

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



BOMET COUNTY ASSEMBLY

ASSEMBLY DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

DAILY HANSARD

Wednesday, 26th February, 2020

PLENARY

BOMET COUNTY ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

Wednesday, 26th February, 2020

*The Assembly met at the Chamber,
Main Assembly Buildings at 2:30 pm.*

[The Acting Speaker (Hon. W. Kiprotich) in the Chair]

NATIONAL ANTHEM

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY ANTHEM

PRAYER

Hon. Acting Speaker (Hon. W. Kiprotich): Hon. Members, I take this opportunity to welcome you to this special occasion on the State of the County Address by His Excellency the Governor (Dr.) Hillary Barchok.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

WELCOMING REMARK BY THE ACTING SPEAKER

Hon. Acting Speaker (Hon. W. Kiprotich): Your Excellency the Governor of the County Government of Bomet, Hon. (Dr.) Hillary Barchok, Hon. Members of the County Assembly, it is my singular honour and privilege to welcome Your Excellency, the Members of this County Assembly and our visitors at the public gallery.

Allow me to mention that at the public gallery, we have the following members:

1. His Excellency Shadrack David Rotich – The Deputy Governor of Bomet
2. County Executive Committee Members
3. County Secretary
4. Members of the Bomet County Public Service Board
5. Chief Officers

VISITING DELEGATION OF TEACHERS AND STUDENTS FROM TENWEK HIGH SCHOOL

Your Excellency, we also have students from Tenwek High School and I will only mention the teachers who have accompanied them:

1. Madam Sitiency Winfrey
2. Mr. Ongaro Emmanuel
3. Madam Debra Langat
4. Mr. Akango Samwel

We have members of the public who are residents of Bomet County who have joined in to listen to your address. We also have members of the fourth estate in our public gallery.

Your Excellency, today is indeed your day to exercise your statutory duty to deliver the Annual State of the County Address Pursuant to Section 30 (2) (k) of the County Governments Act, 2012 and as provided for by the County Assembly of Bomet Standing Orders No.21.

I would therefore, with your indulgence, like to state the following:

The County Assembly of Bomet being one of the two arms of the County Government has endeared to make Bomet County a better place in all spheres of life. We have joined hands with you to ensure that we enact, implement and operationalize legislations that directly affect the livelihoods of Bomet residents. To single out, Your Excellency, the people of Bomet have for a long time yearned for a fund that would assist micro, small and medium enterprises access affordable loans. Your government in conjunction with the County Assembly in response to their plea, formulated and enacted the Bomet County Enterprise Development Fund Act, 2019, this is the latest Act that has been enacted by the County Assembly of Bomet.

Your Excellency, this Act establishes a fund that is geared towards promotion of entrepreneurship, job creation and self-employment for the youth, women, vulnerable persons and persons living with disabilities. It is further meant to establish a framework for investing and facilitation of growth of micro and small enterprises to spur economic growth in the County. Your Excellency, I have no doubt that this Fund will improve the social and economic welfare of our people.

Your Excellency, the Second County Assembly has transacted a record of 22 Bills in a span of two years and we endeavor to double our efforts in this calendar year. Your Excellency, as I stated earlier that this as a matter of fact is your day. It is now my pleasant duty to welcome and invite you to address this County Assembly and speak to the esteemed residents of Bomet County.

Your Excellency, you are welcome.

THE ANNUAL STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS

H. E. The Governor (Dr.) Hillary Barchok (The Bomet Governor): Thank you. Honourable Acting Speaker, Hon W. Kiprotich, Honourable Members of the County Assembly of Bomet, H.E Deputy Governor of Bomet, Hon Shadrack David Rotich, the Leader of Majority, the Leader of Minority, County Executive Committee Members, Members of the Bomet County Public Service Board, other county government officials, members of our business community, development partners and the people of Bomet, ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure and honour to deliver the second State of the County Address before this Honourable House during this 26th day of February, 2020. Delivering this County Address is one of my key functions as stipulated in Article 183 of the Constitution of Kenya, and Section 30 of the County Government Act no. 17 of 2012.

First and foremost, I wish to thank the Almighty God for His guidance and protection; we do not take for granted. A few weeks ago, we laid to rest the late retired 2nd President of Kenya His Excellency Hon. Daniel Toroitich Arap Moi. Mzee was a true African statesman, an erstwhile politician, an icon and a role model to all of us in one way or the other. We celebrate his life and honour his legacy.

Hon. Acting Speaker, Sir, I want to thank the Honourable Members for releasing one of your most valuable member to serve *wananchi* in a different capacity. Well, I want to assure you that His Excellency the Deputy Governor Hon. Shadrack David Rotich and I are working cordially together. I want to let you know that we welcomed him warmly and heartily at the Executive.

Thank You.

I also take this opportunity to thank the Almighty God for seeing us through the toughest and sorrowful moment when we lost our dearly beloved governor, the late Dr. Joyce Laboso on 29th July 29th 2019. I salute my predecessor, my mentor and my boss.

The late Dr. Laboso and I shared similar a vision for a stronger and prosperous county of Bomet. We were elected on a platform of a seven-point manifesto built on 3 simple pillars; Economic Empowerment, Service Delivery and Good Governance.

I stand here before this Honourable House today with confidence to affirm that we have made notable progress in delivering on the development agenda that we made to the great people of Bomet.

It has been a journey coupled with successes, opportunities, challenges and lessons learnt along the process. However, we have made strides in our bid to transform Bomet into an economic powerhouse in the region. In line with the big four agenda, we are focused on promoting food security, improving access to quality health care services, improving infrastructure to boost our economy, investment and laying the infrastructure for wealth creation, commitment to quality and accessible education and providing water for home and productive use.

Delivering on these core areas will thrust our County to greater heights of prosperity through economic empowerment of our people.

I therefore reiterate my administration's commitment to building a better Bomet that anchor hopes and aspirations for our people, just as the late Dr. Joyce Laboso envisioned.

Food Security

Hon. Acting Speaker, Sir, agriculture is the backbone of our economy. It is critical to our County's economic growth and as such we have focused on four major value addition areas that impact positively on our people namely; dairy, chicken, Irish potatoes and sweet potatoes. We will continue to develop policies, standards and guidelines to improve performance of these value chains.

There are constraints affecting the sector including poor quality of inputs, pest and disease management, access to markets and credit facilities, impassable access roads, and core extension services.

However, we are using our extension workers to train and impart agricultural knowledge to our farmers to venture into diversification of farming in order to spread risks and income sources. To facilitate ease of movement, we have provided the workers with 50 motorcycles to enable them traverse every ward in the County.

Even as we harness agriculture for economic transformation, we must take note of the ever increasing effects of climate change which may affect our potential of becoming Kenya's breadbasket.

As a matter of fact, the theme for this year's devolution conference is about "Multi-level governance for Climate action" whose objective is to strengthen sub-national governments to act on climate change and develop stronger mitigation capacities.

We are therefore compelled to adopt resilient agricultural practices and build sustainable food production systems to boost productivity while maintaining ecosystems which progressively improve land and soil quality.

To improve food security in the county, my administration has initiated the following development milestones: -

Livestock

- i. We have offered subsidized Artificial Insemination (AI) services to over 12,000 cows
- ii. The construction of Chebunyo milk processing plant is ongoing; currently 60% complete.
- iii. A total of 42,466 animals have been vaccinated against Foot and Mouth Disease, 88,485 against Black Quarter (BQ), 60,775 against Lump Skin Disease (LSD) and 19,023 against rabies. Vaccination against anthrax is also ongoing.
- iv. We have equipped 79 cattle dips with acaricides.
- v. Five (5) new dips have been constructed namely: Bemjat, Lelechonik, Kapamban, Itembe and Singorwet. We are currently renovating ten cattle dips.
- vi. We now have three slaughter houses in: Ndanai, Kiplelji and Singorwet which are fully operational.
- vii. Bomet County Dairy Policy has been developed which will facilitate the opening up of milk outlets for better prices.

Horticulture

Further, we have distributed 84,400 Tissue Culture Bananas seedlings, 49,400 grafted Mango seedlings, 63,000 Hass Avocados, over 100,000 Sweet Potato Vines seedlings, 8,702 Batian seedlings to over 20 cooperatives Societies at subsidized rates.

Poultry

A modern chicken processing and value addition site for indigenous chicken is under construction at Chebole.

Sweet potatoes

- i. We are planning to distribute 300,000 sweet potatoes vines in Sigor, Kiprerer and Chebunyo Wards. Procurement process is under way.
- ii. The construction of Sweet Potato processing plant in Lelaitich is currently 95% complete.

Sorghum

Through a pilot contract farming program partnership with East African Breweries Limited on contract, we have distributed 1,000kgs of white sorghum to over 300 farmers in Chebunyo.

Fish farming

We have constructed a total of 35 fish ponds.

Co-operatives

The final draft of the Co-operative policy and bill 2019 is at the Cabinet level. Through the support of the national government, we have acquired 14 milk cooling machines. On 5th February 2020 I held successful talks with Livestock Principal Secretary Harry Kimutai, and now, Bomet County will benefit from an additional 26 coolers.

Kaboson Irrigation

Agricultural activity in Kaboson is expected to improve through the Crop Production Small Holder Irrigation and Value Addition Program (SIVAP) with support from the African Development Bank.

The project also seeks to get market access for French beans, water melons and cash crops.

To sustain this growth, my administration has in the 2019/2020 Financial Year allocated **Kshs. 208, 972, 095**. Likewise, the World Bank through the Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Program (KCSAP) allocated **Kshs. 215,200,000** to Bomet County. Kshs. 57.1 Million has been disbursed to 85 groups in the county in the first phase. Thus, the total budget for the Agriculture, Livestock and Cooperatives therefore stands at **Kshs. 424,172,095**.

Affordable Universal Healthcare

Hon. Acting Speaker, Sir, access to affordable health care is still a concern to majority of Kenyans. Most families struggle to offset medical expenses which subsequently drain families' resources and livelihoods. On our part, we have partnered with medical research institutions to find solutions to the ever-rising cases of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), particularly cancer.

To seek solutions to health issues in the County, we have: -

Collaborated with the National Government to put up a chemotherapy/oncology unit in Longisa county referral hospital. The unit was unveiled by the Health Cabinet Secretary Sicily Kariuki on 9th September 2019 at the Longisa County Referral Hospital. The centre is one of the ten chemotherapy units in Kenya that the Ministry of Health (MoH) is setting up in a bid to decentralize cancer management services in line with the National Cancer Control Strategy 2017-2022. Bomet County is one of the 11 counties with high prevalence rates of cancer cases in the country. This is a worrying trend; it calls for concerted efforts to find amiable solutions to curb this scourge. As part of our intervention measures, we are working closely with Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH) in Eldoret to assist cancer patients to get access to primary healthcare.

We have installed a modern medical incinerator in Longisa Hospital and purchased laundry machines which are now in operation in Sigor, Longisa and Cheptalal.

We have tendered for the acquisition of two new ambulances.

Universal Health Coverage

In our quest to improve access to healthcare, we have mapped out all villages, through the assistance of 1,600 Community Health Volunteers in the County, and identified 10,000 households for the County universal health coverage program.

We will recruit 10 Medical Officers, 3 pharmacists and five consultants this Financial Year to complement the 324 technical staff that were recruited in 2018.

Additionally, 64 medical staff of various cadres including nurses, pharmacists will be recruited through the support of the National government to serve various health centres and dispensaries in the county for the next 12 months under the post training programme.

From April this year, we will recruit another 133 medical staff from the support of the national government through the county public service board. The staff will comprise of clinical officers, enrolment community nurses, lab technologists, radiographers, community oral extension workers among other cadres.

We have constructed new dispensaries; Chepting'ting', Nyatembe, Mangoita and opened new medical laboratories in Kapsimotwo, Soimet, Simbi, Chebangang' and Chepchabas.

Construction of new dispensaries will include Kirimose and Kamaget

The construction of theatres at Sigor and Tegat are ongoing.

The Oxygen plant at Longisa County Referral hospital is now operational.

We have commissioned the Eye and Dental unit at Longisa County Referral Hospital. Eye operations are now operational.

Last year in October, we received Kshs. 63 Million worth of pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical medical supplies from Kenya Medical Supplies Authority (KEMSA). The supplies were distributed to the 150 public health facilities in the county.

The proposed construction of the 200-bed Ultra-Modern Mother and Child Wellness centre is now past the design stage. This facility is projected to be a regional centre of excellence that will offer core critical services in Bomet and to our neighbouring counties. In this regard, I call on the national government and our development partners and well-wishers to walk with us in this noble journey.

In our 2019/2020 budget, **Healthcare**, as a sector received a significant allocation of **Kshs. 1,562,827,634** representing **22%** of our total county budget.

Infrastructure

Hon. Acting Speaker, Sir, turning into infrastructure as one of the main drivers of economic growth, roads in particular, attract investment and spur economic growth in the county. In this regard, my government has stepped up efforts to increase accessibility and ease of movement of people and goods across the county by providing high quality road networks and other public infrastructure.

Hon. Acting Speaker, Sir, roads planned for construction during the 2019/2020 Financial Year have been delayed due to heavy rains especially during December 2019 to date. However, we will embark on an aggressive road works which include opening up new roads as well as maintenance. The rains have also caused much damage to roads and infrastructure. Restoration of roads and culverts will require substantial amount of money. Therefore, the executive will present a request for supplementary estimates for your consideration to meet these costs.

I have realized that newly completed roads hardly last two years before getting degraded. To ensure longevity of our roads, the department is finalizing on developing a road maintenance policy.

I have instructed the roads department to ensure that contractors complete works within the stipulated time to avoid any pending bills as a result of carry-over work.

In order to also avoid any pending bills, we commenced procurement contract services as early as December 2019 and road works started in January and expected to be completed by April 2020. A total of 221kms of roads are expected to be completed before the end of June 2020.

I have continuously emphasized that sub – standard and poor-quality road constructions will not be condoned by my administration. Therefore, i have directed the roads department to ensure proper oversight is carried out by holding public participation and appointment of a five-member oversight committee.

The County Government is committed to delivering quality road works for the residents to realize value for their money.

To enable us undertake these projects, we allocated a significant budgetary allocation of **Kshs. 713,952,317** representing **10%** of our total budget in the 2019/2020 financial year.

Water and natural resources

Hon. Acting Speaker, Sir, water for all remains our top priority and as such we have initiated several water projects as a county government and also through partnership with various development partners.

Water Pans

The county government has desalted 35 water pans in the county. Through the support from the Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Programme, another 2 water pans: Mogoiywet (Longisa) and Gorgor (Ndanai/Abosi) have been excavated.

The county government in partnership with the National Irrigation Board (NIB) has constructed 120 household water pans (1000 cubic metres capacity each) in Kiprerer ward in the first phase of the four-year project. Chebunyo will be the next ward for this project.

Spring Protection

We have completed the protection of over 75 springs.

Pipeline Extension

We have laid down 97.8 Kms of pipeline in various water supply systems within the County.

Integrated programme

Through the support of the Kenya Red Cross Society, we are poised to upgrade Chebang'ang' water project under the 2nd Bomet Integrated Development Programme (BIDP). Over 60,000 people will benefit from this project.

Borehole drilling projects

The county government is keen on supplying clean water to various households and institutions. So far Ngocho borehole in Mutarakwa has been drilled but yet to be equipped while Mogoma

borehole in Kembu is being rehabilitated. In addition, we have procured the purchase of a drilling machine this financial year.

Water Company

The new board of Bomet Water Company (BOMWASCO) is now in operation and as such, the company has increased water connections to households from 8,000 in 2015 to 17,000 in 2020. The company has also automated its water billing system.

Environment

The county government is committed to protect, conserve and preserve our environment.

To date, we have planted over 1.2 million tree seedlings in a bid to increase forest cover from 15.2% in June 2019 to 17% by 2022.

In the Financial Year 2019/2020 we allocated **Kshs. 490,860,281** to the water, sanitation and Environment department representing **7%** of the county budget.

Trade, Energy, Tourism and Investment

Hon. Acting Speaker, Sir, Bomet County is an investment destination of choice, and because of this, we have formulated policies and designed programs aimed at promoting the growth of domestic trade, energy, tourism, industrial development and investment.

Trade Division

Development of Bomet County Enterprise Development Fund Policy

In our effort to unlock trade and boost access to business finance to our people, my administration has developed Bomet County Enterprise Development Fund Policy, published the Act and developed accompanying regulations. The initial products will be lending to groups and contractors with Local Supply Orders (LSOs) and Local Purchase Orders (LPOs) doing business in the county

Market Infrastructure construction

The informal sector plays a critical role in development and because of this, we have provided a favorable environment for our Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) such as *bodaboda* and *Jua Kali* sectors to thrive. We have constructed 81 *bodaboda* shades and 39 shoe shiner sheds in Bomet town and at all Sub County headquarters.

Training of MSMEs on entrepreneurship and business management.

In order to address the inadequacies of business management, market information and entrepreneurial skills in retail trade sector, Trade department in collaboration with the Kenya Institute of Business Training (KIBT) has implemented business management and entrepreneurship programmes that will favor the development of MSMEs. So far, 300 MSMEs have been trained on business management and entrepreneur skills.

Trade Awards.

In order to promote trade activities, the department introduced an annual trade event in order to award companies in several categories. The department has already developed fifteen categories for the awards and profiled companies to benefit from the awards.

Market Stalls. In an effort to create an enabling environment for retail trade, we are continually improving the market infrastructure to *mama mbogas* across the county on a need basis.

Promotion of fair-trade practices and consumer protection. The Weights and Measures Section managed to carry out the verification and calibration of weighing and measuring instruments and equipment in all the earmarked market centres.

Energy Division

Floodlights installation and maintenance.

As we strive to become a 24-hour economy, we have installed floodlights in high security risk areas of the County to boost security.

The energy division managed to install, test and commission forty-six (46) floodlights in 75 market centres across the county to curb insecurity. The installations of additional floodlights in 25 other centres are ongoing.

Rural Electrification. The supply of electricity to 3 villages- Kapkulumben in Chebunyo Ward, Kap Thomas in Rongena/Manaret Ward and Chongenwo in Mogogosiek Ward has been completed, and the remaining two villages will be done within this current financial year.

Counter Matching Fund Facility with REREC.

In collaboration with Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation (REREC), formerly Rural Electrification Authority (REA), the construction of a power line from IriaMaina mini-hydro power generation site to Itare Water works has been completed at a cost of Kshs 11 million. The tendering process for the completion of the construction of the power plant is ongoing at a cost of Kshs 17 Million and funds have been set aside for that purpose.

Solar Power Floodlights.

We are currently piloting the installation of solar floodlights in the lower sides of the county.

Tourism Division

Development of IriaMaina Tourist Attraction Site

The Kenya Tourism Board has identified Kipsegon and IriaMaina as potential sites for tourist attraction. Therefore, we have prioritized the two sites for tourism development.

Industry Division

Construction of Jua Kali sheds

We have completed the construction of *jua kali* sheds in Silibwet and Mogogosiek towns and acquired equipment. We are planning to construct and equip an additional *Jua Kali* shed in Kembu Ward.

We have renovated and equipped Bomet Constituency Industrial Centre (CIDC) in collaboration with Micro and Small Enterprises Authority (MSEA).

One Village One Product Development approach.

We got support from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and State Department of Industry to undertake training on Business Management and Continuous Improvement using the KAIZEN approach. 13 selected firms benefitted from the training.

Chebunyo Milk Processing Plant.

Trade and Agriculture Departments have partnered in the construction of Chebunyo milk processing plant with an initial contribution of Kshs. 15 Million towards this project.

To promote local business development and investment growth we have allocated **Kshs. 149,597,006** to Trade, energy, tourism, industry and investment department.

Lands, Housing and Urban Planning

Hon. Acting Speaker, Sir,

Planning

The department has documented, valued and surveyed 1,450 pieces of County PI lands approximated at 5,000 parcels. We have acquired an additional 63 parcels of land from individuals for various county projects mostly in Education, Health and Water. This financial year, approximately 500 parcels of PI land are going to be validated, surveyed and recorded in the County Assets register.

Further, the County Government is set to receive an additional 300 parcels of land from the National Government on the devolved functions.

My Government has also carried out valuation roll to ascertain the existence of various plots within urban centres, their ownership to improve on the land management and related property taxes. The roll is expected to be implemented in the next Financial Year 2020/2021.

Urban Infrastructure

My government has continued to give emphasis to the provision of various urban services. In the past two years, a total of 17 Public toilets have been completed and operationalized across the County while additional 15 have been earmarked for construction and commissioning in the next two years to improve public sanitation specifically in the urban areas.

Various projects have been implemented under the Kenya Urban Support Program (KUSP) namely:

- i. Storm Water Drainage within Bomet town/CBD.
- ii. Cabro works within Bomet market.
- iii. Extension of sewer line
- iv. Recarpeting of selected Bomet town CBD roads.
- v. Acquisition of solid waste equipment to improve the garbage collection within the Municipality.

In the 2019/2020 Financial Year, we have undertaken the following urban infrastructure services and projects:

- i. Grading of murrum roads in Mogogosiek, Mulot and Sotik towns and Chebunyo.
- ii. Mulot open Air market Development.
- iii. Kapkwen open Air market Development.
- iv. Green stadium fencing.
- v. Chebunyo cattle sale yard.
- vi. Booking offices for matatus within Bomet stage.

The following projects are awaiting commissioning:

- i. Construction of Bomet University-Chebirir/Major road to bitumen standards.
- ii. Construction of selected Silibwet town roads to bitumen standards.
- iii. Installation of Cabro blocks and construction of additional market stalls within Bomet market to reduce congestion and improve business environment in the congested market.
- iv. Acquisition of skip loader to increase efficiency of solid waste collection within the County.

Hon. Ag. Speaker, Sir, we are still faced with a challenge of acquiring a designated solid waste dumpsite.

My Government has put in place other physical development control measures based on the newly enacted land use and physical planning Act, 2019 and Urban Areas and Cities Act 2011. This will bring order and sanity among competing land uses within urban areas.

Planning

Urban areas are critical to the global GDP. Rapid urbanization in Bomet is a major challenge characterized by uncontrolled land use. My administration has given priority to planning which has been one of the hindrances in provision of the necessary services in our ever growing urban centres. During the Financial Year 2018/19, my government sought to update Bomet municipal urban intergraded development plan. This plan will soon be availed to the stake holders for validation. Other plans which are in validation stages include: Mulot Town plan; Chebunyo Town plan, Chebole Town plan, Mogogosiek Town plan and Ndanai town plan.

During the current fiscal year 2019/20, my administration has sought for consultancy services to carry out Sotik town urban strategic development plan; other town plans being carried out are; Sigor town plan Kembu town plan, Siongiroi and Cheptalal town plan.

These plans will form the basis of provision of all other infrastructure and services within our urban set up in an organized manner. Markets are major sources of employment opportunities.

My government shall continue to acquire lands for different uses like construction of ECDs, dispensaries, water points, markets, economic zones among others. In the current fiscal year, we have set aside Ksh 50 million towards the purchase of lands.

In line with the big four agenda on affordable housing, the county government has laid down foundations to implement **housing programme** to train on urban development, land administration, optimal land management and employ skilled youth in building low cost housing in Bomet County.

In the 2019/2020 financial year, my government has allocated Kshs **352,046,974** representing **5%** of the total budget to the Lands, Housing and Urban Planning sector.

Education and Vocational Training

Hon. Acting Speaker, Sir, as a passionate educationist, my desire is to lay a firm foundation for every learner in Bomet to realize their full potential in their academic pursuits.

Formative learning

Early childhood learning shapes the destiny of our children. Over 66,000 children are enrolled in the 1,221 Public and 350 private (Early Childhood Development) ECD centres in the county and it is our responsibility as a society here to give them the best foundation and learning environment that we can.

In the last financial year, we constructed and furnished 181 ECD Centres. This Financial Year, we have purposed to construct 75 ECDEs with the hopes of completing at least 500 ECDCs by 2022.

Our ECDE tutors have been on contract for the last six years. However, we issued confirmation letters of appointment to 619 ECDE assistants; 437 of them under permanent and pensionable terms last week on 19th February, 2020.

Over 5,000 textbooks and 2,000 curriculum designs have been distributed to all ECD centres.

Early Childhood development is incomplete without a school feeding program to complement the educational aspect. In this regard, therefore, we are rolling out the school feeding programme soon. This program however needs more funding for its success.

Vocational training

More resources have been channeled towards training and infrastructural development of our technical institutions. These institutions offer courses that are tailor-made for the job market. Enrolment in our Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) has increased to 3900 from 2,000 in 2018.

Revolving funds

In partnership with Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) we have disbursed Kshs. 30 Million to 2,774 University students in the 2018/2019 Financial Year through our Education Revolving Fund Programme. We also allocated similar amount during the 2019/2020 Financial year.

We allocated **Kshs. 274,645,250** in Financial Year 2019/2020 towards improving the education sector.

Youth, Sports and Social Services

Hon. Acting Speaker, Sir,

Empowering vulnerable groups

My government is committed to empowering the vulnerable groups in our society by creating a conducive environment for them to start income generating activities and enable them to access county government opportunities such as tenders, bursaries and scholarships.

In the past year, at least 3,000 persons with disabilities (PWDs) were empowered in various aspects. More than 170 PWDs received assistive devices. Over 50 amputees benefited from artificial legs courtesy of Jaipur International and the county government.

Mama 'na' kuku program

As part of our efforts to create revenue streams for the vulnerable groups, we have rolled out the *Mama na Kuku* initiative. The program targets community-based organizations that are already

pursuing poultry farming as their main economic activity. So far eight (8) CBOs have benefited from this program.

Capacity building for support groups

The Social Services Department has identified HIV & AIDS support groups in the county for capacity building. The groups received fertilizers, seeds and other farm items to enable them to fend for themselves.

Gender Based Violence

In our bid to stop gender-based violence (GBV) in the county, we have formed a gender technical committee to create awareness on GBV, do assessment of health facilities, map out rescue centres, training of duty bearers and service providers on prevention, response and management of gender-based violence.

Mentorship programs

The social services department continues to champion for the rights of the boy and girl children in Primary and Secondary schools across the county.

Children Charitable and Special Needs Institutions

We have distributed assorted food and non-food items worth millions of shillings to 10 Charitable Children Institutions (CCIs) and 10 Special Needs Institutions (SNIs) in the county.

Kenya Society for the Blind

We have entered into an agreement with the Kenya Society for the Blind (KSB) to carry out trainings for the Board of Management of Korara and Kapkesosio special schools. Trainee teachers have also been inducted on adaptive technology and Braille repair.

We have carried out needs' assessment for people with disabilities who will be assisted with wheelchairs. So far, we have mapped out Chepchabas and Longisa wards for this important exercise.

Paid internship program

Last year, we rolled out the county paid internship program at a cost of Ksh 33 million where we successfully recruited 250 interns. The programme has been successful; the interns have gained entrepreneurial and practical knowledge. We intend to make the program annual with the next cohort set to commence training on April 2020.

Sports

Athletics

It is a known fact that Bomet is home to world class athletes who have put Kenya on the world map due to their unsurpassed sporting talents. Just to name but a few, Timothy Cheruiyot from Singorwet and Beatrice Chepkoech from Besiobei displayed sterling performances on the track to clinch Men's gold medal in 1500m and Women's gold medal in 3000m steeplechase respectively during the World Athletics Championship in Doha last year in October 2020.

The county department of sports has been actively involved in scouting for sporting talents in the county. During the last cross-country championship, we send 8 athletes to participate at the national trials in various categories.

To nurture sports, my administration is committed to constructing stadia for our young Sportsmen and women in our efforts to churn out renowned world champions. To this far, the construction of Tegat Athletics Training Centre is ready to commence anytime once the tendering process is completed. On the same note, negotiations with the national government to rehabilitate Terek training camp in Konoin are ongoing.

Paralympics

Since this government is all inclusive, my administration through the Sports Department held the inaugural Paralympics & Deaflympics sports competition on 29th November 2019 at Bomet Green Stadium where winners in various categories were feted.

Further, we have added this special sports category to our annual sports calendar to embrace disability and expose talents in sports. This will enable us to scout and nurture raw talent in this category to compete for honours both nationally and internationally.

Football and Volleyball

We have allocated Kshs. 2.5 Million to support 57 football and four (4) volleyball teams in the county during this financial year.

To empower women, youth and persons with disabilities, **Kshs. 125,020,370 million** was allocated to the Youth, Sports and Social Services department in the 2019/2020 financial year.

Finance and Economic Planning

Hon. Acting Speaker, Sir, we are taking the issue of pending bills seriously because it will affect critical operations in the government if not dealt with decisively. We have committed to clear all eligible pending bills as required of us by the National Treasury.

In 2018/2019 Financial Year, we collected Kshs. 210 Million in revenue. We hope to surpass this figure by setting a target of Kshs. 230 Million by the end of the current Financial Year. From the projections so far, it is indicative that we will achieve this target because we have collected Kshs. 30 million in excess of what we collected same time last year in February.

During the last Financial Year, Bomet County was ranked third Best County in Kenya on proper management of public resources by the World Bank under the KDSP. We intend to maintain this trend.

For the first time since the start of devolution, we have got qualified opinion from the Office of the Auditor General for two years consecutively (in 2017/2018 and 2018/2019) after four years of getting disclaimers since the start of devolution - an indication that we are on the right path in the management of public resources.

We are also on the right track on procurement matters and as such we were ranked among the top ten counties that comply with procurement laws by the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA).

The Finance and Economic Planning department got an allocation of Kshs **339,568,986** in the Financial Year 2019/2020 representing 5% of the county budget.

Administration, ICT and Public Service

Hon. Acting Speaker, Sir,

Public Service

In our efforts to restore public service values, my government continues to entrench good governance and integrity in the spirit of transparency and accountability. Leadership is about call to service. Better Service to the public supersedes any other conventional form of governance.

We are upbeat about recruiting more employees to our workforce in a bid to improve service delivery now that, the Public Service Board is fully constituted and operational.

We are recruiting ten (10) Medical Officers, three (3) pharmacists and five (5) consultants this Financial Year. Additionally, through the national government, we will employ 64 medical staff of various cadres including nurses and pharmacists for the next 12 months under the post training programme. From April this year, we will recruit another 133 medical staff from the support of the national government through the county public service board.

We have done indent for Sub-ward administrators and additional enforcement officers.

Ward Offices

We have carried out audit for all the ward offices before completion of construction is done. So far, seven (7) ward offices are ready for commissioning namely: Mogogosiek, Siongiroi, Merigi, Ndaraweta, Kiprerer, Sigor and Kipsonoi Ward offices. We have 4 more ward offices which we have proposed for completion this financial year.

Public Participation

Public participation is a key component the development. We have resolved that Project Management Committees must be set up before any project is undertaken. This will go a long way in monitoring the progress of any project and letting the *wananchi* to own the projects.

We will soon establish call centres to manage citizen engagement and redress mechanism to strengthen public participation.

We have partnered with the FORD Foundation to empower women, youth and persons living with disabilities to get involved in public participation and budgeting.

Through the ward visits we are able to collect views from members of the public. We have inspected and commissioned various projects for instance Muriaisi mega project in Boito Ward, ECDEs, Roads, *bodaboda* and *jua kali* sheds across the county.

Disaster Response

Our Disaster Management Unit is one of the best in the region. The unit has been able to swiftly respond to disasters within the county and also in our neighbouring counties. For the past three months, our divers have retrieved 24 bodies as a result of accidental and intentional drowning. To strengthen our disaster response, we have acquired a fire-fighting equipment. We are in the process of procuring fire-fighting kits, diving kits. We have plans to set up a fire station during this financial year.

Innovation and government systems

ICT is a development enabler and to further improve our services to the people of Bomet, we plan to automate our County government processes. Systems that will enable the government to communicate directly to various interest groups and allow individuals to give their feedback.

To this end, we have automated revenue collection to enhance collection and reduce revenue loss.

The County Integrated Hospital Management System (CIHMS) is at tendering process. This will go a long way in setting up medical systems to manage our hospitals, health centers and manage our drug supplies.

Agricultural systems that will enable us to aggregate our produce and give us data to market our produce centrally and protect our farmers from brokers. With the right information, *wananchi* will be empowered.

We are in the process of establishing digital villages in every Ward and ICT business incubation centers in each sub-county. This will give our youth the necessary environment to bridge the digital and economic divide.

Despite, the National government laying fiber optics to all Sub-Counties, we are yet to build the necessary network infrastructure across the county. We are optimistic though that we shall connect each ward to the wider County network.

As they say, the Future is Digital.

Digital and Entrepreneurial skills

Hon. Acting Speaker, Sir, in our efforts to bridge the digital divide, we have partnered with HUAWEI and Computers for Schools- Kenya (CFSK) to bring DigiTruck Kenya to Bomet County. The truck is a one stop training facility fitted with 20 laptops, a flat screen, TV, CCTV cameras and internet where trainees will get the opportunity to gain from digital and entrepreneurial skills training for the next three weeks across the county.

The Department of Administration, ICT, County Executive and PSB was allocated **Kshs. 1,948,605,878 representing 27%** of the total budget.

Development partners and National government

Hon. Acting Speaker, Sir, Bomet County is greatly indebted to the invaluable support it has received from its new and existing development partners such as the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) especially in water, health and environment initiatives. The implementation of Phase 2 of Bomet Integrated Development Programme (BIDP) has seen the implementation of Nogirwet Irrigation Scheme which is near completion, now at 80%. The area under irrigation has been increased to 20 acres. By the end of last year, farmers harvested close to 20,000 kilograms of French beans.

Chebang'ang' BIDP 2 water project which is set to commence anytime. It is projected to benefit 60,000 people.

Irrigation and Crop Production Small Holder Irrigation and Value Addition Program (SIVAP) for Kaboson through support from the African Development Bank support targets to benefit over 900 households.

On our part as the County government, we are committed to protect, conserve and preserve our environment.

We acknowledge partnership with various stakeholders; the Kenya Forest Service, the US Forest Service, Kenya Forests Working Group, East African Wildlife Society and the World Wide Fund for Nature among others in the restoration and rehabilitation of Chepalungu and Mara forest blocks and other degraded ecosystems in the county.

Hon. Acting Speaker, Sir, as I conclude, poverty levels and inequality pose serious challenges that we need to address as a county leadership in order to achieve our objectives as outlined in our CIDP. Nevertheless, we can proudly say that we have placed our county on an upward trajectory for development and prosperity by aligning government efforts, projects and initiatives with the aspirations and the dreams of the people of Bomet.

I am extremely optimistic about the future of the county, driven by the immense comparative advantage this County has in terms of endowments such as the great potential in Agriculture, tourism, and even the much-desired human capital, that if well exploited can generate the much-needed revenue to fund development programmes. Much of the county's potential will be achieved through focused zeal to enhance our competitiveness by way of value addition in all sectors of the county's economy.

Governance

Hon. Acting Speaker, Sir, I laud you, the Leader of Majority, leader of minority and all the Honourable Members of this County Assembly for your role in overseeing the Government and representing the people. You have maintained the dignity and integrity of the Assembly, and that I

applaud you. This is essential for an institution whose effective performance is a cornerstone of our democracy.

I also cherish the oversight role of the Senator, the representation role of our Women Representative and our Members of Parliament to protect the interests of our people at the National level.

Unity of Purpose

I also acknowledge and appreciate the unity of purpose that exists among all the elected leaders in our County. As a matter of fact, I met with the rest of the county leadership on 21st February 2020 where we discussed the development agenda for our county and resolved to work together for the benefit of our people.

Our commitment to foster a good working relationship holds us accountable to the people of Bomet. I call for an even stronger and united leadership going forward.

Let us remain united and avoid divisions that are only meant to divert our focus from offering quality service delivery. Let us find common and lasting solutions to the problems and challenges that face our people. I believe this can be done effectively without interfering with our respective functions as envisioned in the Constitution and the County Governments Act.

Hon. Acting Speaker, Sir, we are in support for a unity process that captures the hopes and aspirations of all Kenyans, not a process that seeks to divide us.

The People of Bomet,

I re-assure you that my administration is keen on delivering effective services to you

We will strive to ensure that there is equitable distribution of resources, corruption-free governance, equal opportunities and a peaceful working environment in our esteemed county.

Finally, I thank all the distinguished citizens of Bomet for their hard work, determination and good will. I thank you. We will not tire until this government deliver on its development promise. We will

create opportunities for all of us. My assurance today is that the Bomet County is on a path to positive transformation.

As a county government, we affirm our commitment to observance of democratic values and transparency, engaging in public participation and comprehensive citizen engagement in all our undertaking.

Let the love for our County be our true inspiration.

I thank you. God bless the great people of Bomet. God bless Bomet County.

(H.E Governor (Dr.) Hillary Barchok hands the State of the County Address speech to the Hon. Acting. Speaker (Hon. W. Kiprotich))

(Hon. Acting. Speaker (Hon. W. Kiprotich) hands the State of the County Address speech to the Clerk-At-The Table)

(The Clerk-At-The Table hands the State of the County Address speech to the Leader of Majority (Hon. J. Kirui))

Hon. J. Kirui (Leader of Majority): Hon. Acting Speaker, Sir thank you. I beg to Table the Governor's State of the County Address to the County Assembly today Wednesday, 26th February, 2020.

(Hon. Leader of Majority (Hon. J. Kirui) Tables the document)

Hon. J. Kirui (Leader of Majority): Hon. Acting Speaker, Sir, I beg to give the following Notice of Motion that pursuant to the Standing Order 23 (4) the Thanks of the County Assembly be recorded for the exposition of public Policy contained in the State of the County Address of the Governor tabled on 26th February 2020.

(Hon. J. Kirui Tables the document)

Hon. Acting Speaker (Hon. W. Kiprotich): Hon. Members, the thanks of the County Assembly be recorded for the exposition of public policy contained in the State of the County Address of the Governor tabled on 26th February 2020 stands committed to the House Business Committee.

Hon. Members, that marks the end of the Governor's address today.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Members, there being no other business, this House now stands adjourned to Tuesday, 3rd March, 2020 at 9.00 a.m.

(The House rose at 3:50 p.m)