



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



GOVERNOR'S PRESS SERVICE

**REMARKS BY HIS EXCELLENCY GOVERNOR (DR.) MOSES
KIARIE BADILISHA DURING THE CELEBRATIONS OF THE
MADARAKA DAY, HELD ON 1ST JUNE, 2024, AT WAKIROGO
STADIUM, KIPIPIRI SUB-COUNTY**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Once again, we join the nation in celebrating an important day whose significance to our identity as an independent nation is proudly embedded not just in our history, but in defining our country's development goals. Madaraka is not just a day, but the eternal reminder of the very reason why our forefathers, and the founders of this nation, sought freedom; it was freedom from the bondage of colonialism, but more importantly, from the shackles of deprivation and indignity.

Today, nothing best symbolizes Madaraka – that desire to make decisions, from the Imperial capital, London, as was then – than the system of government we boast of today, Devolution – our ability to devolve decision-making from Nairobi to the local villages and create ownership of the development goals we aspire. That, our people, is what Madaraka means.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year's celebration theme is **Agriculture and Food Security**. And there is no better way a people can manifest and experience their freedom, and prosperity, than having nutritional security and sustainable incomes. And ours, being an agricultural economy, focus on agriculture-enabling sectors is of even greater importance.

That is why, in the next two months, as we mark two years of this Change Administration, we also engage in some of the most life-changing and transformative programmes ever witnessed in this land.

But it is not just in what we are planning on doing, it is also on the milestones, some historic, that we have already achieved. These two years have been truly a moment of great transformation which has seen us touch every village through infrastructure development, improvement of our healthcare sector, modernization of our ECDEs, real and felt transformative and empowerment programmes targeted at our youth and women, revitalization of the cooperative sector, massive water connection to our people's homes, and targeted interventions in the agricultural sector.

That is why, in the next few days, Nyandarua's journey to reclaiming her rightful place in the agriculture production ladder takes another bold step. We shall be fulfilling another Change Promise and achieving another historic milestone;

we shall be launching the Subsidized A.I programme – a flagship programme which combines better breeds through a Ksh. 400 A.I project, improved dairy feeding regime through provision of Super Napier grass and other fodder crops, and revamping our Livestock Extension services by deploying mobile Animal Health Assistants who will be assisted by an elaborate digital technology platform. This programme seeks to catalyze Nyandarua’s milk production from its current third, to the market leader in Kenya. But it is mostly about improving our people’s welfare and wealth creation. It is also about money in their prockets.

And it is not just in the dairy sector where this transformative inputs’ programme is taking shape. Again, at the same time, we will be launching another flagship programme – the Pyrethrum project where we will issue thousands of our farmers with pyrethrum seedlings, and provide them with supporting technologies.

This is to enable them tap into the fast growing organic pesticides industry that is heavily relying on pure and organic pyrethrin as opposed to synthetic raw materials.

And it is not just in agriculture where real change is being felt.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Perhaps if there is one glaring testament of the profound transformation this county has undergone in the last two years, it is the seamless mobility witnessed both during the el-Nino, and recently during the heavy rains that pounded not just our county, but the country at large. Even during that period, when other regions were cut off and movement completely halted, Nyandarua remained accessible and our transport infrastructure withstood the test of the heaviest rains in years.

This state of affairs, our people should know, is not by sheer luck, but the fruits of very deliberate work on our roads across every ward. We are reaping the fruits of an intentional strategy of making our roads – the very arteries of our agriculture and commerce, motorable and dependable during all seasons. And we did it; we will continue to do it. Indeed, we are on course to achieving total roads’ rehabilitation by the year 2025. During the two year period, we have opened over 300Kms of roads that never existed – and it is across every ward and village in this county. We have also rehabilitated over 3000kms spread across every single village in this our county. We have built bridges that have not only connected people, but helped open new trade routes and created new connected communities and bonds of friendship and commerce.

That is what change means. That was the contract we signed with you; and it is exactly what we are doing. Undeterred.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

A few weeks ago, a monumental achievement only witnessed in other regions – far away from us, happened in our own motherland. That was Madaraka moment for us all.

At the J.M Kariuki Memorial Hospital, a team of our own doctors – the true sons and daughters of this nation, and in their own hospital, conducted the very first and most successful spinal surgery. These gallant medical professionals – doctors, clinical officers, nurses and other professionals in the health sector, were not just conducting a surgery; they were saving a life; they were restoring hopes to a young man whose life would have been condemned into permanent disability, or even death.

This is a story worth retelling; and only made possible by the deliberate investments my Administration has put into place, not just in the J.M Hospital, but across all our facilities. And I am fully aware that we are not yet where we should be. Over the last two years, for example, we have managed to employ approximately 100 health professionals of different cadres. Medical and health freedom, is another of the Madaraka gifts our people deserve. Today, for the work our medical professionals continue to do, transforming our healthcare sector in Nyandarua, we honor you and we will continue to support you.

While this transformation is across each of our departments, and witnessed in every ward and village – from the ongoing Ksh. 500 million County Aggregation and Industrial Park, the upcoming modern ICT hub at the Arboretum, sporting and performing arts for our youth, modernization of our markets including Soko Mpya, infrastructure development to upgrade all

our level four facilities in the sub-counties, revamping our fire-fighting and disaster preparedness infrastructure, empowerment programmes targeted at our social welfare groups, and many more – my assurance is that this will continue being the norm in this county; we shall keep every promise we made.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To achieve this development, we must also play our rightful role in honoring our patriotic obligation as citizens. Ownership of development cannot be realized when citizens do not fulfil their share of the bargain.

For this reason, in order to guarantee sustainable development, we must equally pay our taxes and attendant levies and licenses. This is the least we can do as citizens; this is our obligation and responsibility.

And as Government, we have an even higher responsibility to ensure that these public resources are only deployed for the sole purposes they are set for. That, my fellow citizens, is my assurance and commitment.

Therefore, it is my expectation, and that of the patriotic citizens of Nyandarua county, that the traders-government relationship in so far as tax payments is concerned will be depoliticized and each party plays its rightful role, and fulfils its obligations. It is also my assurance that we shall continue engaging all stakeholders to ensure that we have an even better working relationship between us all.

Finally, allow me to thank our people for heeding to the government's directives especially during the heavy rains season. While we sadly lost a few people from the flooding, a majority of our people were cooperative.

Going forward, we encourage all persons residing in areas prone to flooding and mudslides to work closely with government agencies and move to safer locations. And as part of mitigating against these harsh effects of climate change, we encourage continuous trees' growing as a way of environmental conservation.

I thank you all and wish you a happy Madaraka Day that ingrains a deeper sense of patriotism and duty to our country and county.

God bless you all.