee.

My Government will endeavor to mainstream gender issues through development of gender policies, supporting rescue centres for victims of Gender Based Violence (GBV) and sexual based violence cases and hold awareness campaigns and sensitization meetings. Efforts on promoting women empowerment and value addition will be undertaken in all wards within the County.

As a Government, we strive to promote and create a conducive environment for gaming and betting and provide level playing ground for gaming activities for social economic development in a regulated manner. To enable the Department to deliver on its mandate, my Government intends to re-submit the Betting, Lotteries and Gaming Bill to the Assembly for enactment. The liquor industry shall be regulated for social economic development pursuant to the Kilifi County Liquor Act, 2015 and further work with stakeholders in an effort to create a conducive business environment for both the users and their clients.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, this House carries the legislative authority of the County Government as clearly stipulated in Article 185 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 and the numerous provisions of the County Government Act, 2012. For the last five years, the County Assembly has commendably passed laws which sought to build and sustain the socio-economic growth of this county. In the next four years, my Government’s objective is to still keep Kilifi County moving forward on all matters development. However, this can only be achieved if the resources that are placed in our hands are prudently managed and utilized for the benefit of the people of Kilifi. In this regard, my Government supports fully the objective efforts by H.E. the

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President in the fight against corruption and shall cooperate fully with all anti-corruption agencies in the fight against this vice. My Government will not tolerate corrupt practices and has put in place measures aimed at countering corrupt practices and shall firmly and decisively deal with those that shall be found culpable.

Mr. Speaker, the handshake between His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta and The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, Raila Odinga, has brought about political tranquility in this country. Pursuant to this handshake, a Building Bridges Initiative Committee was formed to traverse this country harvesting views from Kenyans on how we can build a more inclusive and cohesive Kenya amongst other very fundamental issues. Unfortunately, before the Committee has completed its work, already, two factions of politicians have emerged purporting to either oppose or support a referendum whose contents we are yet to know. Before we are swept in this general chorus, we need to seriously pose and soberly identify the issues that are very dear to the people of Kilifi and this region and present them to the Committee so that these issues can inform the contents of the referendum. Shouting at each other at this moment in time will not add any value to the work of the Committee and will only be prejudicial to its work.

In this regard, I urge all the hon. members to attend the public hearing that will be conducted by the Building Bridges Initiative Committee on 6th November, 2018 at Malindi and ensure that the views of our people are well articulated. Before the sitting of the said Committee on the 6th of November, I have scheduled for a meeting of the Members of the National Assembly from Kilifi on 1st November, 2018, to discuss a range of issues including this one. In the course of next week, I will be calling a meeting of hon. members of the County Assembly so that we can discuss and agree on the issues to be presented to the Committee during its sitting here in Malindi on the 6th November, 2018. As we await the final report and recommendations of the Building Bridges Initiative Committee, let us not lose focus on our development agenda.

Our unity of purpose, our dedication to our mission, our fidelity to the Constitution and all other enabling laws shall always remain our weapon towards the attainment of a prosperous Kilifi County. Long live Kenya! Long live Kilifi County! May God bless us all.

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker (Hon. Kahindi): Hon. Members, in the absence of any other Business, I move to adjourn the House. Thank you.

The House rose at 3:50 p.m.

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