

# **COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF NAKURU**

## **THE HANSARD**

**Wednesday, 12<sup>TH</sup> October 2022**

*Assembly Building*

*The House met at 2: 40pm*

*[The Speaker (Hon. Joel Karuri) in the Chair]*

### **PRAYER**

#### **Third Assembly-First Session**

*(Third Assembly established by Proclamation – Gazette Notice No. 12100 of 2022)*

### **ARRIVAL OF HER EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR**

*[Her Excellency the Governor (Hon. Susan Kihika) escorted by the Speaker of the Assembly (Hon. Joel Karuri) and accompanied by the Mace entered the Chamber at forty minutes past two O' clock]*

*(The Mace was placed on the Table)*

**The Speaker** (Hon. Joel Karuri): We are going to invite the Spiritual Leaders to lead us with words of prayer, starting with the Muslim Imam and then the Pastor from the Christian faith.

*(The Spiritual Leaders then said Prayers)*

### **COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR**

#### **HOUSE LEADERSHIP MEMBERS**

**The Speaker** (Hon. Joel Karuri): Your Excellency the Governor, Madam Susan Kihika, Honorable Members the Office of the Speaker has received Communications from our Political Parties in the House and I start from the Kenya Kwanza Coalition. The following have been elected to serve in the House Leadership.

1. Hon. Dr. Alex Langat- Majority Leader
2. Hon. Rose Njoroge - Deputy Majority Leader
3. Hon. Hamisi Fadhili Msuri – Majority Chief Whip
4. Hon. Leah Serem – Deputy Chief Whip.

---

**Disclaimer:** The electronic version of the Assembly Hansard Report is for information purpose only. A certified version of this Hansard Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor, County Assembly of Nakuru.

Your Excellency the Governor and honorable Members I have also received Communications from the Azimio Coalition. The following have been elected to serve in the Minority Party

1. Hon. Philip Wanjohi- Minority Leader
2. Hon. Kezia Akinyi Okumu- Deputy Minority Leader
3. Hon. Virginia Wamaith Gichanga- Minority Chief Whip
4. Hon. Bethsheba Kerubo- Deputy Minority Whip

Honorable Members, as you are aware, our Standing Orders provide for timeline in the formation of key Committees in the House namely; the House Business Committee, Committee on Selection, and Committee on Appointment. Following the nomination of the Majority and Minority Party Leadership as Communicated, I wish to direct that the formation of the three Committees be finalised forthwith.

Once concluded we expect the Committee on Selection to expedite the process of nominating Members to the respective Select and Sectorial Committees of the House as required by the Standing Orders. Honorable Members, today we are going to have the Governor's address from her Excellency the Governor and this is in pursuant to Standing Order No. 26 of the County Assembly of Nakuru, which requires that the Governor shall address the opening of newly elected Assembly.

Accordingly pursuant to the provisions of the Standing Order Number 13 and 25 vide Gazette Notice No. 12100 published in the Kenya Gazette on 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2022 I gave notice that this sitting is properly convened. Honorable Members, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, it is now my singular honour and privilege to invite her Excellency the Governor of Nakuru County to address the Assembly. Welcome your Excellency.

#### **SPEECH BY HER EXCELLENCE THE GOVERNOR OF NAKURU COUNTY**

**HON. SUSAN KIHKA**

**The Excellency Governor** (Hon. Susan Kihika): Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir, Hon. Members. It gives me great pleasure to address this County Assembly gathering following the national general elections that delivered the 3rd County administration. May I begin by congratulating you honourable Members on your election on the 9th of August 2022. Observing the grueling nature of the long campaign trail, I know your victory was not easy. I further wish to recognize all nominated Members of the County Assembly who got the honour to occupy the few slots available. The August elections and its outcome was the most fair and peaceful. Independent observations demonstrated that Nakuru County and Kenya in general we are slowly achieving maturity in our democratic processes and institutions. Let me also take this chance to congratulate you Hon. Speaker on your recent election as the 3rd Speaker of the Nakuru County Assembly. As a former member of this House, am sure you will quickly adapt into your new mandate. May I also take this early opportunity to thank the President of the Republic of Kenya and our Kenya Kwanza Coalition

---

***Disclaimer:** The electronic version of the Assembly Hansard Report is for information purpose only. A certified version of this Hansard Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor, County Assembly of Nakuru.*

Leader H.E Dr. William Samoei Ruto for rewarding Nakuru with a full Cabinet Secretary appointment (of Mr. Zack Mwangi Njeru – CS nominee for Ministry of Lands Housing and Urban Development). I wish to thank you Hon. Speaker and the entire County Assembly Leadership for affording me this opportunity, to once again share my vision for Nakuru County under the auspices of the State of the County Address in pursuant of the provisions of the County Government Act 2012. Mr. Speaker Sir, Hon. Members I wish to once again acknowledge the overwhelming mandate that we received from people of Nakuru to steer this County forward. The voice of the people reigned supreme on what direction the County should take in governance and political affairs. Having previously served as the first County Speaker and the second Senator of Nakuru I have interacted with leaders and constituents from all over Nakuru. I have observed and understood the challenges our people face, but I have also noted their immense potential in building a shared and prosperous County. I offered myself to lead Nakuru into the next level because I believed in the abundant prospects of Nakuru and its people.

Therefore, in the run-up to the general elections, we shared our political manifesto outlining our agenda for Nakuru. I have further ensured alignment of our manifesto with priorities under the Kenya Kwanza Administration and the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) on putting our people and their interest first. Mr. Speaker Sir, Hon. Members Nakuru County is the 3rd most populous County in Kenya after Nairobi and Kiambu – with a projected population of 2.3 million (KNBS 2022). The Gross County Product (GCP) by KNBS for the period 2013-2020 has ranked Nakuru among the top five contributors to the national economy. Further the GCP 2021 report has found out that the County economy is among the most diversified and therefore more resilient. Our population is expected to continue growing fast and increasingly urbanize. Within a five-year period, we now have a City and three major Municipalities.

Mr. Speaker Sir, Hon. Members I wish to remind you that—while we have received positive assessment from external reports—we are emerging from ravages of Covid-19 pandemic and its severe effects to lives and livelihoods. The County economic recovery has been constrained by the negative effects during a prolonged post pandemic period, disruptions in global supply chain, weak performing public sector, inflation and high cost of fuel. Our farmers have also recorded poor harvest over last two seasons. As a County Government, we have also inherited huge amounts of pending bills. As a result of both internal and external shocks, business has suffered, the cost of living has gone up and many livelihoods have been lost. Mr. Speaker Sir, Hon. Members Therefore, our singular aim in the short-term to medium-term period must without a doubt focus on building back and “building back better”. Irrespective of our political affiliations, we collectively have the unique opportunity of ensuring that the benefits of devolution reach to all the County residents. Allow me therefore to outline my strategic priorities for Nakuru in appreciation of the foregoing situation and the functional responsibility of County Government. In the integrated medium-term period 2023-2027, I look forward to an Inclusive leadership and socio-economic empowerment for all.

To begin with Health Sector– I envisage Quality healthcare for all.

Health is one of the fully devolved services and further consume the highest proportion of the County budget. The County is burdened with challenge of preventable diseases, chronic ailments and access to affordable healthcare services. The Covid-19 disease and post pandemic effects exposed the soft underbelly in the sector.

In order to achieve access to quality and affordable healthcare for all County residents, my administration will focus on priorities based on the main pillars in the Health Sector. These priorities will address the following gaps;

- a) Reforming Health sector policies to address existing gaps in staff recruitment, placement, training, promotion and terms of employment;
- b) Promote improving access to healthcare services by organizing patients with chronic illnesses into support groups to streamline access to drugs and services; Establishing dedicated youth-friendly centres and palliative care units in all our sub-county hospitals; Establishing ambulance management system; and reforming County community health services;
- c) In order to promote sustainable financing for Healthcare, I shall prioritize governance, transparency and accountability concerns in the management of hospital Facility Improvement Fund (FIF). In addition, I shall lead collaborations with the National Government to ensure access to NHIF cover.
- d) In order to ensure adequate health products and technology I shall ensure deliberate budget allocation for the procurement of drugs and essential medical supplies. I shall further ensure deployment of a robust ICT system to manage drugs, essential medical supplies and patients in health facilities.
- e) To increase further access to healthcare services my administration shall prioritize completion, equipping and operationalization of ongoing and stalled health infrastructure projects, upgrading all sub-county hospitals into functional level IV status; expansion of the existing dispensaries and health centers to offer a comprehensive and standardized package of care and expand services offered at Nakuru Level V hospital to minimize cases of referrals.
- f) To address Health sector leadership and governance constraints, I shall ensure that all hospital Boards of Management and Health Facilities Management Committees are constituted from within local community served to promote participation and ownership in decision making.
- g) Observing the huge burden for healthcare financing, I intend to promote and strengthen partnerships and collaboration with relevant stakeholders in the sector to leverage on opportunities for external resource to bridge current budgetary gaps while also ensuring accountable and transparent utilization of such resources.

---

**Disclaimer:** The electronic version of the Assembly Hansard Report is for information purpose only. A certified version of this Hansard Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor, County Assembly of Nakuru.

Mr. Speaker Sir, Hon. Members the contribution of the agriculture sector to the County economy cannot be overstated. However, the sector has continued to suffer from high cost of farm inputs, declining yields, climate change and its effects and fluctuations in market prices. My administration has among other, prioritized achieving Food Security and Agro-Processing through the following interventions;

- a) Enhancing access to affordable farm inputs and subsidized services, effective and efficient agricultural extension services to promote productivity;
- b) Implementing quality control through standardised packaging of local agricultural products and ensuring access to certified seeds and improved livestock breeds;
- c) Promote agribusiness through policy guidance in contract farming to guarantee minimum returns;
- d) Promote diversification crop and livestock including pyrethrum and avocados to reduce vulnerabilities associated with traditional crop;
- e) Establishing partnerships to operationalize the Egerton Agri-city park to enhance agro-processing;

Mr. Speaker Sir, Hon. Members, Kenya Vision 2030 has identified physical infrastructure as a foundation for national transformation. An effective and efficient physical infrastructure is the hallmark of a competitive economy. In order to facilitate the competitiveness of the County economy and transform Nakuru my administration intend to focus on the following;

- a) Develop and operationalize a robust Integrated County Transport Infrastructure Master plan covering road and transport connectivity
- c) Construct modern Matatu termini in the city and all urban areas with supportive infrastructure for SMEs/MSEs. Formulate and implement policy to promote utilisation of local content in County Infrastructure Development and Maintenance;
- d) Undertake routine maintenance of at least 2,000KM of access roads across the County;
- e) Identify at least 200KM of road network for upgrading to bitumen standards in collaboration with National Government and development partners;
- f) Expand County street lighting program and transition to solar powered street lighting.

Mr. Speaker Sir, Hon. Members given the devolved function of Early Childhood Development and Education (ECDE), the County Government has a unique opportunity of guaranteeing a good start and foundation for basic education. My Administration is committed to achieving access to quality and affordable ECDE and vocational training for all. I look forward to achieving this noble goal through executing the following;

---

**Disclaimer:** The electronic version of the Assembly Hansard Report is for information purpose only. A certified version of this Hansard Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor, County Assembly of Nakuru.

- a) Implementing a school feeding program in ECDE to improve nutrition and increase enrolment and retention;
- b) Employing adequate and well-trained ECDE teachers to reduce the teacher pupil ratio;
- c) Undertaking continuous in-service capacity development for ECD teachers and programme officers;
- d) Expanding and equipping ECDE classrooms with enhanced digital capabilities, and providing adequate instructional materials.
- e) Collaboration with national education stakeholders to improve transition rates at all levels. On the other hand, my administration will prioritize youth training by focusing on skills development in our Vocational Training Centres. On this agenda I intend to do the following:
  - a) Acquire modern equipment and tools for Vocational Training Centres through partnerships with industry players and other external partners;
  - c) Establish digital innovation hubs and community libraries at the Sub County level;- Progressively establish Vocational Centres of Excellence in each Sub- County;
  - d) Promote partnerships with universities and industry for incubation and commercialization of youth innovations. To increase retention of our learner in high school and tertiary education I wish to consolidate County Bursary allocations so as to ensure equitable distribution and introduce scholarship program for needy students. On this Hon. Members I wish to mention that next disbursement may be delayed due to current reconstitution of bursary committees.

Mr. Speaker Sir, Hon. Members a good government is recognized based on how well it protects its weakest members of the society. My administration will prioritize provision of social safety nets to reduce vulnerabilities of our special interest groups including the Elderly, and Persons With Disability (PWD), Women and Youth. To attain the objective of social protection, I look forward to implementing the following;

- a) Formulate, approve and implement a County gender policy;
- b) Establish and operationalize Gender-Based Violence (GBV) rescue and rehabilitation centres in collaboration with relevant stakeholders;
- c) Facilitate faster registration of PWDs and increase efficiency in implementation of County PWD Fund;
- d) Streamline Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) to ensure meaningful benefits to the intended target group(s);
- e) Partner with sectoral stakeholders in community social mobilization, sensitization and access to affordable credit for organized groups. Mr. Speaker Sir, Hon. Members As

---

**Disclaimer:** The electronic version of the Assembly Hansard Report is for information purpose only. A certified version of this Hansard Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor, County Assembly of Nakuru.



aforementioned in my statement above, the County economy contributes to a significant proportion of the national economy. To promote our competitiveness and in building a more diversified economy, the County Government will require to take deliberate steps to reduce the cost of doing business and position Nakuru as an important destination for local and foreign investment. In order to achieve this goal, I look forward to promoting the following;

- a) Reform the County government tax regime through harmonization of fees and charges and elimination of other non-tariff barriers to trade;
- b) Partner with interested and eligible financial institutions to operationalize the County Enterprise Fund and the Cooperative Fund to facilitate access to affordable capital by MSME/SMEs;
- c) Leverage on abundant County energy potential to establish proposed industrial park in collaboration with responsible National government departments;
- d) Modernize and expand County market infrastructure;
- e) Offer policy guidance towards value addition in livestock, fisheries and agriculture products by the private sector;
- f) Mobilize group savings for capital investment through the cooperative movement;
- g) Market and promote Brand Nakuru;

Mr. Speaker Sir, Hon. Members As you are aware, Nakuru is ranked as a water scarce County. Our County also lies in ecologically sensitive regions with important wetlands. My administration will focus on achieving clean and safe water supply systems and sustainable environmental conservation. To achieve this initiative, I look forward to undertaking the following;

- a) Expeditiously follow-up with responsible State department to ensure completion of the flagship Itare Water Dam;
- b) Collaborate with neighbouring Baringo County to expand water reticulation from Chemasusu dam in Rongai and Nakuru West Sub Counties;
- c) Mobilize necessary capital to construct Malewa dam to increase supply of clean and safe water in Naivasha and Gilgil Sub Counties;
- d) Complete and sustain solarisation of County boreholes projects.
- e) Collaborate with National government and responsible state departments to allow for sustainable exploitation of forest resource to alleviate current vulnerabilities in our timber industry and related sectors;

g) Coordinate sustainable solid and liquid waste management systems in all urban areas; Promote adaptation/mitigation to climate change, access to clean energy sources and transition to green economy options. Mr. Speaker Sir, Hon. Members Observing the finite nature of land resource, we are called upon to effectively and efficiently utilize this scarce resource. Land-based revenues contribute close to half of our County Own Source Revenues. Am aware that this House has previously adopted the County Spatial Plan (CSP 2014-2024) and the Integrated Strategic Urban Development Plans (ISUDPs) for Nakuru and Naivasha Municipality. In the next integrated plan period, my administration will prioritize the following;

- a) Digitalize County land records, submission and approval of building plans through proposed Land Information Management System (LIMS);
- b) Implement the County Spatial Plan to further ensure proper coordination and sustainable land use planning;
- c) Promote Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms in resolution of land disputes;
- d) Develop a County policy and master plan on affordable housing leveraging on County owned land;
- e) Develop and implement City, Municipalities regeneration plans;
- f) Prioritize proper physical planning for selected towns and urban centres;
- g) Engage National government on finalization of County titling program and to resolution of 'land caveat' imposed in sections of Njoro, Molo and Kuresoi South Sub counties.

Mr. Speaker Sir, Hon. Members The youth population constitute the most active and highest proportion of the County labour force. Unfortunately, most of them have remained underemployed. To mainstream youth agenda for Nakuru and create opportunities for our young men and women, I intend to focus on the following;

- a) Enhance skills development in our vocational training centres and other training institutions to promote youth employability;
- c) Enhance the County youth internship programme to provide necessary linkage between academia and needs of industrial environment; Formulate and implement a youth policy on short-term youth volunteer-ship programme;
- d) Document available County skills set and provide linkage with the job market locally and abroad;
- e) Create a Sports and Arts fund for managing and nurturing County sport, sports talents, art, culture and recreation;

---

**Disclaimer:** The electronic version of the Assembly Hansard Report is for information purpose only. A certified version of this Hansard Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor, County Assembly of Nakuru.



- f) Fast-track the completion of Afraha Stadium, Keringet Sports Academy, and other existing, sports stadia;
- g) Invest in ICT infrastructure to leverage on the available opportunities in Ajira Digital and other online jobs opportunities.

Mr. Speaker Sir, Hon. Members In order to attain the above commitments the County Government will require to address current governance, transparency and accountability constraints within the County public sector. We must therefore ensure that we have a motivated and productive County public service. Among other public sector reform initiatives, I now wish to briefly enumerate a number of crosscutting issues that will assure expected results in delivery of public good;

- a) Develop and implement human resource management policy focusing on planning, recruitment, placement, deployment and career progression;
- b) Performance Management through a reward/sanction-based Performance Contracting (PC) and Performance Appraisal Systems (PAS);
- c) Devolve County government services to Sub County, Ward and village level where possible in line with the objects of devolution;
- d) Continuous in-service employee training based on needs assessment;
- e) Establishing and implementing service charters at all service delivery points;
- f) Completing the process of automation in revenue administration across all streams;
- g) Automating eligible County Government services and provision of public Wi-Fi connectivity in selected public amenities to promote access to e-Government services; Mr. Speaker Sir, Hon. Members as I conclude I wish to acknowledge your distinguished role in the achievement of the County Government mandate as well as your commitments to the electorate through legislation, oversight and representation. To accomplish the above tasks, we must promote prudence in utilization of County Public Finances. I have taken note of the limited scarce resources in the National transfers and Own Source Revenues (OSR) in meeting County Development Goals. I therefore expect to operationalize external resource mobilization department and work with our development partners to help finance off-balance sheet initiatives. To achieve the above, I shall be initiating several policy and legislative proposals for your consideration and approval. Among other, the County Treasury shall be forwarding the first supplementary budget proposal FY 2022/2023 to this House in order to align my administration priorities with the County budget appropriation. In due course the County Executive will forward the Finance Bill to address current constraints in mobilization of local revenues. I also look forward to the finalization of the 3rd

---

**Disclaimer:** The electronic version of the Assembly Hansard Report is for information purpose only. A certified version of this Hansard Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor, County Assembly of Nakuru.

County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP 2023-2027) to further align our agenda for Nakuru with the County Government development planning process. The CIDP will also be submitted to the house for your consideration and adoption. In my short stint since my inauguration, I have had meetings with all County Government entities and received important briefs on current status of the County Government. I have made necessary decisions to allow for seamless transition and to facilitate continuity of government services. In order to further assure a smooth transition, I reiterate my pledge to the completion of ongoing County projects. In addition, I wish to confirm the County government commitment in meeting its current financial obligations that may include but not limited to clearance of eligible pending Bills and honouring of formally entered contracts with suppliers and contractors –that is LPOs and LSOs. In the coming days I will be announcing nominees of the County Executive Committee (CEC) to facilitate supervision, administration and delivery of County Government services. I urge you Hon. Members to expeditiously discharge your function in reviewing and approving the nominees.

Mr. Speaker Sir and Hon. Members May I end by appealing to all of us to join hands to do that which is good and right for Nakuru County. Thank you for listening. May God bless you all and God bless Nakuru.

*(Applause)*

**The Speaker** (Hon Joel Karuri): Hon. Members the House stands adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, at 9.30am.

*(The House rose at 3.20pm)*