



**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**



**COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KERICHO**

**STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS**

**H.E. DR.ERICK K. MUTAI**

**THE GOVERNOR**

**KERICHO COUNTY**

**ON**

**29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2023**



**Honorable Speaker, Honorable Leaders of Majority and Minority,  
Honorable Members of the County Executive Committee,  
Honorable Members of this County Assembly, Distinguished  
Guests,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Honorable Speaker Sir,**

I am greatly honored to stand before you as we gather to mark and reflect on the past one year of my administration. Let me begin by thanking you most sincerely for your warm welcome, and allowing me to give my first State of the County Address to this honorable House, pursuant to section 30 (2) (k) of the County Governments Act, 2012 and the Kericho County Assembly Standing Order 22(1).

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the Honorable Members for your attendance; and for the tremendous support that you have given to my administration and its programs since we assumed office more than one year ago. Over the past year, my Government has forwarded to the Assembly proposed Legislation, Budgets and even names for approval for purposes of appointment into various offices. This Assembly has, without undue delay played its roles of scrutinizing the legislative proposals and budgets, vetting and approvals therefore enabling us to execute our programs on time and fill the vacancies necessary to run government.

It is my hope and prayer that with our warm and cordial relationship we shall continue to work together, and to do everything in our power to make Kericho Great. Indeed Our shared quest for economic

transformation of our people has led to the formulation and execution of good policies for our people.

**Mr. Speaker,**

We meet today to discharge our duty under our Constitution, which demands that County citizens and their representatives be informed of the state of the County by their respective Governors. As an accountable administration, we are obliged to explain to our people what we have done with the mandate and resources bestowed upon us for stewardship.

We have made tremendous progress over the last one year in our key task of fortifying our political, economic and social pillars of our County. We have in line with the National Government Bottom-Up Economic-Transformation-Agenda (BETA) , the Kenya Vision 2030 strategy, County's Integrated Development Plan 2022-2027 (CIDP3) and County's Annual Development Plans, made strategic interventions in various areas of our economy which will not only spur economic growth but also uplift the living standards of our people. We have made many targeted interventions in various sectors of our economy; and we are extremely bullish about our outlook.

***In the Department of Finance and Economic Planning,***

Mr. Speaker;

One of our very initial challenges was pending bills. Upon the assumption of office, we inherited total pending bills worth more than KShs. 600Million. I immediately set up an internal pending committee task-force to verify and recommend the valid pending bills for payment. The committee approved KShs .515, 053,810 for

payment. I can authoritatively report that we have paid all the genuine pending bills as approved by the committee.

**Mr. Speaker,**

To address the challenges associated with poor fiscal performance and aggregate budget deficits, my administration reviewed the automated revenue collection system to seal leakages, improve efficiency as well as monitoring performance. Going forward we intend to overhaul the current system to a more user friendly and affordable one besides greatly improving the revenue collections by the county moving forward. Besides utilizing our interns to meet the staff deficit affecting our revenue collection, we are in the process of employing more revenue officers to boost our efforts in revenue collection.

**Mr. Speaker,**

The total projected county revenue from all the sources for 22/23 FY was KShs. 8,453,573,101. The actual revenue achieved at the close of FY was KShs. 7,641,367,502 giving a variance of KShs.

812,205,599 accounting for 90% of the total revenue performance. This Comprise of actual revenue of;

KSHS..6,430,664,924 from equitable share representing 84.16%, local Own Source Revenue (OSR) of KSHS.. 280,206,975, representing 3.67%, Facility Improvement Fund (FIF) of KShs. 221,147,570 representing 2.90%, Conditional grants of KShs. 8,916,435 representing 0.12%, donor funds of KShs. 416,451,478 representing 5.45% and unspent Fund of KShs. 283,890,120. This financial year, we have put in place strategies to cut off revenues

deficits to below 5 % and improve our absorption rates from the current 85% to over 97%.

I also wish to thank this house for unanimously passing the Finance Bill 2023 into law. It has given us new avenues for revenue collection that will go a long way in boosting our financial sustainability.

To make our budget process more participatory, we are also recruiting members of the Kericho County Budget and Economic Forum (CBEF) to provide an avenue for public participation in planning and budget making.

**Mr. Speaker,**

The Department of Finance and Economic Planning, has also coordinated the preparation of CIDP 2023-2027 as per County Government Act section 108 through a consultative process with all stakeholders. It has also Coordinated the implementation of the Strategic Intervention Programs that include the completion of Kericho County Referral Oxygen Plant under Kenya Devolution Support Programme (KDSP), Kiptunoi Water Project in Kapsoit Ward, Kimologit water project among others.

***In the Department of Public Service Management***

**Mr. Speaker,**

The Department of Public Service and Administration as referred at County Assembly, is the nerve centre of the County Government with a mandate to design and execute innovative programs for effective and efficient service delivery to our citizens. Our aspiration is to

create a county public service and administration system that is extremely efficient, accessible and responsive to the needs of our citizens.

Our County Executive, Public Service comprises of a total of 4151 employees, 2773 serving on permanent terms and 1378 serving on contractual terms of service. In the past one year, we have undertaken a number of reforms that are all geared towards enhanced and improved service delivery to the citizens of Kericho.

These are;

***On Staff Motivation,***

We have been running the County Government payroll by the 15<sup>th</sup> day of every month thereby ensuring that our employees are paid on time. This has greatly motivated the employees resulting in improved productivity, a deviation from the past when salaries could delay for up to 3 months. With our improved relations and restored trust with our financial institutions, our staffs now receive their salaries on or before the first week of every month.

We have also improved terms of service and extended contracts of 141 enforcement officers who shall be transitioned to permanent and pensionable terms next Financial Year. We have further equipped them with the uniforms and safety gears, besides building their capacities by training on First Aid by the Kenya Red Cross.

Recognizing the important role our Fire Marshalls play in responding to fire related emergencies, we have built their capacity to fight fires by procuring fire fighting uniforms for the whole team besides training them on emergency preparedness, First Aid and mental health.



Our Environment grounds men have not been left out. Appraising their key role in ensuring the cleanliness of our towns and environment, we have procured protective clothing to give dignity and honor to their work and boost their morale.

**Mr. Speaker;**

To take effective control of the public service in terms of recruitment and promotion, we now have a Staff Establishment duly that revised by the County Executive Committee. This shall ensure that going forward; all our recruitments must be aligned to the Staff Establishment. We have advertised for 263 vacancies this year. We have also established the county Human Resource manual and the Disaster Management Policy to guide our engagements going forward. Further, during the year under review, I am glad to report that the County witnessed minimal employee-employer conflicts. We have endeavored to uphold the rights of our employees and are also keen on welfare issues. Litigations in the course of the year were minimal. Industrial unrests and strikes were also not experienced.

**Mr. Speaker,**

For a long time, the county has depended on a manual process in the management of HR records. This is not only archaic and expensive but also consumes a lot of physical space not forgetting the risk of destruction or even loss of the records. The Department will undertake to manage HR information in digital form, so as to improve on efficiency of core HR processes, improve accessibility to information, while creating one source of truth for each HR document.

**Mr. Speaker sir,**

It is increasingly important that training and development programs are not only competitive, but are supporting the County on its defined

strategic path. To this end, the department of Public Service Management will continue to support various staff trainings locally and internationally through collaboration with other government agencies.

***Ward administrators and Hon. Members of the County Assembly's Office,***

The essence of devolution is largely taking services closer to the people. To achieve this we need the necessary structures at the ward level. We have so far constructed 6 ward offices with the latest being Tebesonik Ward Office. Going forward, I seek a partnership with members of this house so that we vary designs and sizes of the offices to accommodate offices of the Members of the County Assembly since we serve the same people.

***Disaster Management,***

When we took over government, our disaster response was below par with only one fire engine and an incomplete fire station. In the year under review, we completed the Kapsuser Disaster response centre and established another 8 million unit at Litein Town. We have also managed to acquire another modern fire engine boosting our fire response capacity. In the 23/24 FY we intend to acquire 2 extra fire engines and two fire stations for Kipkelion East and Sigowet-Soin Sub counties. It is my endeavor that by 2027 every sub county will have a fire-station and a fire engine.

On Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) teachers; my administration in partnership with this honorable house has implemented a new scheme of service for 1135 ECDE teachers from

contract to permanent and pensionable terms this financial year. We are currently employing 65 more to meet our shortfall.

**Mr. Speaker,**

Our youth are our future and there is a need to equip them with skills, hands on experience and tools to prepare them for a promising future.

My administration has intervened on this important pillar giving 300 internships to our skilled youths, 10 from each of our 30 Wards. The Diploma and Degree holders will serve for one year receiving a monthly stipend besides receiving the much needed hands on training and experience to launch their careers.

With our continued collaboration, we shall be rolling out the internship programme every year.

**Mr. Speaker,**

### **Health Services**

As per our County Integrated Strategic Plan, the Provision of quality, affordable and accessible Health care is among the top transformative priorities of my Government .This department takes a lion share of our resources and have a 2034 strong staff representing two thirds of all the county government staff. Due to our unwavering commitment to achieving Universal Healthcare, Kericho County Referral Hospital was recently gazetted as level V hospital. We also have 6 level IV hospitals (Londiani, Fort Ternan, Kipkelion, Sigowet, Kapkatet, Roret) and are in the process of upgrading Ainamoi and Sosiot to make them 8.

At ward levels we have 12 Health centres and 169 Dispensaries. The health centres are yet to meet the County's Health Acts' requirement of 1 health centre per ward and we shall put all resources to upgrade the existing high-volume dispensaries to Health centres. Health centres are important as they offer more comprehensive services of deliveries, minor surgeries and simple admissions. We currently operate 169 dispensaries which are way high from the MOH guidelines and norms of 1 dispensary per 10,000 populations. This gives an over achievement of 168% and to achieve more from these we need to convert some to health centres.

On preventive health we are doing our part to achieve Universal Health Coverage by upgrading of facilities to improve accessibility and affordability of healthcare.

We recently launched the Primary Care Networks prior to Mashujaa day celebrations and we have 167 community units and are almost achieving our target of 203. Moreover, all have been given basic training in healthcare and have received a CHP kit that contains screening equipment, first aid equipment and basic drugs. They can also monitor Blood sugars and blood pressures at the community level. They were each equipped with a mobile phone and are linked for referrals and reporting.

Tibabu system currently in use in Buretisub County directly links the CHPs to the facility digitally and the information can be seen at facility level without any paperwork. This shall be rolled out to the entire county in the next 6 months.

**Mr. Speaker,**

In our efforts to embrace technology and digitization my administration introduced (HMIS) Health Management Information

System which has helped turn 5 of our 6 level IV facilities paperless and improved revenue collection by 50%. The introduction of a centralized payment system(Paybill )has also sealed revenue leakages.

**Mr. Speaker,**

With the partnership of this honorable house in the period under review, we have **improved access to healthcare** in the county as evidenced by completion of 10 dispensaries across the county namely;Sitotwet-Kapsoit, Itoik-Kapkatet, Koilsir-Sigowet, Testai-, Kimologit-Kipkelion, Kapchorua-Chilchila, Chesonoi-Kunyak, United/Soi-Londiani, Siwot-Chilchila and Samutet-Kapsoit .

Keregut-Kisiara and Ewat-KedowaKimugul Dispensaries are undergoing finalization too. In this FY we are rolling out construction or completion of facilities in Kolongei (Kapkatet Ward), Ngainet (Kabianga Ward), Malinja (Cheboin Ward), Chepngetuny (Seretut Ward), Kamaua (Kunyak Ward).

This is to ensure all residents in this county can access a functional facility within 5KM radius. The existing facilities are continually being upgraded or renovated. In the last FY we successfully renovated over 29 facilities and this FY over 21 facilities will receive a facelift.

We have also spearheaded efforts to **improve quality of health care** in our level 3 facilities. These facilities are very important as they conduct minor surgeries and do deliveries easing pressure on our level 4 and 5 facilities. In the last financial yearemanaged to upgrade some key Health Centres including Masaita, Tendeno, Mugumoini, Chepkemel and Kaitui Health Centres.

In this FY we have planned for more upgrades by constructing maternity units in Chepkoiyo dispensary, Kimeswon dispensary, Kimungen Dispensary, Kapcheptoror dispensary and Chepkemel dispensary.

**Mr. Speaker,**

To achieve the collective efforts to meet the third SDG target of provision of essential vaccines, Immunization of all our children has been one of my administrations priority. To this end we strive the to ensure availability of refrigerators to maintain cold chain vaccine equipment which requires power connectivity.

To achieve this we have managed to complete conducting, wiring and paying the KPLC connection fee for 40 new dispensaries and are awaiting connection from KPLC. Through our strategic partnerships we have also managed to receive 53 vaccination fridges from UNOPS which will boost our relentless efforts to get to 100 percent immunization coverage.

Our timely strategicinterventions have helped improve our immunization coverage in the county from 67% to 85% and our hospital-based deliverieshave since improved from 60 to 83.7%. The health education and advocacies undertaken have also helped improved our household latrine coverage from 70% to 85%.

**Mr. Speaker,**

To further improve our capacity as health hube have continually upgraded the level IV and V hospitals in the county to bring specialized services closer to the people and decrease referrals. In

Kipkelion West Sub County, in last FY We constructed a surgical theatre in Kipkelionsub county hospital at a cost of 12M KShs. The project is now 65% complete. It shall serve the larger Kipkelion West region and improve accessibility to maternal and surgical emergency care. This shall also help decrease referrals made daily to LondianiSub-county Hospital and The Kericho County Referral Hospital.

The Upgrade included a Mega septic tank and a borehole to improve Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (Wash) at the facility at a cost of 8M KShs. We also equipped its wards with beds and medical equipment at a cost of 6M KShs. To continue with the improvement at this facility, this financial year we are constructing an X Ray unit.

This FY we are finalizing on the surgical theatre and begin construction of an X ray unit and construction of a 24-body mortuary in Fort Ternan hospital to serve the Kipkelion west region.

In Soin SigowetSub-county we initiated completion of a storey Mother and Child Unit at Kipsitet Health Centre. This was done at a cost of 14M KShs. and is now 70% complete. This facility shall improve maternal and childcare in the greater Soin region. We have also began construction of a X-ray Unit at Kaitui Health Centre. These projects will complement the Trauma centre that was done at Kaitui health Centre and is in line with the county's objective of upgrading Kaitui health centre to fully fledged level IV hospital. Most of the projects are now almost complete and are we intend to equip and operationalize them this financial year.

Sigowet Sub-county hospital also underwent a major facelift at a cost of 8.3M KShs. in the last FY and shall this FY receive assorted lab, dental, wards and theatre equipment at a cost of over 10m , We also

intend to complete and equip its sub-county store at a cost of over KShs. 10M. This shall serve all the facilities as a buffer storage site and help decrease drug stock-outs.

**Bureti Sub county was not left out of our development initiatives,** in Roret Sub county Hospital we operationalized the new mega laboratory that offers comprehensive lab services at subsidized cost. We also operationalized their surgical theatre.

**Mr. Speaker,**

I am glad to report that they carried out their first surgeries last week through cesarean section successfully delivering two bouncing babies. After recuperating at the facility, the mothers and the newborns have since been discharged.

Our interventions at this facility has reduced referrals of maternity cases to KapkatetHospital and improved neonatal outcomes of newborn deliveries. To improve on sanitation of the facility, wealso constructed a mega septic tank and a kitchen.

**Mr. Speaker,**

Kapkatet Sub-county hospital is the nerve centre of Bureti and its services spill over to parts of Bomet and Nyamira, Cognizant of this, my administration has made the following strategic interventions at the period under review's ccompleteion and equipment the subcounty store at a cost of over KShs.10M.

This shall serve all the Bureti Sub County facilities as a buffer storage site and help decrease stock outs.

We also supplied the facility with modern ICU/HDU equipment .This has increased our County ICU bed capacity to 12 boosting our



capacity to attend to critically ill patients. Going forward, we shall replicate this in all our sub-county facilities. In an effort to manage renal patients we have installed and operationalized 2 Dialysis Machines.

We intend to add another 3 machines to help decrease referrals to MTRH and adjacent counties in this new financial year. To improve overall hygiene in the facility, we also procured a 6 M washing Machine for faster drying of linen and theatre drapes. We also facelifted and renovated its wards and mortuary to give the clients and users a more homely feel.

In Belgut sub-county, Sosiot sub-county Hospital efforts are in top gear to upgrade it to a sub-county hospital. Last FY we equipped its new wards at a cost of over 6M KShs. and began construction of an X-ray unit. This FY we are constructing a surgical theatre and expanding its land. By 2027 this facility shall be a fully fledged level IV hospital and cure the marginalization of Belgutsub-county as I promised during my election campaigns.

In Kipkelion east my administration is putting a lot of resources to the Londiani Sub-county hospital. Too boost neonatal care; my administration has supplied new born units equipment to the facility. We have also provided the necessary ward equipment. We have face lifted the facility with cabro pavements to ease access, movement and improve the general outlook of the facility. We shall also relocate its incinerator from the front of the facility to the back of the facility and improve its sanitation by construction a mega septic tank. We have also operationalized a modern laboratory with ultra-modern equipment key in quick diagnosis and subsequent treatment.

In Aina Moin Sub County we are in the process of upgrading Aina Moin Sub county Hospital to Level 4 hospital. The completion of the surgical theatre is at the tail end. This shall help decrease referrals to KCRH and improve neonatal and maternal emergency outcomes. This financial year, we intend to construct a modern septic tank and begin the construction of an X-ray unit for the facility.

At KCRH level V hospital we have achieved a lot of success in upgrading all its amenities. Indeed now we have a functional 50M oxygen plant with an oxygen reservoir .To boost the transportation of the critical oxygen to our facilities, we shall this financial year acquire an oxygen cylinder transportation lorry.

We also managed to do a facelift of the facility prior to Mashujaa day celebrations including the KCRH casualty, wards, theaters and outpatient departments. We also managed to secure 50M from the national government for replacement of asbestos and re-roofing of sister facilities, Londiani and Kapkatet Hospitals.

To improve the quality and spectrum of specialized care at the facility we intend to Purchase Cardiac and lung surgery equipment, ENT equipment and Theatre equipment worth over 25M.

**Mr. Speaker,**

I am glad to report that this year we received our cardiac and vascular surgeon from The University of Nairobi, and we intend to fully utilize his skills to improve access to healthcare in Kericho. To this end we have set aside 16M KShs. in this FY budget to procure cardiothoracic kits, sets and equipment to facilitate his work. I invite all residents to go for review and treatment of cardiac surgical related cases at our county referral hospital.

These measures will decrease the referrals we make for specialized cases to Tenwek, MTRH and KNH from 3 ambulances daily to one ambulance daily. We have in a big way managed to improve the spectrum of specialized care offered in our county referral hospital. Further are expecting 3 neurosurgeons back from further training from next year and this shall further decrease referrals.

**Mr. Speaker,**

Our cancer prevalence statistics in the county and the South Rift region paint a Grim picture ; currently male prostate cancer stand at 15.3 % while cervical cancer female malignancies stand at 17.2%. Combined Esophageal and oesophagatric Junction cancers also stand at 8.4%. .These statistics point at a need to decrease the burden of cancer cases which have been on the rise in the Region. To this end, we have established and equipped our basic oncology unit. It is in process of NHIF accreditation and shall offer cancer screening, diagnosis, chemotherapy and palliative care of cancer cases.

This FY we have set aside a further 100M KShs. to construct a mega 500M Chronic disease centre at the Kericho County Referral Hospital. It shall have modern wards, theatre, ICU and an oncology wing. All cancer cases shall be handled at the county except those that require radiotherapy.

**Mr. Speaker,**

**Staff welfare**

We are continuously looking into the **welfare of all our staff** in our health facilities to enhance quality of service delivery. We have in this endeavour to construct and completed staff houses in Kiptome Dispensary, Kiptome Dispensary, Soliat Dispensary, Cheplanget

Dispensary, Getarwet Dispensary and Kimugul Dispensary. This FY we have planned to do the same in Kamwingi Dispensary, Cheplanget Dispensary and Cheptuiyet Dispensary. This shall help accommodate staff to offer emergency obstetrical and medical care at night.

To further improve the terms of our staff and boost their motivation, my administration in collaboration with this house has set aside 200M KShs. to confirm to permanent and pensionable terms all the 864 Health staff currently on contract. A further 50M KShs. has been set aside to employ 90 nurses. This shall help further operationalized the ICU in Kapkatet Hospital, The surgical wards in Roret, Sosiot, Kipkelion, Fort Ternan Sub-county Hospitals and the 24 complete but non operational facilities.

To secure facility land from encroachment, we were also able to begin processing the generation of title deeds for all government facilities to secure them. In the last FY we were able to successfully generate title deeds for 20 facilities and target to generate for 40 facilities this FY. We were also able to generate master-plans for all sub-county hospitals to have more structured and planned infrastructural developments at our facilities.

***On the Department of Water, Environment, Energy, Forestry and Natural Resources***

**Mr. Speaker sir,**

**The Water and Energy Sector;**

During the period under review, the Department managed to increase access to quality drinking water from 31% to 38.06% (14,150) for rural households, this was attributed to construction of 16 new water

schemes and rehabilitation and expansion of 41 existing Water Schemes. In an effort to reach out to the marginalized and isolated areas, the we have drilled 7 New Water Boreholes and rehabilitated and equipped 11 Water Boreholes during the period under review. To safeguard the water sources from pollution, encroachment, and even extinction the we have protected 26 springs by demarcating and fencing off the spring catchment, covering the eye spring, constructing cattle watering troughs, and washing bays where possible.

In improving access to clean, accessible and affordable water in the urban areas, the County through established water providers and Collaboration with National Government has expanded urban Supply through Multi Billion KIMUGU Water Supply from 62% to 66% (61731). This has led to supply of water to additional two wards to include Kapsuser and Kapsoit. The urban supply of water even with the milestone realized still faced with major challenges including but not limited to unmarinated pipelines leading to mass water leakages that has resulted to unaccounted water percentage increment of 47%to 49%. This calls for allocation of funds for rehabilitation and maintenance of already laid pipelines to curb the mass leakages and wastages currently experienced.

Kericho water and sanitation company (KEWASCO) which has been struggling is on its way to recovery. The Auditor General painted a grim image of the company's financial standing operating on a negative working capital of 122m for the year ending 2020 due to inherited liabilities from the defunct Tililbei water and losing much of its revenue water. We hope with the injection of the new Dukamoja project, active connections will hit 50,000 from its current 21000. We also intend to boost the company's revenues with ongoing projects

including Kapsoit-Sosiot Pipeline ,Ainamoi Pipeline and Kapkatet Public Sanitation project. We have also secured funding from Gatsby Africa to help us manage the loss of non revenue water. Going forward, as per the recommendations of the senate committee on county public investments, we will do our best to turn around the fortunes of KEWASCO.

In addition, my administration has harnessed the use of renewable energy initiatives by solarization of projects under electricity for sustainability of accessible water by the Community as, a result 13 number of projects were put under the Solar technology system.

**Mr. Speaker,**

My Government through the Department for Water, Energy, Environment, Natural Resources and Forests is partnering with the national government through the Ministry of Water, Sanitation, and Irrigation to implement the Kenya Water Sanitation Hygiene (KWASH) Program. My government welcomes this partnership to strengthen the quality of service delivery and the reforms in the Department. To this end, we have embarked on the preparation of a County Water Sector and Sanitation Strategy and Investment Plan which is the K-WASH Program's first reimbursable output for which the County stands to receive USD 1Million, equivalent to KSh.s.155 million at current exchange rates. This once received, will in turn finance planned infrastructure development as captured within our CIDP and ADP. The process will continue in this vein up to 2029, and I will be updating you on the progress of coverage on a year by year basis.

In partnership with the Lake Victoria South Water Works Development agency, We are also set to benefit with a multimillion German Development bank (KFW) support for the Litein water and

sewerage project .The scope of works include; expansion and rehabilitation of Itare Water project, construction of a sewerage network in Litein town and a waste treatment plant in the town. This project will help us solve the water and sanitation challenges currently affecting Bureti Sub County.

**Mr. Speaker,**

Under Environment and Natural Resource Management Sector

To enhance environmental governance in the County, we have in collaboration with the County Assembly of Kericho enacted Kericho County Environment Management Act 2021 and Kericho County Forest Management Act 2021. The two legislation will assist the County in delivering its mandate on matters environment and forestry management as a devolved function

During period under review, we have managed to rehabilitate the Kericho town dumpsite as the main waste disposal facility in the county. We have also partnered with the French government through an organization called Bluspaks international to modernize our solid waste management going forward. This will greatly boost our efforts at solid waste management especially on recycling plastic waste and digitization of waste management.

**Mr. Speaker,**

We are working closely with Kenya Forestry Service (KFS) in promoting the forest cover in the entire county. Kericho county tree and forest cover currently stands at 23. 12 percent. Through collaboration with KFS and other stakeholders in the County the department managed to plant a total of 1,648,000 tree seedlings on farm lands, water sources, riparian areas, schools, institutions,

hilltops and areas prone to landslide within the past one year. We have also in collaboration with NEMA and NLC managed to partially restore Kapnawai Wetland from encroachment by clearing eucalyptus and planting indigenous trees.

During the national tree planting day held on 13th November 2023, we achieved a big a milestone by planting a total of 115, 000 tree seedlings pushing our annual total to 1,763,000 which is a significant step towards the national target of 15 billion trees by 2032.

**Mr. Speaker,**

The effects and impact of climate change country wide and globally is alarming and poses a serious threat to the development pursuits in the County. The County Climate Change Unit under the Directorate of Environment is currently implementing the Financing Locally Led Climate Action (FLLoCA) Program that is being co-funded by the World Bank and the Government of Kenya. Kericho has so far benefited with over 200 million assisting us combat climate change.

In order to ensure to mitigate and adapt to its effects, we enacted the Kericho County Kericho County Climate Change Act 2021. The policy and regulatory frameworks will assist the county enhance its response to climate change and build community resilience to climate change impacts. A signed participation agreement for the FLLoCA program has been signed. The Program will strengthen local resilience to the impact of climate change, natural hazards and other shocks/stressors. As part of the minimum access conditions for the program. The county has established the County Climate Change Fund & a functional Climate Change Unit with 17No. Technical staff drawn from various sectors to assist in mainstreaming climate



change adaptative and mitigation measures in each department programs, plans and budgets. My administration have also appointed and gazette the CEC designate in charge of climate change matters and has trained climate change steering and planning committees.

We have through the directorate of Environment, managed to establish and train Ward Climate Change Planning Committees in all the 30 wards with all the stakeholders well represented Pursuant to Section 14 of the Kericho County Climate Change Act, 2021. We have further prepared and adopted the Kericho County Participatory Climate Risk Assessment Report and the Kericho County Climate Action Plan key documents to strengthen County Government capacity to plan, budget, implement and monitor climate mitigation and adaptation.

Mr. Speaker

### **Department Of Trade, Industrialization, Innovation, Tourism & Wildlife**

In partnership with the National government, we shall this financial year establish the County Aggregation and Industrial Park (CAIP) at Kapsorok, Soliat ward, Sigowet/SoinSub-county in line with the bottom-up economic transformation agenda. This is to create an allinclusive job creating economic model that invests in Kenya's Agro Resources.

The CAIP project will have a minimum of four (4) manufacturing sheds of 4000 sqms and an Aggregation Centre of 4000 square

metres complete with cold storage facilities to prevent post-harvest losses.

The construction of County Aggregation and Industrial Park will unlock the industrial potential of the previously marginalized Soin belt and will ease the transportation of goods and raw materials because the proposed Standard Gauge Railway will have a station in the area. The roll out of the programme will broaden opportunities for Kenyans, boost economic growth, create over 1,000 jobs and reduce poverty. The facility will offer cold storage and value addition facilities for tea, coffee, maize, milk, bananas, avocado and horticulture to help farmers maximize their earnings.

### **Kericho County International Investment MSMEs Conference**

The County Government of Kericho will Host its 2nd International Investment Conference in partnership with the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCC&I) with the overall objective of promoting investments in the County. The theme of the conference is “Kericho County, the Green City for Investments”. It will be a three day conference scheduled to be held in the month of March, 2024 targeting two thousand participants who will include both International and local investors with other stakeholders. The venue of the conference will be Kericho Town.

The conference will assist us showcase the County’s rich investment opportunities ,provide a gateway for prospective investors interested in exploring and investing in the County , create a platform for various players to interact and leverage on their expertise on investment and initiate contractual agreements with potential investors.

## **The Kericho County Enterprise fund**

The Kericho County Enterprise Fund Act, 2014 was enacted to provide for the legal framework for establishing a Fund for enterprise development in order to facilitate access to credit for business capital by our people.

The fund is revolving with 4% one-off interest rate with a repayment period of 24 months. The loan facility ranges from KShs 5,000 to 50,000 for individuals and up to KShs. 100,000 for groups. A total of 3,126 applicants from the 30 wards in Kericho benefited from the fund. The previous administration appropriated 100 million to the fund and 87 million was disbursed as loans but only 12.5 million only has since been repaid. Political interference has been listed as a key reason for default.

My administration seeks to overhaul the fund to achieve its core mandate. We are currently recruiting board directors and will send the necessary amendments to make the fund work optimally. We are seeking a budgetary approval of 50 million from this house to operationalize the fund.

Completed projects

**Mr. Speaker,**

As part of our relentless efforts to spur economic trade we have in the past financial year completed the following projects; a sanitary facility in Lelu and Chemosot markets .We have also supported Barsiele Cooperative, Kapcheboi cooperative, Torormwai cooperative and Kapkormom cooperative with supply and installation of 2 disc pulper machines to improve coffee processing. In the Coffee value chain we have also supported Labaa FCS by Constructing a

parchment coffee store and TuiyoGaa FCS in kunyak by Constructing 4 metal drying tables

In the Dairy value chain we Supported Chelilis FCs with 40, 50-litre capacity milk cans and this has improved the supply of milk for processing by over 2,000 litres. We also constructed a textile centre for youth and women at Chemosot with a capacity to accommodate 25 youth and women in the textile industry. The equipping of the textile center will be done in the FY 2023-24.

The works which are ongoing in this financial year include; Construction of an exhaustible toilet and renovation works in at ChemosotMarket, Refurbishment and construction of shop stalls at Litein Market, Construction of 100M3 masonry water tank for Sereng Coffee Factory, the Supply and Installation of a 2 disc pulper machine for,Kibirirgut FCs and the Construction of 4 metal drying tables for Chepnorio FCS,

□□

### **The Kericho Alcoholic Drinks Licensing Fund**

This fund is a product of this honorable house under the Alcoholic Act of 2014.

In the 2022/23 financial year, this board collected KShs.. 17,476,900 but paid 5 million shillings only to the County revenue account. This is an improvement from previous years but much more needs to be done. My administration seeks the indulgence of this house to amend some clauses of the alcoholic drinks act to cap the expenses of the fund to a reasonable percentage and clearly define the areas of expenditure so that the County Government benefits from more revenue. Going forward, my administration will undertake administrative action to increase compliance, enforcement and

sealing revenue leakages .this fund I believe can generate over 50 million shillings and at least 30 million to the CRF.

**Mr. Speaker,**

## **Education,Culture, Youth Affairs and Libraries Management**

### **STATE OF VTCS AND ECDES**

The county has over 50,000 pre-primary school learners who are in about 1000 ECDE Centres. About 800 of the centres are public while the rest are private. The County Government has so far constructed over 800 classrooms and about 500 toilets in ECDE schools across the county.

In the period under review we have managed to procure learning materials worth 23(twenty-three million) and furniture (tables and chairs) worth 21 million to date. The schools are staffed with 1650 teachers, 1200 of whom are employed by the county and the rest are employed by the BOMs.

### **Vocational Training Centres(VTC)**

The county has 12 vocational training centres spread across the county, six of which are centres of Excellence. The centres are staffed with 47 instructors employed by the county and 57 employed by the BOMs. We endeavor improve the quality of training by giving a facelift to the worKShs.ops, toilets, and classrooms in all these centres.

**Mr. Speaker,**

The County Government has made significant interventions aimed at improving retention of children and , especially those from disadvantaged families in schools through provision of basic

infrastructures and bursaries. We consider the Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) as the foundation for moulding the child through education; and the Government has been investing heavily in improving the learner-experience at this level in order to keep the children in school. In the FY 22/23 we completed 2 ECDE Centres initiated by the previous administration and constructed 21 new learners - friendly ECDE classrooms across the county. We have also employed 1,226 ECDE teachers across the County and recently improved their terms of service to permanent and pensionable. We also managed to build 25 ablution blocks and intend to build 25 new ECDE centres and 29 ablution blocks at ECDE centres across the county. This financial year we managed to supply 5000 chairs at a cost of 8 million.

**Mr. Speaker,**

The bursary programme aims to provide financial assistance to eligible students who demonstrate academic excellence, financial need and meet the criteria in the Bursary Act 2014.

The financial year 2022/2023 recorded the highest amount of bursary allocated to beneficiaries since the disbursement was started in our county. A total of KShs. 167,428,831 was distributed to 42,422 beneficiaries. All the wards benefited from the disbursement with Chaik ward with the highest amount of KShs. 22,310,039.

The disbursement began from the ward level up ensuring equity .this year's bursary applications are currently ongoing and children from disadvantaged backgrounds are encouraged to apply. We have this year set aside 168 million set to benefit over 43,000 beneficiaries.

**Mr. Speaker,**

My Government considers quality technical education as an important tool to empower our youth for productive engagement.

There is a big shortage of qualified artisans in this Country to support the many on-going and upcoming infrastructure projects. I urge our youth to join our vocational training institutions so as to get these skills. As a Government, we continue investing in all our vocational institutions and this year we have set aside 22 million as grants for their capitation. Further we intend to Construct toilet blocks and workShs.ops in 4 of our Vocational Training Centres namely, Chebirirbei VTC, Leldet VTC, Kipsimbol VTC and KiptereVTC, at a cost of 20 million. This will bolster our FY 22/23 efforts which includes renovation works, Administrative block ,fencing and workShs.ops construction at KamineiwoVTC, construction of a modern workshop at Chemosot VTC and Renovation works, tuition blocks and Workshop construction at Chepseon VTC. This financial year we intend to establish 2 new vocational centers at Londiani and Tendeno/Sorget Wards.

**Mr. Speaker,**

My administration considers persons with disability in pursuit of prosperity and better quality of life as enshrined in our county vision. It is for this reason that my administration procured PWD assistive devices worth 8m key in their mobility, learning and entrepreneurship. We intend to make a similar intervention this financial year.

**Mr. Speaker,**

Pursuant to the gazzetement of the transfer of library functions from the National Government by the Inter-governmental Technical Relations Committee (IGTRC) and the subsequent transfer of assets

and staff to the county government, my administration cognizant of the worrying state of Kericho Library has set aside 5 million shillings for the purchase of books and another 10 million for renovations this FY. This will restore the lost glory of the library and assist students at all levels achieve their learning outcomes.

## **Agriculture, Livestock and Co-operative Management**

**Mr. Speaker,**

Agriculture and livestock development are at the centre of our economic transformation agenda for this County because most of our citizens are engaged in these sectors. We consider agriculture and livestock the easiest and most practical entry points to quickly transform the economic fortunes of our County. My administration has committed a lot of resources towards the modernization of these sectors by addressing constraints associated with costly inputs, quality seeds, extension services, post-harvest losses, poor prices and value addition.

Aware that the best quality of breeds is necessary for the success of any dairy venture, we have subsidized Artificial Insemination services with over 10,000 doses of semen distributed to our farmers. The first calves of the programme have been born. This year we intend to do 15000 dozes of semen especially after the establishment of a semen cold storage facility at Kipsitet in Soin Ward. Further the department has facilitated capacity building of 20 Dairy Co-operative societies: Kabianga FCS, Cherobu FCS, Mosop, TorochTany, and KosiachTanyFarmers Cooperative Societies. To increase dairy productivity, we have also distributed assorted Pasture Seeds to



Dairy farmers across the 30 wards in Kericho County so as to

cushion the farmers from shortage of Animal feeds in dry seasons. We also facilitated 3 successful agricultural expos at Chemosot, SoinATC sugarcane expo and Sosiot. We also revamped the neglected Soin Agricultural training centre by building a bomarhodes fodder warehouse complete with farm machinery and over 100 acres of arable land for feed production.

**Mr. Speaker,**

### **Agricultural Extension Officers**

To ensure that the farmers are up to speed with best agricultural practices, The County government of Kericho has employed 30 Agricultural extension Officers. The officers are actively guiding our farmers on best farming practices .We are in the process of employing another 52 officers for better service delivery. In addition, to that the department has put on board over 60 interns. The staffs have been instrumental in carrying out our free countywide vaccination against Rabies, Foot and Mouth Disease for public safety. More than 150,000 animals were vaccinated in the drive. The staffs are also significant as we plan the last mile distribution of fertilizers to our farmers next year.

**Mr. Speaker,**

Kericho Dairy Cooperative Union(KDCU)

We have played an instrumental role in the formation of the Kenya Dairy Cooperative Union (KDCU) which is the Dairy umbrella union tasked with strengthening primary co-operative societies reaching the ward level in line with Kenya kwanza Bottom-up Economic

Transformation Agenda (BETA) economic model. Going forward in partnership with the national government, we intend to build a multimillion processor which will be run by the union.

**Mr. Speaker,**

### **KEDOWA MAIZE MILLING PLANT/RORET PINEAPPLE PLANT**

As I promised in my manifesto, my administration will build a modern maize milling plant at Kedowa this financial year. Procurement processes are complete and the contractor is expected on site soon. We intend to complete the first phase this financial year. Next financial year we intend to equip and operationalize the facility. In anticipation of operationalization of Roret Pineapple plant, my administration has issued more than 1000 pineapple cuttings to more than 500 farmers in the past financial year. Working with partners like Kabianga University, we intend to operationalize this white elephant project once and for all.

### **Kabianga Tea Farm/Kipkelion Coffee Farm**

When I got sworn to office, Kabianga Tea farm was a run down, loss making entity. I immediately set out to revamp its management and this house also took up the matter and provided recommendations for action. Today I am proud to report its positive trajectory. With better management practices occasioned by a new Board of Directors in place, The Farm has recorded a tremendous increase in green-leaf production from 72,000 to 118,000 kilogrammes per month. We have also revamped Kipkelion Coffee farm .Last year. It produced 12000kg of coffee cherries and increase from 8000 the previous year. This year

we are expecting over 20000kg. We have so far planted over 5000 coffee seedlings this year and we shall continue its expansion efforts. Going forward, we expect the two farms to generate not less than 20 million as revenue for the County Government.

**Mr. Speaker,**

To alleviate the living conditions of the vulnerable members my administration has distributed over 300,000 tea seedlings, 400,000 coffee and over 20000 avocado seedlings to over 5,000 vulnerable families. Further, coffee farmers have benefited from the construction of the coffee warehouse at Kipkelion Coffee mill constructed by the County Government of Kericho. Tea farmers have not been left behind: To facilitate and ease the delivery of tea green-leaf, we have constructed over 15 Tea buying centres across the Tea growing areas. We intend to build another 21 TBCs in the 2023-2024 financial years. We have also spearheaded the formation of a farmer's avocado cooperative.

**Mr. Speaker,**

We are grateful for the strategic partnership with the World Bank under Climate Smart Agriculture Program- KCSAP Under this Program; we have constructed and rehabilitated the Kivuno earth dam, Chepchiri and Leldet water pans. From the Seretut 10,000 chicks capacity hatchery, poultry farmers across the county will soon be able to get quality subsidized chicks from the county government of Kericho. Further our selected Farmers have received 700 Chick incubators .

**Mr. Speaker,**

## **Farmers Data Compilation**

To guide our strategic interventions going forward; the department has carried out a comprehensive mapping and registration of farmers engaging in Dairy, Poultry and various crop productions. We have also distributed Over 15,000 fingerlings and fish feeds have been given to 250 farmers across the County.

## **Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport**

**Mr. Speaker,**

The development and maintenance of a well-connected road network within the County is crucial catalyst for promoting economic growth, facilitating trade, and enhancing accessibility to social amenities and opening up various regions of the county. We are committed to ensuring that proper drainage infrastructure is done to mitigate the impacts of flooding and ensure sustainable Storm water management, particularly in areas prone to heavy rainfall.

My administration is keen on continued improvement of county's infrastructure and facilitating efficient transportation. Under the period under review the county has managed to achieve the following:

In the F/Y 2022/23, with total expenditure of KShs. 514, 777, 680, we managed to open up a total of 181Kms new access roads to motorable standards across all the 30 wards and maintained 307.8Kms of previously done access roads, increasing the total number of total Kilometers of opened access roads to 488km during the period under review. This relates to an average of 16km per ward across the 29 road active wards. We also constructed 15 drainage

structures and the Nyageito footbridge in Cheplanget Ward. This financial year, we intend to open up 360Km of new roads and maintain 400km of roads. We are also actively working on drainage at Litein and will do 10 KM of tarmac on select town roads across the county.

## **ICT, Sports, Gender and E-Government**

### **Mr. Speaker,**

ICT integration in Government operations and services remains a main focus of my Government. During the year under review; and with the support of ICT Authority (ICTA), we have developed an ICT road-map for the County and commenced laying of ICT backbone infrastructure from the Headquarter to all Sub-Counties. Once complete, this backbone shall provide a platform for automation of critical services offered by the County Government. We have also rolled out the establishment of Information Communication and Citizen Service Centers in all the six Sub Counties which are now operational. To create employment for our youth using the centers, we have trained 300 youth under the national Ajira program. We have also revamped our website with fresh content and greatly improved our relationship with all the stakeholders. We also developed and operationalized the Public Service Board recruitment system. This financial year, we intend to develop and implement soft-wares for revenue collection, Human resource management, Medical stock taking E-ticketing, and installation of CCTV in our major facilities.

Under Gender, we organized and executed an important event to mark the international day of the girl child. The event done under the

auspices of the Lake region economic bloc (LREB) was presided over by the first lady H.E. Rachael Ruto.

Under sports we managed to coordinate the Talanta Hela selection in the county, and our team qualified to proceed to the National competitions. We also Organized and hosted of the Deaf-Olympics sports at the Kericho Green Stadium.

For the first time in history the county government of Kericho Facilitated Kericho based County athletes to participate in the South Rift AK Championships, 2023, held Regionally(Narok County), Nationally(Nyayo Stadium) and Globally (Hungary, Budapest). The team managed 1 silver and 2 bronze.

□We also Coordinated and supported the Para Sports Trials both Regionally (at our stadium), nationally (at Kericho, our Stadium) and Globally (Paris, France) where we managed 1 Gold medal

□We also spearheaded the Organizing and coordinating the junior para sports for all Secondary schools in the Rift Valley Region and Coordinated KICOSCA inter county staff competition, where approximately 22 disciplines were represented. Some of our staff will now represent Kenya in the East African Local Authorities sports Association (EALASCA) games in Kigali, Rwanda and are now in Siaya for trials.

In matters infrastructure we Renovated Kapkatet Stadium, did Chain Link Fencing at Sosiot Stadium . Finally, the Green Stadium (Kiprugut Chumo Stadium) was developed under coordination of the department and was handed over to the county government after completion on 19th October, 2023

□ **Mr. Speaker,**

Following the pronouncement of H.E the President Dr. William Ruto on the renaming of Kericho Green stadium to Kiprugut Chumo Stadium, the State department for Sports in partnership with my administration implemented the changes last week. We are now looking to this house to ratify the changes as per the standing orders of this house.

### **Lands, Housing and Physical Planning**

**Mr. Speaker,**

As a key player in the modernization of our towns in order to attract more investors, My Government has put in place the Kericho Spatial plan which is on course. The Spatial organizations of land resources are important in securing physical, economic and social efficiency and Livelihoods of our people. As you are aware, there has been a perennial problem with squatters in Chelimo area. We are working together with the Ministry of Land, Public Works, Housing and urban Development to provide a long lasting planning solution to the issue. Remuneration of both the squatters and the land owners has been undertaken in the interim with the full scale planning expected to begin upon financing by the National Government. Upon the amicable resettlement of occupants, we expect more than 600 acres of land to be freed enabling us to expand and plan the town appropriately. This department has also been actively involved in the demarcation of land for all the county projects and most notable is the demarcation of the County Aggregation and Industrial Park at Kapsorok.

**Mr. Speaker,**



We have worked closely with State Department of Transport and Infrastructure in the run up to the Mashujaa Day 2023 to ensure that the proposed infrastructure gets the necessary space for implementation. We are in process of acquiring land for the completion of Kerenga Airstrip and we look up to this honourable house to tool the process with the necessary approvals and resources for its success. Our town now has a better outlook courtesy of good roads and better lighting. Order has now been restored because our town is now properly planned.

We have also revamped the Geo-spatial Information system. GIS is a technology which utilizes geospatial information for data collection, data processing and data presentation. The technology is useful to almost all departments in the county when it comes to the mapping of county assets .

### **Mr. Speaker**

This department also hosts Kericho and Litein Municipal boards which with the support of the Kenya Urban Support program (KUSP) have witnessed a development renaissance. These Municipalities were not fully constituted as at August 2022. Upon taking over the Government, We immediately spearheaded its reconstitution. Both are now functioning optimally. The boards achievements include the construction of motorized and non-motorized transport facilities (Cabro) in Kapsoit, Brooke and Kapsuser towns, the Construction of the modern Kericho Mega market and installation of high mast flood lights to boost a 24 hour economy and security in the areas

covered. We have also revamped Moi and Uhuru gardens besides constructing proper drainage at Kericho, Kapsoit and Litein.

We have also partnered with the Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha Community (GNNSJ) on beautification projects including the Kericho Welcoming Gate on Kenyatta road and the Chai Square fountain at the Tengecha road.

As you are aware, the County Government owns various residential estates including the Majengo and Mama Ngina Estates. Most of these houses were actually in a state of disrepair and therefore needed continuous improvement to make them habitable. To this end, a total of 21 houses were refurbished in the aforementioned estates with the works including fitting of window seals, replacement of iron sheets, replacement of broken fittings, paint works e.tc.

**Finally Mr. Speaker,**

We run a successful Kazi Kwa vijana beautification programme. The objective of the Programme was to provide additional support to the department of environment through drainage cleaning, vegetation and market cleaning among other general beautification programs in the Municipalities besides job creation for our youth. □

Honorable Members,

As I conclude, may I note that my Government has made tremendous progress towards realizing our promises to the people of this great County amid numerous challenges. We shall remain focused on this course to deliver all our promises as envisioned in our CIDP. I appeal

to you Honorable Members to continue supporting our initiatives by ensuring that we get adequate funds, policies and laws.

I wish to reaffirm that the state of our County is strong. We have kept our promise and utilized the County resources well for the greater good of our people. I remain bullish about our state of the county

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**Thank you and God bless you, God Bless Kericho County.**