

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF SAMBURU



THE HANSARD

Thursday, 22nd February, 2024

The Assembly met at the County Assembly Chambers at 2:30 pm

The Speaker, (Mr. Lenamarle Stephen), in Chair

PRAYER

COMMUNICATION

The Speaker, (Mr. Lenamarle Stephen): Your Excellency, Hon. Jonathan L. Lelelit Samburu County Governor, the Honorable Members of the County Assembly, in accordance with section 30(2)(k) of the County Government Act, 2012 that requires the Governor to deliver state of the County address once every year and any other time. Further, section 30(2) (j) requires the Governor to submit to the County Assembly an annual report on the implementation status of the County policies and plans and pursuant to the provision of Standing Order No. 21 (1) which requires that the Governor shall address a special sitting of the County Assembly once every year and may address County Assembly at any other time.

In this regard, Hon. Members, in a letter dated 22nd January, 2024; His Excellency the Governor had notified the Speaker of the County Assembly of his intention to address this Third Assembly today Thursday 22nd February, 2024 in the Assembly chamber at 2:30 PM.

Your Excellency, it is a custom of the County Assembly to recognize guests seated in our gallery. I therefore wish to recognize the following guests: His Excellency Deputy Governor Gabriel Lenengwesi, The County Secretary Hon. Wilson Lesuuda, the County Attorney Hon. Peinan Loronyokie, all Executive Committee Members, Mr. Nicholas Lepariyo; chief of staff and all Chief Officers present. To all our guests, karibuni Bunge la Samburu.

Hon. Members, Standing Order No. 23 (3) requires that when the Governor is delivering an address to the County Assembly, the Governor shall be heard in silence and the address shall not be followed by any comment or questions.

Hon. Members, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen; it is now my singular honor and privilege to invite His Excellency the Governor to make his first state of the County address.

(Applause)

His Excellency the Governor, (Hon. Leleti Lati): Mr. Speaker, thank you for inviting me. I will now commence on delivering my state of County address for this year.

Ladies and gentlemen, I have the pleasure and Honour to address you as I give my first state of the County address of the beginning of your third session of the Third County Assembly in line with requirements of the law and Samburu County Assembly Standing Orders.

I am confident that you are energized and have already resumed your mandated legislative and oversight roles after the long recess.

Mr. Speaker, as I embark on delivering my speech, I take full recognition of the critical role of the County Assembly has continued to play in facilitating the achievements of our goals as contained in the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) and other County plans.

The appropriation of resources, legislating various laws and policies, and over-sighting the Executive.

I wish therefore, to address the state of our County from the time I assumed office to date. As I make this address, I will dwell on the progress, the challenges and the direction/measures we intend to undertake going forward. Further, I wish to emphasize the significance of the County Integrated Development Plan and the inclusion of my own manifesto made to the people of Samburu County during the last general elections.

Mr. Speaker, when I addressed this Honorable House on August, 22nd during the opening of the Third County Assembly, I observed that the people who we are all called to serve, had very high expectations of us, to offer a solution to the myriad and perennial challenges experienced in the County; to present to them an all-inclusive, people oriented Government in decision making.

We have since committed as a County Government, to cultivate a mutual working relationship that will unlock the potential of our great County. I am glad that we are on the right track on the said collaboration and consultation geared to achieving our vision and mission. It is notable that we inherited a County which people had apparently lost hope in contribution of the government to their socio-economic needs.

There was inequitable development, pending bills amounting to Kshs. 800 million, lack of access to clean, proximate and safe water, ailing health care system where drugs and other essential commodities were not continuously available, a completely dead Samburu National Reserve, Hon. Lemantaan, a County where youth and sports were almost forgotten, lack of a collaborative efforts between National and County Government to address the rampant security issues in various parts of the County.

We also inherited an almost insolvent County entity called Samburu Water and Sanitation Company (SAWASCO) as per the report of Auditor General 2019/2020 which indicated an operating loss totaling to millions of shillings, Lack of performance contracts or any other performance instruments to measure the performance against the agreed targets for County Executive staffs and many other documented challenges.

Mr. Speaker, in my pursuit for efficient and effective service delivery to our people, I have consistently advocated for a cordial working relationship between the County Executive Committee Members and Members of this Honorable House in all our dealings, I have ensured strict adherence to the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, The County Governments Act, 2012 and all other existing laws and regulations.

Mr. Speaker, Article 1 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 bestows all sovereign power to the people. These sovereign powers may be exercised in accordance with the Constitution either directly by the people themselves or indirectly through their democratically elected representatives, including the Governor. The Constitution further provides the organs which perform the said functions to include Parliament, County Assembly, National Assembly, the Senate, County Executives Cabinet or Chief Executive Committees (CECs) among others structures of Government.

In furtherance of the said constitutional provisions and in promotion of an all-inclusive public participatory process, the County Government introduced the concept, and I repeat; just a concept of the Village Resource Distribution Units (VRDUs) across all village units within Samburu County, a concept not a law. Principally, the VRDU concept takes away the monopoly of politicians, the Executive; including me and any other special interest from manipulating the distribution of County resources at the village level

The VRDU concept also enhances accountability and transparency in the distribution of identified county public resources. It strengthens self-governance by the people and enhances the participation of the people in the exercise of the powers of the county and in making decisions affecting them; to recognize the right of communities to manage their own affairs and to further their development needs; to promote social and economic development and the provision of

proximate, easily accessible services throughout the county and to ensure equitable sharing of county resources.

Mr. Speaker, while launching and commissioning projects across the breath and width of our county, I received exciting confessions from the community of Marai'saen all across of land. I witnessed the positivity of this philosophy and how the community has embraced it as it recognizes the often neglected, but extremely important, role of local communities participating in decision making, prioritizing and apportioning resources in accordance with their own felt needs.

Noteworthy, there are no budgetary implications to the VRDU conceptual framework. In this law making chambers, let me also state here categorically, that the VRDU is completely distinct from the village council. One important distinction is that the village council, under the existing laws is not at all assigned the role of distributing county resources. That lacuna of distributing county resources at the village level is left for the county executive to exclusively administrator directly or indirectly through establishment of necessary county executive structures.

Lastly, it is now high time for members this honourable house to embrace the VRDU concept and allow the people that sent you to this house to exercise their constitutionally provided sovereign power. Members of this honourable house must never impede the people who elected all of us from being involved in decision making at the village level.

Mr. Speaker, in the view of the above, I wish to reiterate that my administration strives to the universal doctrine of democracy; a government of the people, by the people and for the people. Indeed, this is the whole essence of my vision encapsulated in the coined '*Naibosho*' slogan which is essentially about all of us from diverse economic, social and cultural backgrounds coming together for a progressive transformation of our county. In addition, the fundamental principle behind the '*Marai Saen*' philosophy is a people driven decision making process that gives the people the power to actively participate in the governance and development of our county.

Another hallmark of my administration is the establishment of Government Service Delivery Unit (GSDU). The GSDU is established through a policy paper approved by the County Executive Committee pursuant to provisions of Article 179(1) and further in accordance with section 31(d) as read with section 34 and section 48(e) of the County Governments Act, 2012.

The main functions of the GSDU is to be a think-tank for the County Government, to ensure efficient and effective implementation of county projects, impart innovative methodologies and technical approaches, and to provide a road map of impactful and sustainable service delivery. Moreover, the GSDU strengthens government capacity to deliver on priorities as consolidated in the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2023-2027 and gives the government new approach and conceptual framework to ensure the executive is accountable to management and use of county resources.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to therefore highlight the various key achievements, projects and programs of each department this administration has undertaken for the past one year and a half years as follows:

- a) Tourism
- b) Agriculture
- c) Education
- d) Water
- e) Finance
- f) Lands
- g) Health
- h) Social Services

A. Tourism

Mr. Speaker, over the past eighteen months, the Department of Tourism has experienced considerable advancements and successes. Upon my inauguration, one of my first actions was to initiate a comprehensive overhaul of our county's tourism infrastructure, with a particular focus

on the rejuvenation of the Samburu National Reserve (SNR). To address this, I established the Samburu National Reserve Revitalization Task Force, tasked with evaluating the deteriorated conditions of the reserve, identifying the prevailing challenges, and formulating recommendations to restore the reserve's former prestige, once considered the jewel of our county's tourism sector.

The outcomes of these efforts have been profoundly positive. Today, the majority of accommodations within the reserve are operating at their maximum capacity, a testament to the revitalization efforts. We have achieved significant milestones in local employment, fostering a deeper sense of involvement and proprietorship among the neighbouring communities. Infrastructure improvements, particularly the upgrading of roads within the reserve, have markedly enhanced accessibility and the visitor experience. Moreover, the recent rains have contributed to a notable increase in the reserve's wildlife population, both in terms of numbers and diversity, enriching the biodiversity of the area.

It is with great pride that we acknowledge the global recognition of the reserve's resurgence, highlighted by the extraordinary and rare event of elephant twins being born within the reserve a few months ago. This occurrence not only captivated the world, but also symbolizes the remarkable recovery and the magical allure of the Samburu National Reserve and scoring our commitment preserving and enhancing our natural heritage for future generations of our children and our grandchildren.

B. Agriculture

Mr. Speaker, in the face of challenges brought by climate change global challenges brought by climate change and in our pursuit of enhancing food security my administration has taken decisive actions through the livestock improvement and restocking program. These comprehensive initiatives aim to improve agricultural sector's resilience and the livelihoods of our residents by introducing resilient livestock breeds and supporting reproduction.

We have significantly increased the number of camels in the County from 200 to 900 annually; these animals are especially suited to arid conditions offering a sustainable source of milk and contributing to the economic stability of the 900 households annually in the lower parts of our County (*Lpurlkel*).

Their resilience in drought conditions and efficient use of vegetation make them a corner stone of our adaption strategy ensuring food security and nutrition of the families all year round. In the highlands of Samburu, we have introduced 900 Sahiwal heifers annually, a breed known for its high milk yield and adaptability enhancing dairy production and the income of farming households.

Additionally, the distribution of 900 Galla bucks annually in the low lands aims to improve goat breeds benefiting the community through better meat and milk production, thus addressing both economic and nutritional needs. To compliment these efforts; maize 45 tones and beans 23 tones seeds will soon be distributed to farmers in Samburu West ensuring a diversified stable food production base.

This initiative directly impacts food security and supports the income ability of our communities amidst unpredictability of climate change all over. We have undertaken extensive livestock vaccination campaigns over the past year all over the County. These efforts are vital for maintaining the health of livestock population reducing mortality rates and ensuring sustainability of our agricultural investments. Introduction of camels, Sahiwal cows and Gall goats is a strategic response to the current climatic scenario.

These species are more resilient to harsh weather conditions and are key to adaptation strategies. Ensuring food security and sustaining livelihoods despite environmental fluctuations. Our efforts are further amplified through partnerships with the National Government and other stakeholders aim at enhancing mobilization sharing the best practices and scaling up successful agricultural models.

Through these comprehensive measures we are addressing the immediate needs of our community while laying a robust foundation for sustainable development and resilience in the face of global climate change.

C. Education

Mr. Speaker I am pleased to share our commitment to education as a key driver for community progress and development. Recognizing the importance of Early Education Centers in the last

one and a half years we have experienced Early Childhood Development Centers with an additional 55 classrooms spread throughout the County in just one year.

Through deliberate efforts by my administration; enrollment has significantly increased from 38,000 to 44,000 in just one year, these are our kids from rural areas. Through our research department headed by a man called Lekesike I do not whether he is here, we have established that there is a direct positive cohesion between enrollment of our ECDs and a timely provision of nutritious meals and uniform and direct positive correlation.

In that regard we have increased more than two-fold one hundred percent increase more than two-fold the budgetary allocation of food in the ECD centers from Ksh.45 million to Ksh.95 million, more than a hundred percent increase to our kids all over the County. The County Government has also invested in equipping ECD centers with essential resources. Highlighting our dedication to the intellectual and emotional development of our children.

To make education more accessible we have increased the bursary fund from Ksh.74 million to Ksh.134 million including Ksh.29 million that we set aside for our Members of this chamber Ward Fund. Furthermore, recognizing the value of Vocational training in building a skilled workforce we have made substantial strides in Vocational Education by improving enrolment from 109 to 238 students. We have also made partnerships with NAWIRI with its *ujuzi mashinani* program, KCB foundation, the World Vision Kenya who are sponsoring some of our students. This initiative is designed to empower citizens with the skills needed for success in the global economy.

D. Water

Mr. Speaker I would like to address the fundamental aspect of our development agenda that is water provision for our people. It is our constitution mandate as enshrined in Article 43(1)(d) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 to ensure every resident of our County has access to clean safe water in adequate quantities however long it takes, that is the road we must follow 20-30 years that is the road.

This commitment is not just a legal obligation but a moral one essential for health prosperity and wellbeing of our people. Across Samburu County my administration has been steady fast in its

efforts to enhance water accessibility and security. To this end we have embarked on a series of ambitious projects designed to increase water supply and storage capabilities ensuring that every citizen benefit from these initiatives regardless of their geographical location within our County.

We have completed a total of five boreholes across the County with additional five boreholes currently undergoing procurement process. We have constructed two dams of which they are still in procurement process my administration is doing several water extensions pro catchment projects and solarization for several homes. This investment in water, infrastructure underscores our commitment to addressing the critical need for water access in our communities.

Moving forward, we remain committed to advancing these water projects exploring innovative solutions and forging partnership with the National Government bodies and Non-Governmental Organizations like USAID, NAWIRI, UNICEF, STAWI, LMS, ACTED, WORLD VISION and others to meet our water provision and objectives.

My efforts are aimed not only at addressing the immediate needs of our communities but also at establishing a robust foundation for sustainable development and resilience against future challenges.

E. Finance

On Finance, the matter of pending bills Hon. Members and Mr. Speaker, the matter of pending bills escalated debates in the National Treasury requiring our Counties to settle opening bills in totality. I am pleased to provide a detailed update on the status of the pending bills inherited from the previous regime and our on-going efforts to manage them effectively during the fiscal year 2021/2022, we inherited pending bills totaling to Kshs.818,104,956.75.By the end of the fiscal year 2022/2023; we successfully settled a total of Kshs 554,614,914.65 of these bills. At the commencement of the fiscal year 2023/2024,

Our outstanding pending bills amounted to Kshs 605,273,344.40, encompassing those from the fiscal year 2022/2023 and previous years. From the beginning of FY2023/2024 to date, we have settled Kshs 302,674,659 worth of development pending bills out of the combined,

Total of Kshs 605,273,344.40 allocated for both development and recurrent expense.

Progressively, our revenue has grown from 120M in the financial year 2021/2022 to

226M in 2022/2023.

Over the past few months, we have been developing our new Revenue Collection System

(SUPA PAY). Today, we gather to reflect on the journey that has brought us to this

Transformative moment, the implementation of this system is a testament to our

Commitment to progress, innovation, and most importantly, to serving our people better. As we stand on the threshold of this new era, it is crucial to acknowledge the key Milestones that have paved the way for the development and deployment of our Revenue

Collection System, (SUPA PAY). These milestones represent the collective efforts and dedication of our team, the support of our stakeholders, and the vision of our government striving to meet the evolving needs of its residents.

Now, as we launch SUPA PAY on 17th February 2024, we celebrate the collective Achievement of reaching this significant milestone. My government is stepping into a new era of financial responsibility and improvement in Own Source Revenue (OSR)—one that is marked by efficiency, transparency, and responsiveness to the needs of our community. But our journey does not end here. The continuous improvement and optimization of the system are integral to its success. We are committed to ongoing training, monitoring, and Incorporating feedback from our community and other stakeholders to ensure that the Revenue Collection System (SUPA PAY) evolves with the changing needs of our residents.

F.Lands

Mr. Speaker, in a bid to secure land tenure, property rights, reduce conflicts and enhance utilization of land as a factor of production, the department is undertaking a two pronged approach for both urban and rural/community land registrations. In the two financial years (2022-23 & 2023-24), within the urban areas there is ongoing re-planning and cadastral survey in Baragoi, Morijo, Archers Post and Loosuk. These are expected to generate approximately 10,000 parcels and lease title.

At present, geodetic controls has been done, data picking, re-planning and preliminary survey files awaiting approval of plans. In the same breadth, after completion of section of Maralal Municipality, the department in collaboration with NLC issued over 3000 letters of allotments to various private and Public institutions. under the Kenya Informal Settlement Improvement Program Phase 2 (KISIP 2), a total of 8 settlements including Laga ya Jeshi in Suguta Marmar township, Longewan, Nomotio, Nachola, Lesirikan, Mnada A and B, and Sereolipi have been identified and submitted to the ministry for Tenure regularization that include planning, surveying and Titling at a concessionary rates to the beneficiaries.

The department as a trustee in collaboration with the Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development and Frontier Counties Development Council undertook registration of Arsim and Nairimirimo Community land in the Year 202/2023. Not only were the community land registered but this exercise resulted in securing over 100 parcels for public utilities and public land for both County and National Government use.

In 2023/2024, the department in close collaboration with the Ministry, Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) have initiated registration of community land in Ndonyo Nasipa and Loonjorin. In collaboration with IMPACT, the department has initiated conversion from general boundaries to cadastral/ fixed survey to comply with land Act 2012.

Mr. Speaker, in realization that ownership of land alone doesn't suffice and also the rangeland degradation that is affecting community land, the department in collaboration with impact has initiated preparation of Community Land Use Plans so as to be in compliant with the Community Land Act 2016. A total of 5 communities are beneficiary of this project and they include Opiroi, Ltirim, Lpus, Sesia and Nkaroni. This will go a long way in supporting livelihoods within the communities.

Mr. Speaker, to bridge the gap in county revenue collection and purse the sole mandate of the county on property taxation that is fair and equitable, the department has initiated preparation of Valuation Roll for rating purposes within Maralal Municipality. This will expand the tax base of the county and support the overall goal of expanding own source revenue for enhanced service delivery.

Mr. Speaker, to offer conducive environment for retail trade within the municipality, and Match up KUSP funds, the department through municipality undertook construction of additional 1 floor space that can host over 100 traders. The project also included provision of auxiliary services such as parking lots and storm water management within the lot.

The department in collaboration with state department of housing and urban development is planning to undertake renovation of markets that were constructed under economic stimulus program and Kenya municipal program. The targeted markets for renovation are Loosuk and Archers Post plus a proposed new construction of municipal market and County market in Maralal and Baragoi respective. It worth noting department has already identified and demarcated space for the market within Baragoi town.

Mr. Speaker, (*let me have some water*) excuse me, in bid to enhance safety of the residents and ability to trade up to late hours, the department has awarded contract for construction of six powered solar flood lights mass of 30Metres high in Loikas, Allamano, Kirisia, Maralal livestock market all within Maralal municipality. Mr. Speaker, to improve urban scopes, carbon pavement exercise covering 13,000sq Meters within Maralal municipality was undertaken. This is coupled with 144 parking lots that will go a long way in enhancing revenue collection.

Mr. Speaker, to curb possibility of extensive damage whenever there is fire disaster, for the first time in history, the department is procuring one fire engine truck through Isuzu East Africa with 10,000 Litres capacity. The fire engine presently undergoing assembly at Isuzu and to be delivered on 11th March 2024, the first time Maralal will have a brand-new fire engine from Isuzu not refurbished, you can go to Isuzu and ascertain for yourself, just go to Isuzu East Africa.

With Maralal sitting at the foot of mountains and transverse with numerous *lagas* we undertook some water management projects 5km stretch of the town. To align with Kenya Kwanza Government of better strategy and to provide affordable housing, the department signed an MOU with the National Directorate of Housing and provided sites for construction of affordable housing in Maralal and Baragoi. The tender for Maralal site has been announced and awaiting hand over to the contractor.

G. Social services

Mr. Speaker and Hon. Members, we have undertaken several initiatives in the department of Gender, Culture, Social Services and Sports this includes the successful completion of a high-altitude athletic training center at Loibor- nkare in Loosuk Ward. Further we have also supported, organized and participated in several sports' tournament including Samburu County League which led to promotion of two of our teams by the Kenya Football Federation to regional League.

We also supported a tournament in a number of sports including football, volleyball, netball, basketball, darts which brought together teams in all 15 Wards. In the month of April 2024, my administration through the department of Youths and Sports, will be hosting the County Governor's cup with representatives of all 15 Wards winners of MCA Trophies.

Mr. Speaker, my administration has also disbursed funds to the people of disability in order to facilitate events, activities and initiatives geared towards empowering our people living with disability. We have also enabled 26 children to undergo corrective surgery at Kijabe hospital. Additionally, my government has allocated funds to support women empowered activities in all Wards.

Lastly, I am proud to say that Samburu County participated in Maa cultural week held in Siekenani area of Narok County during which we showcased our rich cultural heritage and diversity. I am delighted that we are now part and parcel of Maa economic block and we will be hosting the Maa cultural week in November herein Samburu. I am very delighted personally.

H. Health

Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sense of duty and commitment that I address the cornerstone of my administration's agenda, health. The constitution of Kenya 2010 had raised the provision of health services primarily in article 43 under the bill of rights. Article 43 (1), (a), explicitly states that every person has the right to the highest attainable standard of health care which includes the right to health care services, reproductive health care. This article ensures that health services are recognized as a fundamental human right for all Kenyans.

From the onset of my tenure, one and a half years ago, I pledged to anchor our growth and development on the solid foundation of robust health care system. A promise that all our sub-county hospitals and health centers will not only have a steady flow of drugs and other essential commodities, also functional theatres in all our sub counties to provide our citizens with immediate access to emergency medical services.

It is with great pride, I stand before you to affirm that we have not only upheld this promise in just one year, but have also achieved remarkable milestones that were once beyond our reach. History was made in May 2023 when our dedicated team of medics performed the first ever caesarian section at Baragoi sub county hospital. Promised delivered

This monumental achievement was followed by 40 additional cases including 12 major surgeries marking a new dawn in our health delivery system. Furthermore, the operationalization of Suguta sub county hospital theatre with 4 successful operations since the 11th of January 2024 signifies our unwavering commitment to extending our healthcare services to every corner of our county even beyond the promise of the sub county that we had promised in election.

Suguta is part of Samburu Central sub-county, Mr. Speaker, understanding the three corals on transacting health care delivery, my administration has embarked on an ambitious journey to not only enhance but also to expand our health care facilities. This includes the construction of four new dispensaries in Soit-naibor, Morijo, Ndume and Nkare-narok extremely remote areas.

In-patient wards in South Horr health centre, Loosuk health centre, Lesirikan health centre, Lodung'o kwe health centre significant improvement at Samburu County Teaching and referral centre and the establishment of a laboratory at Logetei health centre. Our efforts have extended to the construction of fences around eight dispensaries providing security and illuminating the health care premises for our communities.

Additionally, the construction of staff houses in five locations is a testament to our dedication to improving the working conditions of our health care, ensuring they are motivated to provide the best care to our people. The expansion of our out-patient services through the construction of two blocks at Wamba sub-county hospital, Suguta Marmar sub county hospital, along-side the acquisition of three new ambulances and refrigerated land cruiser for vaccination and of course our holistic approach to health care service delivery.

Furthermore, the increase from our drugs allocations from Kenyan shillings 130, 000,000 to Kenyan shillings; 160,000,000 is a clear indication of our commitment to ensuring that our health facilities are well equipped to meet the needs of our people.

Mr. Speaker, let it be known these achievements are not merely numbers or completed projects, they are reflections of our collective will to safeguard the health and wellbeing of every citizen of Samburu in just one year. As we look forward to the future, let us continue to forge ahead together with Members of this House with determinations, leveraging every resource at our disposal to build a healthier, more resilient Samburu County for the benefit of our people.

I. Roads

Mr. Speaker as stewards of economic growth and development within our jurisdiction, it is incumbent upon us to recognize the pivotal role that a robust and comprehensive road network plays in fostering the simplest law of goods and services as well as in ensuring the provision of essential services to our communities.

Furthermore, the integrity and accessibility of our roads infrastructure are critical components in the maintenance of security, facilitating the swift movement of security personnel's and resources where they are most needed. In alignment with our commitment to this objectives, my administration has worked diligently in conjunction with the national government to enhance the security and accessibility in our County. We have actively participated in opening up roads and clearing bushes in areas that are previously been affected by security challenges including emphasizing in Ntim Nariko Suguta Ward.

Throughout this effort, we have significantly improved accessibility in Suguta, Loosuk, Pura and Ang'ata Nanyokie Wards. These initiatives have not only restored peace and security but have also spurred economic activities in this region. Our engagement in the constructions and improvement of this critical roads ways has yielded dual benefits.

Firstly, it has enhanced the mobility of our citizens and the operations of our effectiveness of our security apparatus.

Secondly, it has provided substantial short term employment opportunities for the local populace thereby injecting financial resources into the community and stimulating local economies.

Looking forward, I am pleased to announce that with the support of the equalization funds, we are poised to embark on impetuous projects to expand our roads networks even further. These funds will enable us to comprehensively developed hundreds of kilometers of roads across our County; a significant connectivity, security and economic opportunities for our residents.

Equalization funds is a conditional grants under Article 204 of the Constitution of Kenya and I was one of the people who spearheaded the now implementation of the equalization funds when I was the Member of parliament, that is in the history books it is in parliament. This initiative stands as the testament to our unwavering commitment developing sustainable and efficient infrastructures system that not only meet the current needs of our population but also anticipate the demands of future growth, Investing on our roads.

We are laying the foundation for a more prosperous, secure and interconnected Samburu County. I assure you of my administrations dedications to this course and I seek your continued support and collaborations as we endeavor to transforms our County roads networks thereby thriving our collective progress and prosperity for the benefit of our people.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to note I am delivering this state of County address in the midst of extreme political, economic and social disruptions. Yes, we continue to lose lives and properties to the ending and preen menace of insecurity with our neighboring Counties. We are all aware the security is a function exclusively domiciles with national government. It is not ever a County function. That said, my administration has invested heavily in peace programs in order to fast foster peaceful co-existence for our communities. Insecurity is a dreaded phenomenon that I found bedeviling our people of Samburu North Baragoi in particular.

Baragoi was taint town when I took over the government. My first assignment after election was to address Samburu North security with other leaders not alone, my first assignment working with leadership of Samburu North was to address Samburu North insecurity on why all our communities must coexist in peace and I still insist on that, every day of my life that we must live in peace.

As a County Government, we developed fortified camps initiatives to strengthen the security of our conservation belts along belt of Suguta Ward, Loosuk Ward, Porro Ward and Ang'ata

Nanyokie Ward. The Camps that are now completed in the one and half years that I have been a governor are Pura, Noolkera, Ltungai, Lorian, and Leparachau unexpectedly.

We are now operationalizing with the contingent of security team GS, ASTU and Conservancy ranchers and NPRs while the County government provides foods and rations. Three more camps have already been advertised and it will soon commence. Ndonyuo Empuya in Suguta Ward, Naalabobok in Loosuk Ward and Mlima Blue in Ang'ata Nanyokie Ward to protect our passengers who trespass Baragoi-Maralal road on daily basis. Bush clearing and improvement of roads has enhanced the accessibility of the affected areas of Suguta, Loosuk, Porro and Ang'ata Nanyokie Ward. This also has provided short term employment opportunities to the locals which in turn boosted them financially.

Mr. Speaker, finally, this is my final remarks, as I come to the end of my address, I wish to call upon all the Members of this Honorable House to work together and to fully tough and explore the potential of this County with God on our side and our people supporting us. Finally as your governor, it is my assurance that I will continue to be the champion and innovator of convectional models that will inform a transformational part of the development. I wish you the best as you execute the mandates of your call of duty while listening to the needs and voices of our local villages. God bless our beautiful County God bless Kenya. Thank you Mr. Speaker and Honorable Members that is my County address. God bless you all.

ADJOURMENT

The Speaker, (Mr. Lenamarle Stephen): Hon. Members, the time being 20 minutes past four o'clock and there being no other business, this Assembly now adjourns until Tuesday 27th February, 2024 at 2:30 pm.

