

Address to The County Assembly By
H.E, Rt. Hon. Kenneth Makelo Lusaka, EGH
Governor, Bungoma County



COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF BUNGOMA

ADDRESS BY

H.E. RT. HON. KENNETH MAKELO LUSAKA, EGH

TO THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY

23rd February, 2023

Address to The County Assembly By
H.E, Rt. Hon. Kenneth Makelo Lusaka, EGH
Governor, Bungoma County

**The Speaker of the County Assembly,
Honourable Members of the County Assembly,
The Clerk to the County Assembly, The Gallery,**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I feel honoured to stand before you this afternoon to make my first state of the County address as envisioned in the County government act and a reminder to me and indeed all of us that it is time to reflect and forge forward on what we had set out to do together as a people of this great County of Bungoma.

To all of you I bring greetings from our party speaker of the national assembly who has been until recent our senator and our own son RT HON MOSES MASIKA WETANGULA and all other elected leaders under whose patronage our governance exists. Just as I assured you Honourable members and the people of Bungoma in my inaugural address to this house on 18th October 2022, that I will run an administration that is open and transparent, consultative and inclusive of all stakeholders in this great County at all times, I am here today to shade light on the progress so far on the actualization of the commitments I made to all of you. This is because my administration recognizes and appreciates the key role this house is to play in the realization of my development agenda to this County.

Address to The County Assembly By
H.E, Rt. Hon. Kenneth Makelo Lusaka, EGH
Governor, Bungoma County

Honourable members, I thank you wholeheartedly for the support you have accorded my administration, first with the approval of the CEC Members and the passage of my first supplementary budget for the financial year 2022/2023 which has enabled the implementation of development programs to take off some of which I intend to highlight below.

In order to fully constitute my administration, the County Public Service board is scheduled to conduct interviews for a set of new Chief Officers this week and upon submission of the list of finalists to my desk, I will forward to this honourable house the respective successful nominees for your vetting and approval for this is a shared obligation. As that process continues, I would like to state firmly that I am determined to have the right team of officers in place who are fully aligned to my manifesto and are supportive of my administration and its development agenda. Abraham Lincoln once said and I quote, **“I walk slowly, but never backward.”** In that regard, on matters staff alignment, I walk slowly but never backward, to get proper team players in strategic positions to drive my policies and service delivery to the people of Bungoma. We heavily depend on this house to provide strong support in that direction.



Honourable Members,

I laid out before this house a ten-point plan covering all the departments in my administration and I am glad to provide a progress report in each of them so far.

FINANCE AND ECONOMIC PLANNING.

In order to align my administration’s development plan with the existing financial realities, to the County budget resource envelope we have already completed the public participation exercise across the 9 sub counties to inform the medium term expenditure framework (MTEF) to ensure that the budget allocations reflect people driven social and economic priorities and give substance to the County government’s reconstruction and development commitments that informs the CIDP.

To help expand the County revenue sources as provided for in article 209 (3) of the constitution of Kenya 2010, my government has presented before this house 10 bills for your consideration namely;

- Bungoma County Rating Bill 2023
- Bungoma County Revenue Administration and Management Amendment Bill, 2023
- The Bungoma County Public Markets Amendment Bill, 2023
- The Bungoma County Public Health and sanitation Bill, 2023

Address to The County Assembly By
H.E, Rt. Hon. Kenneth Makelo Lusaka, EGH
Governor, Bungoma County

- The Bungoma County Outdoor Advertising and Signage Control and Regulation Bill, 2023
- The Bungoma County Inspectorate, Compliance and Enforcement Bill, 2023
- The Bungoma County Public Entertainment and Amenities Bill, 2023
- Bungoma County Animal Control and Welfare Bill, 2023.

Further to that we have also submitted the draft County Integrated development Plan (C.I.D.P) 2022-2027 and Lake Region Economic Block (LREB) Bill for your consideration.

We look forward to your timely debate and legislation of the above Bills to enable us progress in actualization of boosting our revenue basket as per our mandate.

AGRICULTURE.

Honourable members,

Agricultural transformation is critical to growing our economy, especially in the reduction of food production costs, alleviating poverty and delivering 100 percent nutrition and food security to our people. To drive this transformative agenda, my government has focused on various interventions in agriculture and livestock sub sectors by increasing input to positively influence the output bordering on value addition, agro processing and boosting household food resilience throughout the County.

Address to The County Assembly By
H.E, Rt. Hon. Kenneth Makelo Lusaka, EGH
Governor, Bungoma County

Honourable members, I asked for your support during the Supplementary budget preparation to increase the allocation and you came in handy. I am glad to report to you that we have finished the procurement process and we will officially launch the distribution of Seed and Fertilizer subsidy to the selected farmers on Monday, February 27th beginning with the lowland areas of Bumula Sub County and proceeding to all the other sub counties as mapped out by the agriculture department team in a rapid exercise that will take one week to complete.

(Allow me to take this opportunity to invite you honourable members to participate in this noble exercise in your respective sub counties as per the distribution schedule that will be unveiled in due course.)

Thank you, honourable members, for your input and support in the concluded open and transparent vetting process of needy farmers that came up with the list of program beneficiaries. I am glad to observe that Youth, Women and People with Disabilities have been well accommodated.

Despite the tough budgetary constraints, your support to pass the supplementary budget enabled **me** to increase the number of subsidy beneficiaries from 200 households per ward to 500 households per Ward in this closing financial year. Accordingly, we shall have a total

Address to The County Assembly By
H.E, Rt. Hon. Kenneth Makelo Lusaka, EGH
Governor, Bungoma County

of 21,900 households benefiting from the program which is a very significant increase from the 9000 households that benefited previously.

Each benefiting household qualifies for only One acre supply which will comprise of **one** 50Kg bag of planting fertilizer, **one** 50kg bag of top-dressing fertilizer, and **one**10kg bag of certified Seed.

I also must applaud the respective teams that have worked tirelessly to ensure that we are able to procure and distribute Seed and fertilizer to the farmers before the start of the planting season and not two to three months later as was the case in the past several years.

Honourable members,

The World Bank sponsored National Government agriculture program called NARGP that had a very positive impact in the lives of our local farmers has run its course and will be coming to an end this financial year.

However the good news is that I negotiated and recently signed an MOU between the National Government of Kenya and The County Government of Bungoma that will see the implementation of a new project called the **National Agricultural Value Chain Development Project (NAVCDP)** that will run from the year 2023/24 to 2027/28 which is a Government of Kenya Project that is implemented through the ministry of agriculture, livestock fisheries

Address to The County Assembly By
H.E, Rt. Hon. Kenneth Makelo Lusaka, EGH
Governor, Bungoma County

and irrigation, State department for crop development with funding support from the world bank.

Under this program, the National Government shall make available to the County Government resources for project implementation in the County in accordance with agreed program implementation framework. While at it, the County department of agriculture is in the process of setting up a **County Project Steering Committee (CPSC)** and a **County Project Coordination Unit (CPCU)** with full staffing to meet the disbursement conditions.

The exercise will cascade down to the Establishment of **Community-Driven Development Committees (CDDCs)** and **Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)** in all participating communities across all sub counties to enable funding to be rolled out for the defined identified activities. I therefore request you honourable members, in your own capacities to support disseminating the information regarding this new program.

Under the Kenya Livestock Commercialization Project (KELCOP) a project that focuses on value chains that have the potential to provide productive employment and food security opportunities for women, youth and marginalized people, in four target wards namely, KAPTAMA, NAITIRI/KABUYEFWE, BUKEMBE EAST AND MUSIKOMA, we have already

Address to The County Assembly By
H.E, Rt. Hon. Kenneth Makelo Lusaka, EGH
Governor, Bungoma County

undertaken participatory rural appraisal and trained 30 TOTs that will now embark on identifying beneficiaries of the project in the four wards.

Additionally my Government has appealed to the project implementers to consider enlisting Chepyuk ward among the beneficiary wards because of the presence of the Agiek marginalized community.

This project of KELCOP is also going to provide a cooler to the Chwele slaughter house which will improve and enhance the facility storage capacity to enable it to serve a wider market. This program also seeks to wholeheartedly strengthen and support the chicken value chain in Bungoma since we are a chicken raring County.

In order to enhance and meet the production demand of the slaughter house, I endeavour to launch the operation ‘fuga kuku’ campaign to rally rural households across the County to rare chicken for commercial purposes.

Honourable Members,

Under agriculture, I ask you to fast track the below 4 pending bills that are already before this house for legislation to enable my administration move forward in implementing some programs that are depended on them with some development partners. The bills are;

1. Agribusiness policy that seeks to Provide a framework for commercialization of agriculture, particularly for smallholder, mainstream a value chain approach for maximum return and prioritize incentivization of agribusiness in order to attract youth and women into the sector
2. Avacado promotion policy that seeks to Transform the value chain into an inclusive commercially viable enterprise through promotion of improved varieties for local and export market
3. Food safety policy and bill that seeks to Protect the public against health hazards in the production, processing and distribution of food
4. Agricultural Technical education and Vocational Training(ATVET) policy & bill that seeks to Enhance access to quality affordable and relevant ATVET for sustainable agribusiness and technological innovation within the agriculture sector



EDUCATION,

Honourable Members,

The streamlining process of the Scholarship process *is almost complete. Of the total 8397 students from Cohort 5, the eligible beneficiaries sustained on the program were 5668 after the vetting process while 2729 were ineligible after vetting.* Honourable members, we acknowledge having received several appeal cases that the scholarship team is still reviewing for a way forward.

The CEC Education has been in constant communication with the schools on the release of payment, and the money transfers for Form 2, form 3 and Form 4 beneficiaries electronically is ongoing. As you might remember, it was my commitment to embark on electronic funds transfer to schools to curb corruption, wastage and transactional tendencies by some in-disciplined officers in the department that were exploiting the process for their personal gain.

Due to the high inherited pending bills balances, we were forced to be conservative in the intake of this year's Form One class at the scholarship level for sustainability purposes. A total of 850 beneficiaries were selected and awarded Scholarships. Our PWD applicants across the WARDS were adequately considered.

Address to The County Assembly By
H.E, Rt. Hon. Kenneth Makelo Lusaka, EGH
Governor, Bungoma County



For this group of Form 1s, payment was already transferred to the respective institutions.

In line with the guidelines set out in the Bungoma County Education Support Scheme, we have started aligning the allocation to the Bursary scheme vis a vi the scholarship program for compliance purposes. Subsequently kshs 4million was allocated per WARD to take care of the bursary program with a percentage going to secondary schools and a percentage going to VTCs.

This allotment if distributed at an amount of kshs 5000 per student covers 36000 students in the entire County. I encourage Ward bursary committees to favour total orphans and child led families with a higher allocation where possible.

I urge you to ensure speedy finalization and implementation of the payments and to guard against any unwarranted delays and abuse of the process in the management of the program at the ward level.

Honourable members, at this point in time I want to salute and wholeheartedly thank all of you who understood the complexity of this matter and came up strongly to believe in and support this process.

ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Honourable Members,

Improvement of infrastructure in the County was well captured in my manifesto and forms part of my key agenda as I outlined in my inaugural address. Opening up rural Bungoma for ease of movement and business activities was and is still my commitment. In the race up to fulfil this promise allow me to report the following so far.

Under the ward based Community Empowerment Fund (CEF), we have tendered for 94 new projects. This consists of 89 Roads and 5 Box culverts spread across all the wards, with each ward having at least two projects. As I make this address the tender opening exercise for the same has already been done and evaluation of the bidders is ongoing and in due course we shall award the successful bidders to proceed on site.

Regarding the rehabilitation of our road network particularly in the rural parts of the County, the first batch of 28 projects consisting of 7 Box culverts and 21 Roads, which translates to 116.5KM of gravel and approx. 1KM of tarmac are at advanced stages of completion. I have made several site visits and observed for example Lusaka Road and Kaberwa- Chebkitale road that the contractors are doing quality work and progressing ahead of schedule.

To enable access to the KOICA water project source in KUBURA sub location site in Mt Elgon, and access to the project's water tanks and treatment plants in Kapkerwa location, I commissioned the 10KM Kipsigon – Kubura road whose construction is ongoing steadily and should be completed in the next 3 months to also serve the people in that region while aiding in the implementation of the KOICA water project.

My administration has finalized assessment and documentation of the bills of quantities on the overhaul of the road going past Mama Fanta and Mwireli in Bungoma town and subsequently floated a tender through the procurement process to source for an eligible contractor. We have also advertised for five framework contracts in the roads department to enable efficient and reliable repair of roads across the County.

On the dual carriage, the contractor is currently fixing the kerbs that separate the two-way traffic to guide road users and control traffic flow. Other outstanding works on that road mainly comprise of traffic safety fixtures including traffic signs, lighting and road markings.

I recently held discussions with KENHA officials from western region to open further doors for collaboration with the County. The areas included; the construction of an interchange at Kanduyi junction, construction of feeder roads towards the dual carriage and foot bridges.

Address to The County Assembly By
H.E, Rt. Hon. Kenneth Makelo Lusaka, EGH
Governor, Bungoma County

I will continuously keep you updated through the relevant committee on the progress of the collaboration.

On Misikhu brigadier road because of the delay in executing the contract on the part of the contractor, we have recommended that contract be terminated and a new contractor competitively sourced for that part of the road to save the residents from continued exposure to extreme dust and other related problems. *To the people of Tongaren I share with you in the undoings on the works regarding this road and commit to see to that we pull through this.*

Because of the heavy trucks now operating on the Chwele Lwakhakha Road, and arising out of our joint meeting with Bungoma elected Members of the National Assembly in Naivasha this month, we have written to KERRA to upgrade that road from a class C low volume road to a class A high volume capacity road so as to withstand the weight of the heavy trucks plying on it.

Honourable members,

It is my commitment to ensure quality of works on the contracted roads to provide value for tax payer's money and long term durable roads for the people of Bungoma. Allow me re-affirm my warning to all contractors who have been given work by the County

Address to The County Assembly By
H.E, Rt. Hon. Kenneth Makelo Lusaka, EGH
Governor, Bungoma County

government of Bungoma to ensure they do quality job as per the spelled out requirements in the bills of quantities. Anything short of that will be met with unspecified consequences as guided by the law.

HOUSING AND MUNICIPALITIES.

Honourable Members,

We have now operationalised the Kimilili and Bungoma municipalities and empowered them to take on full responsibilities accorded to them as defined in the Urban Areas and Cities Act which will go a long way in improving service delivery to the citizens of the Bungoma County municipalities. We have a great opportunity working with partners such as the World Bank through the Kenya Urban Support Program (KDSP) to modernize the face of Bungoma and Kimilili towns.

To achieve this, the process to fill vacant slots on the boards of the two municipalities is almost complete and we are availing the necessary resources and space to make the offices fully functional. We are fast tracking this exercise to unlock further funding for projects within the municipalities that has been long overdue.

I am committed to having re-organized, decongested Bus parks with proper shopping stalls and Modern operational Markets in our municipality centers.

Address to The County Assembly By
H.E, Rt. Hon. Kenneth Makelo Lusaka, EGH
Governor, Bungoma County

Additionally, discussions are at an advanced stage to upgrade Webuye and Chwele towns into Municipalities and our efforts will not stop there. My team is working tirelessly to ensure that most of our major urban areas such as **Myanga, Bukembe, Misikhu, Cheptais, Brigadier, and Kamukuywa** to name just a few are soon be re-organized and converted into Townships.

We shall make sure that you as the people representatives at the ward level and the public are engaged through an informative public participation exercise at every step of the way.

WATER

Honourable Members,

Water is a basic necessity for the livelihoods of our people and as a government we are committed to ensuring the provision of access to clean and safe drinking water. In that regard, under the ward based projects, on the community empowerment fund we tendered 41 water related projects spread across the County whose works include drilling of boreholes, rehabilitation of boreholes and water springs, and piping. The tenders were opened and evaluation of the bidders is ongoing. The process will be complete in due course to pave way for implementation of the works.

Address to The County Assembly By
H.E, Rt. Hon. Kenneth Makelo Lusaka, EGH
Governor, Bungoma County

Last week I hosted a team from the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) led by the Country director **Janghee Im**.

This project, which is 50 per cent complete, has seen 86.3cubic meters of water supply pipes installed, erection of a water treatment plant with capacity of 6000 cubic meters and a reservoir tank of 8000 cubic meters at Kimkungu Primary School.

The next activities will see the construction of 25 water collection kiosks that will be spread across Mt Elgon constituency, Kanduyi constituency and Kabuchai constituency. All factors being constant the project will be completed in august this year and more than 100,000 residents within the catchment area will be connected to safe drinking water. The concept paper for phase three of this project will see water flow through Elgon ward, Kaptama ward, Kamukuywa ward to Tongaren ward.

We are also advancing collaboration with USAID Western Kenya Water project with which we have signed an MOU to increase the households that have access to clean water in the other parts of the County.



SPECIAL PROGRAMS.

Honourable Members,

We have availed vehicles and other logistical arrangements to the department of special programs to enable the directorate to have ease of transport in response to emergency sites.

The service of firefighting has been moved from the department of Roads to Special Programs and Disaster management to ensure alignment of services as per the directorate charter. However, the Fire station remains at Kanduyi due to its strategic location that enables **easy** take off and access to roads in response to emergencies. We are working on capacity building the staff and improving their welfare to ensure that we have a motivated team, readily available and psychologically prepared to respond to emergencies around the clock.

TRADE

Honourable Members,

The street lighting program that is aimed at creating safe environment for thriving 24-hour economy in most of our towns and urban trading centers is progressing well.

Address to The County Assembly By
H.E, Rt. Hon. Kenneth Makelo Lusaka, EGH
Governor, Bungoma County

Last Month, I commissioned the Installation 120 pieces of Solar streetlights from Kanduyi to Keringeti at a cost of kshs 33.8 million. We are doing Installation of 24 pieces of Solar High Mast lights across the County Covering key target areas such as DEB primary and Chebkube Market in Township, Ndengelwa market in Bukembe west, Kipsigon Market in Mt Elgon and Sereti junction in South Bukusu to name but a few. Additionally, the repair of vandalized Solar Street & High Mast lights is ongoing.

Turning to my signature program of Trade loans, the cabinet last week approved the regulations operationalizing the fund and the same will be brought to this house for ratification. Please expedite your constitutional role as soon as possible so that my team can roll out the sensitization program and start awarding low interest loans to our deserving mama Mbogas, youth and PWDs to boost their business activities.

GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

Honourable members,

As you are all aware, when I took office I constituted various task forces to look into some administrative issues to inform my way forward in the governance of this County. It is my pleasure to let you know that the taskforces completed the assignments and handed over the respective reports which were tabled before the cabinet and ratified. As it is within the

law, the reports will be channelled to this house for your discussion and recommendations for our action. Some officers were interdicted due to various issues of concern raised against them in the reports. Among them one has resigned while we are in the process of forming a committee that will look into the issues raised against the remaining to provide an opportunity for them to defend themselves against the allegations as provided for in the law.

CLIMATE CHANGE.

Honourable Members,

Thank you for the passage of the **Bungoma County Climate Change Act 2022** which I assented into law on 17th November 2022 and came into effect on 29th November 2022.

The Relevant Ministry team has the necessary policies in place and in December of 2022, I was able to sign a participatory agreement with the World Bank to help unlock the first batch of funding. We are expecting in a period of no more than one month a release of funds intended for the purpose **Climate Change Institutional Strengthening** to the tune of **ksh 24 million** to support the initial framework activities up to and including the set up and capacity building of the Ward Climate Change Committees. The first supplementary Budget

Address to The County Assembly By
H.E, Rt. Hon. Kenneth Makelo Lusaka, EGH
Governor, Bungoma County

provided for Kshs 11 million towards climate change and we shall need an additional kshs 11 Million to equally match the grant from the World Bank.

The ministry team has a deadline of March 15th, 2023, by which they **MUST** have carried out a participatory **Climate Risk assessment** in the entire County and generated a report on the same. Please note that it is based on this report that we shall stand to receive **a climate change investment of up to ksh 50 million per ward for three years.**

I therefore ask you when called upon to support in the exercise of setting up the Ward Climate Change Committees as per the regulations.

Honourable Members,

As we embark on the budget process for the financial year 2023/24, please remember that we shall need to set aside 2% of the County Development fund towards climate change activities in accordance with the act and signed MOUs with our partner to maintain eligibility for continuous financial support. I therefore look forward to your support in that aspect when the time comes.



HEALTH

Honourable members,

In my inaugural address here on 18th October 2022 and in my campaign manifesto, I promised to ensure that our Health workers are properly resourced and well remunerated. I committed to confirm all the health professionals who were serving on contract basis and hire additional staff to fill in the gaps that have existed in our facilities for a long time.

True to my word, I acted accordingly and early this month; the County Public Service Board, confirmed 179 healthcare workers from contract to Permanent & Pensionable terms. Their composition is 33 clinical officers, 7 Doctors, 99 Nurses, 2 radiographers, 1 MOH specialist, 15 drivers and 2 mortuary attendants.

Additionally, the County Public Service Board has already placed an advertisement that is running as I address you for the recruitment of 246 Skilled Health care professionals comprising among others of 20 doctors, 85 Registered Nurses and 15 clinical officers. Also my administration is fast tracking the reviewing of 254 healthcare technical staff that had overstayed in the same job groups for long without promotion despite their hard work and merit to be considered for elevation.

I believe honourable members that a motivated healthcare labor force will translate into better healthcare services to the residents of this County. As I make all this welfare improvements I appeal to the healthcare works not to disappoint me because to whom much is given much is expected.

Lastly on healthcare, my administration has fast tracked all the pending issues on World Bank Sponsored 300-bed mother and child facility at the Bungoma County Referral Hospital and I am glad to inform you that God willing I will be officially unveiling it in the month of March 2023.

Honourable members, I will ask this house in the next financial year for funds to fully equip and staff this facility in order to bring it into utilization. Once we fully equip and staff it, healthcare in Bungoma will be changed for better, for good.

I have also put pressure on the contractors for the completion of the Bumula 100 bed capacity facility, the Naitiri mortuary and administration block and the Mt Elgon KMTC so that our residents in those areas can start getting better services from them.

In the spirit of universal health coverage we have advertised for the construction, renovation and rehabilitation of various level 1 and level 2 health facilities across the

County. The tender process is ongoing and in due course we hope to embark on implementation.

YOUTH AND GENDER

Honourable members,

Understanding the various skills and talents among our youths, I have sourced for funds to operationalize phase one of the Chemoge high altitude centre in two months' time. This will accord our sporting men and women an opportunity to exercise and train so as to compete at higher levels locally and internationally. As a County we envision to promote this high altitude training centre to attract national and international athletes to use it as a training centre and generate revenue.

Previously we have had transport and logistics difficulties with our teams participating in sporting activities. To curb this, my administration has acquired a 67 Seater bus which I will be receiving in one month's time to aid in transport and other mobility needs for our teams.

To note honourable members, regarding your welfare my administration has worked closely with your leadership and I can confirm that all of you have gotten your car loans except those with pending petitions in court. The mortgage disbursement is ongoing in

Address to The County Assembly By
H.E, Rt. Hon. Kenneth Makelo Lusaka, EGH
Governor, Bungoma County

batches due to exchequer delays but we are committed to ensuring you are all accorded the same.

In Conclusion honourable members,

I would like to leave you with words of one of the greatest Prime Ministers of the UK, Sir Winston Churchill, who said, ***“To improve is to change, so to be perfect is to change often.”***

I am very sure that when we were all campaigning for election in 2022, we promised the electorate that we shall strive tirelessly day and night to improve their livelihoods in all sectors. So let us embrace the drive for continuous improvement and when faced with tough decisions as it happens with leadership, let us be clear and decisive for the good of the County because that is what change requires. My administration remains open to positive criticism not with anger that inflames our emotions but with firmness and objectivity that seeks to broaden efficient service delivery to the people of Bungoma.

Let us continuously walk together in constant consultation and collaboration between the executive and the legislature for we are all co-joined at the hip for the development of this great County.

God Bless You. God Bless Bungoma. God Bless Kenya.

THANK YOU.