

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

MANDERA COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THE HANSARD

Second Assembly- Fourth Session

Wednesday, 19th February, 2020

The House met in the Assembly Chambers at half past two o'clock

ARRIVAL OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

[His Excellency the Governor (Hon. Ali Ibrahim Roba) escorted by the Speaker of the Assembly (Hon. Mohamed Adan Khalif) entered the Chamber at half past two o'clock accompanied by the mace]

(Prayers were read by Hon. Speaker)

(His Excellency took the Chair)

(The Mace was placed on the Table)

CONVOCATION

CONVENING OF THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY FOR GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS

The Speaker (Hon. M. A. Khalif): Hon. Members, as you have just heard, we had a very unfortunate incident that happened this afternoon along Banisa-Olla-Rhamu road between Guba and Olla. We are yet to get details but the information we are getting is that some lives were lost and there are injuries. I would like to send out deepest heartfelt condolences to the victims and those affected in one way or another. It is a very unfortunate incident and as leaders there is need to continue with the conversation to see how such incidents can be avoided in future.

Hon. Members, it gives me great pleasure to welcome His Excellency the Governor, both Ali Ibrahim Roba and all Honorable Members to the Second Assembly, Fourth Session of Mandera County Assembly. It is customary that the Governor addresses a special sitting of County Assembly once every year and may address County Assembly at any other time pursuant to provision of Standing Order 21(1).

Your Excellency, I would like to make some brief remarks. Hon. Members as we embark on the Fourth Session; we should appraise ourselves as an institution on what we have achieved and lay emphasis of what we need to achieve in order to carry our mandate effectively.

Hon. Members, the great expectations before us require commitment, focus, harmony and unity of purpose of our people. It is our responsibility to ensure to build structure that is

responsive to the need of our people. The Assembly is obliged to maintain effective system in place to ensure inclusivity, equity and social justice for all.

Hon. Members, our Second Assembly (Third Session) passed various Motions, Reports, and also enacted various legislation including, Mandera County Appropriation Bill, 2019, Mandera County Trade Development Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2019, Mandera County Health Services Bill, 2019, Mandera County Breast Feeding Mothers Bill, 2019, and The Mandera County Frontier Counties Development Council Bill 2019. The FCDC Act, 2019 will enhance platform of cooperation, coordination in view of enhancing social economic development and also provides standard in the implementation of the vision 2030 and other development blue print.

Hon. Members, creating awareness or public education on various legislations passed by the First and Second Assembly is important. There is need therefore to harmonize continuous civic education programmes by respective County Departments so that members of public are fully informed on legislations and policies in the county. Several other legislations are also before the relevant committees. I also call upon the County Executive to operationalize legislations passed by the County Assembly within minimum time required.

Hon. Members, while we celebrate our achievement since inception of Devolution, we must also reflect challenges that we have faced and identify an alternative solution. You are aware the locust invasion in our county has already caused unprecedented damage to our vegetation which will have far reaching effects on food security and livelihood of our people. Already Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), on the Daily Nation of 30th January, 2019, has warned that the locust invasion could even get worse if control effort is not up scaled. This matter therefore requires urgent intervention. I call upon H.E the Governor and our Members of the County Assembly to find out urgent measures to contain this situation with the help of National Government and other partners. I also take this opportunity to express my appreciation to all those who have supported this exercise so far.

Hon. Members, I note with great concern the mass exodus of teachers (especially non-local teachers) from Northern region following the directive by the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) to transfer all non-local teacher from North Eastern region over security fears. The transfer of teachers has disrupted learning activities in the region and it is true that some part of Northern region has been soft targets of terror attack and posed threats to learning environment but the leadership of this region has been continuously in collaboration with the National Government in finding durable solution to this menace, but the harsh decision by the TSC over transfer of teachers has brought education in the region to its knees. I hope the upcoming conference on Mandera County Education Stakeholder Symposium to be held on Thursday, February, 2020 in Mandera will lead to conversations that will address this issue urgently.

Hon. Members, you are aware that 27th November, 2019 H.E President Uhuru launched the Building Bridges Initiatives (BBi) at Bomas of Kenya. The report ushers a national discussion on the future of this country. But as legislators we have the citizenry duty to protect the interest of our People as North Eastern region in regards to Building Bridges Initiatives (BBi). In our recent County Assemblies Forum, we have reached consensus that we shall resist creation of three tiers Government (Regional Government) that will return us back to further marginalization and therefore we need to stand up and protect devolution.

Hon. Members, let us fulfill the promise we made to our people in regards to manifesto and policies that we promised to implement. Let us not forget that this will be yardstick for voters to make informed choices in electing their representatives in future. Nevertheless, a huge task still remains ahead of us and I believe we shall rise to fulfill our commitment as legislators.

Hon. Members, as we discharge our Constitutional responsibilities of oversight of public resource, we are duty bound to ensure transparency in service delivery. We must not compromise our role. It is our responsibility to remain committed to the trust that has been bestowed upon us by our electorates.

Hon. Members, I urge all of you to conduct yourselves with integrity, decorum, uphold the rule of law, observe provision of our Standing Orders and the Constitution and always commit ourselves to achieve our mandate as per Article 185 of the Constitution of Kenya.

Hon. Members, finally, you are aware that the Governor will address the County Assembly in accordance with the provision of Standing Order 21 (1). I, therefore, remind you that the Governor shall be heard in silence, pursuant to the provision of Standing Order 23 (2).

Thank you.

GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS

EXPOSITION OF PUBLIC POLICY

His Excellency the Governor (Hon. Ali Ibrahim Roba): H. E. the Deputy Governor, Hon. Speaker, Hon. Members of the County Assembly, County Executive Committee Members, Chief Officers, Asalamu Aleikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuhu.

We are grateful to the Almighty Allah for enabling us to gather here today to reflect on the true state of our beloved County in 2020.

Hon. Members, during your recess, a few critical events happened within our country including the passing on of the second President of the Republic of Kenya His Excellency Daniel Toroitich arap Moi on the 4th of February 2020. Mr. Speaker, may I request, with your permission, that we be upstanding and observe a minute of silence in honor of his contribution to this great Nation of Kenya

(Minute of silence observed)

Thank you all. You can resume your seats.

Mr. Speaker, Hon. Members, during your recess, the second conference on Countering Violent Extremism was held in Mandera and leaders proposed 12 critical measures for implementation to cushion our county from adverse effects. Four of the 12 resolutions were prioritized and after consultations we agreed to develop them into a petition to be presented to the National Government for consideration and implementation. Consultations on the same have been on going and let me thank our Senator, our MPs and Mandera County Assembly Leadership under the Speaker himself, House Majority and Minority leaders for playing a critical part on the initiative.

Eight of the remaining resolutions will be implemented at the county level in collaboration between Ministry of Interior, Mandera County Government, non-state actors, and development partners as we implement the county action plan. The resolutions reached are home grown solutions, which came from the people of Mandera who continue to bear the brunt of the effects of radicalization and terrorism as late as this morning when Moyale Raha bus was attacked between Sarman & Tarbe on its way to Nairobi.

Hon. Members, for the last seven years we have suffered a lot as a result of terrorism and radicalization. The challenges of terror have created alienation of our region. Thousands of our children have suffered mass failures due to lack of teachers, there has been negative private sector investment to generate employment opportunities for our youth, our healthcare system has

been severely impacted, cross-border trade that supported our livelihoods since independence has been brought to grinding halt due to terror, external capital investment by the National government has failed to progress, we have been isolated by non- Governmental entities due to terror, our road transport has been made extremely expensive because of terror threats, our own investments that could have taken limited time to finish have remained incomplete over the years. That is why we must see terrorism for what it actually is which is an “Evil” that must be fought with everything we have to liberate ourselves from the grips of terror.

Our societies must understand Alshabab’s intent of isolation of our region, destruction of the social- economic fabric of our society, imposition of total economic sanction, pitting us against each other with our other Kenyan brothers and sisters, and their real intent of the destruction of the Somali race in Kenya by annoying other Kenyans of non- Somali origin into actions that target Somalis. Already they have succeeded in convincing the likes of Nancy Macharia and Lydia Nzomo of TSC into seeing schools in NEP “must all be closed” through removal of teachers with terror instilled attitude of “who cares, after all they are Somalis and all of them are the same hence if their children don’t go to school, it is ok”. This situation must be challenged and mitigated.

Hon. Members, despite all the challenges I have just shared, we have resiliently maintained the course and insha’Allah The Almighty Allah who is All- knowing and All -seeing has a plan for us. More than ever before I am very optimistic that this situation will change and our glory days of peaceful Mandera will be back soon. God will not leave us in this suffering indefinitely insha’Allah. I remain very optimistic in Allah’s name and will.

Hon. Members, we are all aware of the disastrous recall of teachers from Mandera County and all North Eastern region counties by the ill-advised decision of the Teachers Service Commission. This move is unacceptable and amounts to sabotage of our future and presents a grim picture for our beloved children. It is discrimination of the highest order and an unconstitutional move that must be countered.

Hon. Members, I am always optimistic. We the leaders of Mandera County must rally together to find lasting solutions to every challenge that confronts us. We cannot dwell in blame games that will not change our situation. We must find stopgap solutions to our problems in schools. Learning must continue and this means that we will have to make a lot of sacrifices in our budgets, strategies, action plans and policies. Learning must continue at all costs or we will risk surrendering our fate to bureaucrats sitting in Nairobi and people who do not understand or appreciate our circumstances. We cannot condemn our children to illiteracy. I hereby announce that we will host a major education stakeholders’ conference tomorrow, Thursday February 20, 2020 which will seek to propose homegrown solutions to help us cope with our situation. On this proposal I will ask for each one of you to participate enthusiastically in this noble event for the protection of our children.

Hon. Speaker, the political challenges between Jubaland and the Federal Government of Somalia have escalated to a level that is posing very serious danger unto our Mandera population. Recently the Federal Government of Somalia sent security forces to take over the administration and security of Gedo Region forcing the displacement of Jubaland security forces and administration out of, at least, Dollo and Beled Hawo as far as we can tell into Mandera town within our territory. These forces have crossed into Kenya with all their weapons and are inside Mandera along our border with Beled Hawo. This has created a major security concern for our population.

Mr. Speaker, the leadership and the population of Mandera have never interfered with the affairs of Somalia both at Regional and Federal levels. We have maintained good neighbourliness and have given our neighbours all the support we could possibly give during the

very difficult times of post Siad Barre rule. Their situation greatly affected us in all aspects of life. To date we are still affected by the spillover effects of terrorism in Somalia. This is a clear indication that we wish them well and we respect their sovereignty to solve their internal challenges in their own ways. However, their security challenges have found its way into our laps and we can no longer sit back and watch. This unfolding security situation along our border and the presence of Jubaland administration within Mandera town, well inside our Kenyan Territory, has posed a very serious security risk to our population. It has deliberately put us in harms-way. The leadership of the population of Mandera and its population can no longer keep quiet at this clear and present danger unto our population.

While we respect the position of our government with respect to our relationship with Somalia, we refuse to accept the risks posed to our population and demand that our government must handle this delicate matter urgently with the seriousness it deserves or else our government must know that we will hold them responsible for any harm that befalls our population within Mandera County. They also must know that while we remain patriotic to our Nation and the cause of our Government; we are also patriotically duty bound to protect our population from getting affected by a conflict that we believe we can avoid as a Nation. We do not want our population caught in between a conflict of warring functions inside Somalia. We request our Government to immediately remove the Jubaland forces within our border to protect the population of Mandera. This situation is growing ugly and as neighbors we can clearly see the deteriorating security situation that has very high possibility of exploding into fully blown conflict that will directly hurt the population of Mandera.

Hon. Members, despite new challenges confronting us, we should never tire of saying ‘Devolution is truly a Godsend for our County’. Over the last seven years, we continue to witness the immense transformation that devolution has had on the lives of Mandera people. Although we are bearing the brunt of impacts of climate change, the severity of such calamities is not as bad. We are emerging from one of the worst droughts ever witnessed in recent times and this was followed by flash floods that displaced many families and killed hundreds of our animals. As if that was not enough, towards the end of the year 2019, huge swarms of locusts invaded our county destroying vegetation and literally wiping out pastures without much help from the National Government or any other external stakeholders. We are still battling these disastrous insects within our borders.

Mr. Speaker Sir, Hon. Members, food security in Mandera County has been majorly affected by the fragile eco-systems, frequent droughts and floods. The desert locust invasion begun on the 28th December, 2019 affecting at least 106 sites in all the sub counties and covered nearly 13,000 Km square of rangeland and farmland and has destroyed an estimated 220 to 350 tons of pasture and crops each day.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) experts have warned that a new set of locusts are breeding and we should expect more invasions by mature swarms soon. This will overstretch our limited capacity to cope with increased invasion after battling the nearly two months long successive invasions hence we would have to appeal for external help to cope with these increased threats of locusts.

Hon. Members, the National Government is ill prepared to manage locust disaster in terms of expertise and resources. It has become extremely apparent that the ministry of Agriculture seemingly does not have the resources in terms of money, expertise and capacity to deal with the control and management of locusts and feels shy of declaring it a “National Disaster” to unlock external resources and support. Hence our sad “feel good and in control attitude of the ministry” and lack of timely response with the sense of urgency it deserves from the early warnings issued and the neglect of our cries during the first invasion has guaranteed

safe and unrestricted passage for the locusts across the country so much such that today more 80 % of our country's landmass is under locusts invasion.

Hon. Speaker, we are still vulnerable to the impacts of these damaging insects hence will continue to appeal for external support. The invasion continues to pose a serious food security threat and has impacted negatively the livelihoods of our pastoralist communities. We have been carrying out manual spraying of the insects with limited success as we call for support from aerial sprays which require specialized aircrafts. We will continue praying to The Almighty Allah to cushion our people and environment from this disaster of locust invasion.

Mr. Speaker Sir, my administration increased our focus on completion of the mega projects behind schedule due to security challenges and contractors who failed to deliver within time. I am happy to note that the completion progress is very good for the heavy capital projects. I want to assure this honorable assembly that we will continue with the determination to complete the projects soonest. Our magnificent County headquarters is nearing completion and we will soon move into it Insha'Allah as a centralized Service Delivery Centre. Several other projects have been handed over by contractors and we will start commissioning them to offer quality services to the public.

Mr. Speaker Sir, Hon. Members, let me begin by explaining some of the strides we made in the 10 ministries in the last calendar year. Under the Ministry of Health Services Mandera County Government focused on improving health service delivery to the people of Mandera and beyond. We have operationalized Dialysis services at MCRH which has since benefitted 52 patients who had more than 573 sessions. Previously these patients travelled all the way to Nairobi to receive treatment at very expensive costs including transport. The CT scan services at MCRH which has benefitted 443 clients since July 2019 who could have been referred to Nairobi saving both time and cost.

To improve access to quality health care services for patients, the County Government has recruited an additional 17 medical Doctors making the total Doctors in County payroll 54, including 4 specialists (2 Surgeons, 1 ENT, 1 Obstetrics Gynecologist) who benefitted from specialized training sponsored by the County Government and have since resumed work to bridge the gap in specialization after efforts to attract medical consultants became futile.

Maternal and childcare health care services have been an integral part of our vision to improve the health indicators of our communities. In this regard, Mandera County Government has prioritized establishment of three comprehensive maternal and neonatal units of which two have already been operationalized while the third is complete awaiting equipment before operationalization.

To facilitate timely life-saving referrals, the County Government has procured six modern ambulances in the last financial year making the total existing fleets of ambulances to twelve which has since referred 1, 857 patients out of which 945 beloved mothers who could have died of obstetric emergencies were saved. Due to our close proximity to porous border with Somalia we have been experiencing spread of diseases across the border. In the period under review we had outbreaks of cholera three times, in Kutulo with 278 cases and one death, Takaba with 56 cases and zero death and Dandu with 21 cases and zero death. The reason for the successful control of the outbreak was as a result of putting right mitigation measures and active surveillance and response system in place.

Mandera County Government has had a fair share of challenges with sole supplier of essential medical Supplies (KEMSA). KEMSA has never met our supply needs as far as our requisition orders are concerned. Every time orders are placed, the highest percentage of an order that they have ever supplied is 60% which has always left us with a gap of 40% in every order. This has put a lot of pressure on our health facilities in terms of stock levels. In the last quarter

we paid KEMSA a total of Kshs 92 Million for previous supplies and placed an order of Kshs 63 Million for the current quarter, but the deliveries of supplies still have the same shortcomings.

Ministry of Health had 19 proposed development projects (4 OPDs, 9 Dispensaries, 1 Theatre, 3 Maternity units and 2 Accident and Emergency Centers) which have since been completed successfully. Out of the 19 projects, 7 have already been operationalized. In protecting the members of the public from effects of hazardous medical wastes and in safeguarding the natural environment, we have operationalized three waste management facilities at Mandera County Referral Hospital.

Due to inadequate specialists in the county and the high need of specialist services by the communities, the County Government has partnered with AMREF for Cleft lip and palate repair medical camp that benefited 34 clients and with WARDA for an eye camp that saw 700 patients screened, 505 treated and 168 patients successfully operated on at Mandera County Referral Hospital. In addition through MES project, the county Government has established and operationalized CT scan with a telemedicine connection to a Radiologist based in Nairobi for purposes of reading the results at Mandera Referral Hospital which has since benefited 443 patients.

Mr. Speaker, in the area of Health Management Information System which forms the basis of monitoring and evaluation of health care, we have improved through procurement of standard reporting tools for each of the operational health facilities in the county. This has enabled the health sector to track the performance targets set to address its objectives. Automation of health information at Mandera County Referral Hospital is under way and will soon be paper-less records. The same has been planned to be rolled out in all other Hospitals in the Sub Counties.

Mr. Speaker, Hon. Members, in the Ministry of Education, Sports, Culture and Tourism: The Department of Education, Sports & Culture is committed to enhancing access to equity, quality and relevant education at all levels. It is also committed in enhancing access to technical and vocational education training with a view to providing skilled and globally competitive employable human resource in line with the Mandera County Integrated Development Plan and Kenya Vision 2030. The Early Childhood and Development Education is one of the functions fully devolved, as provided under Schedule 4 of the Constitution, 2010. The Mandera County Government has invested in the ECDE sector, which has 230 public ECDE Centers with an enrolment of over 20,000 learners, manned by 530 ECDE teachers. In 2019, 260 students from the ECDE College in Mandera sat for the exams administered by the Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC). Out of this number, 105 completed ECDE Proficiency Exams, 98 completed the Certificate level whereas 57 students completed their diplomas.

As part of our Transformative Program the department has been offering a number of scholarship programs to students wishing to pursue various careers. This year, the Ministry will be disbursing Kenya Shillings One Hundred and Ten Million (Kshs 110,000,000) bursary fund to support bright and poor students to pursue specialized courses like teaching, medicine and technical courses.

Hon. Speaker, Mandera Technical Training Institute has an enrolment of 320 students. 227 are male and 93 are female. Mandera County Government has invested heavily in Mandera Technical Training Institute to empower the youth in line with my manifesto of expanding it to a world-class university of science and technology. The County Government has already allocated 50 acres of land to the institution. So far we have already invested over 300 million shillings to upgrade the institution.

In addition, the County has six operational vocational training centers namely Mandera, Fino, El-wak, Rhamu, Takaba and Banisa. The centers provide technical courses, including

dressmaking and tailoring, motor vehicle mechanic, plumbing, welding and fabrication, building technology, electrical installation, hairdressing and beauty therapy, ICT and carpentry.

Hon. Members, let me briefly talk about Sports, Culture and Creative Arts. Mandera County has a rich cultural heritage. The County Government encourages the preservation of this heritage and culture. This year in July, Insha'Allah we shall host our annual Mandera Cultural Festival. This will be a 3-day cultural extravaganza featuring traditional songs, dances, poems, and games escorted with traditional Somali foods and drinks.

Mr. Speaker Sir, Hon. Members, under the Ministry of Trade, Industrialization and Cooperatives we embarked on County Business Mapping. The Ministry has developed a sample template for businesses and conducted business registration for all businesses in Mandera East, Mandera South, Kutulo and Lafey sub-counties, and a total of five thousand two hundred and sixteen (5,216) businesses were registered. The data is currently in the process of being analyzed into different categories once all data from the remaining three sub-counties is received. This will enable us to understand and design appropriate strategies and solutions to support them.

The Mandera County Trade Fund was established by the Mandera County Trade Development Fund Act, 2014 as enacted into law to finance SMEs at county level for economic growth. The fund was launched last July, with a kitty of Kenya shillings 368 milion (three hundred and sixty-eight million). In the financial year 2019-2020 Kshs 50 million will be distributed across the 30 Wards.

The fund Board composed of 8 members and the 7 Sub-County committees composed of 7 members per Sub County have been recruited and gazetted. A call for applications was launched in September, 2019. The applications were tailor-made and serialized for each ward and have been distributed to all the 30 wards. The disbursement of the fund is planned for March 2020 Insha'Allah.

Hon. Speaker, the Department of Cooperative Development has conducted training and development for the people of Mandera leading to the formation of many new cooperatives in the last five months. A total of sixty-three (63) new proposed cooperatives from Lafey, Banisa and Kutulo sub-counties has been undertaken and forwarded to the State Department of Cooperatives for registration and twenty-three were successfully registered. The Department has now embarked on online registration of new Co-operatives to enhance and ease the process of registration. Eighty (80) new cooperatives have been operationalized and thirty six (36) inactive ones have been revived. So far, a total of one hundred and fifty eight (158) co-operatives have been registered plus thirty nine (39) SACCOs.

Mr. Speaker Sir, Hon. Members, under Ministry of Public Service, Conflict Management, & Devolved units, we have Strengthened Human Resource operations and control by constructing a modern registry with security safeguards. We have also carried out Staff Biometric Registration to weed out ghost workers. We have carried out capacity building and logistical facilitation for our staff.

Mr. Speaker Sir, Hon. Members, Mandera is one of the two counties who pride themselves in having a county band. We have offered training of 45 members of the band unit of enforcement at Kenyatta University and kitted them to grace our county and national occasions. In a bid to offer services better we purchased motor vehicles for sub counties of Kutulo and Mandera North sub and embarked on construction of El-wak, Kutulo, and Takaba sub county offices with first already completed and ready for occupation. 17 new ward offices have been constructed and operationalized.

Mr. Speaker Sir, in the Department of Cohesion and Integration we have proactively continued with our program of integrating our communities in partnership with other stake holders.

Mr. Speaker Sir, Hon. Members, under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, our efforts to promote and facilitate production of food continues to yield fruits. Our focus this year is geared towards reducing the cost of production through support to farmers by providing farm inputs, up-scaling of area under cultivation, provides effective extension services and promotion of value addition and Agro-processing.

Hon. Members, as a strategy to improve food security, and as part of the Big 4 National Agenda, the county government through the department of livestock and fisheries has vaccinated 1,076,566 animals against PPR, pneumonia, Rift valley fever and black quarter diseases which often threaten our animals. We stocked enough de-wormers and antibiotics to respond to emergencies including disease screening kits. The department of veterinary services has shifted to digital platform for disease reporting through the Kenya Livestock and Wildlife Syndromic surveillance system (KLWSS) which is a mobile platform in collaboration with Washington State University.

Hon. Members, through the support of World Bank, the Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture and Mandera County is one of the biggest beneficiaries of the competitive fund. We received Kshs 200 million grant towards improving resilience of our famers and pastoralists. We have already received the initial fund of Kshs76 million in November last year and disbursed to the community interest groups and vulnerable groups.

As a strategy to improve food security, the department of Irrigation has embarked on two critical projects of turning rain fed farms into year round farms through the construction of a mega dam in Kutulo for the irrigation of 400 acres of land under year round irrigation. The project is progressing well with the dam already completed and has collected over 250000m3 of water. The second project is that of connecting the first 400 acres of rain fed farms in Koromey with water infrastructure from the River. This pilot project is also progressing well. Once completed and operationalized successfully we intend to extend it to other sub-counties Insha'Allah.

Mr. Speaker Sir, Hon. Members, under the Ministry of Youth, Gender and Social Services: - We purchased and distributed 126 sewing machines, 16 fridges, 120 wheelchairs and 150 crutches to women and PWDs. We have also purchased and distributed 1160 goats to 116 vulnerable households through restocking program In addition to giving Kenya shillings 15million grant to orphanage centres. In an effort geared towards mainstreaming the plight of Persons Leaving with Disabilities, we have constructed and completed Mandera Disability Resource centre for the use by PWDs. We have constructed 816 housing units for the most vulnerable families and now fully in use. In order to rehabilitate and protect our communities against the negative impact of drug abuse we have constructed Mandera Rehabilitation Center which is at its final stage of completion.

Mr. Speaker Sir, Hon. Members, our Ministry of Lands has made tremendous achievements in transforming land management and development as follows; The County government inherited analogue land records marred with cases of data loss, illegal manipulation and loss of revenue. However, the launching of Land Information Management System (LIMS) in October, 2019 has improved data integrity and revenue generation. About 6,542 plot records have been digitized and secured in the system. The system security is guaranteed and cases of loss of land records or double registration will be a thing of the past.

Most importantly revenue generation has doubled since the exercise of digitization commenced in October. A total of Ksh11 million was collected within three months compared to 6 million collected over the same period before the digital system was launched. Plans are currently underway to roll out the digital system to all sub-counties. The completion of the lands

registry office block in Mandera and El-wak is a milestone towards cutting costs and enhancing data safety as well as improved working environment for land officers.

We are at advanced stage in urban planning for our towns. In this regard, the plans for El-wak, Kutulo, and Mandera have been completed awaiting the approval of this House. At this juncture I would like to request you to fast track the approval so that we can implement this phase 1 and roll out phase two urban planning for the remaining sub-counties.

In partnership with the Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Housing we have identified 35 informal settlements and 23 of the settlements have been approved by the department of Housing and Urban Development for upgrading under the KISIP project.

Hon. Members, under Ministry Roads, Transport and Public Works; After devolution Mandera county has made tremendous gains in the public infrastructure sector. Some of the milestones covered are: Bitumen Roads (Mandera Town roads- 24Km) complete with a bridge and a box culvert. Additional box culverts have been completed and in use while two other box culverts are under construction at corner B and Takaba. We have also constructed over 1500KMs to all-weather murrum roads including over 70 drifts. We have constructed El-wak Airstrip, and are in the process of fencing and construction of terminal building at Takaba airstrips. In addition, over 450km of new unclassified roads have been successfully opened through grading and bush clearing works.

Hon. Speaker, Hon. Members, through strategic lobbying and persuasive negotiation with National Government we have benefitted from many departments like KeNHA, KURA and KeRRA directly by getting the following roads either finished or ongoing: -

- 1) 140 KM tarmac road Elwak- Rhamu A13 Road through KeNHA
- 2) 11.2km Tarmac Road within Mandera Town Road through KURA
- 3) 90 KM tarmac road Odha to Danaba/ Qofole through KeNHA
- 4) 60KM of low volume seal Roads from Mandera – Arabia KeRRA
- 5) 175KM all-weather Murrum Road through KeRRA
- 6) Isiolo –Mandera 740km through GoK and the World Bank.

These roads have massively enhanced business movement and economic growth within county with the view of unlocking their unlimited opportunities in business sectors.

Hon. Members, the following major storm water drainage works was also undertaken this include; Protection works of storm water drainage in Mandera Town. Our Public Works department has been overseeing implementation of mega projects across the county. There has been designing, supervising, structural works, electrical and mechanical services for the county building projects.

The following are the key projects supervised by public works team:- County Headquarters, Governor's residence, Deputy Governor's residence, County assembly, County Rest House, MANDWASCO Office block, Mandera Municipality Office Block, Mandera Technical Training Institute, KMTC, Modern slaughter House, Regional Livestock Market, Sub-County Headquarters and Kutulo Level IV Hospitals among others.

Hon. Members, in the County Treasury, we continue to build on the prudent financial management that we have put in place for effective service delivery to our people. We continue to make significant progresses on several fronts. As you may be aware Mandera County Government was recently ranked second (2) out of forty seven Counties (47) in procurement compliance. This is definitely is not a mean feat taking into consideration the complexity of procurement laws and poor network infrastructure in our county.

In the last financial year, our revenue collection was the highest of the last seven years the County Government has been in office. We managed to collect Kshs 95 million. We are

currently in the final stage of the full revenue automation and with the on-going digitization of the land records as well as several other reforms in the revenue sector. We expect to significantly improve our collection in the current financial year.

In planning department, we are currently developing our first ever Indicator Hand Book, County Statistical Profile as well as implementation of County Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System (CIMES). When fully completed, these systems will provide clear visibility of all the key indicators for all the ministries, the achievements of devolution and all on-going government programs and projects throughout the county.

Our new look website too is now online and we expect to launch it in the next two or so weeks. The new look county website will act as an avenue for engagement with the public in terms of public awareness of all government activities and projects. It has a well-planned information architecture and well formatted content. It has used the latest technology available, is mobile friendly, browser consistent and loads fast. We have built our new website with the public in mind. The streamlined user interface provides a more interactive experience, allowing the public and other government entities and external stakeholders to easily peruse through the information they are looking for.

Hon. Members, the County Public Service Board is tasked with the responsibility of establishing and abolishing offices in the County Public Service beside other broad mandate.

Hon. Members, the county workforce currently stands at 2,775 .This number is inclusive of permanent, contractual and casual staff .The number of Health workers have increased from 150 before Devolution to the current 849. Recently we have added 17 medical officers to help in up scaling universal Health coverage programme bringing our total number of Doctors to 55 up from 3 at the advent of devolution.

Hon. Members, you are aware that in the year 2019, the County Public Service Board recruited over 700 persons in various capacities from over 5000 job applicants. However, members of the public complained that the process was not above board and the Board cancelled recruitment exercise of May 2019 relying on the advisory from Mandera County Cabinet and Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission. Our community is turning to be very litigant society where every decision of the Government is challenged in court. My Government will continue to comply with the provision of the law in exercising its responsibilities and consider fair competition, merit, community of interest, consideration of interest of minority and marginalized during recruitment as an overriding factor in any job opportunities. Mandera County Government will ever remain committed to giving employment consideration to all Kenyans in its Public Service in a competitive and transparent manner.

We are alive to the fact that, because of our geopolitical set up and the challenges of insecurity, Mandera County Government remains the sole employer and my administration is committed in addressing the challenges of unemployment among the youth in the county as realistically and as affordably as possible. We shall recruit as we maintain prudence towards optimal staffing levels which should not exceed the recommended level of 35% of our budget. In order to enable the board to function properly, my government will prioritize construction of office block for the County Public Service Board in the financial year 2020/2021.

Hon. Speaker, Hon. Members, to manage rapid urbanization, we continue to strengthen Mandera Municipality to ensure efficient delivery of services to the residents. Since its inception, the Municipality has undergone tremendous growth where we have devolved roles through a gazette notice and seconded technical staff totaling to 53 officers and 1,300 casual workers who are drawn from the most vulnerable members of our community who are majorly women engaged in caring for our beautiful trees and solid waste management.

Through our strategic proposal to the British government through DFID we qualified for a fund called the Sustainable Urban Economic Development (SUED). The programme will assist the Municipality through development of an economic plan that will identify value chain projects that are climate resilient and create jobs for our youth, capacity building and seed capital to fund two projects. To position Mandera Municipality to execute its mandate efficiently we have constructed an ultra-modern fire station and Municipal office complex in a deliberate move to position Mandera Municipality, which is next to our current County Headquarters. We are fully equipping the fire station by recruiting more fire crews, purchasing more firefighting equipment and trucks to enhance emergency fire response capacity. Going forward, we intend to build the capacity of Mandera Municipality further by devolving more staff, roles and resources to the optimal level for efficient and effective service delivery.

Hon. Speaker and Hon. Members, we have submitted a Charter for El-wak Town as our second Municipality in the County. The creation of this Municipality will be a legacy for the second County Assembly of Mandera. We have decided to pick El-wak because it is the second biggest and oldest town after Mandera town and the plan is ready awaiting the approval of this honorable house. El-wak meets most of the conditions for granting a municipal status. It has a population of over 50,000 people, it has a spatial plan, has land for expansion and is able to generate revenue to run its operations. I request this House to expedite the process so that we achieve the principle of devolution of taking services closer to the citizens.

Under Ministry of Water, Energy and Environment according to the KIHBS 2005/2006, 34.6% of population had access to safe drinking water as compared to the national figure which at the time stood at 57%. We have improved this situation through constructions of dams, pans, boreholes, underground water tanks and water reticulation. Currently our water security situation is 69.31% and our rural population now has access to reliable sources of water supply while 68% of the County's population now has access to reliable water supply services.

Mandera County Government has revived Mandera Water and Sewerage Company (MANDWASCO) and mandated it to take its rightful responsibility. The construction of new modern office for MANDWASCO is now complete and the company is expected to fully relocate to the office in next quarter of this Financial Year. The supply of water in Mandera town has improved both in quantity and quality over the last one year due to the following intervention undertaken with the help of grant from the county:

1. Extension of distribution lines in Mandera Town to reach new customers;
2. Replacements of Rising mains (5Kms) to improve reliability as the old mains were affected by the tarmac road;
3. Construction of four new water galleries and full rehabilitation of five existing galleries which increased our water capacity from 700 to 2,200 CM per day;
4. Replacement of high lift pumping set (2 in Suftu and 2 in Neboi) as the old pumps were unable to deliver, thereby achieving 24 hours pumping;
5. Water storage facility has been improved through rehabilitation of water tanks at Neboi, Suftu, Handadu, Rest House and Treasury. A new tank has been completed at Township and Buruburu Primary school to increase coverage area;
6. To support the pro-poor program, we have rehabilitated and operationalized 10 water kiosks in Mandera Municipality;
7. We have replaced old distribution pipelines which were worn out due to lack of use for a long time and thereby increased the connections from 496 to 1820 active household connections and 35 institutions. We are on course to increase this number to 4,200 by the end of the year as per the target.

We have successfully lobbied the National Government through the Ministry of Energy in partnership with the World Bank who will finance 30 Mini-grid solar stations in Mandera County. Each of our wards will benefit from a solar station which is expected to increase lighting within households and to open up small scale businesses for our youths.

Mr. Speaker Sir, Hon. Members, one of the soothing features of Mandera Municipality is our greening efforts and the streets lined with nice green trees. Through the afforestation programme in which over 100,000 tree seedlings have been planted, nurtured and maintained. We have distributed over 100,000 tree seedlings to households and public institutions to enhance forest cover. This year we will mark the World Environment Day in a special way. I have instructed the Ministry in charge to prepare at least 100,000 seedlings for distribution on 5th of June during The World Environment Day as we continue the education of the public on the importance of environment and their moral responsibility of environmental protection and afforestation.

We are in the process of formulating policy document titled ‘Mandera County Climate Change and Adaption Bill’ which we will present before this House to enact as law and position Mandera to benefit from Climate Change Funding and partnerships with non-state actors.

Lastly, we have officially started the final second half of our current term. For those of you that are lucky as MCAs without a term limit, I am sure you are already looking at 2022 anxiously. For those of us who are not lucky as you and we have a term limit, we are serving a final and we are planning to ensure our county will run smoothly without any hitches as we integrate all communities in Mandera. My advice to you is to make the best out of the second and final half of current term by getting along respectfully, carrying out your responsibilities with decorum and thinking the best for Mandera. A national programme (BBI) is ongoing; we must support it and where necessary find inclusion on on-going debate on constitutional reforms. We should all stand together as leaders of this county and be counted with H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta on BBI.

With those brief remarks, thank you.

NOTICE OF MOTION

THANKS FOR THE GOVERNOR’S ADDRESS

The Speaker (Hon. M. A. Khalif): Leader of Minority

Hon. Jimale Abdi (Guba): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to the provision of Standing Order 23 (4), I seek to move that the thanks of the County Assembly be recorded for the exposition of public policy contained in the address of the Governor.

Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker (Hon. M. A. Khalif): Thank you, Your Excellency for your brief remarks. Hon. Members, we have to come to the end of today’s sitting, the House is adjourned to Tuesday, 25th February, 2020 at 9 a.m. The House is adjourned.