

# REPUBLIC OF KENYA

## MACHAKOS COUNTY ASSEMBLY

### OFFICIAL REPORT

#### Second Assembly – Fifth Session

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

**Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2021**

#### 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 forty five minutes past Eleven 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

##### STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS BY H.E. THE GOVERNOR

Hon. Members, Your Excellency Dr. Alfred Mutua, the County CEC members with us, the County Attorney, Ladies and Gentlemen and members of the Fourth Estate; good morning and welcome to you all.

Today, Your Excellency, at this particular moment, I take pleasure to welcome you and your team to this sitting which we regard as a special sitting because you have agreed to grace the occasion. I welcome members back from the short recess that they went for and I want to commend you members that for the period of the short recess. I have noted your desire to keep your people safe and to continue serving them even in very difficult circumstances.

I would still remind you Members that you continue being true to the public health protocols as they were set out by the President in his last order and as guided by the ministry of health.

Your Excellency and Hon. Members and Hon. DG, I wish to pass the apologies of the Senator of the Senator of Machakos County Hon. Agnes Kavindu. She had also been invited to join us in this special sitting but she had to attend to duty outside the country in a very short notice. Your Excellency she would have made the occasion even better under the Standing Order 20(2) of this Assembly Standing Orders flagging you as you gave your speech to this Assembly but that has not been possible. We believe it will be another day.

Hon. Members, Standing Order 18(1) of the Assembly Standing Orders provides that the Governor shall address a special sitting of the Assembly once every year and may address the

Assembly at any other time. Hon. Members, pursuant to this provision, the Assembly requested His Excellency the Governor to attend this sitting today and address us. I really thank him for agreeing to so attend.

Hon. Members, I just wish to remind you that 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.

Hon. Members, before I invite the Governor to address this sitting, I take the opportunity to remind you Members of your oath of service. You are required to defend the constitution but top most you are required to serve the people. 57 years ago when this country got independence, the late President and the founding Father of this nation gave three enemies that we needed to defeat as a nation and that is poverty, disease and ignorance.

We have not yet defeated those enemies. We have tried as a Nation by bringing on board the principle of devolution and that is why we are here; we are children of devolution. This is to remind you Hon. Members that as we still have those three enemies, at the back of our minds we have more challenges brought about by the era of we are living in; the Covid-19 and the hardships it has created amongst the masses that we represent.

The Jubilee government brought up the Big 4 Agenda and we are still intended to serve those three enemies that we identified at independence. So Hon. Members, always remember that you are sitting on that seat because you are required to serve the people and everything we do including the speech that we are going to listen to from His Excellency, let us look through that speech and see how we are serving the purpose of eradicating poverty and disease, a little bit of ignorance amongst our masses and let us see how we can through the speech and foster the Big 4 Agenda.

Thank you very much. Hon. Members, I now take this opportunity welcoming His Excellency the Governor to give us his speech for the benefit of the people that we represent. Thank you very much, Members. Your Excellency.

*(Applause)*

### **THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS**

Good morning. Thank you Madam Speaker; I am not as technologically hooked up like that with a laptop. I am going to read from a paper which is good and I am glad to be here. Madam Speaker, Hon. Members I am going to give a speech that is going to be a little longer than my normal speeches; it is a very important speech and I take it very seriously. Not too long but maybe like 15 to 20 minutes at the maximum.

Madam Speaker, Hon. Members of County Assembly and distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, the great Nelson Mandela summed up why we are all here today when he said, and I quote, "What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of life we lead."

I stand before you as a leader, addressing other leaders who have been given a responsibility to serve and to improve the lives of our people. I also stand before you as a proud son of Ukambani; Machakos, Makueni and Kitui and one who believes that the solutions to the challenges we face will come from us. As Dr. John C. Maxwell put it, "everything rises and falls in leadership."

The question I have for all of us today is, what have we, what have I, what have you done to make a significant mark that has changed the lives of our people. Madam Speaker, Hon.

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Members, Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank God for according me the opportunity to serve as the first Governor of Machakos County.

When I was running for office back in 2012/2013, I unveiled a Manifesto with development pledges that I planned to undertake to change the lives of our people. Today, I wish to give you a score card of where we were and where we are today, so that we can plan effectively where we want to go.

Madam Speaker, Hon. Members, Ladies and Gentlemen, let me first begin by thanking you, the Second Assembly for the role you have played in representation and making laws that have enabled us to implement our mandate. I also thank you for the zealous manner in which you have played your oversight duties. Indeed this has enabled us to streamline many of our operations to keep them in line with the needs of our people and the dictates of the law.

Madam Speaker, Hon. Members, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am delivering this state of the county address in the midst of the global corona pandemic which begun in early 2020. As you are aware, this pandemic has caused major disruption in our day to day lives. It has stretched our health systems and disrupted our socio-economic and even political lives. Our people have lost jobs as a result and businesses have shut down. You are also aware that Machakos has been one of the most hit counties in the Republic of Kenya and also we have lost quite a number of our people to this terrible disease. Despite this, all is not gloomy.

I wish to thank the Hon. Members of this Assembly, members of my government, and even officials of the national government working in Machakos, because our county has had the most coordinated response systems to this pandemic. I also wish to thank the good people of Machakos because a majority of us have heeded to the set health guidelines and protocols.

Madam Speaker, Hon. Members, Ladies and Gentlemen, before I enumerate the steps that we have taken to protect and treat our people from the pandemic, allow me to remind us of where we have come from.

Madam Speaker, I was elected as the first Governor of Machakos in 2013. In my campaign manifesto, I promised our people that I would tackle the basics of life; the issues you have just talked about, Madam Speaker, of ignorance and other problems that we face like diseases and such, in order to give our county a firm foundation for quality life and socio-economic takeoff.

Madam speaker, in my manifesto, I identified healthcare, provision of water, education, investments for job creation, food security, infrastructure as well as security for our lives and property as key pillars of the basics that we needed to tackle.

For example, when I became Governor in 2013, and most of you will attest to this; when you were walking around Machakos, you were hit with a foul smell nearly 200 meters from the gate of the then Machakos General Hospital. Patients were sharing beds at times three to a bed, all suffering from different ailments. Our facilities had no water, were dirty and provided very poor treatment.

Our county, with more than 1.2 million people then, had about four ambulances and none was functioning. Pregnant mothers were being ferried by wheelbarrows and the sick were being bundled on *mkokotenis*, children were born *by* the roadside and named Nzilani or Mwanzia. We were in a pathetic state.

As you are aware health is a fully devolved function. Provision of healthcare is a human right under our constitution and international treaties. As I have highlighted above, our

healthcare was in shambles; our women were giving birth by the roadside and the statistics for women who gave birth through the assistance of a trained health professional were alarming.

Women could not get to hospitals because there was no transport to take them to the hospitals and that is why they were giving birth by the roadside. I immediately bought 70 van ambulances one for each location, and 10 motorcycle ambulances for the hilly and informal settlement areas. Recently we added another five High Dependency ambulances.

Madam Speaker, in order to ensure health services are close to our people, we have opened 38 new dispensaries, 13 new health centers, and 15 new community hospitals, each with maternity, mini theater and x-ray services across the county.

*(Applause)*

We have also upgraded to have a Level 4 hospital in each of our nine sub counties, moving from the initial three that we found in 2013. Madam Speaker, healthcare cannot be provided without qualified healthcare professionals. The statistics show that there was a huge gap between the recommended WHO healthcare cadre to population ratio, and the workforce on the ground. This is why, I initiated reforms that have ensured employment and doubled our health workforce from 1,338 personnel in 2013, to 2,913 currently. This spreads across specialists, doctors, pharmacists, nurses, clinical officers, medical laboratory professionals, counselors, among others.

*(Applause)*

Madam Speaker, the reforms we initiated in the health sector have made Machakos to be recognized both nationally and internationally. Many local and international universities are now using our hospital for teaching and research. We are the only county in Kenya to have installed a Cancer Care & Research Centre.

*(Applause)*

Today, our mothers and other patients, no longer have to share beds in the maternity and hospital wards respectively, our modern Cancer Treatment and Research Centre and Renal Unit provide affordable lifesaving testing and treatment to our residents and we have distributed health services to all corners of the county.

I want to thank this Hon. House because you have approved our budgetary allocations and as a result our citizens are still enjoying medical services under the Universal Healthcare (UHC) programme. Indeed, I am proud to say that we are the only county in Kenya and perhaps in East Africa if not in East and Central Africa or even the entire Africa that you will find a fully equipped and functional ambulance in every administrative area.

*(Applause)*

To date, our ambulances have responded to over 693,000 emergency cases.

*(Applause)*

What does this mean to all of us here? Maybe, the questions should be, Where do you get 100 per cent Universal Health Care in Kenya? Only in Machakos. Where in Kenya do you have new community hospitals meeting World Health Organization access standards? Only in Machakos.

*(Applause)*

Where in Kenya do patients never share beds? Only in Machakos County. Where in Kenya do you have the highest nurses to population ratio? Only in Machakos County. Where in Kenya do you have an ambulance basically in every administration location? Only in Machakos county and where in Kenya do you have a County-run Cancer Center? Only in Machakos County.

*(Applause)*

The Swahili have a saying, “*nguruwe muue lakini haki yake mpe*” (??). The truth is that Machakos healthcare may not be where you would like it to be, but it is the best in Kenya and we should all be proud of that.

*(Applause)*

Madam Speaker, I grew up in Masii, Kibera slums and Riruta Satellite in Nairobi. I had the privilege later on, despite my humble background, to study in the United States of America, Australia and live and work in Dubai and many other places in the world. My world view is informed by the comparative experiences that I have gathered over the years from the First World, the Asian tiger economies in the Middle East and Kenya and my home Africa.

Madam Speaker, I grew up in poverty and I made a personal commitment to serve our people so that we can lift each other from the yoke of poverty. There is nothing more dehumanizing than going without food or even being given relief food or *Mwolyo* as we call it in our local Kikamba language.

As I was campaigning in 2013, I was cognizant of the fact that our people have lived in this shame of *mwolyo* since independence. It had become the tradition for anyone seeking votes from this region to do nothing but just to bring relief maize a few days to the election. Terrible! To win win votes, you go and bring relief food to tour people who are starving so that they can vote for you. I stand here proud today that through the initiatives that I will soon enumerate, Machakos is no longer in the list of Counties that receive relief food.

*(Applause)*

Madam Speaker, Hon. Members, Ladies and Gentlemen, in 2013, we started from scratch. There were no systems, neither structures nor mechanisms to support our ambitious and servant calling initiatives. The local authorities that existed before us as you all know were inefficient and ridden with corruption. We also inherited officers from the then central government whose functions had been devolved. It was my duty to ensure these different segments of officers and new ones whom we recruited to support our vision gelled and worked seamlessly.

Machakos is big. We now nine sub-counties, 40 wards and about 250 sub-locations which in our county administration we call villages. The spirit of devolution is that *wananchi* get services at the lowest level. Madam Speaker, I am happy today because despite starting from scratch, we have been able to decentralize the provision of our services to all sub-counties, wards and villages. We are now embarked on strengthening these structures to ensure efficiency and connectivity. My plan is to be able to provide all government services under one roof in all our 250 or so villages.

Our County has been quite blessed. I thank you and your predecessors in the First Assembly because it is this Assembly and the executive that form the county government. The success of the executive is the success of the Assembly and vice versa. We serve the same people.

We have been able to make mind-boggling development, social-economic and political services strides. I call them mind-boggling because others cannot believe they happen and they give them other names because they are beyond what they think is possible. Under my leadership, and with the support of this Hon. House, Machakos has become the fastest growing county in Kenya, a fact which has been proven by research findings commissioned by a number of both national and international research institutions. We have opened up previously disadvantaged regions of Machakos and made them proud to be not only Kenyans but most importantly proud to be associated with our county.

As Members will already be aware, my motto from the start has always been *Kuweta na Kwika*; that is, to promote and fulfill the promise through action.

Madam Speaker, Hon. Members, Ladies and Gentlemen, thanks to our aggressive programmes, we have successfully eradicated the shame which came with the yearly provision of *mwolyo*, the emergency relief food. I am proud to say that our mothers no longer have to walk tens of kilometres daily to get water for their families, our children don't have to suffer the shame of spending days without taking a shower when going to school, and thousands of our fathers now have decent income to take care of their families thanks to our agriculture and business growth supporting programmes.

In the last eight years, my government has set up projects that have in turn attracted investors to our county. Indeed, our programmes in various sectors which I shall elaborate further have contributed to making my government the most responsive to the needs of *Wananchi*. In doing all these, we have had good governance, value for money, service structures and fight against corruption, through transparent people-centred systems. We have also been able to make people feel they are part of..... (*Inaudible*)

This is important to me and which is why at the beginning of my first term, I willingly presented myself for and still remain the only top public servant to undergo a full voluntary and public lifestyle audit because I can account for each and everything that I have.

(*Applause*)

Madam Speaker, some may argue that I am just making big statements; we have done this we have done that. Let me get to the specifics so that the naysayers can realize the truth that this House and my government knows.

In 2013, I promised our people, that provision of water would be a priority. I am proud to inform this Hon. house that under the *Maji ni Haki Yako* household water programme, we have

successfully reduced the average distance to and from water sources from 12kms in 2013, to 3kms today throughout the county. The adoption of solar-powered boreholes and treatment works has also made the projects financially manageable. May be I might as the question; where else in this country will you find boreholes operated with solar where *wananchi* do not have to pay to power generators or pay for electricity? Only in Machakos County.

*(Applause)*

As of today, my government has built eight new water treatment plants that you can go see and touch. We have four mega dams (??) that we have built in your areas that you know, we have another 370 earth dams across the County and 298 weirs. We have drilled 617 boreholes which have helped us to provide access to clean and hygienic water for domestic, livestock and agricultural use.

*(Applause)*

Let me repeat myself, Madam Speaker. We have drilled 617 boreholes which are solar-powered. Where else in this country will you find a County that has drilled not 400, 300, 200, 100 or even 70 new boreholes? Nowhere but only in Machakos County.

*(Applause)*

We have distributed over 2000 water tanks of 10,000 liters capacity as well as built 17 elevated tanks of 50,000 liters capacity to help distribute piped water to our peri-urban and rural areas. When I ran for office, I talked about showers; we have built, we have constructed, we have laid 415kms of new water pipeline in the entire county.

In addition to this, as a result of the water programme and part of my environmental conservation programme we have planted over 3 million tree seedlings which will benefit over 70,000 residents.

*(Applause)*

When it comes to agriculture, Madam Speaker, we have distributed 36,616 bags of fertilizers to 23,245 farmers and 795 tonnes of different seeds to 279,510 farmers. We have also ploughed 12,932 acres of land for 12,107 farmers, and gone ahead to focus on creation of value-addition that benefits farmers. We also set up a new hatchery from which we have distributed 132,846 chicken to 14,227 poor households throughout the county.

*(Applause)*

There is no village in Machakos County that has not benefitted from the free chicks programme. Machakos is a region defined as semi-arid but is now a large producer of fish, with the biggest fish farm in Kenya being domiciled here. My government has focused on fish production and setup a fingerling hatchery. To date, we have distributed 211,500 fingerlings to fish farmers. We have supported these initiatives further by empowering our extension officers through provision of 49 motorbikes to help them visit our farmers more conveniently.

Madam Speaker, it is because of these initiatives and many more, that today, I am proud to inform you that Machakos is not only no longer relying on relief food but is on the path to become a net exporter of food to feed the rest of the country.

*(Applause)*

Madam Speaker, Cooperative Societies play a significant role in our economy and I am pleased to report that my government has facilitated the registration of 183 new societies since 2013, which benefit about 40,569 members. We have also helped build capacity to 33,509 members from 321 Cooperative Societies. The members have managed to save a total of Ksh. 2.8 billion, which have helped more than 67,000 members to access financing for personal and business growth locally.

In terms of value addition through cooperative societies, Machakos has processed over 6,000 tonnes of coffee, from 88,673 farmers; I see Hon. Kamitu smiling because he comes from that region of coffee growing in Kangundo, bringing in over Ksh. 2.1 billion to our farmers. Coffee was dead when we got in here and now it is giving our people money. We are looking forward to more income as the coffee prices continue to improve and as we now aggressively reform and revitalize the sector.

Madam Speaker, when I took office, I promised our people that I would fix our roads so that our mothers will no longer give birth by the roadside or our sick die on the road as they struggle to get to the hospital. It was sad that in 2013, we still had to carry the coffins of our loved ones on our shoulders due to the bad conditions of roads. This is why my government prioritized road construction and invested heavily in this sector.

In total we have tarmacked nearly 100kms of new roads using county resources graded over 3,600kms since 2013. We have also constructed many drifts, bridges, and installed culverts to manage storm waters. From this summary, Machakos is currently the leading county in road development in Kenya.

*(Applause)*

Madam Speaker, in trade, enterprise development and investment, we have constructed 53 new market sheds benefitting over 25,000 traders and creating market reach for more than 100,000 farmers county-wide. We have constructed five bus stops and set up a business incubation centre which will benefit about 2,000 Machakos residents annually. We have also provided 158 *boda boda* sheds.

Towards cutting down on costs and making our paving affordable, we have built a cabro making factory at the Machakos New City grounds. We will now be able to come to all your towns in all the wards and be able to lay cabro because we have our cabro making machine.

*(Applause)*

Besides, my government has built 66 modern public toilets across the county, with 47 others still under construction. The cabro making plant will come in handy in paving our towns to modernize and make them attractive.

Madam Speaker, Hon. Members, do not get tired of listening to these statistics; they are many because we have a lot and it is time the truth be told. *Lazima ukweli usemwe*. As the



scriptures say, those who have ears will hear and those with eyes will see and the truth shall set you free.

Our small-scale traders remain a key component of our county growth and therefore we have distributed 500 outdoor parasols to help roadside traders to shelter themselves as they go about their businesses. My government has fenced several markets and constructed a perimeter wall in AthiRiver, open air market benefitting over 1,000 traders. We are looking forward to our cattle farmers taking advantage of the newly refurbished KMC Factory which was re-opened yesterday by H.E. the President Uhuru Kenyatta, right here in Machakos County.

Since devolution, Machakos County has indeed created a conducive environment for investment and this is very important and there are statistics that many are not aware of. So far, we have attracted an over 150 new industries, all worth over Ksh. 300 billion, and in the process, creating many formal jobs and over 150,000 casual jobs.

Further, 6035 self-help groups have benefited from training and funds to enable them start small-scale business enterprises. We have also provided wheelchairs to 226 people living with disabilities, distributed hearing aids to 254 people with hearing difficulties, and provided sanitary wears to nearly 3,000 vulnerable girls.

Madam Speaker, Hon. Members, security is a major challenge in our Kenya. To this end, my government has so far installed 537 CCTV cameras in eight towns, four highways and 10 government institutions, to help fight crime and reduce the level of insecurity in our county. We were the first County government to buy vehicles for the police so that you do not call the police and they tell you *utume gari*. We bought vehicles for police and those vehicles are still in operation across the County because we care about the security.

As a result of this installation, Machakos remains one of the safest counties in Kenya and is consequently becoming a bigger attraction to new business and investments.

Madam Speaker, my government's other major achievement has been in the education front. Since ECDE was devolved to counties, my government has built a total of 114 ECDE classes, and recruited and deployed 972 ECDE teachers.

*(Applause)*

To support our youth with skills we have also constructed 13 new vocational training centers and renovated 40 existing ones. We have also facilitated grants for rehabilitation of youth polytechnics to the tune of Ksh. 183 million. In addition to that, my government has employed 96 instructors to Vocational Training Centers, and given out bursary funds to students in excess of Ksh. 534 million. Clearly, if you want to go a village polytechnic in Machakos County, you will receive free education free of charge through these bursaries.

In sports, our youth are also a beneficiary of various sports programmes we have initiated since 2013. To support them further, we are currently building five new stadia namely, Kinyui stadium, Ikombe stadium, Mavoko stadium, Masii stadium and Kenyatta Stadium Basketball Court. My government constructed Kenyatta Stadium in Machakos which is now FIFA-accredited and hosts many local and international matches.

*(Applause)*

Madam Speaker, we have also accelerated development in the tourism sector by marketing our tourists attraction. When we were talking we talked about the proliferation, the rise, the growth of hotels in Machakos County; they are growing faster than any other County because other things we have done to attract people to come to Machakos.

(Applause)

For example, Machakos People's Park which we built from scratch remains one of our most successful or even the best park in Kenya. We have also held touristic events that have attracted people to our county and helped grow our economy. Some of the very popular and successful events have been Tour de Machakos, Top Choir Competition, MachakosFest, Artfest Workshop and the Uhai Festival. To support these initiatives, we built the iconic Machawood studios and setup Kamba Cultural centres to create employment and spur economic growth.

To provide relaxation areas for our people, we have constructed a state-of-the-art rest stop area along Makutano-Kithimani highway, and refurbished gardens around the County such as the Mulu Mutisya Gardens in Machakos. My government is currently identifying more locations for such facilities.

Madam Speaker, I can go on and on but I am constrained by time and space. We have indeed achieved much under very difficult financial and at times toxic political circumstances; we could have achieved much more if we had not been constrained by bad politics. I have struggled but moved on because I love Machakos very much. It is dear to my heart and despite the roadblocks that have been thrown my way, I have kept going for the sake of my people of Machakos and the people of Kenya.

(Applause)

Before I conclude, the question we need to ask ourselves is, where do we go from here? Yes, we have done a lot of good work but we are still an economy facing a myriad of challenges. We still have high unemployment and opportunities for growth are not what they should be.

Madam Speaker, I humbly propose the following:

1. As leaders, we have had enough political games and theatrics, *sarakasi*, which appears to be the curse of the African politics. Let us shift our minds from the pull-me-down syndrome to lifting each other and working together as a team for the benefit of our people. Let us put our efforts together to come up with solutions. I thank you Madam Speaker and Hon. Members because we are already working together and envy to many in this country.

(Applause)

2. We are well placed to fly. Machakos can easily become the most developed and richest region in Kenya and even in East Africa. We have laid the foundation. Now as leaders, we need to plan and execute projects that take us to another level. We need international planning and thinking that transforms all the way down to the village, not village thinking that takes us nowhere. We need mega projects to deliver us money to undertake vital smaller projects.

(Applause)

3. We need to be creative and have the courage as leaders to undertake new works. For example, one of the ways of curing the high unemployment levels is to set up business parks and economic zones in every sub-county and later in every Ward; that is what

Singapore, South Korea, the United States, Brazil and others did. That way, investors and government can build factories that create jobs and add money into the pockets of our people.

*(Applause)*

4. I urge all of you, with a lot of humility and respect that we become critical thinkers. This is not the time for party-based or individual-based sycophancy but a time for all of us to stand together, hold hands and move Machakos County to being the Place to Be.

*(Applause)*

Finally, Madam Speaker, I commend you for your leadership in this House.

*(Applause)*

This is a great time for our country. We have an able and qualified female Chief Justice and an able and qualified daughter of Ukambani as the Deputy Chief Justice---

*(Applause)*

And here in Machakos I am very proud and we are all very proud to have our own able and qualified Madam Speaker.

*(Applause)*

I am a firm believer that women can transform societies and that is why in my Government I have given women key assignments which in many other places are reserved for men.

Finally, Madam Speaker, I wish to reiterate that I am committed not only to transform Machakos but to play my part in making Kenya the country it ought to have been many years ago. That is why in 2022, I will be vying to be the Fifth President of the Republic of Kenya.

*(Applause)*

Charity begins at home and this is home; I request for your support.

*(Applause)*

As we say in Maendeleo Chap Chap *kwa uwezo wa Mwenyezi Mungu inawezekana na itawezekana* or as we say here in this Hon. House, *Mbele iko Sawa*. Thank you and God bless you all.

*(Applause)*

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you very much, Your Excellency and I can assure you the speech you have given is not too long for this House to debate and it will be debated starting this

afternoon as is the custom in the Standing Orders. I am in the HANSARD? Am I being recorded in the HANSARD? Alright.

### ADJOURNMENT

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you, Your Excellency and Hon. Members. The sitting is adjourned; it is going to continue on the 25th day of May, 2021 at 2.30 p.m. That is today afternoon. Thank you very much and have a good afternoon.

The House rose at 12.38 p.m.