

MACHAKOS COUNTY ASSEMBLY**OFFICIAL REPORT****Tuesday, 17th February 2015**

The House met at 2:45 p.m.

ARRIVAL OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

[His Excellency the Governor (Dr. Alfred Mutua) escorted by the Speaker and accompanied by the Mace of the County Assembly entered the Chamber at forty five minutes past Two o'clock]

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

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

PRAYERS

Hon. Speaker: It is now time for us to be led in prayer by our Spiritual Leaders.....

(Prayers were then said by the following: Pastor Harrison Mutune Khamisi and Imam Ali Abdallah)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR**WELCOME ADDRESS TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, MACHAKOS COUNTY**

Hon. Speaker: Good afternoon Hon Members. Good afternoon once more. A communication from the chair dated 17th of February 2015. Your Excellency the Governor, Honorable Dr. Alfred Mutua, Honorable Members of the County Assembly, ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to welcome His Excellency and all Honourable Members of the 1st County Assembly of Machakos to this special sitting of the third session of the Assembly.

Today's sitting is informed by the Machakos County Assembly Standing Order No. 18 which states that "The Governor shall address a special sitting of the Assembly once every year and may address the Assembly at any other time." Standing Order No. 20 (3) goes on to state 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."

It is a moment of great inspiration for us all to have you in this House to address us on the County government's policy and legislative agenda for this session. We are very eager to listen to you because from your address today, our people will know the political philosophy and economic strategy of the County, going forward. Before I invite you to talk to us, allow me to make some brief remarks.

Hon. Members, there is no doubt that our County is going through a critical moment and the task ahead is enormous, the expectations high and the challenges intimidating. However, I want to assure you that we shall all work together in comity, mutual respect and cooperation, between the County Assembly and the County Executive with all oversight institutions established by the Constitution. Hon. Members, we all know that the systems of oversight put in place by the Constitution emphasize on the participation of the citizenry.

Article 196 subsection 1(b) of the Constitution states that "a County Assembly shall facilitate public participation and involvement in the legislative and other business of the Assembly and its committees." Therefore, Hon. Members, I urge you to approach your responsibilities with dedication and a sense of purpose and involve the public in all the legislative processes for the common good of our people. Failing this, our relevance will be called into question.

As an Assembly, we shall continue to endeavor to enhance good working relations with your County Executive Committee members in their roles and we shall ensure they are constantly held to account in the running of their departments. In the recent past, we have been facing challenges because various departments have not been submitting reports requested by our committees, thus proving to be an impediment to the workings of the Assembly. I therefore implore you to prevail upon the Executive committee to provide the county assembly with full and regular reports on matters relating to the county in conformity with Article 183 subsection 3 of the Constitution.

Bwana Governor, your government shall be held to account on your commitment to implement the Constitution and other policies, including the County Integrated Development Plan, and in the fulfillment of your undertakings to the people of Machakos County. You can count on the support of the Assembly to help realize the goals set out in the county policies and plans. I need to observe here that as an independent arm of the Government, we require total independence from the Executive in the running of the Assembly, more so, in the management of the Assembly's finances.

(Applause)

We are all hopeful and actually trust that your Government will continue to give support to the County Assembly to enable it fulfill its mandate of providing facilities to the Members for the efficient and effective functioning of the Assembly. We shall expect your Government and

this House to be the glue that holds the people of Machakos together, to constantly work on long term cohesion and to see that the marginalized and the vulnerable of our society can see hope in our governance. And finally it is now my pleasure and privilege to invite his Excellency the Governor to address the House. Thank you very much.

(Applause)

ADDRESS BY THE GOVERNOR OF MACHAKOS COUNTY, DR. ALFRED MUTUA

H.E the Governor (Dr. Alfred Mutua): Mr. Speaker, Honorable Members, Ladies and Gentlemen, on February 11, 1990, Nelson Mandela was freed after spending 27 years in prison. As a young man in high school and college, I was active in the calls for the freedom of Nelson Mandela and his release from prison was like a rebirth for me. When Mandela walked out of prison and became the President of South Africa, he ushered in a new era for the people of South Africa and Africa as a whole.

On August 27th 2010, President Mwai Kibaki promulgated our country's new Constitution. I was lucky to be seated just a few meters from the former President when he ushered Kenya into a new chapter - actually a rebirth that gives us a chance to realign ourselves in our counties. Mr. Speaker, Honorable Members, we are gathered here today as evidence of this new rebirth. Our county of Machakos was conceived when President Kibaki signed the instruments of promulgation at Uhuru Park in Nairobi. Machakos County was born on March 4th 2013, two years ago, when we were elected into office. Today, the county is a Baby that we have been given the job of taking care of.

Mr. Speaker, the sad reality is that as some of us are working day and night to take care of Machakos county, some leaders are also working day and night to strangle and kill the Baby, so that our people are relegated to eternal poverty and suffering.

(Applause)

Let me make it very clear that we will not let a few people slow down the development of our people because our fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters and our children were not born to suffer and to remain as the wretched of the earth. The authors of our new constitution foresaw a new wave of real development and that is what will be achieved in Machakos. Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank you and the Honorable members for your great leadership.

This Honorable House has helped greatly to make Machakos what it is today, through the good leadership and teamwork with the Executive. You have ensured that Machakos becomes and remains the leading county in Kenya. I am grateful that the World Bank has highlighted Machakos to be part of the leading counties in allocation of development monies and the

American National Democratic Institute has reported that over 80 percent of Machakos residents are happy and satisfied with our work and support us.

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker, today I will not dwell on our development agenda nor the many plans we have, but would like us to reflect on why we are here and the heavy responsibility that has been given to us by Wananchi. We are halfway through our first term in office, what some call a midterm. When we were campaigning and after being elected, we made many promises to our people which we are still successfully fulfilling. For example, we promised roads and we are, so far, the only county in Kenya that has built a tarmac road.

(Applause)

We have constructed the Kithimani - Makutano Ma Mwala road, we have tarmacked Athi river roads and will soon be tarmacking Syokimau Roads. By the end of the year, using our own resources and in partnership with President Uhuru Kenyatta's Government, work will have started and nearly done on many roads. Wananchi will benefit from tarmacking of the following roads:-

1. Matuu – Ekalakala road
2. Kenol, Mitaboni to Koma road
3. Kenol to Kangundo road
4. Kivandini to Masinga
5. Masii/King'atuani to Miu road passing through Muthetheni
6. Tala – Kinyui – Mbiuni road
7. Tala –Donyo Sabuk road
8. Kathiani – Ithaeni – Kaani road
9. Wamunyu – Kibaoni
10. Lukenya – Daystar
11. Kangundo to Mwala
12. Katangi – Matuu
13. Kimutwa – Kwa Mutisya – Wa Ngomoli road
14. Mbukuni to Iiuni road in Kalama
15. Kathemboni – Machakos girls
16. Katumani – Kwa Mautio
17. Dualing of Mombasa road from Athi River to Machakos city.

In addition, so as to modernize our towns and to support growth of businesses, starting in

2016/2017 financial year, we will have tarmacked roads and paved sidewalks in the following towns:

In Mavoko

- Kyumbi
- Joska
- Githunguri

In Matungulu

- Tala
- Kinyui
- Kisukioni
- Donyo Sabuk
- Kyeleni

In Kangundo

- Kakuyuni
- Kawethei
- Kivaani
- Mbilini
- Kikambuani

In Machakos town

- Mutituni
- Katoloni
- Kiatuni
- Mbuani
- Kola
- Muumandu
- Kaseve

In Mwala

- Wamunyu

- Muthetheni
- Ikalaasa
- Mbiuni
- Miseleni
- Kwa Wango
- Kibauni

In Yatta

- Matuu, and I'd like to remark here that is also the hospital road, the Equity bank road and Matuu bus park roads.
- Sofia
- Katangi
- Ikombe
- Kisiiki
- Ndalani
- Kyua

In Masinga

- Katineni
- Mananja
- Muthesya
- Ekalakala
- Masinga town
- Kangonde
- Kivaa
- Kithyoko
- Kikunini

In Kathiani

- Mitaboni
- Kathiani
- Kaveani

- Ithaeni

Mr. Speaker, to achieve these amazing development programs, we will need to continue working together. Because of our partnership, today 86 van and motorcycle ambulances have ferried 10, 151 patients to health centers. Of this number, 2,538 have been mothers in labour. I can proudly declare today that in Machakos County, no mother is carried by a wheelbarrow to hospital.

(Applause)

Health centers are under construction and in a few months we will be opening 40 new community hospitals with maternity, mini-theatre, wards, a lab and an X-Ray department. The reality is that Machakos County is providing the best health services in Kenya. We are the number one County in healthcare.

(Applause)

That is what our people want. They want their lives to change. That is why we have also invested heavily in security vehicles and CCTV cameras, tractors and seeds to enhance agriculture and even parks that bring tourists and income to Machakos. I do agree that things have not gone as well as I would have wanted them to. Some of my officers have not performed as well as they should have and some have even engaged in unscrupulous activities. I wish to assure this Honorable House and the people of Machakos that only clean officers who are committed to our development agenda will be retained in my government.

(Applause)

I thank the County Assembly for assisting me in highlighting some of these shortcomings and for being patient as we work together to streamline our systems. I urge you to give me time to put things in order. Our friendship and partnership is based on mutual care and respect especially for our people and not blackmail, threats or ultimatums. I am confident and have great faith that the members of this house are the best legislators of all counties in Kenya and are serious and mature politicians whose engagement with everyone in this country Kenya is of an international level and a statement as to why Machakos is the Place to be. Thank you for being patient and for your continued support. I do not take it for granted.

To ensure the efficiency that Honorable members want to see, starting the first week of March this year, my Ministry of Public Service, in conjunction with the County Public Service Board will embark on a major staff audit with the aim of unearthing ghost workers and realigning our employees for better service. At around the same time, our well trained and equipped inspectorate officers will graduate and will assist in enforcing our County laws and in the collection of our revenue.

I am pleased to report to this House that our revenue collection has grown by over 100 per cent from the Ksh. 720 million by the former local authorities to Ksh. 1.4 billion last and expected Kshs. 2 billion this financial year. Mr. Speaker, Honorable Members, I am highlighting

these activities as proof of what can be achieved when we pull together in the same direction in response to our people's requests. Whenever I transverse our county, Wananchi tell me they are grateful for the market sheds and toilets we are building, the green houses and the feeder roads that have been opened by our graders and bulldozers. However, they are still waiting for employment opportunities and improved water services.

I am glad to report to this house that the Part Development Plan (PDP) for the construction of the New City of Machakos has been approved and gazetted. To this end, we expect a minimum of 100 factories, 200 construction sites and over 1,000 new economic activities to be generated in Machakos County in the next one year. This will result in immediate employment of thousands of our qualified youth, who are the majority of our citizens and our voters. Our other activities such as by Machawood, Social Welfare Protection and bursaries will also provide economic opportunities for our youth, women, the disabled and the elderly. Truly, life will never be the same again.

I am also pleased to inform this Honorable House that after we acquired various machines such a bulldozers and graders, we have been able to dig 87 dams and water pans in the county. We have also rehabilitated 21 boreholes and water projects. However, this is still not enough but we are now ready to embark on our new water program which we are calling '*freedom from water problems*' program.

As I speak, our newly acquired drilling machines are on the way from the Port of Mombasa to Machakos and we will be unveiling them later this week in Matungulu. We will be drilling boreholes in every village in our county. Already, water tanks are being installed in all villages in preparation for piping of water to all households. Indeed, what we promised will come to be. There will be tap water in every household and we will be taking showers!

Mr. Speaker, these development plans are exciting to us who really care about the plight of our people. However, they are giving some leaders sleepless nights. There are some leaders, from our county and our region who cringe when they hear and know that our youth will be transformed from being beggars to income earners. They get sick stomachs when they hear of new roads, hospitals and water for every household. This is to be expected because old habits die hard.

Our people have been lied to for many years and been subjected to regressive politics. Some of these leaders have gained strength by dealing with the poor of the poorest and by ensuring that our people remain beggars. These leaders are also used to mortgaging our people for their own personal benefits - positions in power and money and not on development projects. Therefore, any change to this status quo, as expected, is bound to make them uncomfortable.

Mr. Speaker, Honorable members, let me reiterate here that I am ready to work with all leaders of Machakos, our Ukambani region and also in Kenya for the sake of our people. I want our energies to be focused not on name calling, cheap politics or games but on speeding up development of our people. We need to build, not destroy; unite not divide; encourage not attack; agree to disagree not issue threats and to pull together in the same direction. Our people are

desperate and we, the leaders of this county, hold their future in our hands. What we do and how we do it, will determine whether it is going to be business as usual or we are going to break the curse of backward leadership that renders only lip service to development and no action.

I know that there are some members in this county assembly who have been opposed to my programs and to my position. I do not have any enemies or dislike any Member of the County Assembly. I have not argued with or undermined any of these members. I invite you to join me and my winning majority team so that we can show the world that Africans have the ability to work together to transform lives so that we can become donors and not beggars. There is no disagreement that cannot be fixed.

(Applause)

However, I will only work with people whose concern is the people and not the size of their stomachs. I will work with leaders whose agenda is the people's agenda and not that of retaining old fashioned political hierarchies. I thank Members who have aligned themselves to my vision for staying focused and courageous. We are and will continue to be unbogable. Let us continue reaching out to others so that we can all move together to achieve the Machakos dream.

Those who fight development are fighting God's work because God wants his people to be free from poverty and suffering. Those who fight God's work will never win and the people who are keen to destabilize Machakos as they have done to other counties will fail again and again. Those who continue fighting us and spreading propaganda, just because we are developing our people should know that we will "*kaa ngumu*" and will focus on development and not their simplistic games.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, Honorable Members, it is my desire to see this Honorable House empowered. I have directed my Minister of Finance to ensure this Assembly has continuous financial access to budgeted funds. The first tranche for mortgage monies for the assembly has been transferred to the fund so that members who qualify can access the monies. This is in addition to the Car Loan Scheme that members are already enjoying. I have also directed my Ministers to provide timely reports to this house.

You conduct a very important task in our democracy and I will ensure that my team delivers as promised. You undertook passing of key bills in the last sitting, which I assented into law. The Executive has not been very forthcoming in bringing new bills to you but I give you my commitment that every Ministry will bring a minimum of two bills to this house during this session for your deliberations and passing.

In conclusion, Nelson Mandela passed away on 5th December, 2013 after proving that it is possible for good people to win and for humanity to be changed. Mandela left us with many words of wisdom. For example, appearing to support our Machakos Maendeleo Chap Chap ideology, he was once quoted as saying: "It always seems impossible until it is done." But to us

as leaders whose people are still in bondage due to poverty and apathy and who cry out for real freedom through development, Nelson Mandela had the following message: "Real leaders must be ready to sacrifice all for the freedom of their people."

(Applause)

I am ready to heed to Mandela's wise words and I hope that you are too. Thank you and God bless you.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon Speaker: Thank you very much honorable members. The house adjourns until the next sitting that will be communicated. And to the gallery and our visitors, there will be a cocktail after this at our back yard. The office of the sergeant at arms will direct people with the aid of our assembly whips. Thank you and have a good afternoon.

The House rose at 3:16 p.m.