

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

MACHAKOS COUNTY ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Second Assembly – Fourth Session

(Second Assembly established by Proclamation - Legal Notice No.1 of 30.8.2017)

Tuesday, 18th February, 2020

OPENING OF A NEW SESSION

The County Assembly met at thirty four minutes past Ten o'clock at County Assembly Building on Tuesday, 18th February, 2020, it being the first day of the Fourth Session.

ARRIVAL OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

[His Excellency the Governor (Dr. Alfred Mutua) escorted by the Speaker (Hon. (Mrs.) Mwangangi) and accompanied by the Mace of the County Assembly entered the Chamber at thirty four minutes past Ten o'clock]

[His Excellency the Governor (Dr. Alfred Mutua) took the Chair]

(The Mace of the County Assembly was placed on the Table)

PRAYERS

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

OPENING OF THE FOURTH SESSION

Your Excellency the Governor, Dr. Alfred Mutua
Hon. Members of our Assembly,
The County Secretary, CECs and other officers of the County Government present,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Good morning and welcome all.

Your Excellency the Governor, it is my pleasure to welcome you and the team from the County Executive accompanying to this opening of the Fourth Session of Machakos County Assembly.

Your Excellency, I also take this opportunity welcome the Members of this Assembly back to work; I trust that you have had a fruitful interaction with your electorates and that you also rested and ready for another grueling session in selfless service to the people.

In the intervening period and as was reported in sections of the press, there was a “handshake” between Your Excellency and His Excellency the former Vice President and Wiper Party Leader Hon. Dr. Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka.

(Applause)

The significance of that gesture is to be seen in the light that Your Excellency, you are the Leader of the Minority party in this Assembly while His Excellency Dr. Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka is the Leader of the Majority Party in this Assembly.

It has always been my vision, Your Excellency, that there be peace in Machakos County and indeed you have witnessed in the past two years, I have had prayer sessions held every time we start session of this Assembly in pursuit of peace from the Almighty.

So, Your Excellency, when you had that gesture of the handshake, it gave hope to the people of Machakos and more so to this Assembly that it will be able to transact its business in a peaceful manner.

(Applause)

Your Excellency, it should be noted that it is only when there is peace that there can be meaningful, equitable development throughout the County and Your Excellency, the Assembly will demand full implementation by Your Excellency and your team of the budgets approved by the Assembly in service to the people.

(Applause)

As you deal with the issue of pending bills, Your Excellency, the Assembly expects that you will also find with your team within the finances that are available to carry on the development that has been started particularly on the Ksh. 10 million and Ksh. 15 million ward equitable development funding.

On today's event today, Your Excellency, Standing Order 18(1) provides that the Governor shall address a special sitting of the Assembly once every year and may address the Assembly at any other time. Pursuant to that Standing Order, Your Excellency, the Assembly Leadership requested that we invite you today to address the Assembly during the opening of the Fourth Session and we thank you for coming.

(Applause)

Your Excellency and Hon. Members, the House was set to open on 11th February, 2020 but then we had the unfortunate passing on of the former Second President of the Republic of Kenya H.E. Daniel Toroitich arap Moi. The Assembly here found it fit to adjourn the opening that week so that they could participate in the programmes that are related to the burial of that late former President.

So, Hon. Members, it came today that we are opening the Fourth Session and we are glad that we are able to start it. Your Excellency and Hon. Members, Standing Order 20(3) provides that when delivering an address to the Assembly, the Governor shall be heard in silence and the address shall not be followed by any comment or question.

So, Hon. Members, I believe you are accordingly guided and at this point, I take the opportunity to invite H.E the Governor to address the Assembly. Welcome Your Excellency.

(Applause)

THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS

His Excellency the Governor (Dr. Alfred Mutua): Madam Speaker, Hon. Members, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is with great pleasure that I stand here today to open yet another session of the Machakos County Assembly. I stand here proud to be from Machakos, from Ukambani region and from our great nation of Kenya; *kweli najivunia kuwa Mkenya*.

Madam Speaker, today, my remarks will be short because I will avail myself later to this important House to deliver my State of the County Address. As we start another important session, I only have three main theme points based on the following premises; where are we, where are we going and how do we get there?

Madam Speaker, I am a lucky Governor, because Machakos has what I believe and know to be the most intelligent, focused and patriotic Members of County Assembly.

(Applause)

When I listen to my colleagues' lament about their Speakers and Members of County Assembly, I feel sorry for them and wish them well. Machakos *tuko sawa* and both the Executive and County Assembly undertake their responsibilities very seriously.

Therefore, congratulations Madam Speaker, for one, being elected to a national seat which we are very much proud of and for steering this House in the right direction as per the law and constitution. You make us proud. Now, where are we as a county and as a people of Machakos?

It is without doubt that the Machakos of 2012 and the Machakos of today 2020 are very different. Since I took over as Governor in 2013, we have initiated amazing growth in all sectors; roads, water, energy, agriculture and health to mention a few.

It is a fact that we have built more tarmac roads and graded more roads than any other county in Kenya. While others for example have sunk 15 boreholes and 10 dams, we have newly 500 boreholes and over 450 dams, pans and weirs spread across all our wards. Machakos was a dark region but today nearly 2,000 street lights and *Mulika Mwizis* light our towns and villages *na mambo bado*.

Our towns have grown especially our capital Machakos and urban areas in Mavoko due to our investment in tourism; the People's Park, stadium, activities such as the Tour De Machakos and the creation of an enabling environment for businesses.

It is not by accident that majority of the National Government's affordable housing projects are being constructed in Machakos County and Foreign Direct Investments in terms of manufacturing and other companies are making Machakos their first, second and third choices. Why? Because, we are the only county with a Cancer Research and Treatment Centre.

(Applause)

Furthermore, if by bad luck you are involved in a road accident or get suddenly ill, your chances of survival are higher in Machakos County than any other region because we have ambulances that respond between three and eight minutes and have health facilities that have been upgraded to provide quality health care. Universal Health Care is working well in Machakos County, *mambo iko sawa*.

Madam Speaker, Hon. Members, I could go on and on, but these Hon. Members represent wards and they have seen what we have been able to achieve. Hon. Members of this House travel to other counties and they compare what has been achieved elsewhere and what we have done and are continuing to do in Machakos. *Wanjua kwamba hapa mambo iko sawa*.

Madam Speaker, Hon. Members, Ladies and Gentlemen, more important than what we have achieved is where we are going. Through collaboration with this House so as to capture the wishes of our people, we are currently implementing development projects targeted in setting the ground for wealth creation.

Currently, our country Kenya is struggling economically. Figures of high economic growth are not being felt on the ground. There appears to be a disconnect between Treasury figures and the reality of our people who are broke and living from hand to mouth. My Government's plan for Machakos is to set us on an economic growth path that enables us to generate revenue and speed up services and development projects.

To this end, my government's focus is to invest in infrastructure works such as roads, bridges, stadiums, markets and even airports so as to lay the foundation for taxing and take-off.

Access to education, Madam Speaker, is a main contributor to why all of us are privileged to serve today. My government is working closely with the National Government to improve the standards of education for our children. We will soon be holding an education sector symposium to strategize and come up with ways of improving the standards of education for our people.

Our children will not study well if they are hungry. Food security is very important. I am proud that due to our various agricultural initiatives such as free seeds, free chickens, subsidized fertilizers, free ploughing, quarter acre program, many dams and weirs for irrigation among others, Machakos is no longer in the list of regions that are given food relief. This is a remarkable score that shows that clear strategies, well executed, do work. *Kweli mambo iko sawa*.

Madam Speaker, Hon. Members, my dream to transform Machakos from a Third World to a First World region is still alive. I am confident that despite the many challenges we face, our will, dedication and strategy are sound and we will be able to transform the lives of our people.

Let me make it clear that everything is not 100 per cent perfect. Our projects, may they be roads, boreholes and even schools, face challenges as is the case in all counties. My government will continue to work and rectify any problems that arise. Let us work together to correct any problems as we improve our systems to make them more efficient and productive.

(Applause)

We are well versed due to our stability to deal with calamities and challenges. Even locusts know that when they come to Machakos, we are ready for them.

(Laughter)

As I wind down, Madam Speaker, we have a few challenges that I plan to deal with and ask for your support. First is the issues of abuse of Wananchi and other land matters have to be tackled and you will soon see me making tough decisions to ensure fairness and upholding of the law.

Secondly, our revenue collection is not what should be. My government has already adopted a few strategies to improve this and I thank this House for passing the current Finance Act which we are implementing.

(Applause)

It is important to raise our revenue, not only to meet the rising demands but also to fund the ongoing program to clear pending bills, something that I fully support.

Madam Speaker, Hon. Members, if you are like me, you probably receive phone calls and messages daily from our youth asking you to “fix” them somewhere with a job or a loan that you know will never be repaid. The high levels of unemployment in our country Kenya are alarming. We really have to grow the economy and expand opportunities.

To this end, we have planned a Machakos Youth Empowerment Conference to be held tomorrow, 19th February, 2020 at the Machakos People’s Park. I invite all of you to join me as we support the youth of Machakos and Ukambani.

(Applause)

As I conclude, there are many issues I could have discussed today but as I said earlier, I will, on invitation, be back to address this House on other issues. I encourage this House to generate Bills and to pass the various Bills emanating from my government so that we can lay a firm foundation for our Machakos County.

Finally, Madam Speaker, Hon. Members, our county is at crossroads. We have the Building Bridges Initiative to cure our country from traditional and negative politics and spur economic growth. As you are aware, I support the BBI and will continue to be part of the team working on the proposals to ensure our people get maximum benefits from it.

(Applause)

To this end, I wish to reiterate, that I will be on the ballot in 2022 running to be the President of this country. As I campaign and position myself politically, I am willing to work together with all and I mean all Ukambani leaders to ensure the success of BBI and the development of our people. I request for your support.

Now Madam Speaker, Hon. Members, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my pleasure to declare the Fourth Session of the Second Assembly officially open. I do so by declaring the following three words that should form the spirit of our work. *Mbele iko sawa.*

(Applause)

Thank you; God bless you, God bless Machakos and God bless our amazing country Kenya.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you very much, Your Excellency. It is just because you are a guest; usually when you start speaking in English, in the Assembly, you speak in English throughout; you do not mix with Kiswahili.

(Laughter)

We gave you the leeway because you are a guest.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Members, at this point, the House is adjourned and it is going to resume on 18th February, 2020 at 2.30 p.m. have a good day.

The House rose at 10.52 a.m.