



**STATE OF COUNTY ADDRESS BY NAKURU GOVERNOR H.E HON. LEE KINYANJUI
ON AUGUST 16, 2018 AT THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY AT 10.00AM**

Mr. Speaker, Honorable Members of County Assembly of Nakuru,

Allow me to take this opportunity to thank the almighty God for keeping us healthy and safe for the last one year in office. In spite of the many dangers that surround us every day, we have seen God's hand in our everyday work.

It has been a great year with many ups and downs.

We cannot fail to recognize some of the calamities that befell us during the year. It will be remembered that in September last year, we lost five people who were on board the ill-fated chopper that crashed into Lake Nakuru. Three bodies were recovered while the two remaining were never recovered. We thank all the recovery teams that worked tirelessly in the search operations that lasted over one month. It is a matter of great concern that the investigation report is yet to be made public. Even tragic moments like an air crash, can be learning grounds to avert a repeat of such tragedies.

On 9th May this year, the Solai residents encountered the wrath of a broken dam upstream. This horrifying incident cost the lives of 48 innocent souls and left huge damage across the entire eighteen kilometres downstream. The psychological impact of the tragedy will take a long time to heal, especially for the many young children who experienced the tragedy first hand. We thank the rescue and recovery team that handled the mission. While the investigations and prosecutions are ongoing, the County Government of Nakuru and well-wishers are working on a restoration plan for the area.

It will take long to achieve full recovery but we must keep hope alive. Again, we can never forget the spirit of humanity that we experienced after the tragedy.

Ordinary Kenyans came together in solidarity with the loss and suffering of the Solai community.

Despite these challenges, we have had moments to celebrate. We have had athletes who come from the County perform very well in international events. Last month, Beatrice Chebet who hails from Keringet won a gold medal during the IAAF World Under-20 Championships in Tampere, Finland. She becomes the first Kenyan woman to win the 5,000m race in the event's history.

Honorable Speaker,

As you recall, August 22nd marks one year since we were sworn to office. During our inauguration, we made several declarations that have been instrumental to our first year in office.

We inherited a Government that had some critical challenges that required urgent remedy. A bloated workforce, pending bills in excess of Sh2.8billion, declining revenues, dysfunctional healthcare system and poor customer service are some of the challenges that confronted my government upon inauguration. While the challenges have not been fully overcome, we have laid a firm foundation for the resolution of many of them.

Members will recall that we constituted a health task force headed by Professor James Tuitoek. The report of the taskforce, that was made public, raised serious health gaps and continues to inform the recovery strategy for our health sector.

In addition, we instituted an audit of pending bills that we inherited. Out of the Sh2.8billion claims, we have upto-date paid a total of Sh1.2billion to suppliers and contractors who had genuine claims.

My Government is consulting on the appropriate measures to take against the persons who were involved fraudulent in activities aimed at siphoning public resources. Suppliers and contractors who will be found culpable will also face the full wrath of the law.

Honorable Members,

In execution of our mandate, we are guided by the need to transform the public service and align it to the needs of our community. In so doing, we have been informed by the following key pillars:

1. Creation of a functional civil service system. A government cannot run without a system that responds to its needs and aspirations. In particular, we are guided by the need to reform the work ethic culture to reflect the need for productivity and value for money.
2. Customer focused approach to public service.
3. Alleviate poverty through support of agriculture and value addition.
4. Reduce cost of service delivery through efficiency and rationalization. Discourage wasteful spending and unbudgeted expenses
5. Deploy a system to combat corruption and introduce preventive measures. In February this year, we received a Corruption Risk Assessment of Nakuru County Executive and County Assembly. The majority were on bribery, procurement irregularities, fraudulent acquisition and disposal of public properties and abuse of office among others. We have put in place measure to curb corruption in the County Government to ensure prudent use of resources for the benefit of Nakuru residents.
6. Revenue enhancement through sealing of loopholes and creation of alternative revenue sources.
7. Rebranding the County as a favourite destination for investment and tourism.
8. Anchor youth into mainstream economy through creation of opportunities and nurture talent.
9. Network with national government and other development stakeholders for the benefit of the County.
10. Support government agenda on the Big 4. The County Government of Nakuru has aligned its priorities along the Big 4 agenda that focuses on four areas of manufacturing, food security and nutrition, universal health coverage and affordable housing. On manufacturing, we are setting up a textile industry in Naivasha and also working towards value addition to farm produce across the County. We also are working to the National Government to improve potato farming that has been identified as one of the key crops that will help achieve food security. On Affordable housing, we have set aside land for construction of 2,000 affordable houses.

Honorable Members,

Allow me to highlight key achievement in various sectors:

Agriculture is the main economic driver of the County Government of Nakuru. At least 70% of the total land in Nakuru County is highly productive. The main crops produced include; maize, beans, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, vegetables (which include tomatoes, carrots, onions, French beans, cabbages, Sukuma wiki, asparagus and leeks) and we also have herbs, spices fruits and cut flowers. The main cash crops produced in the County are wheat, coffee, tea and pyrethrum.

The high agricultural productivity places the County at a position of achieving one of the Big 4 agendas on Food Security. The County identified crops to help achieve this agenda and also improve the livelihood for farmers. These are pyrethrum, avocado, potatoes, maize and legumes.

Nakuru was once the biggest producer of pyrethrum and the crop was a major income earner for farmers. As a County we decided to revive growing of the crop across the County. We held series of meetings with stakeholders including farmers on the revival program. Through partnership with the National Government and companies including Pyrethrum Processing Company of Kenya, Kentegra, HighChem and AfriChem, we have 875 acres under the crop and the number of uptake by farmers is increasing. We distributed quality seedlings to farmers to ensure high yield and currently, farmers have started picking the flowers across the County. In the past, the issue of payment to farmers after delivery was a challenge. Farmers were owed millions of shillings but the debt has now been cleared. We have an agreement with processing companies to ensure farmers are paid promptly.

We also identified avocados as a potential income earner for our farmers due to the high demand both locally and internationally. We have so far distributed 2.5 million seedlings to 721 farmers in the County.

Honorable members,

The National Government has identified potatoes as one of the crops that will help achieve the agenda of food security. In 2017, the County produced over 541,000 metric tonnes of potatoes valued at Sh9.4 billion. We are the second largest producer of potatoes after Nyandarua County. We have identified

potential in value addition and storage. The National Government has also identified Nakuru as a beneficiary of a cold storage facility to address the issue of wastage especially during glut. Also, new potato seeds will be distributed to farmers to improve their yield.

We have been encouraging farmers to engage in value addition and today, there is a trader who is involved in potato processing in Pipeline area. The potatoes are cleaned, peeled and sliced according to customers' need. The final product is then distributed to hotels in Nakuru.

Farmers in the County have benefited from fertilizers sold at discounted prices by the National Government. As a County, we realized that most farmers had to travel long distances to buy these fertilizers. The County Government has provided logistics to ferry the fertilizers to the ward level for easy farmer accessibility. In the year 2017/2018, 178,460 bags of fertilizers were distributed to farmers. At least 14, 600 farmers have benefitted from the subsidized farm input support program.

Honorable Members,

In March this year, the County Government launched the Banita Easter Goat Auction where 500 goats and sheep worth Sh6million were sold. This will be an annual event to support the livestock farmers in the County and aims at promoting livestock marketing in the County. During the auction, the demand for the goats was higher than the supply, an indication that there is potential for livestock farmers to earn more. In 2017 an estimated 38,000 heads of cattle, 31,000 Sheep and 8,000 goats valued at Sh1.7 Billion were sold in and out of the County.

The National Livestock Policy recognizes livestock diseases as one of the factors that hinders livestock marketing. Frequent outbreak of Notifiable diseases such as Foot and Mouth Disease, Lympy Skin among others results in frequent closure of livestock markets which denies farmers outlets to sell their livestock. These diseases also limit access to the international market for our livestock and livestock products due to the stringent standards set by the World Trade Organisation. The County's Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries has embarked on a county-wide livestock vaccination campaign to ensure that

these diseases are brought under control so that farmers can freely access markets.

Honorable Members,

To address the challenge of milk marketing and post-production milk losses, the County Government in collaboration with the National Government and other stakeholders has supported active dairy cooperatives with milk chilling tanks to reduce on milk losses and increase milk sales by farmers. To date, 14 cooperatives have benefitted from this initiative and more will follow.

There is also the Daima milk processing plant in Salgaa which is a Sh3 billion investment. The milk plant will employ over 500 people in the County and will also have a multiplier effect in the milk supply chain with farmers being the major beneficiaries.

The County Government is also addressing the issue of poor breed by supporting a number of dairy cooperatives with Artificial Insemination kits to help their members in improving their dairy breeds. So far 21 AI kits have been distributed to active Dairy Cooperatives through this initiative.

Further, the County Government of Nakuru is keen on promoting the fish industry. The industry is developing at a tremendous rate and it has a high potential of transforming livelihoods through the generation of farm-incomes and employment creation.

Last year, over 1, 631 fish farmers conducted their ventures in over 1, 660 fish ponds raising approximately Sh20 million. In our bid to boost fish farming, the County Government has allocated funds for construction of a fish hatchery as well as a fish bulking site in Naivasha to boost fish population in Lake Naivasha and farmers with fish ponds. To combat illegal fishing at the Lake, the County's fisheries directorate is enforcing use of recommended standard nets for fishing to avoid overfishing.

Honorable Members,

The Department of Trade has allocated funds to set up a fish market along the highway at Karai. This will enable the youth and women who sell fish in that area

have a place to preserve their fish and also buyers will have a safe space to stop and buy from the traders.

My Government is actively seeking an integrated mobile platform for agriculture. We realize that we conduct most of our businesses on our mobile phones. The system that would enable and support data management (farmer registration, profiling, and analytics); communication (SMS notifications, farmer queries, data collection); and operations management (extension services, e-subsidy and assets management and payments) to support existing extension services.

Currently, the County has a Nakuru Farmer Call Centre where farmers are able to make enquiries by calling, sending text or WhatsApp messages to experts at the centre on the following numbers: 0701 032 032 and 0735 032 032. This service is helping farmers with information on what crops to plant in different areas, the type of fertilizer and pesticides to be used among others.

Mr. Speaker,

The County Government, through the Department of Trade and Tourism, has set aside funds to expand its markets.

The County is also developing major retail markets in Njoro, Rongai, Bahati and Subukia.

The County is in the process of setting up industrial parks and is working closely with partners to develop a textile city in Naivasha and an agri-city in Njoro.

To showcase the County as a premiere investment destination, we have partnered with Kenya Investment Authority (KenInvest) and the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) to hold the first Nakuru International Investment Conference this year.

In May this year, the County held a tourism stakeholders conference that brought together the County Government, National Government (institutions including Tourism Fund, Tourism Regulatory Authority, Tourism Finance Corporation), hotel owners and managers, tour operators to discuss tourism opportunities in the County.

Also, the County Government has formulated a tourism and marketing bill that will help in profiling tourist destinations and formulating a tourism strategy. This bill is pending before the County Assembly.

Honorable Members,

The Department has partnered with the Kenya Tourism Board (KTB) to market the County's attraction sites which include Lake Nakuru National Park, Mt Longonot, Hells Gate and Lake Naivasha. This is in addition to the Menengai Crater, Subukia escarpment, Lord Egerton Castle and Njoro caves.

For the longest period, the residents of Nakuru have yearned to have an airport to serve the region. The need for the airport is to connect Nakuru with other destinations in Kenya and abroad for tourism and business.

Despite several attempts to jumpstart the airport project in the past, there was no conclusive outcome.

However, we are happy to note that from December 2017, the President instructed that the Nakuru-Lanet Military airport be developed into a dual purpose one to serve both military and civilian.

Further to this, the Kenya Air Force, County Government of Nakuru, Kenya Airports Authority and Kenya Civil Aviation Authority commenced design work on the Lanet airport site. A detailed design was complete in May this year.

We are at an advanced stage to secure funding for the commencement of this project.

The completion of the international airport at Lanet will make the County an even more attractive place to do business as it will greatly reduce logistics costs making produce from the County more attractive in the international market. This will particularly benefit the horticulture and the tourism.

Honorable Members,

The County is on the path to achieving universal health care. Cancer has become number one killer and also is a huge burden to the patients and their caregivers, who include family members. In response to this growing challenge, we have set up an oncology clinic at the Nakuru County Referral Hospital (PGH).

Patients no longer have to travel far, outside the County to seek oncology services. Doctors at the clinic attend to patients every Tuesday and soon the number of days will increase as well as services to include radiotherapy. This is because 1,140 patients have been attended to at the clinic since it was opened on May 12 this year. There has been 770 admissions, 292 outpatients. The patients come from the larger region including our neighbouring counties

Honorable Members,

The Health Department has acquired vital equipment for various facilities among them Kapkures Maternity and Kiptanguany maternity. Work in Kipkonyo Maternity is nearing completion.

Also, the ministry is in the process of acquiring theatre equipment for various facilities including Gilgil Hospital.

We have come up with a new unit at the County Referral Hospital (Mother and Child). It will have a bed capacity of 280 and is due for completion in September.

The County is seeking to upgrade PGH to offer Level 6 services, and have Bahati, Subukia, Gilgil, Olenguruone, Molo and Naivasha to offer Level 4 Services.

On staffing, the Department of Health Services in the FY 2017/2018 recruited a total of 133 nurses to address the shortage in the health sector for effective service delivery.

The Health Department is upgrading its system to improve efficiency and reduce the long queues. We are working on paperless service at the PGH and also the system will store medical history of the patient upto 10 years.

Emergency response is critical in healthcare provision and the County Government is setting up a command centre that will have 10 ambulances on standby. We are mapping out health facilities to act as strategic point where the ambulances will be stationed for quick response to any emergency needed.

The Health Department has also acquired a shredder and microwave at PGH meant to service all facilities and the region. A health care waste management truck be purchased by September 2018. This is inline with recommendations made by the Health taskforce.

We have two Cuban doctors at PGH and they have settled in well. We have a Family Health physician and the other doctor is a Cardiologist who attends approximately 75 patients per week. I wish to note that Nakuru is one of the regions that that has a high disease burden in cardiology cases.

Mr. Speaker

In the Water and Sanitation Department, we have just started the preparation of a County-wide Sanitation Strategic Plan that will inform the development of a County Sanitation Master Plan. The document will give a road map to the implementation of sanitation interventions in the County.

Water shortage has been an issue in Nakuru for a very long time. The County Government of Nakuru is working on 191 projects. 64 projects rolled over from previous financial years, 127 projects are for the 2017/2018 financial year and out of these, 64 projects ongoing while 70 under the procurement process.

We have 11 Borehole Projects that have been completed, that includes piping, drilling and equipping of boreholes has been done and are supplying a population of 12,500 people with water.

Honorable Members,

There are Flagship Water Projects Supported by the National Government intended to supply bulk water in Nakuru County. These are Itare Dam whose construction works was 35% complete as at April 2018, and Chemususu Dam that is expected to complete in 2019. There is also Malewa Dam whose feasibility study is ongoing and upon completion, will supply water to Naivasha and Gilgil.

The County is also reconstituting the Board of Directors for water utilities with an emphasis on the New Governance Structures

The County recently signed an agreement worth Sh1.3billion Vitens Evides International to improve water and sanitation in the County. VEI is the leading drinking water provider in Netherlands and works in 20 countries including Kenya.

One of the projects under the partnership by NAWASCO takes care of waste management and protects environment by making briquettes from human waste, that can be used as fuel in our jikos from human waste. Use of briquettes also

protects the environment because it reduces the demand for charcoal. Initially, the production was at about two tonnes a month but an equipment that can produce 10,000 tonnes a month to meet demand has been imported.

The Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Department has constituted and Gazetted the Nakuru County Environment Committee that shall be responsible for ensuring that the guidelines issued and measures prescribed on environmental management are implemented.

We are in the process of rehabilitating existing dumpsites as the County seeks for suitable land to relocate the Gioto Dumpsite among others across the County.

The Gioto dumpsite, that was an eyesore, has been rehabilitated through construction and beautification of an embankment for aesthetic value and prevention of waste spillage to the road. There is continuous leveling of waste to create space for tipping area and continuous grading of access roads to enable access to tipping areas.

We want to become a green city and to achieve this, the County has embarked on a tree-growing campaign across the County. We have planted 300,000 tree seedlings since may this year, we will rehabilitate Nyayo Gardens and Naivasha People's Park.

Honorable Members,

As a County we have realized the importance of Pre-Primary Education as it lays the foundation for children as it prepares them for primary school. We are keen on improving the Education Sector by equipping ECDE Centers to address the unique needs of young learners as well as initiating and sustaining a capacity enhanced program for the staff.

The Department furnished 21 ECD classes with furniture worth Sh1.4million across the County and the project is still ongoing.

The County Government of Nakuru is also recruiting 350 ECD teachers through the County Public Service Board and the hiring process is expected to be complete in September this year.

The Department is also working to introduce a sustainable and nutritious feeding program for ECDEs and this will be rolled out in the third term.

In the last Financial year, the County Government disbursed Sh110 million bursary to the needy students across the County. Measures are in place to ensure that the right beneficiaries access the funds.

Vocational training plays a great role in equipping the youth with the relevant skills and attitudes that would enable them gain employment.

Youth unemployment has seen the many young people live below the poverty line due to lack of vocational skills prerequisite for self-employment, yet the County has wide range of opportunities of employments in agriculture, textiles, construction industries, motor industry and even electrical welding and installation.

There are many projects that will take place in the County in the near future that will require such skills and we hope our vocational centres will have prepared the youth for this. The projects include the SGR construction to Naivasha, construction of 2,000 affordable housing units and industrial park in Naivasha.

To realize the expected level of competences in our youth training in the polytechnics, equipping these centres with sufficient and relevant equipment as well as competent instructors is inevitable.

There are 25 vocational centres spread across 11 sub-counties, with the enrolment of 1,684 students and 158 instructors.

The County Government has introduced a grant to all youth who have enrolled in vocational centres. Each student is receiving full sponsorship of Sh15,000. The first batch of 1,700 students have just received the grant totaling to Sh25.5million.

The County is rolling out an aggressive campaign for more enrollment of the youth in these centres.

Mr. Speaker,

On youth empowerment, the County has entered into a partnership with USTADI to support youth groups in Agri-business

The youth across the County will benefit from the Sh200 million in the program. At least 150 youth groups with membership of 2,250 living in the rural parts of Nakuru, will be engaged in dairy, fish and crop farming.

Currently, Youth officers and staff from Department of Agriculture are rolling out sensitization program across the County.

The Department of Youth has also conducted an assessment of 3,040 registered youth groups and is establishing a register for companies owned by the youth.

The County is planning a workshop to train the youth on how to apply for government tenders so that they can better their lives and participate in the implementation of the Big 4 agenda.

The Directorate of Culture and Gender is involved in capacity building for women and artists including organizing workshops for visual artists to create a forum for them to interact and share ideas on how to improve their welfare.

The County Government has also assisted the artists to showcase their talent at the Players Theatre and the former Provincial headquarters.

We are also planning to set up a Cultural Centre at the Hyrax Hill Museum. This will enable to cultural groups, visual artists, researchers, youth and women groups to showcase their talent and products to tourists and earn income. We have drafted a memorandum of understanding on the partnership between County Government of Nakuru and National Museums of Kenya, which is awaiting endorsement.

The County recognizes the importance of sports and also nurturing talent at a young stage. We are constructing a sports academy in Keringet. We have bought land for this facility and have allocated Sh20million for its construction in this Financial Year. Also, we have purchased sports equipment for the 55 wards that will soon be distributed to various teams.

On Gender, the County has been holding forums to empower women economically by engaging in businesses. The Department has also held forums to sensitize women on Gender Based Violence.

Honorable Members,

We are living in a digital age and do not want to be left behind in the ICT. About two weeks ago, we signed an agreement to become a Smart City. This will enable the County Government adopt digital tools in crucial sectors including automation of business processes.

The Department of ICT has also developed two digital centers in Subukia and Kuresoi sub-counties. The centres will get government online services closer to citizens and will also act as ICT training centres.

The County Government of Nakuru started a transformative plan of grading and gravelling roads on 10th January 2018 under the Boresha Barabara Program. This involved giving First Aid to various roads that were dilapidated. This was done between January and March 2018 in Kuresoi South, Njoro, Subukia, Bahati and parts of Nakuru East and West. We wish to report that a total of 527 Kilometres were graded and 168 kilometres graveled.

Due to the heavy rainfall experienced across the County between March and July this year, the program was put on hold.

The second phase of the program will continue starting September 2018 in Kuresoi North, Molo, Rongai, Gilgil, Naivasha and parts of Nakuru East and West.

During the prolonged rain period in various wards, the Department of Roads responded to emergencies across the County including flooding (in Maiela, Gilgil, Salgaa), damaged bridges (in Waseges, Elburgon), impassable Roads (in Kiamaina, Menengai East, Ndundori, Sirikwa, Naivasha East) and Storm Water drainage in Naivasha and Nakuru East.

The County Government has already started a program to rehabilitate roads that were critically affected by the heavy rains across in all the 55 Wards.

Honorable Members,

The first phase of Boresha Barabara program was a learning process for the County Government. We faced teething problems and learnt from various gaps as we opened up impassable roads in the rural areas. The second phase will be an improvement from the first one.

We have allocated funds to purchase of additional equipment in Financial Year 2018/19. The equipment includes eight tippers, three rollers, one excavator, one shovel, one dozer and one low loader.

To further improve the program, we have re-organized teams in the Boresha program and we are capitalizing the program through design of roads, documentation and contract management. We are also targeting to upgrade the roads in urban centres to bitumen standards.

Due to the increasing population, Nakuru town has become overly congested. In line with this, we will construct a modern bus park within the Nakuru CBD. We are in the process of leasing land from Government entities for the construction of the bus park.

Nakuru County is on the Northern Corridor and we have many trucks that stopover in our centres overnight and we are looking to construct parking bays for these trucks in Salgaa, Kikopey, Mai Mahiu and Barnabas.

Plans are underway to carry out of Hazard Mapping and Risk assessment in the whole County to direct our efforts to risk reduction, community awareness and training and capacity building to response teams.

The County Government is forming a County Disaster Management Unit with presence in all the Sub-counties to enhance swift response to any emergency within the County

The County will purchase additional fire engines to improve on fire Emergency preparedness. A state of the art Fire Station will be constructed within Nakuru CBD to enhance response and proper coordination of response.

Honorable Members,

We already have formed a County Transport Safety Committee that will among other issues help solve transport and traffic crashes in the County.

Salgaa has for a long time been associated with traffic deaths and injuries. To end this, the National Government is constructing a dual carriageway at a cost of Sh750million. The contractor is already on site and the work is expected to complete in June 2019. There is also a trauma centre that will be constructed near Salgaa to handle medical emergency cases.

On the issue of land, the County together with the National Government has embarked on a program of issuing Title deeds within the County. Many residents in the County do not have this important document, and this has caused conflict and also barred them from accessing facilities such as loans. The titling program targets is to issue 30,000 title deeds within the next 90 days.

Lands officials from both National and County Government are in Nakuru to ensure we achieve this target and within the next month, over 10,000 titles will be ready. We urge residents to register in the sub-counties to benefit from this noble process.

The Cabinet at the National level earmarked two municipalities in the country for an upgrade to city status, Nakuru is one of them.

Upon this realization, we embarked on a deliberate program to improve our infrastructure to match this state. At the County level, we also formed a Nakuru City Upgrade Committee to ensure all departments within the County Government play their role to ensure we match the status.

Some of the projects include reconstruction and rehabilitation of major roads by County and National Government institutions, upgrade of our health facilities, greening of the town through tree planting, beautification and rehabilitation of public parks including Nyayo Garden, and also enforcement of the Buildings Code and Physical Planning Act.

Honorable Members,

We ask building owners to ensure they are compliant to the Building Code. We issued a 90 days notice that is expiring on August 31 this year. It requires, among other things for building owners to paint premises, ensure they are well maintained, improve pedestrian walkways by paving them and removing obstructions on walkways.

A desk has been set in all Sub-County offices to facilitate all development that were carried out without approval to be formalized. Our officers have also been moving around the CBD and in the towns in the sub-counties to alert building owners on what they need to comply with. We ask them to cooperate.

In addition, the history of a town must be reflected in its artefacts and public places. As a County, we have commenced a program to seek to name and rename our roads and public places to reflect the important persons in the town and at the right time we shall present it to the Assembly.

On housing, a feasibility study done by the World Bank has shown that Nakuru is viable for 2,000 affordable housing project and we are looking forward to this as it will allow low income earners to own homes.

The land set aside for this project had been illegally acquired but the County pursued the matter and it has been repossessed. This project is on course.

The Department of Lands has also set up the Lands Information Management System (LIMS), which is an IT -based platform that will allow for online submission of all development applications and automation of revenue streams associated with the department. The project is at piloting stage and is expected to be launched in September this year.

Mr. Speaker,

The County also is on course to receiving a conditional grant from the World Bank to Municipalities under the Kenya Urban Support Program.

Nakuru and Naivasha Municipalities qualify to get Sh1.08billion after fulfilling set minimum conditions.

The County Government is on course to meeting the other set conditions which include establishing Municipal Boards, Municipal Administration, County Project Implementation team and a review the Municipal Charter.

Currently, four different Valuation Rolls are in use (in Nakuru Municipality, Naivasha Municipality, Molo Township and Nakuru Council). The County has come up with one Valuation Roll that is awaiting approval under the County Valuation for Rating Bill

Human resource is critical to drive our development agenda. The staff establishment stands at 4,826 with an annual wage bill of Sh6.2billion. 48% of our staff are 50 years and above meaning that in the next 10years, all of them will be retiring posing a challenge in skills and staffing gaps. At least 75% of staff under Agriculture and Water departments are aged 50 and above.

Also, 26% of staff in all departments are partially qualified with 20% having below a KCSE certificate. Majority of these staff hold positions of drivers, cleaners and other support staff.

We recently undertook a biometric staff audit and the results will be released in September. Our aim is to realign staff to their right job cadres.

The Public Service Management Department has embarked on a program to put all County staff under comprehensive NHIF medical cover, hold regular engagement with the public service board to facilitate staff promotion, train staff to enhance capacity and professionalism and entrench ICT in daily operations.

Honorable Members,

The County Government of Nakuru put in place measures to streamline revenue collection, reduce revenue loss and also ensure prudent use of resources.

In the last financial year, the Executive had an allocation to buy luxurious vehicles, including a Prado. But we made a decision not to purchase these top-range, expensive vehicles that will only serve a few officials. Instead of buying one vehicle at a cost of about Sh12million, we opted to buy two 37-seater courtesy buses to serve County staff as well as residents at a cost of Sh10million.

The enquiries and demand for the buses has been high especially by learning institutions that do not have buses.

The buses are available to such schools to enable them focus on developing infrastructure needed to improve their performance instead of allocating funds to buy buses.

Honorable Members,

In the Financial Year 2017/2018, revenue collection by the County's Department of Finance increased by Sh320 million. This growth of 16% means that Nakuru County will qualify for the additional 2% allocated by the Commission on Revenue Allocation for counties that grow their Own Source Revenue in the next Financial Year.

Since coming into office we have taken steps to break down the revenue budget into targets for each revenue officer and each sub-county.

Revenue meetings are held each month with each sub-county revenue officer reporting their production and challenges they encounter. Also, deliberate measures and effort has been made to seal revenue loopholes, increase accountability and rotation of staff.

Going forward we have plans to centralize revenue collection from the line ministries. The County has formulated the Nakuru Revenue Authority Bill to streamline revenue collection. Plans have commenced to fully automate all revenue streams like parking, building plans, market fees and hospital services.

The department will also be enhancing its efforts to collect land rates through the use of recently acquired geo-spatial plan and valuation roll. Liquor licensing will also be streamlined to make it perform better than it has in the past.

We want to take this opportunity to thank the County Assembly for passing the Sh18billion budget, with the bulk of the allocation going towards improvement of healthcare and infrastructure.

The Health Department has been allocated Sh6.2billion (total of recurrent and development expenditure), Infrastructure got Sh2.4billion, Agriculture Sh1billion, Lands Sh1.4 billion, Water Sh1.2billion and Education Sh1.1billion.

The Department of Trade and Tourism was allocated Sh537million, and we expect to develop our markets as stated earlier while the Department of Youth got Sh464million.

Honorable Members,

This Financial Year, we shall focus to deliver timely budget outputs as per the PFM Act, and ensure that the budget making process involves stakeholders in identifying their needs and priorities.

We look forward to having greater collaboration with the National Government and partners especially in the audit of projects. To this end, we shall engage three new engineers and two lawyers to make our work, especially projects, professional.

We shall continue to collaborate with partners in projects to improve value addition and service delivery to the people of Nakuru.

To improve markets and increase income for our farmers, we have started and will continue to look for new and emerging markets for our produce, such as new markets both local and internationally for pyrethrum and other farm produce.

In the wake of deaths of rhinos that were recently translocated from Lake Nakuru National Park, The County Government of Nakuru will write a petition to the National Government and Parliament on the management of wildlife in the parks within our borders. This is because we have two parks in our jurisdiction but have no input in what goes on therein despite tourism being a devolved function. We want clarity on the role of the County in wildlife management.

We are formulating bills that will improve efficiency and service delivery to our people across departments. Some of the bills are being drafted and some are already before the County Assembly. We are looking to have a Public Participation Policy that will ensure views from wananchi at the grassroots level are addressed.

In conclusion, the Executive and the County Assembly need to work together to improve service delivery. The issues we have experienced can be attributed to this being our first year in office as both the Executive and legislative arm.

For a good working relations in the County, each arm must play its respective role as prescribed in the Constitution.

Mr. Speaker,

The County Assembly has a sacred role of ensuring the Executive is kept in check and that the excesses within the Executive can be addressed within the institution of the Assembly.

This is why the public are invited to write petitions when they want intervention in a matter.

Likewise, the Executive has the critical role of implementing policies and budget as passed by the Assembly. In execution of the mandate, the Executive must at all times ensure the public gets value for money and projects are delivered on time. All necessary and laid down procedures must be adhered to at all times.

In the last two months, we experienced disharmony in the County Assembly in the aborted impeachment of the Speaker. Whereas it is the responsibility of the

Assembly to carry out its oversight internally, this must be done judiciously and with utmost necessity.

There exists elaborate conflict resolution mechanism within the County Assembly as well as Executive. We urge members to explore these mechanisms before resorting to the ultimate measures that may disrupt the smooth running of the Assembly.

As the Executive, we will always play our role to bring harmony and focus on delivery of our agenda. We appreciate that without harmonious co-existence with the County Assembly, the delivery of the development agenda of both institutions will not be achieved.

Our County Assembly is endowed with young and energetic members, some of who are very well qualified and have unmatched skills.

We urge the members to use their knowledge and experience for the development in our great County.

Having finished our first year, we expect the next three years to be focused on achievement of our development agenda and the National Big 4 agenda.

We must at all times resist temptation to engage in early campaigns that derail us from our calling.

The best gift and campaign to the people of Nakuru will be the fulfilment of our manifesto.

We take this opportunity to urge all elected and community leaders to come together and realize the Nakuru dream.

Thank You.

God Bless you, God Bless Nakuru