

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KISUMU



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**SPEECH BY H.E PROF. PETER ANYANG’
NYONG’O EGH, GOVERNOR KISUMU COUNTY
DURING THE 3RD ANNUAL STATE OF THE
COUNTY ADDRESS, MAMA GRACE ONYANGO
SOCIAL CENTRE, KISUMU.**

November 26th, 2020

The Speaker of the County Assembly of Kisumu, Hon Elisha Jack Oraro,
The Chairman of the Council of Governors and Governor of Kakamega
County, H.E Wickliffe Oparanya,
The Governor of Bungoma County, H.E Wickliffe Wangamati,
Honourable Members of the County Assembly,
The Deputy Governor, Dr. Mathew Ochieng Owili,
Presiding Judge of the High Court, Hon. Fred Ochieng'
Honourable Members of Parliament,
National Government Officials,
County Executive Committee Members,
The County Secretary,
Members of the County Public Service Board,
Members of the City Board,
Distinguished Development Partners,
Invited Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, Ladies and Gentlemen;

We congregate in this August House to reflect on what we have achieved in the last one year and cumulatively in over the three years of my administration having addressed this august house every year in like manner during my first two years as Governor.

This third state of the county address comes at a time that we are living under very unique circumstances occasioned by the ravaging effects of the novel coronavirus pandemic. This is even manifest in the number of people that are able to join this event in-person due to the need to observe the prevailing health protocols. We might not be physically communed as we might have wanted, but technology has expanded our horizons and I am sure our communications teams have ensured that large sections of our public are able to share in this moment virtually through technology.

Mr. Speaker Sir, allow me to break parliamentary traditions by requesting that we all be up-standing and observe a minute of silence in respect of lives lost to this disease; here at home, nationally and around the world.

Thank you!

Let us also remember in prayer our health workers - the frontline soldiers in this war; and those people struggling with the disease at various stages. I am

certain that despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, we shall, as humanity overcome!

Mr. Speaker;

Despite this pandemic having literally robed us of almost half the financial year under review, I am happy to report that we have continued to make progress in our development guided by the 10-point agenda of my Manifesto.

Mr. Speaker Sir, let me once again appreciate the House for debating and adopting my Manifesto as one of our key measurable development tools. As an administration, we have remained true to its implementation and delivery to improve the lives of our people and offer them hope for the future.

The Manifesto points to our vision which is *a peaceful and prosperous County where all citizens enjoy high quality life and a sense of belonging.*

Prosperity and high quality of life are intrinsically tied to sustainable food security and delivery of quality healthcare, among other human basic needs.

During the year under review, 2019-2020, the department of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Irrigation purchased and distributed cassava cuttings, local vegetables and maize seedlings as well as provision of agrochemicals for control of fall army worms and other pests.

This came with distribution of 350 bags of CAN fertilizer and 325 bags of Urea fertilizer for top dressing of maize and rice crops across the county.

Covid-19 has ravaged our domestic economy in the county in a profound manner, rendering many families vulnerable without jobs and sources of

food. This department will be playing a major role in our Post Covid-19 economic recovery program. As you may be aware, I am the Chairperson of the Committee of the Council of Governors (CoG) that developed the Post-COVID-19 Economic and Social Re-Engineering Recovery Strategy for Counties, jointly with my two colleagues Governor Nderitu Mureithi of Laikipia County and Kivutha Kibwana of Makueni. With the technical support of the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA), we finished our work in record time and this report will be launched by His Excellency the President on 30th November 2020.

For us in Kisumu County, the recovery strategy emphasizes the importance of the 'Household Economy' in sustainable production of food at times of crisis when markets fail to deliver on essential supplies. That is why our COVID-19 Emergency Response Committee is supporting the department of Agriculture to promote food production at the household level. This effort has seen distribution of rice seeds, fruit tree seedlings, vegetable seeds, cereal seeds (maize, beans and green gram, and cowpeas), irrigation equipment's, and one-day old chicken all valued at Ksh. 13,000,000 to benefit over 10,000 smallholder farmers in the County. We shall continue to expand this recovery program in the coming year.

The May 2020 Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) COVID-19 survey found that 30.8% of the households in Kisumu county had instances where the household or a member of the household could not access the markets or grocery stores to purchase food items.

Further, with restrictions affecting seamless movement of food commodities, 54% of households in Kisumu county indicated experiencing an increase in food prices. Many family bread winners also lost their jobs. A socio-economic recovery program needs therefore to begin where it hurts most; **FOOD PRODUCTION.**

If there is one thing that the pandemic has taught us, it is that we have to go back to building household economies. Our household economies survived and thrived on the small farms in our backyards growing fast-maturing environment resilient crops that ensured we produced food for home or local consumption.

As we focus on developing the small holder household food production, we must not lose focus on building our commercial agriculture which will overtime shape our industrial revolution.

In this regard, we continue to build our irrigation infrastructure to reduce our over reliance on rain-fed agriculture. To boost our rice production, we distributed hybrid seeds and fertilizer to 1,200 farmers in rice growing areas at Ombeyi in Muhoroni Sub-County.

I also want to thank the National Government through the State Department of Crops Development and Agriculture Research for supporting our recovery efforts for giving us 20.8 metric tonnes of certified rice seeds valued at Ksh 4,800,000 to plant 2,600 acres of rice.

The development and expansion of irrigation infrastructure has seen the completion of phase one of construction of weirs and irrigation canals in both Nyamthoe and Mboha valleys which will be home to production of horticultural products for local consumption and beyond. I urge the department of Agriculture to increasingly look into, and promote, the growing of more nutritious traditional vegetable and fruits such as amarantha, and the likes of osuga, dek, mito, apoth etc.

Cotton is increasingly shaping up as one of the major cash crops grown in the county which is an important source of income as it was in the days gone by.

The expansion of textile production nationally coupled with favourable international treaties like the USA's Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) has expanded market demand for cotton which has translated to increased farmer interest.

In order to satisfy this ever growing demand and to support the growing industrial growth in this sector, we have partnered with the National Government to supply 12 metric tonnes of conventional variety, 0.38 metric tonnes Hybrid Non- Bacillus Thuringiensis (BT) and 0.14 metric tonnes of Hybrid BT cotton seeds to more than 1,500 small scale farmers with 1300 acres put under the crop. In addition, the farmers have also been taken through training on cotton production. Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to extend an invitation to the LREB, through our chairman to attend a workshop we shall soon organise in Kisumu in expanding cotton growing in our region.

Honourable Members;

At the outset of my administration, we carried out a careful study of the prevailing climatic conditions in our sub counties and how each could contribute to our food security agenda.

This subsequently informed our specific investments in the various agricultural and agro processes in those places. It has been a slow process but we have seen this strategy achieve the desired results.

The growth recorded in the livestock sub-sector is a true testament that indeed the strategy works.

Currently, the County has an estimated 20,000 Dairy Cattle, 202,235 Zebu cattle, 2,900 dairy goats, 154,800 meat goats, 196,000 hair sheep, 447,000 broilers, 40,000 dual purpose chicken - Kenbro and rainbow Rooster, 2,767,700 indigenous chicken and 4,450 hives in the County.

During the year under review, these enterprises produced an estimate of 33 million litres of milk, 3,000 metric tonnes of beef, 353 metric tonnes of mutton, 452 metric tonnes of chevron (goat meat), 2,970 metric tonnes of chicken meat, 52 million eggs and 45,750 kg of honey.

In that period, we distributed 7000 chicken to youths and youth groups and women in various sub counties. This is in line with supporting the economic development of the special interest groups and making agriculture and agro-processing a “young man’s career”.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I am happy to report that this development has touched lives with real heart-warming outcomes.

Evans Ochieng' Gichuru, a resident of Kadongo village, Kisian in Kisumu West Sub County is a beneficiary of this project. Evans dropped out of his studies at Maseno University where he was taking Special Needs Education. Today, with the proceeds from his poultry project, he has saved enough to resume his studies and is making enough money to support his education going forward.

I want to thank him for finding time from his busy schedule to join us here today. Not only is he committed to his farm and studies, he is also a patriot who makes time for public functions. Let me break parliamentary protocol by asking Evans to stand and be acknowledged by the Assembly. Thank you, Evans, for coming.

Members of PASU CBO, a youth group from Kaloleni Estate, Market Milimani Ward in Kisumu Central are also beneficiaries of the project. They received 1000 chicken, a chicken house and chicken feed to start them up. Today they have sold their third batch of birds and in the words of Mr. Elijah Odek their Coordinator, “*We have attained financial breakthrough and now command respect and dignity in the community*”.

Mr. Speaker Sir, these are the life-changing stories that these projects are telling across the breath of the county.

To further satisfy the growing demand in the dairy value chain sub-sector, in collaboration with European Union (EU-IDEAS), we are constructing the **Dairy Multiplication Center in Nyangore, Chemelil/Tamu Ward, Muhoroni Sub-County**. Once completed, the project will enable farmers access affordable, quality dairy breeds that are suited to our climatic conditions. With it, our farmers will be able to receive services such as Artificial Insemination, Bulking, and Milk Collection as we intend to establish a collection centre and marketing for farmers' milk.

Our fisheries development has continued to record upward growth. With the hyacinth menace controlled in Lake Victoria, our fishermen harvested 2,000 Metric Tonnes of fish valued at KSh. 320 million, whereas the annual fish production from aquaculture stood at 43 tonnes valued at KSh. 9 million.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I am happy to report that on 12th October 2020, alongside other Governors, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for an ambitious aquiculture fisheries development programme funded by the World Bank aimed at boosting the fisheries sector, where Kisumu was picked as one of the 15 beneficiary counties. Already, ten Fisheries Extension Officers across the 7 Sub- Counties in Kisumu have been trained on Aquaculture Farmer Field School Methodology.

Mr. Speaker Sir, Honourable Members;

The success of agricultural development hinges on extension services. We have been working towards increasing the numbers and capacity of our extension officers to competently respond to the needs of the growing number of farmers across the county.

Due to the emerging challenges of management of county wage bill and now the Covid-19 containment measures, we have resorted to technology to reach the farmers real-time in terms of extension support.

We have partnered with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to establish a toll-free Farmers Call Centre to allow farmers receive virtual extension services, advisory services and market information.

This platform gives the farmers access to important information by calling a help-line hosted by the County Government at no cost. The call Centre is manned by four technical officers from the County Government with expertise in crops, livestock production, veterinary services, and fisheries who respond to questions from farmers providing them with the required information and support. They offer instant solutions and sometimes refer the farmers to extension officers in their respective regions.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

A people rich in healthy foods spend less in Medicare. That is our long-term goal. However, we have continued to commit substantial investments in our

health care programs so as to ensure that our people **enjoy healthy living in a conducive humane environment** as enshrined in my Manifesto – with very encouraging outcomes.

Our health care provision is structured under service delivery system that focuses on provision of promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative care.

Through various studies and experiences, we have come to the full realization that provision of sustainable health services lies in strengthening preventive health interventions at the village level. It is for this reason that we are going forward with implementation of our community health services strategy.

The strategy's main goal is to increase community access to healthcare so as to improve community productivity, reduce poverty, child and maternal deaths. Investment in the community strategy has yielded 276 community units, of which 274 are fully functional with a total of 3100 Community Health Workers. All these CHWs have since been drafted into the payroll as bona fide health workers, receiving their stipends and also enlisted to medical cover under the NHIF Supa Cover scheme.

The service is designed for each Community Unit to be attached to a link facility in order for the Community Health Workers to seek technical guidance from trained health professions and also refer their community members to the health facility for ailments that cannot be managed at home.

For the success of this referral system, three critical investments had to be made;

1. Reducing the distance covered by those seeking health services by building more health facilities at the grassroots,
2. Equipping the facilities with necessary equipment and human resource and
3. Putting in place a functional ambulatory service.

In an effort to improve service delivery during the period under review by addressing the distance covered by patients, the County Government invested in the construction of health centres and dispensaries.

The Maternity Wards at Kombewa Hospital, Kisumu County Hospital and Lumumba Hospital were completed, equipped and operationalized. The operationalization of Kombewa and Muhoroni Maternity Theatres have reduced emergency referrals to Kisumu County Hospital and JOOTRH leaving them to focus on more specialized medical services.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The quality of Healthcare provided with the aforementioned investments depends on the quality of health personnel that offer the services.

My government has continued to actively engage with healthcare workers within the County to help improve their capacity and skills as well as addressing their welfare.

During this 2019/2020 Financial Year, we sent 19 healthcare workers including doctors for specialized training in areas such as Surgery, Paediatrics, Internal Medicine and Oncology.

Additionally, we employed 250 healthcare workers across various cadres to support the existing workforce and improve access and quality of care towards UHC pilot phase.

In the same period, we effected promotions to all eligible healthcare workers to the correct Job Groups as per the signed Comprehensive Bargaining Agreement.

The investment in our health human resource thus far has seen our Doctor - population ratio and the Nurse - population ratio grow to 1:44,634 and 1: 2,383 against the recommended WHO standards of 1:1000 and 3:1000 respectively. The numbers are not very impressive but we are steadily and surely covering the ground. Mr. Speaker Sir, the human resource gap in healthcare delivery is REAL both at the county and the national level.

To further strengthen our referral system and realizing that Ambulatory Service is a key component in a strong, working referral system and to ensure that patients in need of emergency health services get the required services at minimum time, my administration has established a well-managed “Kisumu County Ambulatory and Emergency Services”. Currently, there are a total of 20 ambulances, distributed across the Sub-Counties and major facilities, of these 8 were purchased in the just ended financial year 2019/2020.

Ten of these ambulances are fully equipped with ICU equipment such as Oxygen supply, ECG machines, Spinal boards, Transport ventilators, Suction Units and nebulizers that can support an emergency situation for eight hours.

We are at an advanced stage of putting together a centrally managed fleet system for improved ease of access. My Department of Health and Sanitation

is also working on a referral strategy called Kisumu County Referral Strategy which will enhance the utilization of other forms of referrals including specialist referral, sample referral, and reverse referrals.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The investments and experiences enumerated above are geared towards ensuring that our people, by right, have access to health services without suffering financial hardships leading to eradication of extreme poverty and achieving social equity and shared prosperity as envisaged under the Universal Health Coverage Agenda.

The UHC pilot project that has just come to a close brought with it many lessons. It identified certain issues that we must deal with as the National Government rolls out the second phase nationally. Health financing emerged as one of the key issues with a very close bearing to the successful implementation of this noble idea. To this end, my administration, being fully aware that there are members of our population who for one reason or the other are not able to pay for their premiums under any insurance scheme that allows them access quality healthcare, embarked on a journey to ensure that nobody gets disenfranchised along the way. We came up with a policy to cushion the vulnerable segment of the society by taking care of all their health needs through a health insurance scheme; the *Marwa Kisumu Solidarity Health Insurance Scheme*. Through the scheme, a total of 90,000 vulnerable households across the county will be able to access quality, affordable healthcare. Already, the first batch of 45,000 vulnerable households are being

recruited into the scheme. The remaining 45,000 will be enlisted in the next quarter.

The scheme being implemented in partnership with NHIF and PharmAccess will ensure that the most deserving population have access to quality and affordable healthcare at all levels of healthcare delivery especially in the public sector. The beneficiaries will access both inpatient and outpatient care under the NHIF Supa Cover benefits package at forty-five public health facilities spread across the seven Sub Counties.

Mr. speaker Sir,

This referral system that we are strengthening will only be meaningful with a referral facility at the apex that offers very specialized consultant medical interventions. This informs our drive to continue with the modernization and expansion works we have been carrying out at Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital (JOOTRH).

The modernization and expansion of JOOTRH is a five-year project with phase one meant to improve and expand the infrastructure for emergency medical and surgical response, strengthening clinical governance, and identifying and investing in strategies that address neglected but high health burden diseases and conditions in Kisumu County and the region.

Phase 2 consists of expanding the overall bed capacity in the hospital from the current 530 to 880 – a 70% expansion. Surgical division expands from

the current 100 to 300 which is a 200% growth to accommodate surgical subspecialties of plastic surgery/burns, head and neck (neurosurgery, dental and maxillofacial, and ENT) while reorganizing orthopaedics, general surgery, dialysis and introducing High Dependency Unit (HDU). This will reduce congestion and improve surgical output and outcomes.

All our investments must have measurable outputs. So far, we have started seeing the results of the work we have put in at JOOTRH where quality of service is reflected in the average hospitalization days that have considerably come down from 6.3 days in 2016 to 6.1 days in 2020. This number needs to progressively go down during the next five years.

Kisumu Neurosurgery Project is an ambitious project meant to address the increasing demand for neurology and neurosurgical health in Kisumu County and the region.

The project further aims at addressing the human resource gap by training neurosurgeons through the collegiate system at the JOOTRH in collaboration with partnerships that we have cultivated in this field across the world.

To support the initiative, we are putting up an 80-bed neurosurgical inpatient facility equipped with modern facilities.

The county has also acquired a surgical microscope that would now make it possible to access hidden parts of the brain. The development is expected to be completed by April 2021 and shall impact on service throughput and facilitate research.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

As has been reported, and as I have said before, cancer remains one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality worldwide with approximately 14 million new cases reported annually. Globally, every 1 in 6 deaths is due to cancer. In Kenya alone, an estimated 40,000 new cancer cases and 28,000 cancer deaths occur each year. This makes it the third leading cause of mortality and accounting for 7 per cent of all annual deaths.

Despite 60% of Cancer patients requiring radiotherapy management, there are only public hospital offering radiotherapy management – Kenyatta National Hospital and Kenyatta University Teaching and Referral Hospital. This has continued to cause a major strain on patients in need of this form of management.

Kisumu County and the region at large and indeed as the rest of the country, bears the biggest burden of cancer due to lack of awareness, misdiagnosis, late presentation to hospital and high cost of treatment.

In response to this gap, we made a strategic decision to build Kisumu Comprehensive Cancer Care Center.

This specialized state-of-the-art Cancer hospital, the first of its kind in Nyanza and Western region, will enable us to comfortably offer comprehensive oncology services covering radiotherapy, chemotherapy and palliative care to cancer patients across the region.

Construction of the centre has since commenced having received approvals from regulatory agencies including from Kenya Nuclear Energy Authority.

We expect to have phase one of the center operational by June 2021.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Despite the high prevalence of sickle cells in the region where between 17 and 21 out of 100 new born babies' present sickle cell traits, it is disturbing that its management has never been mainstreamed in the present health care system.

To address this high prevalence of sickle cells among new-borns in the region, we started Kisumu Sickle Cells Initiative at JOOTRH. I want to thank Dr. Charles Otieno fo the UCLA Medical School and Acres of Hope, for his support and that of his team in this endeavour.

Through this initiative, we shall mainstream sickle cell management in healthcare provision and screen every single new borne delivered in Kisumu.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The Covid-19 pandemic underscored the need for oxygen supply in our health facilities. It is heart-wrenching to keep encountering loss of life due to lack of this commodity.

Through the on-going modernization of JOOTRH, there are two Oxygen generating plants with a combined capacity of 305 litres per minute and a 6-tonne liquid oxygen tank. This translates to an installed capacity of 13 million litres. However, this still falls short of the demand estimated at 24 million litres which has soared due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

I am happy to note that the expanded oxygen supply was so timely as it has been of great help in Covid-19 response. We have also recorded a marked

reduction in pneumonia fatalities, an indicator of the impact of this investment. But we have started to look into further production of oxygen by expanding our capacity.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

JOOTRH has become a facility of choice for Schools of Medicine in neighbouring Universities. The hospital is partnering with Maseno University, Uzima University and the College of Surgeons for East Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA).

A total of 115 doctors have graduated through the collaboration while there are 12 doctors currently undertaking a 5-year surgical fellowship collegiate training through the COSECSA program.

It is important to note that it is amongst a few privileged hospitals accredited to train doctors at postgraduate levels. It also trains Nurses in the specialized area of nephrology and anaesthesia medicine. In 2019, 12 nurses graduated with Higher National Diploma in Nephrology. The second lot is set to graduate in November 2020.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

It should be noted that this hospital is still the referral hospital of choice for counties across the region. In order to mobilize resources that will ensure continued quality service delivery and perform its collaborative work with institutions of higher learning while also engaging in medical research work, it is necessary to elevate it to a county parastatal. We have initiated the process and will be coming back to the assembly to consider this proposal.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The high budgetary demands of health care provision is directly linked to the environments we live in and the standards of sanitation that we maintain.

This informs my government's resolve to ensure that all the residents of Kisumu have access to clean portable water by 2022.

Through the Department of Water and our Water Service Providers, we have been able to move this vision to 65% of the county's households.

We remain committed to the mandate of developing new water infrastructure, rehabilitation of existing water supplies, and capacity building for members of water management committees for sustainable management of the projects not forgetting the development of policies for efficient and effective water service provision.

In the financial year 2019/20, we prioritized a total of 80 Water projects; Nyakach (10), Kisumu East (4), Kisumu west (10), Seme (18), Muhoroni (16) Nyando (21) and Kisumu Central (1).

We also completed major flagship projects in the water sector including God Nyithindo Water Project in Muhoroni Sub County which involved drilling and equipping of a borehole with submersible pump and pumping the water to 40,000 litres steel tank. This project is changing the lives of about 1000 residents of God Nyithindo Village. It is envisioned that the project will serve additional villages of Bao, Kandege and Tonde once the second phase is completed.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The other major flagship project is the Esivalu Water Project which is the main water supply to Maseno town. The project is now serving adequately Ongadi, Nyawita and Esivalu villages; Maseno University and high school and the environs with approximated population of 10,000.

For a long time now, Awasi Angoro has been known for its share of water shortage. This is now history following the construction of Pala Angoro Water Supply project to supply Angoro from Angoro Primary School and Pala Village. This borehole, has saved the residents from relying on water from unprotected sources such as rivers and water pans as over 240 households are able to draw safe water from the project.

Other life changing projects that were concluded in this period include Simba Gero Water Project in Seme Sub County serving over 300 households in the villages of Simba Gero, Kamolo A and Konjula A in East Seme and the Nyakach Water Supply Project at Sigoti. The Sigoti project implemented in partnership with Living Water International is expected to increase serviced households by 2000 covering lower Nyakach serving 5 sub locations of Rarieda-Kokech, Lisana, Kandaria, Ramogi, and Kabodho East Sub Locations of Central and North Nyakach Wards once fully operationalized.

Through partnerships and collaborations, we have also been able to upscale water provision and supply by embarking on projects such as the Chuth-Ber Community Water Project supported by Safe Water and AIDS Project (SWAP) in Kisumu West Sub County, Nyahera Mkendwa Water Project in Gee Village in North Kisumu Ward supported by KIWASH which is serving about 2400

households, Sondu Miriu Right Bank Water Project supported by KIWASH in West Nyakach Ward and Ochat Water Supply and Sanitation Project supported by Living Water in Central Seme.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The subject of global warming is probably the most talked about in the world save for the Covid-19 pandemic. This phenomenon has picked up pace due to rapid industrialization in some countries amidst population growth, especially in developing countries like ours. Environmental conservation must now take centre stage for us to save our planet. As an administration, we remain committed to this end.

This calls for serious afforestation to improve our tree cover, careful and measured abstraction of natural resources as well as protection of riparian areas.

Under the Environmental and Natural Resources Management and Climate Change Sub Sector, we established three tree nurseries in the period under review. The 150,000 tree seedlings production center at Menara Tree Nursery was the flagship project for the sub-sector. Most of the seedlings raised are currently ready for planting in the current short rain season.

Other tree nurseries were established at Karanda Primary School in Ahero town with 30,000 tree seedlings and ASK Mamboleo showground with 6000 bamboo seedlings. These bamboo trees will be used in the rehabilitation of River banks for river Kibos and other rivers in Kisumu East, Kisumu Central and Kisumu West sub-counties.

As part of the journey towards improving our tree cover, we have initiated the process of gazettelement of Koguta, Karateng, Nyatigo, Kajulu and Koru hills as protected water towers. I would like to declare the 2020/21 Financial Year, the year of tree planting in the county. The village councils we are establishing must take ENVIRONMENT as priority No. 1.

Honorable Members,

We continue to formulate sustainable strategies for solid waste management. Three waste transfer stations have been established in Nyando, Muhoroni and Kisumu West sub counties for waste segregation at source and to help create employment opportunities for entrepreneurs in this sector.

These will be linked to our Waste to Energy facility in Achuodho-Kasese. We concluded the acquisition of the 85-acre land and currently in the process of preparing the infrastructure for waste management including construction of sorting sheds.

Let me take this opportunity to assure our people from Kasese that my government WILL NEVER create another Kachok in this county. The era of dump sites is gone. What we are doing in Kasese is the creation of an industry that will turn waste into gainful resources creating hundreds of jobs. And we already made a public Call-for-Expression of Interest to establish the facility jointly with the private sector.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Our education system like across the globe has taken a serious beating from the effects of the coronavirus pandemic. Our institutions of learning have been

closed since March 2020 to contain the spread of the virus and protect our learners and teachers alike.

The Ministry of Education has since commenced the gradual re-opening as we move towards full re-opening of schools in January 2021.

The infections rates being experienced in this run-up to the full re-opening are not encouraging. However, the world is full of hope for the future following news released that vaccines with very high efficacy rates have been found and might be in the market soon.

That notwithstanding, I am very encouraged with our achievements in the areas of Early Childhood Education and Vocational Training services. We continue to invest in the development of various aspects of these two critical functions in different fronts such as Infrastructural Development for improved delivery of services, Equipment Supply, Feeding Programs, Provision of Teaching and Learning Materials, Teacher Recruitment, Monitoring and Capacity Building, Collaboration and Sanitation as result areas.

To ensure continued access to quality education by our children, we supplied 24,459 text books and 130,820 exercise books worth KShs. 25,000,000; and maintained the school feeding programme by supplying 3,996 bags of rice and 1,350 units of 10-litre Jerrycans cooking oil. Over the same period, we constructed 45 new classrooms in all the 35 wards with an additional 34 ECDE classrooms under construction. ECDE Centers in 8 wards (Market Milimani, Central Seme, Kondele, Railway, Migosi, Masogo Nyangoma, Ombeyi and South West Nyakach were furnished with custom made tables and chairs for the comfort of children as well as purchase of outdoor equipment for ECD

Centers in 3 wards; Kondele, Manyatta and Nyalenda B to enhance skills and talent development.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

All the 733 ECDE teachers in our service were appraised and promoted. They were graded in a new scheme of service that recognises their educational development. Going forward, we plan to recruit 70 Early Childhood teachers and 20 instructors to improve the quality of learning in both ECDE and Vocational Training Centres.

Our VTCs play a very important role in developing job creators and industry skilled labour for our industries. To underscore our commitment to the development of this sector, we continue to commit commensurate investments for the development of the VTCs both in the areas of strengthening institutional and governance structures and supporting enrolment. In addition to the 21 operational public Vocational Training Centers, we intend to register 5 more training centres with a view to having at least one VTC in every ward.

We constituted and inaugurated Boards of Management in Nyangoma, Chwa, Koru and Obange VTCs as per the TVET Act to improve their management. Additional BOMs are also being constituted for Kochogo and Withur VTCs in Nyando Sub County, Kianja and Obwolo VTCs in Kisumu East and Kandaria VTC in Nyakach Sub County.

To support student enrolment and retention, the VTCs received Kshs. 17,000,000 from the County Government and an additional Kshs. 41,673,298 from the National Government as student capitation for tuition.

With this allocation, 595 students, 17 from every ward, received KShs. 21,428 each in tuition grants.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

In order to improve service delivery through ICT, which is a base enabler across all sectors, we established an Operational Data Centre, a Geographical Information System (GIS), a Document Management System (DMS) and adopted e-revenue platform for better revenue collection in the County.

We have also partnered with the ICT Authority (ICTA) of Kenya and trained youths on digital skills.

Honourable Members,

The Directorate of Human Capacity Development continues to focus on building capacity within the county workforce to ensure result-oriented staff that can realize quality service delivery.

Again, in relation to our youths, the Directorate of Youth, Women and Persons with Disability is committed to empowering the vulnerable groups as demonstrated by the establishment of the Youth and Women Fund. The County Government has employed a total of 124 PWDs within various departments and awarded businesses amounting to Kshs. 53 Million to some 43 companies led by Persons with Disabilities.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Pre Covid outbreak, the hotel industry in Kisumu was experiencing an average bed occupancy of 85% from 25% in 2016/2017.

This can be directly attributed to astute promotion of the County as an attractive Meetings Incentives Conferences Exhibitions and Tourist destination. This growth has translated to exponential growth in hospitality business with a spiral effect to the Lake Region Economic Bloc.

Mr. Speaker, there is a saying that when Kisumu grows, the region grows!

The excitement generated in this sector arising from a very strategic policy implementation resulted in the county hosting for the first time in November 2019 the annual general meeting of Kenya Association of Tour Operators, testament to the confidence the county enjoys among the tour operators.

Mr. Speaker, we are not only leveraging Kisumu as a Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions destination but also a sporting destination.

Kisumu is known as the true home of talent development both in sports and performing arts. To help nurture and develop these talents, we continue to invest in sports infrastructure across the county.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Our cultural landscape received a big shot in the arm by a momentous pronouncement at the UNESCO meeting in Bogota Colombia in December 2019.

The Intangible Heritage Committee inscribed four practices on UNESCO's List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in need of urgent safeguarding.

Alongside the other three inscribed elements from Mauritius, Botswana and Philippines, our own Kit Mikayi shrine was identified as unique heritage site with a significant representation of an African cultural legacy and inscribed as

the custodian of the Luo cultural rituals. With this inscription, Kit Mikayi became the fourth item in Kenya to be listed by UNESCO and raises its profile worldwide thus serving to attract tourism development, and will attract potential public and financial support for its conservation while at the same time producing dividends to the over 200,000 community members residing around the site.

As part of the development of the shrine in accordance to the inscription requirements, construction of Kit Mikayi Community Resource Centre is ongoing and will be equipped with modern resource centre equipment upon completion.

Through the department of Tourism and Culture, we also operationalized Katito and Kanyakwar Community Centres by equipping them with ICT equipment and furniture.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Again in November 2019, the County hosted the 17th edition of Cinemadamare Film Festival Africa Chapter, the first time this event was hosted in the continent. The week-long film event brought young film makers from all over the world offering our young film makers an opportunity to network with their peers from across the globe.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

My administration is focused on catalysing all the gains enumerated here as drivers to creating a thriving business and trade environment, establishing cooperative societies and creating an enabling environment for the expansion of Micro and Small Enterprises.

In the year under review, the government constructed Nine market sheds at Koru in Muhoroni sub-county, Oboch in Nyalenda “B”, in Kisumu Central sub-county, Sigoti, Kodong’a, Apoko, Omwonyo Lee, Kobongo Ndori in Nyakach sub-county, Jua Kali – Nyuki, Railways Ward in Kisumu Central and Angola Markets in Kisumu East sub-county. Not only were sheds constructed but the general physical outlook of the markets were also improved by murraming and fencing.

These physical infrastructural developments have greatly improved the business environment at these markets. It has accorded the traders a habitable and dignified trading environment, improved security for their wares and longer trading hours.

Through the department of Business, Trade and Cooperatives, we also completed the following markets;

1. Kombewa modern retail market with a capacity of 143 stalls in Central Seme Ward, Seme Sub-County.
2. Awasi market that was built through collaboration with Kenya National Highway Authority (KeNHA) with a capacity of 88 stalls.

We hope to complete Pap-Onditi Modern Retail Market in Central Nyakach Ward in Nyakach Sub County and Korowe modern retail market in this financial year 2020/2021.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

One of the bumps to accelerated business growth for the small entrepreneurs is access to start-up financing.

To boost small traders' capital base, we issued loans totalling to Kshs.8.7 million to 70 beneficiaries evenly distributed throughout the county through the County Trade Fund. This is a revolving fund with a repayment period of two years at an interest rate of 8% on a reducing balance and a grace period of three months. The highest amount that can be lent to an individual is Ksh. 200,000/ while the lowest amount is Kshs. 50,000/. These amounts were arrived at after realising that advancing lower amounts to traders do not support their growth but only derails their financial planning leading to deeper indebtedness.

This scheme has been going on hand in hand with training on skills in developing Entrepreneurship and business skills for scale up and business sustainability. So far, over 500 traders have undergone this training.

Ms. Colleta Agut Oyenga, a businesswoman who sells bicycle spare parts in Kisumu and has an M -Pesa shop and a beneficiary of the scheme had this to say;

" This loan has changed my life. I received Ksh. 100,000 last year. I used the money to boost my businesses. I used the profits from my businesses to buy land where I have put up rental houses. I live in my own house and I comfortably pay fees for my children,"

Mr. Speaker Sir,

It is proven that Micro and Small Enterprises, the bulk of trade drivers in environments such as ours, thrive in environments where cooperatives are developed. To support value addition, wealth and employment creation and promotion of growth of co-operative societies, the government purchased and distributed 10 hatcheries to youth co-operative societies in Kondele Ward in Kisumu Central Sub County to boost poultry farming and improve food security. We also purchased and distributed **80** Solar kits for youth and women co-operative societies in North Seme and 240 kits for cooperative society members in Kondele Ward in Kisumu East sub county - these solar kits have boosted trading activities by extending business hours and enhancing security for traders. We procured and issued one brick making machine for youth cooperative societies in Nyalenda “A” ward of Kisumu East Sub-County and purchased one Lathe machine for youth cooperative societies at Nyalenda “A” ward to promote quality and efficiency in the *Jua-kali* sector.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

A lot of businesses have folded, failed to leap to the next level or altogether relocated due to challenges experienced with supply of energy. Our vision to attain an industrialized status therefore depends to a large extent on our ability to provide readily available, reliable, affordable and sustainable energy for both domestic and industrial use.

Provision of energy also impacts to a large extent the quality of service in other service sectors such as markets, health facilities and water provision.

To this end, we have up-scaled supply, installation and maintenance of public lighting infrastructure - high mast floodlights, solar lights and street lighting, at market centres, health facilities and schools; providing solar lanterns and bio ethanol jikos to grid inaccessible persons; training technicians on installation, operation and maintenance of renewable energy technology - solar, biogas, bio ethanol and wind; demonstration of green energy technology and spearheading the development of off grid electricity within the County.

Sustainable provision of energy supports the Industrialization sector which aims to promote innovation, growth, and knowledge & technology transfer in industries within the county through value addition and establishment of cottage industries.

A healthy population is an important contributor to economic growth and reduction of budgetary allocations to medical interventions. The Financial Year 2019/20 saw the procurement and distribution of twenty-three 3-lighting point solar lanterns to vulnerable households under '*Operation Nyangile Out*' programme. This brought the total number of households benefitting from the solar lanterns under the programme to 1,324 across the county.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Under the Industrialization sector in FY 2019/20, the establishment of Kochieng' Tomato processing Plant in Kobura ward was advanced by the fencing of the project land, the supply of water to the site, external lighting and with the on-going completion of the processing plant building and ablution block.

The tomato processing plant is expected to be operational by the end of this financial year, 2020/21.

During the last financial year, the construction of Akado County Incubation Innovation Centre (CIDC) which is to facilitate economic growth through job creation was finalised. The Centre is to host 3 Hubs: an ICT centre, a honey processing mini plant and a Block machine making workshop. We expect to open the centre later in this financial year.

The Establishment of Kisumu Special Economic Zone, which is to lead to the transformation of the county's economic base through employment and opportunity creation was progressed in the same period with the following: pre-feasibility study of the proposed Miwani site carried out by World Bank and Price Water House Coopers and a draft report availed; a forum with Special Economic Zone Authority, Ministry of Industry, Trade and Cooperatives and County Government of Kisumu on Investment opportunities in the region was also held in March 2020 and the initial 1000 acres of land was identified and is currently undergoing demarcation for gazettelement.

To support the business environment, we installed twenty high mast floodlights spread across 12 wards of North Seme, Kaloleni/Shauri Moyo, North Nyakach, South East Nyakach, South West Nyakach, Kajulu, Kondele, Kobura, South West, Nyalenda A, West Kisumu and West Seme.

These high mast floodlights contributed to the enhancement of energy access, increased security and promotion of a 24-hour economy with a net effect of

increased business hours due to security at the markets, increased revenue for the county in these markets and improved levels of livelihoods.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Roads network is so critical to movement of both goods and services and general growth of the economy.

The year 2019/2020 was the most trying for our roads infrastructure following serious flooding experienced in the county as a result of the heavy rainfall experienced.

The resultant net effect left us with 99 roads across the county badly damaged and needing almost Kshs. 400 million to rehabilitate.

However, in the face of that adversity, we recorded a number of milestones under the Department of Roads and Transport with far reaching impacts on the lives of our people.

During the 2018/2019 Financial Year, Kisumu County Rural Roads Maintenance bill was approved by this August House creating room for establishment of Village Road Maintenance Teams in every village within Kisumu County, thereby mainstreaming the spirit of devolution in our operations.

As a consequence of this initiative, a pilot programme for machine-based roads maintenance which will be an integral component for the Roads Maintenance Teams agenda was commenced. The pilot targets 350 kms of roads for opening and maintenance and has so far covered Muhoroni, Nyando, Nyakach and Kisumu West Sub Counties.

During the same period, several road construction projects – 55 under Roads Maintenance Levy Fund and 61 under the County Revenue Fund were initiated. Most of these projects suffered delays due to the heavy rains experienced from around November 2019 to May 2020. Most of those works suspended due to unfavourable weather conditions have since resumed and expected to be completed by the end of December 2020.

Despite the challenges, a number of achievements were realised. These include the re-carpeting of Arina Estate Road in Kisumu Central, improvement of the 7.2 Km Rabuor-Nyangande road, improvement of Okwach -Makindu bridge in Muhoroni sub county and improvement of Chuth Ber-Mathonye Access road in Kisumu West sub county.

Mr. Speaker Sir, we all appreciate the appetite of our people to encroach on public land especially road reserves. To mitigate this, we have, as matter of policy, introduced Road Edge Marker Posts in all roads under construction within the county to permanently mark the road reserve boundaries. Any such further encroachments will definitely lead to legal consequences.

The success of the new machine-based strategy and Roads Maintenance Teams depend to a large extent on the efficiency of the Directorate of Transport and Mechanical Engineering. In the period under review, the Directorate acquired one motor grader and four motorcycles and refurbished 4 plant equipment and machines. Two motor graders and two lorries which were not in operation were also revived by putting in new parts and servicing. All the County Vehicles Pre- and Post-Inspection are currently being done by the directorate instead of the National Government's Regional Mechanical

Engineering Office. This is saving money which was being paid for the service and reduces delay for maintenance.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

All the efforts from the various departments as outlined above would be futile if the county does not employ proper physical planning and the development of modern physical infrastructure.

The four-year journey to put in place a final County Valuation Roll – an integral document in both analytical understanding of land use planning and revenue planning has now come to an end. This document will greatly help the county comply with the vision for own source revenue self-sustenance to fund various development projects.

Honorable Members,

Through the Directorate of Survey, we embarked on an ambitious implantation of densification of geodetic control networks that will tremendously enhance accuracy of survey works. Together with a comprehensive Geographic Information System (GIS), densification of geodetic system will not only reduce overlaps and land boundary conflict but will help in laying high precision utility systems like water and sewer pipelines, flood water evacuation drainage channels with the latter becoming handy in responding to perennial flood disasters in the Kano plains and other parts of the county.

Through the Directorates of Physical Planning and Urban Development we have identified 35 markets and other urban centres for planning and

subsequent survey. The two directorates are key in enhancing symbiosis in development between the urban and rural spaces within the county.

Mr. Speaker Sir

In a bid to ensure holistic development of our urban centers, we continue to partner with development partners such as the UNHABITAT and the World Bank for urban renewal. This urban renewal exercise would not be sustainable if we do not develop the requisite infrastructure in terms of housing and meeting the needs of the ever-growing population within our urban centres. To this end, the Directorate of Housing which is responsible for managing county houses and facilitating investments in housing, with special emphasis on affordable housing is currently working with LAPFUND and the County Pensions Fund (CPF) to redevelop a number of old municipal housing, a move that will both increase the housing stock and improve the competitiveness in pricing of housing within the county. My dream to deliver at least 10,000 housing units by 2021 is on course.

The collaboration with the National Government has yielded much progress in the preparatory stages of land identification and preparation for the eventual housing projects. The County has identified seven estates for the housing renewal program. These include Makasembo, Arina, Kibuye, Lumumba, Ondiek, Argwings Kodhek & Milimani.

In expanding the space for private housing development, the directorate through the World Bank funded Kenya Informal Settlement Improvement Project (KISIP) Phase II will be rolling out housing relevant infrastructure

projects (sewer, roads, and street lighting etc.) in Manyatta, Migosi, Nyawita & Kiboswa.

Honourable Members,

Secondly, is the Gazettement and establishment of 5 new towns of Ahero, Maseno, Kombewa, Katito and Muhoroni. So far, two towns, Maseno and Ahero have been unveiled. The launching and unveiling of the remaining three towns are expected to be completed by January 2021.

Partnership with the National Government and other partners led projects like Kenya Informal Settlement Improvement Project & SYMBIOCITY promises to change the face of these towns in the shortest time of their implementation.

The Kisumu County Housing Policy is also complete. The document is awaiting legislative processes by the County Assembly for adoption and use. The progressive recommendations of the document encourage participation of all sectors in housing provision.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The City of Kisumu is definitely a success story of my government in achieving what is articulated in my Manifesto. Taking the reins of this government, I promised not only to improve and deepen relationships with development partners but that we shall also deploy bilateral and public funding and resources to the set sbudget lines and in a timely manner.

The two major bilateral funding areas towards the city is proof that the above has been achieved.

The projects set out under Kisumu Urban Project (KUP) which is moving towards its conclusion are all in the final stages with most having been completed.

The refurbishment of the iconic Social Centre which we have since renamed Mama Grace Onyango Social Centre is now complete.

Honorable Members, you only need to look around this August House to appreciate what Mama Grace Onyango Centre looks like!

By honoring this lady of many firsts, we hope that her achievements will inspire many more young girls to break the glass ceilings in various disciplines especially in the area of talent development.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The bitumen roads funded under this project – Impala-Dunga road, Nyamasaria-Sije road and even Naselica-Social Centre road have indeed changed the landscape of this beautiful city.

The conclusion and approval of the Kisumu Urban Strategic Urban Development Plan (ISUD) funded under this project gives the city a fully-fledged Physical Development Plan or in other words a MASTERPLAN that will define how our beautiful city develops. The planning process has resulted in several administrative documents like Development Control Manual and Zoning Regulations for the city currently under development.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The other partner funded project, Kenya Urban Support Programme has also been implemented with pristine precision.

Following the successful implementation of phase one of the project, we qualified and have been granted funding for phase two whose projects have commenced.

The non-motorized transport project implemented under phase one has greatly transformed the outlook of the Central Business District triangle on Oginga Odinga, Jomo Kenyatta and Ang'awa avenues. Besides providing decent walkways; the project has also given life to Chichwa Stalls that has provided dignified trading stalls to around 800 small scale traders who only knew streets as their home of trade; subjected to all manner of weather situations.

The NMT project has also improved the drainage system within the CBD thus solving the perennial flooding that has in the past been witnessed whenever there is a heavy downpour. The project has also resulted in ultra-modern ablution facilities within the NMT triangle.

Construction of the 700 million Kisumu Business Incubation and Invitation Innovation Centre is 95% complete. This facility will provide an enabling environment that fosters innovation and incubation for the youths in Kisumu. It will also offer adequate and strengthened linkages between institutions of learning and the market for budding entrepreneurs. The opening has been

delayed as a result of the need to undertake proper electrical ancillary fittings commensurate with the needs of the centre.

I am happy to report the willingness of the State Department of ICT under PS Hon. Jerome Ochieng to partner with us to equip it with ICT technology as we complete the centre.

Mr. Speaker, phase two of the funding will cover more streets to be improved and rehabilitation of our green spaces and parks as well as construction of phase one of Kibuye market.

Mr Speaker Sir,

We all know of the challenges facing County Governments in intermittent cash flows from the national government and shrinking own source revenues during this pandemic. In the last financial year, we have enhanced investment in our local revenue collection system by increasing the numbers of collection tools and staff on the ground by more than 200% in each case. We acquired 300 additional Point of Sale (POS) machines, from the 88 we had at the time and employed 150 new revenue collectors and a further 170 enforcement officers.

On the expenditure side, we are focused on management of the County wage bill to sustainable levels. Beyond the staff headcount, we have launched an in-depth audit of the County's payroll.

In addition, we have streamlined our debt management by formulating the County Debt Management Policy while continuing to pay pending bills. In the last financial year, the County Government paid pending bills amounting to KES 592 Million.

Mr. Speaker,

We know that pending bills present great constraint to local business growth and household livelihoods. My government is doing everything possible to fast track the payment of these bills, under the guidance of the Auditor-General as regards the eligibility or ineligibility of pending bills since 2013. I will not pass the buck to the government before us, but many of you already know that my government inherited a huge debt book, which included debts owed by the former Municipal Council. It is possible to wipe out pending bills entirely if we award works contracts in time while the contractors move fast to fully accomplish projects without raising partial payment certificates unnecessarily.

To further strengthen our delivery system, we have boosted capacity of the County Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Directorate by recruiting professionals at the leadership and technical levels in the last financial years. We will not pay for projects that have not been done to specifications and requirements.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Last financial year was a defining moment for the residents of the City of Kisumu in particular, the county and the region as a whole as a result of the Kisumu Port revival project. This project will have a profound economic impact on the region and the nation as a whole. Several small traders operating on part of the port land had to be displaced from their places of business.

To mitigate the displacement of those traders, we lobbied the President of the Republic of Kenya H.E Uhuru Kenyatta who graciously offered help in the form of Uhuru Business Park. This business park that is expected to house 10,000 small scale traders will forever change micro and small trading landscape in Kisumu.

Phase one is almost ready for occupation and 4000 traders will be accommodated with a chain of other value addition infrastructure. The market has all the segments from food courts, boutiques, grocery shops, butcheries, cafeterias and office spaces for commercial businesses such as banks.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

On behalf of the people of Kisumu, allow me to send a big thank you to the President for this gift to our people. He has indeed exhibited very strong enthusiasm to see the project completed in good time including personally supervising its progress.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Let me speak briefly about the work of Mama Kisumu County,

Mr. Speaker, not only has she been by my side offering unwavering support, she still has created time with the same zeal for activities that continue to touch humanity in Kisumu and across the nation.

Six key areas remained central to the work of her office, namely the County First Ladies Association and other partnerships; cancer, blood and other health concerns; early childhood development and nurturing care; youth and culture; and Gender Based Violence.

As a member of the County First Ladies Association (CFLA) steering committee, she attended several meetings and workshops on matters of health, early childhood development, and environment. She worked closely with, and supported First Lady Margaret Kenyatta's Beyond Zero Medical Safaris, who champions the philosophy that *"no woman should die giving life"*.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The fight against cancer remains number one in Mama Kisumu's areas of concern. Through the County First Ladies Association's Empower Programme, Kisumu was privileged to be among the first eight counties to have a thorough review of its cancer programmes, which culminated in the launch of the very

first Kenyan Empower Cancer Screening Clinic, a model cancer screening clinic, established at Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital (JOOTRH). The Empower Cancer Screening Clinic was launched during an event graced by Mama Ida Odinga on November 18, 2019.

Thank you for being there for me and the rest of the family.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

All the activities enumerated here are carefully coordinated from the Executive office of Governance and Administration.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the people who labour every day in this department to coordinate and ensure that we deliver on the TichTire agenda.

Through their efforts, we have delivered on the Deputy Governor's house that is nearing completion.

With support from across the county spectrum, we have continued to build networks and partnerships that continue to impact the lives of the great people of Kisumu.

I am happy to report that our continuous engagement, warm and cordial relationship with the national government has finally resulted in the approval for the construction of the 25 billion Koru-Soin Multi Purpose dam whose

construction is expected to commence soon; construction of Jomo Kenyatta International Stadium which will change the sporting landscape in the region and the upcoming establishment of the Special Economic Zone in Miwani, not to mention the mamboleo – Muhoroni road and other spur roads going into Muhoroni, Nyando and Kisumu East Sub Counties.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

As part of our plans to expand our linkages horizons, we formed Kisumu Economic and Social Council (KECOSOC) to help promote dialogue in support of common goals of prosperity and economic and social development, the promotion of participatory democracy, efficient governance, and social justice.

I want to thank KECOSOC for their commitment in formulating and guiding our Post-COVID Economic Recovery agenda.

We recognise in a special way the role played by the County Public Service Board in ensuring that we have in a timely manner recruited persons of high integrity to our public service to push forward the government development plans.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The collaborative relationship we have had with this Honourable Assembly under your leadership has contributed immensely to the gains we are celebrating today. I thank you.

It is not lost on us that the various arms of government have very defined roles under the constitution but that same constitution recognises that those responsibilities must harness positive service delivery to the great people of this county under the principle of interdependence.

In conclusion Mr. Speaker Sir,

I want to recognise in a special way the wonderful county employees for their dedication to their work and commitment to delivering quality service to the people of this great county. Even during the most trying times, they have always come through to deliver on their mandates. They have exhibited a sense of togetherness as we push through our transformative agenda for this county; I thank you.

To the people of this great county, I couldn't thank you more. A PSV driver driving an empty vehicle, feels as empty as the vehicle. You have come aboard this vehicle and been wonderful part of the journey. I am so humbled and honoured to be driving this TICH TIRE vehicle – thank you and thank you!

Let the TICH TIRE drive us into a brighter and even more successful future as we begin FLYING with the EAGLES and stop walking with the CHICKEN.

God bless Kisumu, God bless Kenya.