



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF MIGORI

SPEECH BY:

THE GOVERNOR OF MIGORI

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ON

THE STATE OF THE COUNTY 2025

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PART I: INTRODUCTION:

MR SPEAKER,

Hon Members of Migori County Assembly, Fellow Migorians

Ladies and gentlemen

Today I am privileged to stand before you with extreme humility and a deep sense of responsibility as I deliver my much-awaited **State of County Address** to this respectable assembly. To begin with, let me express my most profound gratitude to the people of Migori for the trust and support they have shown to my administration. Your faith and continued support to my leadership is the driving force behind the achievements we have so far recorded. And for that I say thank you.

I want to walk this Honourable House a little down the memory lane. It is exactly two and a half years since we were elected on 8th of August 2022. During these two and a half years, a child who was born on our election day is now walking and preparing to join one of our ECDE centers spread across all the forty wards of our County.

Last year Finance Bill was rejected, the Cabinet dissolved, and the ODM party rose to the occasion and rescued the current regime from a total collapse and that's how we ended up with the current broad-based government. To the gallant young men and women of our great republic and indeed the youth of Migori County, you spoke loudly and candidly that moving forward there is nothing about you without your involvement. And that has always been the policy of my government since its inception.

I am also reminded that we have only run one full budget cycle because the first budget 2022/23 was done by our predecessors and the current one 2024/25 is just halfway implemented. Yet for the citizens who elected us, these two and a half years have been so long a time to wait for the change that we promised them.

Mr Speaker, as I stand here today, there is panic and despondency all over the world due to the uncertainty of how the new world order will look like especially in the face of rapid changes in technology and regimes in powerful countries in America, Europe and Asia

As we offer the leadership required to bridge the gap between such realities and the high expectations of our electorate, I remain mindful of the fact that Section 30(2)(k) of the County Governments Act requires that the Governor shall deliver an Annual State of the County Address containing such matters as may be specified in County Legislation. Similarly, Section 30(2) (j) of the same Act provides that the Governor shall submit to the County Assembly an annual report on the implementation status of the County Policies and Plans. Section 47(3) of the Act asks that I give to the Assembly a report on the performance of the County Executive Committee and Public Service.

I am also reminded of the national values and principles of governance that demand from all of us good governance, integrity, transparency and accountability.

I therefore stand before you to render an account of how my administration has exercised the power that the people of Migori have delegated to me to run the executive arm of this county government.

Mr. Speaker if you tour our country Kenya today, you will realize that apart from Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu, Nakuru and Eldoret which are now big cities, there are other forty-two (42) centers of active economic development because they are the headquarters of our county governments. Migori Municipality is one of such towns which bears testimony that devolution is working and is the idea of both today and the future.

It is my observation that even though progress has been painfully slow, by all metrics, the devolved functions are being undertaken more effectively by county governments than when they were under the tight grip of an imperial presidential regime domiciled far away in Nairobi. Devolution is working and its fruits are visible all over the country.

PART II: CHALLENGES TO DEVOLUTION:

Yet **Mr. Speaker**, be that as it may, there are critically outstanding challenges that have slowed the wheels of progress of this devolution train.

1. The National Government continues to cling on devolved functions together with the funds that should follow those functions to county governments. They still want to build affordable houses, develop markets, construct roads and build hospitals including levels 5, 4, 3 and 2 facilities. You are all aware that the national government still wants to run Public Health Programmes through community health promoters (CHPs). It is shocking that the national government budget for health is bigger now under devolution than it was before health was devolved. This makes it difficult for the county governments to offer effective services on functions that have been given to us by the constitution and where our citizens legitimately expect our intervention.

Mr. Speaker,

2. There is a new regime in America which has come in with a very tough foreign policy stance to cut down America's International Development agenda. The USAID has seen its budget abruptly cut affecting its programmes that many Kenyans already relied on. Here in Migori, we have been put on notice that the funding we had relied on through CIHEB, an implementing partner, to manage the fight against HIV/AIDS and TB has come to a painful stop. We have lost a funding source of more than Kshs 1B due to the actions taken by President Donald Trump to stop Presidential Emergency Programme for the fight against HIV/AIDS and Malaria in Africa. We are left staring forlornly at our colleagues who have lost their livelihoods, patients who no longer know how they will get the medication

they have relied on and a government in a panic mode wondering how we will bridge the huge gap.

Mr. Speaker long before the change of regime in the USA,

3. We have suffered tremendously because of sporadic, irregular and delayed releases by our own national treasury of the equitable share of the national revenue. As I speak here today, the county government of Migori is owed more than three monthly instalments by the exchequer amounting to more than Kshs. 2B. There are days we have gone for up to four (4) months without a single penny from the institution that is supposed to be our single most important source of revenue for running our government. It leaves us pondering whether devolution will survive in the face of these administrative interferences.

Mr. Speaker another challenge we face in the executive and in this assembly too is that,

4. We do not have adequate office space for the staff we have employed to help us offer services to the residents of Migori. This is a curable problem because it befalls us all as the elected leaders in this county to take the tough decisions to allocate money and undertake the construction or leasing required to get our staff comfortable in offices where they can be found by citizens seeking services. Nonetheless, it has been a challenge to us.

Mr Speaker another long lingering challenge is the fact that,

5. The very equitable share allocated to county governments, despite it not being released in good time is equally not enough to enable us to meet the costs of offering essential services to our people. Kshs 8.3B translates to approximately Kshs 6,000 per citizen per year. This is the amount required to meet all the devolved functions listed **one (1) to fourteen (14)** in the **Fourth Schedule** of our constitution as functions of county

governments. We are struggling to top it up by the support from development partners and our own internally sourced revenue. But even as we automate and digitize our own source revenue collection, we understand that Kenyans are already labouring under the heavy yoke of a burdensome taxation regime that has threatened to breakdown the social order of our polity.

Mr Speaker, despite these daring challenges, I want to take this chance to appreciate this Assembly, and the individual Honourable Members gathered here today for the support you have shown to me and my colleagues in the executive over these past two years.

Because of your support I am happy to report the following:

PART III: ACHIEVEMENTS OF MY ADMINISTRATION:

THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR:

Mr Speaker, History teaches us that however great political vehicles like political parties, political movements or campaign teams that bring politicians to power may be, societies get very little benefit if elected leaders are unable to quickly build efficient and effective administrative instruments to convert campaign manifestoes into policy actions.

It is in response to this historical lesson that:

1. Through the help of this Assembly, I have appointed all the senior officers from County Executive Committee Members to Chief Officers and various Board Members who now occupy office and discharge their duties in service delivery on substantive capacity.
2. It is my singular vision to always forge a working relationship between the County Executive and this Assembly not just because the constitution and our laws require me to do so but also because I personally acknowledge that we exercise a sovereign power delegated to us by the same citizens of Migori County.

3. My office continues with efforts to strengthen Intergovernmental Relations as required of us by Article 189 of the constitution through cooperation with the National Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies and other institutions of governance like the Council of Governors, the Summit at the Intergovernmental Relations Structure and the Lake Region Economic Bloc to address cross-county development programmes.
4. We are undertaking the construction of Migori County Headquarters to avail office space for service delivery which is currently a big challenge to us. We are also ensuring mobility of the public service through purchase of vehicles to enable us to reach all the far corners of the county where the citizens need our services the most.
5. Mr Speaker, because I believe government must do its business in the light of day, we will keep enhancing our efforts in stakeholder engagement to incorporate the views of our citizens in all our development agenda and service delivery programmes through scheduled public participation, strategic interest group dialogues, conferences, public barazas, open access by the media to our activities and departmental appearances before Committees of this House.

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC PLANNING:

Mr Speaker, the **Constitution** and our two most critical guiding statutes being the **County Governments Act** and the **Public Finance Management Act** require that the management of the affairs of our country be done through specific statutory planning documents. For this reason, through our Finance and Economic Planning Department, we have managed to:

1. Prepare and deploy the Migori County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) for the period 2023-2027 which outlines all our administrative, developmental and service delivery strategies to help achieve our set vision and objectives for the residents of

Migori. We continue to extract from this CIDP our Annual Development Plans (ADPs), County Fiscal Strategy Papers (CFSP), the Budget Statements and other statutory plans. As you all know, we do this through rigorous evidence-based processes which take into account available data and statistics as well as the views and input of the citizens through public participation and the ultimate approval of this County Assembly.

2. We continue to render proper accounting on the resources entrusted to us through the reports that we table in this House, submissions to the Controller of Budget, scrutiny by the Auditor General, Senate appearances and access to our revenue and expenditure records to relevant commissions, institutions of accountability and members of the public.

Mr Speaker,

3. We take our stewardship responsibilities seriously by ensuring that all statutory deductions are remitted to the relevant institutions on a timely basis. These include tax deductions on behalf of KRA, remittances for SHA/SHIF, NSSF and staff private pension and gratuity schemes. This applies to any private loan arrangements as well as voluntary SACCO savings for the employees of Migori County.
4. **Mr. Speaker,** I want to report that despite the challenges of sporadic exchequer releases to county governments, we have managed to pay pending bills to our suppliers, contractors and service providers to the tune of Kshs 1.116B since the start of this financial year 24/25. Our pending bills at the start of this financial year was Ksh, 1,765,656,882, so far, we have paid a total of Ksh. 1,116,462,751 and our current pending bill balance stands at Ksh. 649,194,131.
5. We have also ensured that staff salaries are paid in time to enable our employees meet their own financial obligations.

6. We have established Migori County Revenue Authority through an Act of this Assembly to strengthen our revenue collection efforts to boost our own source revenue (OSR) which has since improved from Kshs 400M in 2022/23 to Kshs 520M in 2023/24 and is expected to close at over Kshs 600M in this current Financial Year. After mapping out our revenue streams with the assistance of our staff, consultants and the Commission for Revenue Allocation, we now intend to acquire and deploy a robust revenue automation system which we believe will help close any leakages in our system and improve our collection.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND DEVOLUTION:

Mr Speaker,

In the spirit of devolution to take government services as close to the people as possible, my administration is on a relentless effort to build the infrastructure required for our technical and administrative staff to be available in our Sub counties and Ward offices. Within these last two years we have:

1. Undertaken a thorough staff establishment through a Staff Head Count (conducted by the Institute of Human Resource Management and the Kenya School of Government) and continuous surveys which revealed gaps in staff numbers and deployment. It also revealed areas where some people had gained entry into government employment through fraudulent means and fake academic papers. I am happy to report that we have since weeded out the fraud and fakery and ensured that most staff are now aligned to their correct roles. In the meantime, we have also done a massive recruitment of new staff (numbering more than 300) at all levels to strengthen the capacity of Migori County Public Service to serve our citizens effectively.
2. To create office space where citizens can get services, we are in the process of completing the Sub-County offices for Nyatike (at Macalder), for Muhuru (at Rabwao DO's

camp) and for Awendo (in Awendo town). We have completed the construction of the Ward Administrators' offices for South Kamagambo (at Cham Giwadu), for North Sakwa (at Kuja Nyokal Chief's Camp), for Bukira Central/Ikerege (at Gwikonge Center) and for Nyabasi West ward (at Chinato DO's camp).

Mr Speaker,

3. In the next Financial Years, we have planned to construct ward offices for Oruba Ragana in Suna West, Suna Central Ward in Suna East and Isibania Ward in Kuria West. Similarly, we will renovate the subcounty offices in Rongo, Uriri, Suna West and Kuria West.
4. Similarly, we are in the process of delineating our communities into village administrative units to enable us to decentralize the services offered by the county government to the very grassroots level as required by our constitution and the County Governments Act.

In the meantime, we continue to undertake structured trainings to our public service to enhance their capacity and to align their attitude and approaches to effective service delivery. Towards this end, we have secured the support of the World Bank of up to Kshs. 250M through the Kenya Devolution Support Programme Two (KDSP II) which will soon fund our efforts in staff capacity building and to reorganize the structures of our workforce in line with the developmental needs of modern societies.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION:

Mr Speaker, Part 2 of the Fourth Schedule of our constitution lists **Pre- Primary Education, village polytechnics, homecraft centres and childcare facilities** as number nine (9) in the functions it gives to county governments. Over the last twelve years, initiatives have been taken to establish the institutions and administrative structures that can support offering of these education services to our people, and we now have 667 ECDE centers enrolling more than 85,000 early learners as well as 23 VETC facilities. Up and above the efforts that were

taken by earlier administrations to meet these constitutional mandates and to implement the UN framework, the Nurturing Care for Early Childhood Development, (Smart Start):

1. We have constructed additional 140 ECDE classrooms across the county at a cost of Kshs. 77M since coming into office and we have allocated additional Kshs. 55M for more classrooms in this financial year. Alongside the classrooms, we have also improved staff offices and sanitation facilities for the children.
2. We continue to supply assorted teaching and learning materials to the ECDE facilities apart from allocating Kshs 9M per year towards meeting the costs of the same.
3. In this financial year we have set a side Kshs 3M to be used in training our teachers as well as an additional Kshs 20M towards recruiting more teachers to improve the quality of our service by closing the gap in teacher-pupil ration.

Mr Speaker in Vocational Education and Training Centers (VETC) where we have 23 facilities across the county:

4. We have finished the construction of the centers at Kababu in Suna West, Migori(Alara) in Suna East, Ngisiru in Kuria West and Uiri in Uiri Subcounty all at a cost Kshs 25.5M.
5. We have also finished the construction of Phase 2 of our model VETC centers at Macalder Kanyarwanda and Uiri in Central Kanyamkago and we are now embarking on their Phase 3.
6. We have given our VETCs conditional grants of Kshs 56M in 2022/23 and Kshs 20M in 2023/24 to support their operations in the provision of technical skills to the youths of Migori County and we have availed additional Kshs 20M for the same in this financial year.
7. At the same time, all students of VETCs facilities continue to receive bursary from the county government to support the needy youths who cannot afford the cost of college education.

8. We have supported these facilities with teaching and learning materials of Kshs. 13M per year as well as instructional equipment of Kshs. 10M and we intend to increase the number of instructors and teachers as well to improve the quality of training to standards required by a rapidly globalizing economy.

Mr Speaker,

9. In social protection, we have not left Migori's needy children out of education. For these last financial years my administration has awarded more than 40,000 students bursaries of Kshs. 80M in 2022/23 and Kshs. 120M in 2023/2024. We are in the process of awarding an additional Kshs.120M in this current financial year. These bursaries give financial support to our young learners in secondary schools, universities, our VETCs and other tertiary learning institutions where they are being prepared to be productive and responsible citizens.
10. Under the Governor's Merit Grant and Scholarship, we continue to fund the education of 200 continuing students as well additional 600 learners selected in 2022/23 and 2023/2024 at a cost of Kshs. 50M.

Mr. Speaker,

11. In sports we have excelled in running the Governor's Cup Tournament now for the second year running with a grassroots structure that emanates from the ward level all the way to the county finals. This initiative has promoted interaction between the citizens and their leaders while engaging young people in nurturing productive talent that has seen some of them scouted and picked by Kenya Premier and Super League teams. We have faithfully sent our teams to inter - county and national competitions where they remain our ambassadors in KICOSCA, Kenya Youth Inter- County Sports Association as well in the National Talanta Hela competitions.

12. In terms of infrastructure, we have levelled playing fields and installed goal posts in Kuria East, Rongo and Awendo Sub-counties at a cost of Kshs. 7.5M. We are currently working with the National Olympic Committee of Kenya to build a County Gymnasium to promote sports with Phase One already allocated Kshs.10M.

Mr Speaker,

13. To promote local talent and sports enthusiasm, we plan to procure and distribute modern sporting equipment and to invest in training of coaches and referees to foster a stronger sporting culture in Migori at a cost of Kshs. 8M in this financial year.

14. It is our intention to tie all these initiatives together in a Youth Policy Framework which we are currently developing to provide a structured approach to all our youth programmes and activities to ensure greater impact, sustainability and involvement by the private sector.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES AND SANITATION:

Mr. Speaker, let me reiterate that except for a few referral facilities and national health policy that remain the role of the national government, the Fourth Schedule of our constitution puts the responsibility for managing the health of our citizens largely in the hands of county governments.

The mandate to deliver affordable and quality health services to the people of Migori with an overarching goal towards the attainment of Universal Health Coverage rests on our shoulders. My vision has been to assemble a team that can provide essential health services with interventions targeted toward mother and child health services, reducing communicable diseases including malaria, TB, and HIV/AIDS. We aim to provide diagnosis and management of non-communicable diseases like hypertension, diabetes, cancer, and mental illnesses to improve the quality of life for our sick people.

Mr Speaker from the interventions that my administration has put in place:

1. Migori County has been ranked second (2nd) in the country in elimination of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV because our expectant mothers receive Prevention of Mother to Child Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy (PMTCT-HAART). The transmission has been reduced to 5% which is below the national target of 8%.
2. The long-lasting insecticidal nets coverage among our expectant mothers has increased from 86.2% to 90.6%.

Similarly,

3. We opened 18 new dispensaries in the financial year 2023/24 to help improve accessibility to healthcare for the people of Migori.
4. We are undertaking the process of upgrading some of our dispensaries to Model Health Centers at Otacho, Kwoyo Kodalo, Got Kachola and Olasi. We are also renovating and face-lifting the dispensaries at Kosege, Alara, Wangirabose, Mariba, Njiri, Oboke and Benga.
5. We have refurbished six (6) laboratories at Giribe, Ngodhe, Nyasese, Wath Ong'er, Getambwega and Mariwa. At the same time, we have refurbished seven (7) medical stores at Ogwedhi, Minyenya, Ngere, Bware, Kabuto, Gwitembe and Tisinye.
6. We have held two fistula medical camps with the support of Dr. Agnes Ochilo Foundation and other Development Partners where successful corrective surgeries were done to more than eighty (80) women who can now live their lives with dignity.

Mr. Speaker,

7. We intend to upgrade five (5) more dispensaries to Model Health Centers and complete and open additional thirteen (13) new dispensaries in the next financial year.

8. We will also improve forty (40) Primary Care facilities under community health projects.
9. We continue to pay stipends to more than three thousand (3,000) CHPs while continuously equipping them with the equipment they require to enable them to undertake early detection of disease and to reach out to the most vulnerable members of society.
10. It is our plan to fast track the transmission of HIV/AIDS and TB programmes from donor funding to our budget due to a lot of changes in the donor world.

Mr Speaker, to strengthen Medical Services,

11. We have built a new maternity ward in Nyamaraga Sub-county Hospital (SCH) in Suna West, new ward in Uriri SCH, expanded the Outpatient Division in the MCRH, and built ablution blocks in the MCRH, Kegonga, Kehancha and Isibania SCH.
12. Within these two years, we have done a facelift to Macalder and Muhuru hospitals and drilled boreholes at the MCRH, Kehancha and Nyamaraga SCH. We have procured and supplied assorted medical equipment to Isibania, Kehancha and the MCRH as well as installed a molecular lab through the help of a development partner.
13. We are in the process of upgrading the MCRH from a Level Four (4) to a Level Five (5) hospital which will include a medical surgical complex with an ICU, four (4) theatres, and surgical and medical wards.

Mr. Speaker,

14. I want to report that we have since recruited nearly one hundred (100) healthcare workers ranging from Medical Doctors (MOs) to Clinical Officers and nurses to fill the gap that has made medical service provision a challenge in our county. It is our intention to recruit one hundred (100) more, including specialists, in the next few financial years to meet the requirement.

15. We also want to construct a Medical and Surgical Complex at the MCRH which will include a cancer care centre to ease the challenges our patients face when they must travel long distances to get treatment for cancer and other critical illnesses.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE:

Mr Speaker, we have divided our Agriculture Sector into three departments namely Fisheries & Blue Economy, Crops, and Livestock and Veterinary Services to enable us give adequate focus to food security. My administration's priorities in this sector are to increase crop production, increase agribusiness development, promote livestock production and increase fish harvest.

Towards meeting these priorities, we have:

1. Renovated fishponds across the county at a cost of Kshs 4.8M and intend to renovate more at a cost of Kshs. 10.2M in the next two financial years. Similarly, we have assisted farmers to buy fish cages amounting to Kshs. 8M which are already installed in strategic locations within the Lake Victoria.
2. We have procured and distributed high quality fingerlings to our farmers at a cost of Kshs. 7M so far and we have set aside Kshs 9M towards the same in 2025, 2026 and 2027.
3. On the same note, we continue to procure and distribute to farmer's fish feeds estimated at Kshs.13M by the end of my first term.
4. We have constructed cold storages at Isibania and Uriri at a total cost of Kshs. 10M and we intend to construct two more in Nyatike and Awendo at a total of Kshs. 7M to help farmers reduce their post-harvest losses in the fishing industry.
5. We have renovated fish bandas along our beaches and it is our intention to procure kitted rescue boat engines at a cost of Kshs.

6. 20M to assist with security and emergency rescue initiatives within the lake.

Mr Speaker, under crop development,

7. In collaboration with the National Government through the Lake Region Economic Bloc, we lobbied for the passing of the Sugar Act which is intended to facilitate reforms in the sugar industry to the benefit of farmers.

8. We have finished a geospatial mapping and profiling of 174,000 farmer households to guide our interventions for increasing their farm practices, modern technology uptake and value addition in the agriculture value chain.

9. To enhance field extension services, we have improved the infrastructure at Miyare Agricultural Training Center (ATC) to increase access to agriculture training and technology transfer to more than 1500 farmers. Similarly, we have established fifteen (15) demonstration sites and provided field technical support services to three hundred and sixty (360) farmer groups.

10. We have procured and distributed more than eighty (80) tonnes of high-quality seeds including nyota beans as an alternative to tobacco farming, maize, sunflower, sorghum and rice that have been instrumental in increasing food production and security.

11. With support of Development Partners, we have successfully run the Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme (ASDSP II) and National Agriculture and Rural Inclusive Growth Project (NARIGP) which have enabled us to distribute innovation grant equipment and to fund farmer activities for increased productivity. Similarly, the National Agriculture Value Chain Development Programme (NAVCDP) has also picked up and many of our farmers are beneficiaries.

Mr Speaker,

12. We did operationalize the Getonganya Sweet Potato Plant in Kuria West which processes orange fleshed potato into various finished food products. However, due to challenges of technical capacity, intense capital requirements and intensive energy needs, we are currently working on a policy to facilitate the entry of a strategic private investor who can run the venture with an assurance of continuity to farmers and the community.

13. I also want to report that Migori County has jointly with the Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK) conducted and participated in annual Agricultural Exhibitions and Trade Fairs for the second year running which have attracted participants in the agriculture value chain from across the region to assist farmers exchange knowledge and skills in new farming technology and practices.

Mr Speaker, our Livestock and Veterinary Services largely undertake initiatives to control animal diseases, improve breeding and productivity and finally to offer meat inspection services. In this front:

14. We have purchased, distributed and administered vaccinations to animals in all our wards to prevent and control diseases. We have procured and distributed the products required to facilitate artificial insemination for high quality production across the county and all our 20 slaughter facilities remain under close surveillance with inspection activities carried out as scheduled capturing nearly fifty thousand (50,000) carcasses per year.

THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS, TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr Speaker, our mission in the Roads, Transport and Public Works Sector is to provide efficient, safe and reliable infrastructure and an integrated transport system for sustainable growth and development. It is our intention to improve the county's road network and accessibility.

To achieve this mission, we have:

1. Completed the footbridge at Migori Primary School over A1 Road to make it safe for school children and other road users on the busy highway. We have also completed the foot bridge at Ogongo in Macalder Kanyarwanda.
2. We have constructed twenty (20) box culverts across various rivers and streams in the county to enhance access by our people from one location to another in their daily businesses at a cost of Kshs. 140M.
3. We have deployed our county equipment as well as procured contractors in the maintenance of 1500 kms of major county roads per year to keep our roads motorable especially after the devastation of heavy rains that sometimes threaten to cut communities apart. This has cost us more than Kshs 900M in the last two financial years.
4. To open and maintain community access roads we have deployed Kshs.260M to gain access to people's farms and homes in areas that have been unreachable for many years.
5. Similarly, we have purchased four (4) ultra-modern equipment to enhance the capacity of our department to undertake emergency and strategic interventions in improving road networks and accessibility at a cost of Kshs.135M.

Mr Speaker,

6. The Fourteen (14) Kilometre Awendo Junction-Kanyimach Road is under construction being improved to bitumen standards and will be completed by January 2026 at a cost of Kshs 920M. This road will improve accessibility in the Awendo-Rongo area enabling farmers to gain access to the market for their produce.
7. We have more programmes to maintain major county roads, open and maintain community access roads, build box culverts across our rivers and purchase more

equipment to ensure our vision of providing efficient, safe and reliable infrastructure for the people of Migori County is realized.

DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND ENERGY:

Mr Speaker, no town or region can develop unless it has access to adequate, reliable and affordable water and energy. Despite this being a concurrent jurisdiction between us and the national government, we have laid down and implemented some strategic initiatives to give the people of Migori water and energy that can support their domestic and commercial use. These include the following:

1. We have given continuous support to our seven (7) water schemes to buy treatment chemicals, undertake minor repairs and to pay electricity bills to ensure they provide the water commodity to our residents.
2. We have drilled more than ninety (90) new boreholes across the county and equipped more than one hundred (100) existing boreholes since 2022. We intend to drill thirty (30) more and equip another one hundred (100) existing boreholes all with the intention of availing adequate, reliable and affordable water to our people.
3. We have rehabilitated and put more than sixty (60) community water projects to use, and we have mapped another eighty (80) of such projects to be repaired and brought into use within the next two financial years.
4. Similarly, the department has undertaken spring protection works for more than one hundred (100) water facilities within our communities and procured and distributed ninety (90) 10,000 litre tanks to strategic institutions. We have repaired one water pan and our initiatives now give access to clean water to more than forty-seven thousand (47,000) persons within Migori. We intend to protect more water springs and purchase more tanks especially for our ECDE facilities.

Mr Speaker,

5. Through the support of the World Bank in a programme known as K-WASH, we expect to receive funding of up to Kshs. 200M intended to improve access to clean water and sanitation services and to improve the operational and financial performance of our Water Service Providers.
6. Similarly, we are seeking to acquire 10 Ha parcel of land for the Migori Sewerage Treatment Plant already earmarked for funding from the national government through Lake Victoria South Water Works Development Agency.
7. In the current financial year, we intend to overhaul the pumping units at Oyani Water Treatment Plant, Oyani Booster Station and Awendo Water Supply to renew their capacity to supply water to the people of Migori. This will cost Kshs.21M.
8. Construction works are currently ongoing for Phase Four (4) of Bongu Raga Water Project in Kachieng Ward in Nyatike at a cost of Kshs. 25M.

Mr Speaker, in the energy area in Migori, main provision of electricity is a national government function. Nonetheless, we are working closely with the State Department for Energy to ensure that:

9. The High Voltage Power Line Substation already constructed in Masaba in Kuria West Constituency is commissioned soonest for the benefit of both domestic and industrial consumers.
10. We set aside funds to purchase twenty (20) new transformers which will be located in areas with least access to electricity so that we can benefit from the matching fund offered by Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Commission (REREC) to increase last mile connectivity at an affordable cost for our residents.

Mr. Speaker, we also continue with our normal operations and have:

11. Installed and repaired more than one hundred (100) solar streetlights and mapped out additional five hundred (500) points where both installation and repair of solar streetlights are required to light up our Municipalities and towns to extend business time beyond 6pm and improve security in our markets. We also continue to maintain and repair our grid streetlights.
12. We have also installed and repaired more than sixty (60) floodlights across our towns and markets and another sixty (60) floodlights have been mapped out for installation and repair in the next two financial years.
13. We have plans to procure up to five thousand (5,000) solar lamps for distribution to vulnerable families and sensitive institutions to promote their uptake of renewable energy.
14. Finally, I want to report to this House that the Department of Energy is at an advanced level in preparing both The Migori Energy Plan and Energy Regulations to guide our sustainable exploitation of energy that can fuel our agro processing and industrial take off.

DERPARTMENT OF TRADE:

Mr Speaker, our strategic objectives through the Trade Department is to make Migori a preferred destination for trade, investment and tourism. To make this dream a reality,

1. Jointly with the National Government, we have undertaken the construction of the County Aggregation and Industrial Park (CAIP) in Nyatike which is currently at more than 70% completion. This park is intended to assist investors in aggregating (collecting) together various agricultural produce from Migori which may be produced in small scale by our subsistence farmers. Similarly, this park can accommodate agro processing of the

assembled farm produce. We fitted it with industrial warehouses and cold rooms necessary for fresh produce as well as fish processing. We shall hold an international investments conference here in Migori early next year to give prospective investors a chance to see what is possible in the agribusiness value chain in this county. The CAIP will cost us up to Kshs 500M when it is finished.

2. Again, through collaboration with the National Government, we are in the process of constructing fourteen (14) market facilities across the county through the Economic Stimulus Plan which is intended to give our small-scale traders access to good market facilities for their goods and trade. This is a programme that will cost up to Kshs.700M and is expected to stir up economic activities in the county.
3. On the same note, to enhance sanitation in the markets, the department has constructed fourteen (14) pit latrines in our markets across the county to help them meet public health standards required of markets that assemble many people and sell food products.

Mr Speaker, one of the greatest challenges to small traders is access to credit. This is due to their inadequate financial expertise and lack of security for borrowing in the mainstream financial sector. In response to this:

4. My administration saw it proper to take a strategic intervention by giving organised youths and women trading groups an economic empowerment grant to enable them to boost their business capacities. We reached out to four hundred (400) women groups, ten (10) from each ward and awarded them business credit grant of up to Kshs fifty-two million (52M). We have deployed mechanisms to monitor the effectiveness of this model and if it proves viable and productive, we shall be requesting this House to approve the next phase of the programme.
5. The Department has also worked closely with The Kenya Airports Authority to ensure the opening and operationalisation of Migori Airstrip at Lichota which has now enabled scheduled commercial flights between Migori and Nairobi making it easy to travel to and

from the county for business, work and pleasure. We are in close engagement with the State Department of Transport and The Kenya Airports Authority to ensure that our current runway is expanded to enable it to accommodate bigger aircrafts. I wish to report that the route has been ever busy since the flights were launched and apart from the scheduled commercial flights, the airstrip also receives chartered planes destined to both the Maasai Mara and the Serengeti National Parks by tourists. We can also host tourists both domestic and international at Thim Lich Ohinga, the Mugabo Caves and other tourist sites here in our county.

6. In the field of cooperative movement, we have since recruited 20 new cooperative societies which we shall be using to bring farmers together as we assist them in enhancing their productivity and value addition. The new cooperatives have been trained on basic managerial skills for their model and strategic plans have been put in place to develop them as instruments of agro processing and industrialization.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT:

Mr. Speaker, through the Department of Environment, Natural Resources, Climate Change and Disaster Management we seek to promote sustainable management of our environment and natural resources, we seek to mitigate the impacts of climate change as well as to enhance disaster response preparedness to enable prevention and quick recovery. We also know from data and statistics that our world is warming, ocean levels are ever rising, rain patterns have become irregular, and people need to take many initiatives to adapt to the consequences of climate change.

In the last two years since taking office:

1. We have supported alternative livelihoods to enhance community resilience, reduce vulnerability of households to climate impact, and promote sustainable development by

diversifying income sources and reducing pressure on natural resources. We have installed four (4) fish cages and stocked them with quality fingerlings, we have supported ten (10) women groups with apiculture equipment and renovated twenty (20) fishponds across the county. These initiatives have cost us Kshs 29M.

Mr. Speaker,

2. We have put into place the structures required by the Climate Change Act being the County Environment Committee, the County Climate Change Steering Committee, Planning Committee and the Fund Board. Similarly, we also have the Ward Climate Change Planning Committees to promote locally led climate change action which incorporates the views and perspectives of the people most affected by climate change.
3. Through World Bank Funded Financing of Locally Led Climate Change Action (FLOCCA) we have managed to drill and equip twenty-eight (28) boreholes across the county at a cost of Kshs 240M to help avail water to communities which have been hit hard by the consequences of climate change. We look forward to more funding by development partners to complete the various plans we have in this mitigation strategies.
4. At a cost of Kshs. 22M we have undertaken conservation projects to plant forty thousand (40,000) trees in our schools, rehabilitated three (3) degraded hill tops at God Nyinyo in Rongo, Raha in Suna West and Kiasa Hill in Nyatike.
5. We have equally deployed a sum of Kshs 27M to preserve fourteen (14) water springs and to rehabilitate two (2) water pans at Kaknene in Suna East and Mubachi in Suna West.

Mr. Speaker, we know that Nyatike has been hit hard by flooding in the last so many years. To enhance our capacity to respond to such:

6. We have constructed a Disaster Rescue Center at Ageng'a and supported families and institutions in distress through provision of food and nonfood items. We have also built

box culverts at Kenyaboni in Tagare, Obware Kayara in Kanyasa, and Sare in South Sakwa Ward to improve the safety of roads during rainy seasons.

7. As part of our cardinal responsibility, we continue with our solid waste management programmes to ensure our towns, markets and neighborhoods are clean and safe. We have recruited an army of four hundred (400) youths, women and persons living with disability for bush clearing, street and market cleaning and to enhance routine garbage collection.

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS:

Mr. Speaker This Sector comprises of Land Survey, Physical Planning, Housing, Urban Development and Municipalities. Our municipalities numbering four (Rongo, Awendo, Migori and Kehancha) are semi-autonomous entities of the county government domiciled under Physical Planning and Urban Development.

Through this Sector we seek to facilitate improvement of livelihoods of Migori County residents through efficient planning, administration and management of land and ensure access to adequate, quality and affordable housing.

In the last two years since I took oath of office:

1. We have established Kehancha Municipality through a charter under the Urban Areas and Cities Act. The Kehancha Municipal Management has made a lot of improvements in service delivery for the people of both Kuria West and Kuria East by opening, grading and muramming of backstreet roads, renovation of Kehancha CBD Bus Park, improving the Kehancha Heavy Commercial Vehicles Park, renovation of the Municipal Offices, and opening of Omome-Nyaitara- Nyamancha Road. Through the Kehancha Municipal Board and Management we intend to undertake planning and control of development to ensure efficient and compliant use of the limited resources available within the municipality.

Mr. Speaker,

2. We have completed the Migori County Spatial Plan which will be used as a tool for controlling development and as a guide for land use in the whole county for a period of ten (10) years (2024-2033). This comes with complete establishment of survey control points and a Geospatial Information System. With these planning instruments in place demarcating all public lands, it will be difficult for anybody to grab or misappropriate public land as was recently pronounced by the Supreme Court of Kenya in the Dina Management case where the County Government of Mombasa was able to recover land that was grabbed by powerful individuals in total violation of Mombasa Counties town plans. In short, an approved County Spatial Plan is an insurance against any form of public land grabbing today and in the future.

Mr Speaker,

3. We are in the process of implementing the Kenya Informal Settlements Improvement Project (KISIP II) which is funding the development of Local Physical and Land Use Development Plans for our informal settlements to enable their dwellers obtain security of tenure, to encourage infrastructure upgrading and better living conditions. We have equally initiated the preparation of various Urban Areas Valuation Rolls that will improve our land revenue from land use and transactions.
4. I am also happy to announce to this Honourable House that we are in the process of acquiring forty (40) acres of land for the construction of Migori Sewerage Treatment Plant and another for a similar facility for Rongo Municipality.
5. In Rongo Municipality we have installed fifty (50) waste bins to aid in solid waste management to improve sanitation and we have as well installed additional one hundred and fifty (150) solar powered streetlights through funding from the World Bank's Kenya Urban Support Programme (KUSP). We intend to install twenty-five (25) more solid waste

bins and put up more solar powered streetlights and floodlights under the same programme.

Mr. Speaker,

6. In Awendo Municipality, we have deployed Kshs 6.4M to rehabilitate the septic tank at Awendo Modern Market and to install solar powered streetlights. We have equipped the borehole and completed the landscaping at the Recreational Park and constructed a waterborne toilet at Sare Market. In the Financial Year 2023/24 we managed to renovate the Awendo Modern Market at a cost of Kshs. 11M. With a budget of Kshs. 16.8M expected from the KUSP II the municipality intends to construct market stalls at Olympic to give our women a clean, safe and secure environment for their businesses.

Mr. Speaker,

7. Through the Municipality of Migori, we look forward to constructing a new bus park at the KACHINA Grounds adjacent to Assar Johansson Primary School from the KUSP II funding of Kshs 54M which we expect in the next few months. Similarly, we have plans in place to construct more parking lots along the main Migori Highway and to undertake planning, designing and the construction of Soko Mjinga Market.

MIGORI COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Mr Speaker, the Migori Public Service Board came into office on 4th July 2023, and as you can recall, court cases derailed their operationalization until the following year in July 2024 when they started serious operations. Our achievements at the board lay in establishing a conducive environment for service delivery. Within this short period, we managed to achieve the following:-

a) We developed four (4) draft policies namely: Internship, Recruitment, Training and Sexual Harassment Policies which are awaiting public participation.

- b) We have reviewed the Human Resource Policy and Procedures Manual.
- c) Developed a draft Conflict of Interest Handbook.
- d) We conducted recruitment exercise which culminated in the issuance of two hundred and twenty-six (226) letters of appointment to officers in various cadres within the County Public Service.
- e) We prepared and submitted to the county assembly the 2023 report on the extent to which Values and Principles in Articles 10 and 232 of the Constitution have been complied with in Migori County public service.

PART IV: CONCLUSION:

Mr Speaker, as I end my address to this Honourable House, I want to seize this opportunity once again to say thank you to my fellow leaders, the MCAs, who were elected by the same people of Migori who elected me for their support. I have appreciated your warm receptions when I come to launch or commission projects in your wards. I have appreciated your invaluable insights as you guide us in prioritizing community-based projects that speak to the needs of the people you represent.

I must also commend you for the work you do to hold my administration accountable for the resources you allocate to us through your committee summonses and the reports that you demand from us on a regular basis.

I want to remind you that the mandate we share to serve the people of Migori County who sent us here together is not easy and is faced with the numerous challenges that I highlighted at the beginning of this address. Leadership has never been an easy task, more so, public leadership where there are a thousand and one interests to balance with limited resources. But anytime these tasks prove difficult and insurmountable, let us ask ourselves if it would be prudent to pass on these difficulties to our children?

If we cannot re-plan our towns and create order, if we cannot regulate transport in the boda-boda sector to reduce accidents, if we cannot lay the infrastructure to provide clean water and sufficient reliable energy that can support industrialization, do we think our children will do it? Will they open the roads that we can't open? Will they resolve border conflicts and forge the peace we are running away from?

This is what I think.

We must do what our generation is called upon to do and leave for our children the latitude to attend to the challenges that will afflict their own generation, like dealing with the consequences of climate change and global warming. They will be busy at work dealing with the devastating impact of digital dictatorship with technological revolutions almost outpacing political processes and Artificial Intelligence that now threatens to take over all human jobs and render most of the humankind jobless.

It's a challenge we must all be willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone and one which we intend to win.

Mr Speaker, I promise to walk alongside these representatives of the people as we tackle our generation's challenges and threats by asking the right questions and generating new insights regarding persistent problems. Thank you once more for this chance to address The County Assembly of Migori. May God bless you. May God bless our Country Kenya.

Signed,



Hon. (Dr.) Ochilo G. M. Ayacko
Governor, Migori County
