



**COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NYANDARUA
OFFICE OF H.E THE GOVERNOR**



GOVERNOR'S PRESS SERVICE

**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY GOVERNOR (DR.) MOSES KIARIE
BADILISHA DURING THE STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS, DELIVERED
ON TUESDAY, 2ND DECEMBER, 2025 AT THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF
NYANDARUA CHAMBERS, IN OL'KALOU**

**Honorable Speaker, Hon. Stephen Waiganjo,
House Leadership,
Honorable Members,**

Honorable Speaker,

Once again, it gives me great honor to stand before this August House and deliver my third annual state of the county address which is much more than a summary of our collective journey, but a reflection of the most honest and true state of our great county.

But, Honorable Speaker and Members, before we proceed, allow me to honor one of our departed members, the late Honorable Beth Wahito - specially elected member from Njabini-Kiburu.

A distinguished and ranking member of this House, the late Hon. Wahito will forever be remembered for her exemplary stewardship, motherly advice and leadership to each one of us. In her honor, I request we rise up and observe a minute of silence..... may her soul and spirit rest in eternal peace.

Honorable Members, allow me to also welcome our new member who is participating in this state of the county address for the first time, the Hon. Jane Gathira; in this honor granted to serve the people, my administration wishes you the very best and will offer support whenever called upon.

Honorable Speaker,

Last year, our theme of the address was *Unity, Peace and Hard-work as Building Blocks of Development*. We celebrated the great strides we had made in the two years of our administration through purposeful unity and cooperation. And in unison, we agreed that the surest way to develop our county will always be through unity, dialogue, consultations and anchoring public-interest interventions as the cornerstone of our development.

Today, buoyed by the strides we continue to make, across each ward, village and household, the theme of this year's address is ***Consolidating the Gains: Legacy Over Quick Fixes.***

Honorable Members, amidst the noise and political contestations that are characteristic of the period we are entering into, let us not even for a moment forget what we have achieved as a county in the last three years. Incontrovertibly, the facts on the development trajectory and changing livelihoods of our people cannot be whitewashed even with the greatest lies, distortions or innuendo; what we have achieved in each of our 25 wards is historic, and will outlive each one of us – we are creating legacies that will live far beyond us. That is what leadership is all about. And that is why we have a duty to consolidate and accelerate these gains.

Honorable Speaker,

Early this year, I visited the residents of Gathiriga and Njura villages in Githioro ward. An extremely productive area, of rich and fertile lands, only a few kilometers from a great market in Gilgil and surrounding towns, these residents narrated heart-breaking tales of frustrations and resignation. For over sixty years since Kenya got her independence, these citizens are completely blocked from a market for their farm produce, which is either cheaply bought – when they are lucky, or wastes away in the farms due to inaccessible roads and bridge.

Each generation of residents has resigned itself to fate; on the other hand, another generation of politicians sold false hope to these residents as a dangling campaign carrot every election cycle. Time passed, poverty got entrenched, and hope faded.

Today, my administration, in a bold statement of intent has put this cycle of lies and false hope to a stop. With the support of this County Assembly and the people of Nyandarua, a historic 30-meter Gachuha bridge brings a total renewal to the people of Gathiriga and Njura who will no longer have to detour for over 40 kilometers via Ndinda and Murungaru to access Gilgil and other surrounding markets.

This, Honorable Members, is the legacy that will outlive us; these are the gains we must consolidate.

And this is not just the story of Gachuha alone.

Where children risked their lives to go to school in Washington bridge, Engineer ward, they now have a safe modern bridge. The echoes of these legacy projects – christened bridges of prosperity - are ringing across the whole county: Wanyoike bridge in Githabai; Njoguini bypass bridge that is cutting distance from 14 kilometers to only three, and connecting three sub-locations of Rwanyambo, Karangatha and Njoguini in Nyakio;

Rayeta where families narrated chilling stories of people and animals swept away by flooded river as they accessed the main Wanjohi highway; in Kahutha, Ndaragwa Central; Thitai in Rurii where residents were completely cut off by the over-flowing river Mukindu from Mukindu dam; to Kanduma now renamed Mwangaza in Karau ward; Chamuka in Kanjuiri ward; Nyairoko; Kangui in Weru ward, Mutarakwa in Gathara ward, and many more bridges that are opening up the county and her people to trade, commerce and social interactions.

In this financial year, these transformative bridges of prosperity, that open bonds of commerce and friendships between our people, will be constructed in Gikingi/ Riverside in Gatimu ward; Wandaka bridge in Geta ward; 9-One in Central Ward, and Mithuri/ Nyonjoro that connects both Central and Leshau Pondo wards; in Mirangine, we are constructing Kamuyu bridge; Wamaitha bridge in North Kinangop, and Malewa bridge connecting Kipipiri and Kaimbaga wards.

These bridges are not just concrete structures strewn across our motherland; they are legacy projects that have not just transformed livelihoods but are saving lives of our people.

Honorable Members, with your support, we have managed to transform the roads and infrastructure sector into one of our most successful yardsticks of development. Within the last one year, for example, we managed to grade 605 kilometers, graveled over 110Kms, opened 20Kms of new roads that never existed before – among them Nyakiambi-Murindati, and Gwa Kiongo-Gachiengo in Mirangine, Ha Guka – Bahati roads that connects Kipipiri to Kaimbaga, Turasha River-Njura, and many others in almost each of our wards.

Today, if anyone had any doubts about how much this roads' transformation has been, and its cumulative impact on our transport system, your answer lies in the current state of our roads; that despite the never-ceasing year-long rains our roads are still motorable albeit requiring some rehabilitation. It is unimaginable to think

how the situation would have been had we not invested in this sector as we have already done.

And as we consolidate these gains – not of abstract projects on paper, but verifiable and transformative deeds across our land, I look forward to the Assembly fast-tracking the Nyandarua County Roads Management Bill that seeks to, among many other issues, address the question of over-weight trucks and other transporters, and infrastructure developers, who destroy our roads and get away with it for lack of appropriate legislative framework.

Honorable Speaker and Members,

The Change Manifesto's architecture is anchored on a three-pillar framework that is symbiotically interwoven to build into each other. The Manifesto finds life in the CIDP3 and the ADPs that are the joint and collective works of the Executive and the Assembly.

While the foundational pillar of the manifesto seeks to lay a strong base for rapid and interrupted growth by providing reliable infrastructure – both physical and human resource, it is also alive to the critical need to have a healthy population as key drivers.

The social protection pillar seeks to address the health and welfare needs of our people, again, through sustainable and legacy interventions that speak to the felt needs of our citizens.

Once again, as your Governor, I stand here with great pride to report that our intentional interventions in the healthcare sector are bearing fruits. And the facts, Honorable Members, speak out for themselves: just last month, the national government's Ministry of Health reported that Nyandarua county is the leader in reduction of maternal deaths across the whole county; we are also among the leading counties in assisted births at over 98%. This is data from an external source evaluating performance of all counties and not beholden to our local comparative politics that may seek to embellish facts.

But to the mothers visiting our facilities especially in the last two years, these are not surprising news to them; they have lived it and witnessed world-class treatment and improvements across. These results are the product of investments we have put, including with our development partners in the maternal healthcare sector.

Of note, as a mark of this honor, and strides made, in the coming week, we shall be hosting a delegation from Murang'a county which will be coming to benchmark on our health improvement interventions, especially on primary healthcare.

In Engineer County Referral Hospital, we have established a modern state of the art Neonatal Unit fully manned by a qualified Neonatal doctor. This unit, since July this year, has managed to successfully handle 54 cases.

For better understanding, this unit is solely dedicated to managing pre-term births, underweight babies and kids born with complications, and who at that very formative stage – their very first days on earth, require specialized care that determines whether they live or not.

Today, Honorable Members, in just five months, through this healthcare intervention, 54 new lives have been saved, mothers and families' joy restored and given new hope. Again, these are not just numbers without a meaning – they are life and death decisions that, with the support of this House, we have been able to make through targeted investments.

Further to this unit, we have with the joint partnership of the Finnish government, established two modern maternity facilities in Tumaini and Ndaragwa that are transforming maternal healthcare in the areas.

Already, since opening, Ndaragwa Maternity unit has successfully delivered 201 babies with Tumaini managing 41. We also appreciate the partnership with Safaricom Foundation where we are jointly putting up a new maternity unit next to the J.M Kariuki Memorial Hospital complex.

Improvements across all our other facilities is ongoing and we intend to have drastically reduced any cases of maternal health in Nyandarua county. Already, plans are underway to upgrade over ten maternity facilities across the county including Kaimbaga, New Mawingu, Heni, Chamuka, North Kinangop, and many others.

Honorable Members,

These healthcare successes would never have been possible without the collaborative efforts of our two institutions. In the last three years, with budgetary and policy support from this Assembly, we have managed to recruit 110 new healthcare workers across various cadres – with an additional 50 set for recruitment this financial year, increased our facilities' footprints from about 78 to over 90, introduced new services like Neurology – where we have a visiting Neurosurgeon once per week at the J.M Kariuki Hospital and who has already handled 189 cases since July this year;

an Orthopedic surgeon with over 110 successful cases this year; cytology services which have been conducted on over 18,270 patients; the new CT Scan with 782 cases already handled; the Ultra-Sound unit which in the last two years has served over 100,868 cases greatly improving the county's capacity for diagnostics.

Further, my administration introduced the Integrated Sample Referral System in collaboration with KESHI and UJTP (USAID Jamii Tekelezi Programme) where by mid-August this year, we had managed to integrate 51% of all our facilities and digitally shared 1730 samples for almost real-time and easier diagnostics through motorcycle riders specially designed to safely and securely deliver samples to identified laboratories. Upon full roll-out, all our facilities will be integrated eliminating the need for travel to see consultants and specialized diagnostics in far-away hospitals.

Going forward, we will continue improving and upgrading our facilities especially in our sub-counties including Manunga, Chamuka, Bamboo and Ndaragwa which are undergoing modernization and equipping.

I am also pleased to note that new facilities, cutting distance to hospitals and enhancing access to healthcare, have been opened, or set for immediate opening, among them Kagaa, Munyeki, Kiganjo, and Passenga. We shall also continuously invest in our primary care professionals especially the CHPs – whom we have increased their stipend from Ksh. 2500 to Ksh. 3000; we have equally supported their welfare programme with a hearse worth Ksh. 7 million. These primary healthcare interventions will extend to dispensaries and all health centers, as well as fully operationalizing the FIF Act that this Assembly passed.

And with increasing numbers of patients, including from neighboring counties, it is my intention to make Nyandarua not just a healthy county, but a magnet of medical tourism where people feel safe, secure and guaranteed of best services in a public facility.

Honorable Speaker,

Consolidating development gains in any space, especially a political one, can only be successful when there is ownership by the people. That ownership helps in building sustainability. Sustainability, on the other hand, cements legacy. Hence, therefore, the enabler of legacy projects is creating ownership by the people.

That is why, as part of this county's transformation agenda, my administration's approach to development is holistic and founded on the believe that a legacy project does not ordinarily have to be a multi-million mega project like Gachuha bridge, or the massive infrastructure projects we are undertaking, but can be a targeted household intervention that changes the lives of a single family forever.

These household-targeted projects revolve around water projects that reticulate water to the villages and homes, cutting drudgery and risks associated with water fetching especially for young girls.

A water-connected household is able to spend less time worrying about clean water, susceptibility to water-borne diseases which drain their meagre resources, or even sanitation at homes; but it is contented to know that besides access to safe drinking water it has the ability to engage in small-scale subsistence irrigation which has the potential to improve on the family's nutrition, and in excess cases bring income by selling the surplus.

In the last three years, my administration has managed to sink and case, rehabilitate and revive over 85 boreholes; rehabilitated major water intakes like Mutara, and Kipipiri Integrated Water Project serving both Kipipiri and Wanjihi wards; connected over 20,000 households with clean water to their homes, or close to their homes. And in partnership with the Water Sector Trust Fund, we have upgraded the Kirima Water project to serve over 24,000 consumers in Rurii and Ol'Kalou township area, which includes laying of 15.5 Kms of water pipelines.

In the last one year alone, my administration laid 201.5 Kms of water pipeline, constructed seven masonry tanks targeted at highly populated communities like in Githae in North Kinangop and Mahindu in Kipipiri, Shamata, among others, supplied over 1500 500-liter water collection plastic tanks to vulnerable families. We are also implementing, under the Conditional Liquidity Grant, a project in Kaimbaga ward at a cost of Ksh. 14 million which will involve laying of pipes and supplying water to hundreds of households.

Under FLLoCA, a joint project between the county government and the World Bank/ National Treasury, live-transforming projects are either completed or taking shape. Others are about to start. In Njabini Ngwataniro project, for example, impact of this project is enormous with 1000 households benefitting; this is the same feeling in Gathanje where 30 household biogas plants have been installed targeting most vulnerable families, and an extra institutional plant for Gathanje secondary school which serves the same community. This scenario is replicated in North Kinangop ward where a similar project has taken place.

An environmental rehabilitation project at a cost of over Ksh. 7 million was successfully undertaken in Olbolossat including provision of fruit-trees seedlings. The economic and health benefits of these interventions on these families, some of them extremely vulnerable, will be felt for generations.

Besides targeting the vulnerable communities by providing clean and safe water, we are also intervening in sanitation and making their neighborhoods dignified. Upgrading of the Huruma estate in Ol'Kalou, and Njabini colonial village under the project we are jointly undertaking with the World Bank – KISIP, is progressing on very well.

Honorable Speaker,

A recent report by the Kenya Institute of Public Policy Research and Analysis – KIPPRA, a government body and national policy think-tank, ranked Nyandarua as a

leading county in investments attractiveness and ease of doing business, especially for Small, and Medium Enterprises.

The report noted that Nyandarua's MSME Supportive Index favorably showed that it was easier to start and run a business in the county due to several factors, among them our business-friendly policies, predictable tax and levies' regime and a dependable road infrastructure.

On the same note, another review by the World Bank under the Kenya Devolution Support Programme (KDSP), Nyandarua ranked top and was awarded Ksh. 352 million which my administration intends to invest in modernization of the roads' machinery units, upgrade all the level four facilities and construct inpatient wards in Bamboo, Chamuka, Manunga and Ndaragwa.

Once again, Honorable Members, these are facts from external sources arrived at from comparative studies with other counties. And to further strengthen our favorable position in the country, and with specific target to our youth, PWDs, and vulnerable groups, I look forward to working with this Assembly in operationalizing the Nyandarua County Trade Fund to support our people. I have also directed the Department of Finance, and specifically the procurement directorate, to ensure that the 30% rule on all tendering is strictly adhered to. Honorable Members, as both Executive and the Assembly, and realizing our roles in this area, the time to walk the talk and fully implement this rule is now.

With operationalization of the Trade Fund, and additional support of some of our financial institutions which have already on-boarded this framework, this category of our citizens will have credit access to undertake government projects, with the County Government acting as the guarantor.

If successfully implemented, and I once again call on your support as the House, we will be able to inject not less than Ksh. 500 million into the pockets of our youth, PWDs and vulnerable groups.

Targeted interventions on our youth, including the successful Recognition of Prior Learning, the ongoing partnership with the KCB Foundation to train and skill over 1000 youth from all our 25 wards, upgrading of our stadiums and performing arts studios, establishment of a Nyandarua Youth Service framework, partnership with our VTCs to train on entrepreneurship and hand-skills' courses, the proposed ICT Hub and sports' academy are critical platforms for meaningful support to our young generation.

Honorable Members, as we consolidate these gains, and engage in both micro and macro legacy projects, one other area we have made proud strides is in our economic pillar through improvement of our markets and trading platforms.

While we acknowledge that we have not yet achieved our very best, recently completed works on the Soko Mpya market – strategically located at the highway and the road to Thika, with the targeted branding to make it a choice place for motorists plying the highway, will go a long way in catalyzing farm-produce business in the area.

Other markets including Engineer, Githabai, Oljoroorok, Karangatha, Njabini and Boiman are targeted to create expanded platforms for our produce. We are also liaising with the national government to ensure the ongoing markets in various towns are completed, while equally avoiding duplication and wastage of public resources.

Honorable Members, our markets, farmers, and traders across our entire county remain heroes and the key drivers of the transformation we keep witnessing.

With the support of this Assembly, we have managed to increase our Own Source Revenue from less than Ksh. 500 million in 2022, to above Ksh. 653 million in 2025. This has been made possible through full digitization of our revenue collection which saw us engage a globally recognized state agency – the Konza Technopolis Development Authority - to support our full automation and cashless system. Further support from our stakeholders including this Assembly, organized business groups and forums, and deliberate interventions that sought to widen the bracket rather than overtax those in the basket have made this possible.

Going forward, my administration will be coming to this House with policy and legislative proposals that seek to innovate new and better ways to collecting our levies.

To further strengthen our fiscal management and discipline, effective collection and correct forecasting of our own source revenues will go a long way in managing our budgeting, and especially the ever rising pending bills.

This is an area where we must, as both arms of government, engage in an honest conversation and stop the rise of pending bills, while at the same time finding an agreeable framework of settling these non-paid commitments which belong to our people.

I look forward to an urgent conversation around this very emotive and critical issue.

Honorable Speaker,

The backbone of our county's economy is agriculture. Nyandarua is a rural agriculture-based county. For generations, we have relied on limited variety of crops that over time have become economically untenable due to diminishing land sizes and changing climatic conditions.

Our critics have been fast to question why we seek to expand the choices of crops we plant. Sadly, while they do not provide plausible alternatives to what we are doing, they nonetheless remain blind to rising cases of poverty and mounting losses to our farmers. Basic economics teach us that land is a critical factor of production; but equally remind us that land is not expandable.

Honorable Members, sample these facts: in 1979, slightly over 40 years ago, our population in Nyandarua was about 233,302 persons. Our population density was approximately 69 persons per square kilometer.

The average land size then per household was in excess of 10 acres on the minimum. By 2019, the population of this great county was estimated at 638,289 – three times that of 1979. Our population density was now 205 persons per square kilometer. In a span of 40 years, the household land sizes have shrunk by close to four times. In the same period, our main crops have remained the same - potatoes, maize, vegetables and poorly-managed dairy sector.

During the same period, effects of global warming, human-led activities and encroachments have led to climate fluctuations that result in unpredictable weather patterns and weather-induced crop failures. In some areas like Ndaragwa, lower Kipipiri, Githabai, Kaimbaga, some sections of Kanjui and lower Oljoroorok, farmers have suffered repeated crop failures, season in, season out. In other extreme instances, sections of Kinangop, Kipipiri, Oljoroorok, Ol'Kalou have witnessed excessive rains destroying their crops and decimating their yields.

The net effect of these weather extremes has been rising production costs as farmers attempt to mitigate these two extreme effects, reduced incomes, and rise in poverty levels. Honorable Members, no responsible government can remain silent when the people it is elected to safeguard gradually slide into poverty and distress in search of better lives.

And because we cannot expand the land, cannot on our very own control the global effects of climate change largely induced from far-away lands, that is why my administration is seeking to introduce alternative science-driven and backed cash crops.

I am aware that sometimes the results of these investments will not be felt in the immediate; some may even come years after many of us are no longer in leadership. But we must do something and change the status quo; it might not be very popular now, but the early adopters and with our collective effort, Nyandarua will be a transformed land in the coming years. And we cannot sacrifice the livelihoods of our people on the altar of quick political gains or short-term popularity.

That is why, Honorable Members, my administration's intervention to introduce apples, avocado, and now coffee in certain sections of this great county is worth your, and the people's, support. And to make this possible, at the county level, we intend to provide a minimum of 20,000 avocado and apple seedlings grafted from our two main ATCs in this financial year.

We are also training our extension officers on modern crops' management to help them support farmers become seed multipliers and escalate cultivation of these fruit trees and coffee, and make them easily available and affordable.

On dairy production, the flagship A.I programme continues to positively impact on the communities with 21,642 cows successfully inseminated. Close to 6000 new calves have been born. These are improved breeds which over time will greatly transform our milk production, and even more importantly change the economic and nutritional status of our people.

And to consolidate these gains, we are improving our cooperative sector through targeted grants like the NAVCDP, strengthening their corporate governance structures and improving their infrastructure to become the leaders and drivers of the agricultural revolution in Nyandarua.

In the last three years, we have established 33 new cooperative societies, revived 19 more, and are at advanced stage of establishing a giant Nyandarua dairy cooperative union that will engage in value addition and leverage on our strategic production in the country as a bargaining tool for better prices.

Already, these cooperative societies are driving the A.I programme, partnered in distributing over 50 tons of maize seedlings, are the subsidized fertilizer hubs enabling last-mile distribution of over 14,000 bags in the last few weeks - this brings to total 245,000 bags delivered through the last mile initiative.

On clean seeds multiplication, we have managed to distribute 1,010,000 apical cuttings, and 103,000 mini tubers in the last one year, with some cooperatives like Wanjohi Farmers now supported to engage in seeds' multiplication. These reforms and targeted support will be up-scaled to ensure that not a single region is left behind.

Honorable Members, as we introduce these new interventions, and consolidate those that have already succeeded, let us not be too afraid of trying, or failing, but be guided by the utmost goal of benefitting our people, transforming their lives; in this transformative journey, we will succeed, sometimes falter, but ultimately win and for as long as we act in good faith, our interventions will find favor and success with the people we faithfully serve. Fear, or inaction, is not an option for any responsible leadership.

Honorable Speaker,

Upon my election in 2022, my first singular attention was focused on reviving the process of establishment of the university which had collapsed in 2016. This involved reconstituting the committee, generating reports and re-initiating conversations with the President, state agencies responsible for higher education, and other stakeholders.

Like many other successful stories which not many believed in at first, this one too reminded us that while failure is an orphan, on the other hand success has very many fathers.

This past September, the University of Nyandarua opened its doors under the mentorship of the University of Nairobi. The journey towards this university has been long and winded, full of obstacles and deprived of goodwill, resources and commitment of those who had the opportunity. For others, the being of a university denied them some self-gratification hence the need to obstruct the process. But for many, especially very many in this Assembly, this journey was unstoppable.

This House voted to allocate resources for renovations of Oljoroorok ATC to be the interim home of the new university.

After tens of meetings between all stakeholders, the President finally granted the authority to establish the university, and a Legal Notice to that effect was published. Today, the university is with us.

To every member of this house – each one of you, the Honorable Speaker, Chairperson Committee on Education, committee members, the Budget Committee, each and every member of this County Assembly of Nyandarua – this university is your baby.

To my team from the Executive who made countless trips, developed reports, reached out to external contacts and networks to push a file here and there, and ever pushed and kept encouraging me to chase the dream we started over ten years ago, you too remain eternally embedded in the history of this university. Even to the latter-day ‘fathers’ who popped up after the university was born, we welcome you and look upon your upkeep towards making this baby healthy and beneficial to the great people of Nyandarua.

Honorable Members, it is not just in the university where we made historic strides. In our ECDEs, beginning this July, our teaching assistants received an incremental stipend of Ksh. 5,000 over and above what they have been receiving.

It is my administration's intention to have them fully absorbed in service on permanent terms immediately a County Public Service Board is constituted. We also intend to modernize, construct and equip approximately 100 classrooms, deploy digital teaching tools and introduce the Uji Programme for all our young learners.

Further, we continue to modernize our VTCs and linking them up with private and external stakeholders in order to convert them into long and short-term training hubs for both our youth and organized groups.

Honorable Speaker, and Members,

As this House is aware, we have several partnership agreements with the national government which are at various stages of implementation.

In consultations with various State Departments, we are following up on the promised CAIP in Njabini, have already held successful handing-over of the J.M Kariuki Memorial Hospital's Mashujaa complex and the Ol'Kalou stadium to the Ministry of Defence, have had consultative engagement with the National Museums of Kenya on Kinyahwe, following up with the Ministry of Health on the Njabini Health Center promised in honor of Mama Mukami Kimathi, as well as land earmarked for a retail and wholesale market in Gatimu, Oljoroorok. My government is also following up on the completion of the Ol'Kalou county headquarters, among many other projects.

I count on your support, and that of other county leaders at the national level, to have these projects delivered to the people of Nyandarua.

In conclusion, while my statement cannot possibly capture every transformative action taken across our wards, I have no doubt that the remaining period grants us the historic opportunity to consolidate the gains we have made and anchor our development footprints for posterity. Nyandarua county is and shall forever remain our home, hence the responsibility to transform it remains our most urgent duty.

As we head to the festive season, let us celebrate with moderation and sensitivity to those who lack within us; let us support the vulnerable and less fortunate among us.

Once again, the state of our county has never been more promising, the transformation so manifest in our own eyes, and the future profoundly assuring. It is time to accelerate and consolidate these historic gains.

I thank you all and God bless Nyandarua.