

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF UASIN GISHU



**STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY GOVERNOR
JONATHAN BII CHELILIM AT THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
ON SEPTEMBER 26, 2023**

The Speaker of the County Assembly of Uasin Gishu,

The Deputy Speaker,

The Leader of Majority,

The Leader of Minority,

The Chief Whip,

Honourable Members,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Afternoon,

- 1. 1 year, 1 month and 2 days** ago the people of this great county said **"YES"** to my **"Nguzo Kumi"** development agenda, an agenda with **vision, purpose, clarity and milestones**. An agenda to positively impact the lives of the great people of Uasin Gishu and their families.
- 2. This vision is not new.** It is as old as the person standing before you this afternoon. It started in a small way, in a small little-known village named **Chemororoch**, somewhere in this county. It was a burning vision. It is still burning.

3. I stand before you today in acknowledgment of the trust placed in us by the people of Uasin Gishu, who **elected us to office** with the expectation of **quality service delivery**.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members,

4. My presence here today is in fulfillment of a Statutory mandate, as outlined in the County Government Act of 2012, section 30(2)(k).
5. In my inaugural **State of the County Address** to the **people of Uasin Gishu**, I have highlighted the following;
 - a. A report on the implementation status of County Policies and Plans pursuant to Section 30(2) (j) of the County Government Act, 2012;
 - b. A report on the measures taken in the realization of the National Values referred to in Article 10 of the Constitution of Kenya;
 - c. A report on the performance of the County Executive Committee and Public Service to the County Assembly pursuant to Section 47(3) of the County Government Act, 2012; And
 - d. An annual report to the County Assembly on citizen participation in the affairs of the County government.

Mr. Speaker,

6. **Section 30(2) (j)** of the **County Government Act, 2012** requires me to submit to the County assembly an annual report on the implementation status of the County policies and plans.

7. **Honourable Members**, through this house, aside from the statutory obligations, a number of legislations were approved such as the **Uasin Gishu Rural Water and Services Act, 2023**.
8. The Cabinet also passed **two major policies** comprising the **Milk policy** and the **Health policy**.
9. The above-mentioned policies, legislations, and plans shall be clearly demonstrated in this **State of the County Address**.
10. I authoritatively confirm that my administration **was**, and **still is**, in compliance with these policies and plans thus enabling me to give a report on the **performance of the County Executive**.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

11. **Like** the elected honorable members, we made a **promise to the electorates**. Mine was a journey traversing the whole of Uasin Gishu and engaging the people on the **transformative agenda** they needed to enable them to have **better lives**.
12. I engaged in socio-economic and political forums across the **30 Wards**. Later on, I developed and worked on my promises to the people of Uasin Gishu once elected. This led to the adoption of **Nguzo Kumi**, which shared my vision and valuable inputs and insights from the people of Uasin Gishu.
13. My **Nguzo Kumi plan** and the national **Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA)** are embedded in our third-generation **County Integrated Development Plan (C.I.D.P.)** anchored on three pillars; **Service Delivery, Enablers, and Empowerment**.
14. The **service delivery pillar** seeks to restore the dignity and quality of public service; the **enablers** act as support systems for attaining our targets, while the **Empowerment pillar** aims to

broaden economic opportunities for all the residents through socio-economic empowerment.

Honourable Members,

- 15.** The **enabler pillar** is critical in creating a favourable environment and support systems for attaining the targets envisioned by the C.I.D.P. The sectors responsible for driving this agenda are infrastructure, health, and education. The pillar is expected to lower the cost of doing business, increase the County's competitiveness, support innovations, ensure clean access to water, and guarantee a healthy and productive population.
- 16.** These expectations are delivered through, Infrastructure and Information Communication Technology (ICT).
- 17. Roads Transport and Public works** are crucial for ensuring safe connectivity within our communities.

Mr. Speaker

- 18.** In the last one year, my Government has graded **816 Kilometres** of access roads, out of which **409 kilometres** were gravelled and compacted serving both rural and urban areas across the County with an emphasis on climate change resilience.
- 19.** Most notably, we have inaugurated and opened **76 kilometers** of new roads across 13 Wards.

Honourable members,

- 20.** My Government installed **272 Culverts** of various sizes, significantly improving drainage in our roads and human settlements.
- 21.** We have completed four vital bridges: **Vumilia, Kapkures-Kipsomba, Chemarmar, and Kaoni.**
- 22.** In just one year, we have achieved remarkable progress, completing a total of **107 road construction and maintenance projects** that were implemented by local contractors including youth, women, and Persons with disabilities.
- 23.** In the next financial year, I envision doubling up the above efforts.

Mr. Speaker and Honorable Members,

- 24.** Emergency and disaster response is one of our critical services to the residents of Uasin Gishu and the entire North Rift region.
- 25.** This unit has gained a reputation for its swift response to emergencies, owing to the dedication and expertise of our diligent workforce. In a bid to further fortify our endeavours, we have acquired **two** additional **water bowsers** and **modern fire tunics.**
- 26.** We will continue to train our staff and equip them with state-of-the-art facilities in order to meet international standards in response to disasters and emergencies including the expected **el-nino.**

Mr. Speaker,

- 27. Water, Sanitation, Irrigation, Energy, Environment, Natural Resources, and Climate Change enabler,** is an area where our society thrives in nurturing life, health, and well-being. It takes priority in the current financial year for the provision of potable water.
- 28.** During my campaigns, a *gogo* from Karuna Meibeki urged us with the powerful plea, '**mechei biko beko,**' signifying our community's need for water, and I am resolutely committed to fulfilling this essential wish of our residents.

Honourable Members,

- 29. In the last one year,** we have implemented **56 water supply projects,** which include significant initiatives such as Chewirwir Water Project in Moiben Sub County, Sугоi Gaa Water Project in Turbo Sub County, Kimuri Water Project in Kapseret Sub County, Beliomо Water Project in Ainabkoi Sub County, and Kaplolo Water Project in Soy Sub County collectively benefiting **over 2500 households,** schools, and health facilities.
- 30.** In addition, we have successfully drilled **28 boreholes,** which are already fully equipped with pumps, solar panels, and storage tanks to ensure a consistent water supply.
- 31.** Many drilled boreholes yielded little or salty water and therefore not fit for use. From history, the white settlers had over 350 dams and pans in our county; a pointer towards a working solution to the water challenge in Uasin Gishu.

- 32.** Desilting of dams is the most ideal solution for improving water storage capacity in the County. My government has continued these efforts by desilting and embankment repairs designed to enhance water storage capacities such as Kimuruk, Lelkotet, Kapsang and Uhuru Dams among others.
- 33.** Currently, we have **12 water supply projects** in various stages towards completion, including the Kilima and Chepkokoibei water projects in Moiben Sub County, Barekeywo and Koiwarusen water projects in Kesses Sub County, Kolongei and Kapkeben water projects in Turbo Sub County, Chepngoror water project in Ainabkoi, and the Katanin Water Project in Soy Sub County, among others.

Honourable Members,

- 34.** I do appreciate the County assembly for the passage of the relevant Bill that established the **Uasin Gishu Rural Water and Sanitation Company**. This monumental step has laid the foundation for the company's incorporation currently in progress. The Uasin Gishu Rural Water and Sanitation company will play a pivotal role in ensuring the sustainability and maintenance of water supply services in areas not covered by ELDOWAS and in various water projects that we have implemented over the years.
- 35. The urgent need for water that supports households, livestock, and agriculture cannot be underestimated. We therefore SHALL continue as a government to allocate resources and expertise to ensure that we deliver on this promise**
- 36.** Under my administration, our commitment to environmental conservation is unwavering.

- 37.** In alignment with the President's directive, my administration has set a target to plant 15 million trees throughout the County. This ambitious goal will be realized through collaborative efforts from all stakeholders. In the last one year, we distributed over 200,000 seedlings to all wards as a proactive step towards achieving this objective.

Honourable Members

- 38. I appeal to you that we set aside a day that every citizen of Uasin Gishu plants trees equivalent to his/her age every year and plant a tree in every function that you attend.**

- 39.** In partnership with various stakeholders, we have undertaken the regular beautification of River Sosiani, which flows through Eldoret town and restored encroached riparian lands.

- 40.** The formation of County Climate Change committees by my government will enable us to combat the adverse effects of climate change on livelihoods. In this regard, my administration has established a Climate Change Unit, allocating 2 percent of the development budget to the County Climate Change Fund (CCCF), and integrating climate change actions into the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP).

- 41.** A further **Ksh 11 million** has been received for climate change adaptation and mitigation measures from the World Bank under **Financing Locally Led Climate Action (FLLoCA)**. My government provided Ksh 60 million in the budget to support the climate change actions.

- 42.** The grant facilitated grassroots climate change sensitization and training initiatives. Furthermore, we have established mechanisms to promote the active participation of youth, women, and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in climate change actions.

Mr. Speaker,

- 43.** In collaboration with the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) and the Kenya Forest Service (KFS), the County has implemented regulations and practices to curb the indiscriminate destruction of our tree cover.

- 44.** Working alongside the Kenya Forest Service, my administration has beautified and upgraded the Eldoret Arboretum. This effort aims to create more green spaces within the County and was officially inaugurated by **H.E. Honourable Dr. William Ruto** the president of the Republic of Kenya during **the first biennial devolution conference**.

Honourable Members,

- 45.** In our commitment to a **24-hour economy** and strengthening regional security, We **installed 139 solar-integrated streetlights, 9 high masts**, with floodlights and currently setting up 5 new masts besides successfully replacing 351 faulty lanterns throughout the County.

- 46.** Honourable members, my government is in the process of installing 82 new streetlights, a project in its survey stage. We are also actively developing a **Uasin Gishu Energy Policy** and a Strategy for Energy Reticulation.

Mr. Speaker,

- 47.** In the digital age, Information, Communication, and Technology are the catalysts of progress. The power of ICT has become a force of progress in our modern world and my government is committed to harnessing the transformative potential of technology for operational excellence.
- 48.** Our journey has been guided by a robust Information Technology governance framework that has enabled us to reshape our County's digital landscape.
- 49.** My government has bolstered **ICT connectivity and digital support** in critical locations such as the County Headquarters, our Nairobi Liaison office, Sub County offices, seven ICT centers, the library, five Sub-County hospitals, and two Ward Offices in a bid to facilitate **economic growth and offer better digital services.**
- 50.** To further enhance connectivity, we have established **seven structured cabling systems at devolved units and satellite offices.** This move has effectively linked twenty-one offices to the County Headquarters through the Internet.
- 51.** Recognizing the importance of efficient communication, we have acquired **a County Mail System.** This system facilitates the exchange of County official emails, contributing significantly to efficiency gains in both internal and external communication. This move has also been extended to the recent **acquisition of County Cloud Hosting and Storage Services** from Konza Technopolis aimed at reliable data hosting, ensuring guaranteed access.

52. Honourable Members, it is time that we all embraced technological advancements in totality. I envision a moment where residents and all officials will be actively engaged in the digital space even as we seek to shift towards paperless government.

Honourable Members,

53. Under Nguzo number three on **Digital transformation**, I have implemented the following;

- a) Successfully installed **surveillance cameras** in the CBD, ward offices and sub-county hospitals in our ongoing efforts to bolster security.
- b) Established a **County Call center** to promote open governance, citizen engagement, and public participation. This facility shall serve as a platform for citizens to inquire about County information and receive prompt feedback.
- c) Implemented a robust integrated revenue management system known as "**SisiboPay.**"

Additionally, we have established an Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD) *764#, a Global System for Mobile (GSM) solution that integrates seamlessly with the SisiboPay System making it convenient and efficient in payment of services such as parking, land rates, court fines, single business permits among other revenue streams.

54. I am glad to report to this house that the new revenue system **will adopt all modes of payments (bank transfers, MPESA,**

Airtel money, own wallet etc.) to enhance efficiency as we transition to **cashless collection of Own Source Revenue**

55. Further, the **SisiboPay** revenue system will be carrying out bank reconciliation every 24 hours, unlike the current system which takes 7 days. This will enhance accountability and service delivery.
56. I will soon be inviting this honourable house for the official launch of these major strides.
57. My administration intends to put up **37 public Wi-Fi hotspots** and create **ICT centers in every ward** so that our youths who form the larger population can maximize their skills in internet usage and gain access to opportunities locally and globally.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

58. The well-being of our citizens is paramount, and my administration places a high priority on the health sector.
59. The goal of this sector which is a key **contributor to the County's economic progress** is to provide accessible and affordable healthcare of the highest attainable standards to all residents.
60. My administration has trained a robust workforce of **2044 Community Health Promoters**. This team, at the household level, will provide the initial identification, registration, basic screening, and referral of patients and provide health messages with the objective of reversing disease trends.
61. In my one year in office, **the distribution of drugs procured from** Kenya Medical Supplies Authority (KEMSA) has been

streamlined by directly delivering the drugs across all 138 health facilities away from the initial storage at the Pharmacy stores. This reduced delays in access to drugs.

62. This approach has proved instrumental in managing the supply chain and effectively minimizing stockouts. It has further ensured cost reduction, timely distribution of drugs, and enhanced efficiency in service delivery.
63. Aflatoxin has become a threat both in our food, from animal products and cereal products. It is in this case that my government has undertaken a step to procure modern specialized aflatoxin-detecting equipment currently in use in our schools, hospitals, and public eateries.

Honourable Members,

64. Our County is witnessing an increasing burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). In response, we have implemented several strategies, including the **establishment of NCD management centers in all health centers** and the **reintroduction of revolving Fund Pharmacies**. This has enabled NCD patients to have accessibility and availability of affordable drugs.
65. In my one year in office, specialized medical services such as dental and optical services have been introduced in Turbo, Soy, and Moiben Sub Counties to cater to the community's specific healthcare needs.
66. My administration has equipped our healthcare facilities among them being, West Maternity which now boasts newborn units, fully functional theatres, radiology/imaging capabilities, laundry facilities, ECG machines, and audiometric equipment.

- 67.** As part of the strides in health care, my government dedicated more efforts to installing advanced CCTV security systems, refurbishing, and upgrading **six sub-county hospitals** in Burnt Forest, Ziwa, Huruma, West Maternity, and Uasin Gishu County Hospital. This involved acquiring and installing critical medical equipment, leading to an upsurge of patients visiting these institutions seeking quality services.
- 68.** Mr. Speaker, we have strategically partnered with key stakeholders, among them being Elsméd and Siemens to enhance diagnostic capacity in our facilities at the grassroots level. This is a technologically enabled project supported by the use of drones for the swift collection of patient lab samples for analysis.

Honourable Members

- 69.** In the last one-year, efficient management of service delivery in our facilities has led to an increase in maternal health performance. The percentage of women attending their fourth antenatal care visit has **risen from 48 percent to 56 percent**. Skilled birth attendance has also increased **from 78 percent to 84 percent**, and postnatal care utilization has grown **from 42 percent to 60 percent**.
- 70.** As the need for healthcare services continues to increase in quantity and quality, there is a need for more resource investment in healthcare financing. To cover for this, it is my desire to appeal to this honorable house to support the **approval of the Facility Improvement Financing Bill (F.I.F)** as a basis for the operationalization of this noble initiative that will secure sustainable funding for day-to-day operations, financing of preventive and Promotive activities, support supervision and provide funds for health-related emergencies and disasters.

71. Facility Improvement Financing Bill (F.I.F) emphasizes value for money by maintaining adequate supplies of drugs, lab reagents, availability of non-pharmaceuticals, and prompt servicing and maintenance of equipment, thus improving health service quality.

Honourable Members,

72. The **Education and Social Protection Sector** is one of the greatest enablers in my administration comprising Education and Vocational Training; Gender, Culture, and Social Protection; and Youth Affairs and Sports.

73. My vision is to provide quality Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) on skills development and nurture talent in the areas of sports and arts.

74. Honourable Members, in the year under review, **Ksh 92,850,000** was allocated and utilized for enhancing Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) infrastructure. This allocation facilitated the construction of **91 ECDE classrooms, 41 ablution blocks,** the construction of a kitchen, and the procurement of essential furniture and fittings for **6 ECDE centers.**

75. An additional allocation of **Ksh. 22 million** was dedicated to providing essential teaching and learning materials **to over 10,000 ECDE pupils** across the County.

76. The two greatest milestones of my administration in this sector are the confirmation of **1,274 ECDE teachers on Permanent and Pensionable terms** and the rollout of the ECDE **school milk Program.** These milestones were the fulfillment of my pre-election pledges

- 77.** The conferment has transformed the working environment for teachers, changed their attitudes positively towards teaching, and given them financial confidence and independence.
- 78.** The **milk** programme has not only boosted pupil retention but also improved enrolment rates by **8.6 percent** in all our public ECDEs. These have made us an enviable County to our counterparts.

Mr. Speaker,

- 79.** On a lighter note, I am now concerned that our young pupils may become so fond of this milk program that they might resist transitioning to the next class! However, I leave that delightful dilemma for you, members of the honorable house, to ponder.
- 80.** I also urge honourable members to engage early learners with spoken English every time they visit.
- 81.** We have achieved significant progress in Vocational Training, by allocating **Ksh 33 million** towards infrastructural development, including the construction of administration blocks and the procurement of tools and equipment.
- 82.** As part of the successes achieved by my administration, we have disbursed a remarkable **Ksh. 119.5 Million** in bursaries to support over **18,071** needy students throughout our County.

Mr. Speaker,

- 83.** A walk around our **12 VTCs**, depicts an image of neglected infrastructure, rusted roofs, chipped floors, broken windows and absence of basic amenities against the enthusiastic learners

longing to gain valuable skills that will impact positively on their lives.

- 84. Against this backdrop lies an opportunity to make things better. This being a County function, I wish to implore this house in the spirit of the 40-60 allocation to ring-fence 40 percent of the bursary allocation to the students in our VTCs**
- 85.** This move, will provide our VTCs with the much-needed resources to procure teaching, learning tools, and equipment, carry out repair and maintenance and meet other financial obligations which will in turn transform our VTCs.
- 86.** We boast as the **only county** to have a Rehabilitation Center, **The Uasin Gishu County Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre**. The center rescues, assesses, treats, feeds, rehabilitates and reintegrates the children back to their respective families and society in different parts of Kenya.
- 87.** Over the last one year, the centre has rescued **264** children. Out of these, **62** were repatriated back to their counties, **77** were reunited with their families, **3** were taken to foster families, **2** were released by the court, **18** were taken by Morning Star Children's home, and **2** others to One Heart Institution. Currently, there are **100** children at the centre of which **70** are school-going.
- 88.** Rescue Centre has helped to bring back the serenity of the streets in Eldoret town and now the business community enjoys the working environment together with their customers. **It has taken care of street families and helped them get basic skills to earn a living**. It has given guidance and counseling to rehabs who end up transforming. It has also reduced drug abuse and saved

addicts from brutality and poor life. The Eldoret Rescue Centre is one of its kind that has given hope and transformed many hence the pride of our County.

Mr. Speaker,

- 89.** Under the **County Revolving Fund Act**, we have continued to support students pursuing their studies at Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC) by allocating **Ksh 19 million** in the year under review.
- 90.** Finally, I appeal to this noble house with the experience of **education and the ad-hoc committee** to support in making legislations and policies that will work for students who intend to study locally or internationally, under the support of the County. This legislation should include monitoring and evaluating of local agents managing overseas programs. This comes following the Finland and Canada programme that has rocked this County. This will give a safe space for the future of our children.

Mr. Speaker,

- 91.** Recognizing the youths as the driving force of our future, my administration is firm on their empowerment since they form the biggest population.
- 92.** We have successfully provided driving lessons to **900 youths**, equipping them with essential skills for both employment opportunities and safe road usage.
- 93.** In the last one year, we have invested in the training of **849 youths** equipping them with essential entrepreneurship skills, life skills, and knowledge regarding substance use and abuse, as well as mental health awareness. This education is instrumental for

their personal development and fosters a healthier and more informed youth population.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

- 94.** In our County, we proudly wear the badge of champions, and sports define not only who we are locally but also resonate with our global identity. It is with immense pride that I reaffirm our unshakable commitment to nurturing talents and elevating our sports infrastructure to unparalleled heights.
- 95.** On Talent Development Activities, my administration has been proactive in identifying and nurturing local talents. We have **hosted the Governor’s Cup Volleyball Tournament**, the **National ParaVolley Championship**, the **5Km Athletics Championships** (track and field), **cross-country races**, **marathons** and other sports activities i.e. football tournaments at the ward level in collaboration with the leaders of this house.

Honourable Members,

- 96.** The progress at our Chagaiya High Altitude Training Camp is tremendously backed by ongoing construction. At 80 percent in completion, the facility includes crucial facilities, including an administration block, gymnasium, catering facilities, V.I.P. hostels, and twin towers housing conference rooms and additional hostel rooms. This facility unquestionably plays a pivotal role in the development and success of our athletes.
- 97.** At this early stage, I ask honourable members to collaborate with the executive as we strategize on usage of the facility to enhance sports and tourism development. I invite the relevant committee to visit the site.

Honourable Members,

- 98.** I now transition to the empowerment pillar that broadens economic opportunities for the great people of Uasin Gishu. The drivers of this pillar are **Agriculture, Rural and Urban Development,** and **General Economic and Commercial Affairs**
- 99.** Agriculture serves as the cornerstone of our County's economy. As the primary source of sustenance for our country, being Kenya's bread basket, we have consistently prioritized its enhancement. Our commitment lies in implementing intelligent, technology-driven solutions to mitigate the challenges posed by the ever-evolving climatic conditions.
- 100.** In the last one year, my government has supplied **300 bags** of Irish potatoes to farmer groups in Ainabkoi Sub-County, **16,666** avocado seedlings, **83,333** coffee seedlings, **72,152** pyrethrum splits, and **8,000** Macadamia seedlings across the County **to promote crop diversification.**

Honourable Members,

- 101.** In an effort to support farmers in reducing pre and post-harvest losses, my government distributed pesticides to farmers for the control of pests in cereals, coffee, and horticultural crops. Furthermore, we are currently constructing Kimoning cereal stores in Tembelio ward in Moiben Sub County.
- 102.** In collaboration with other agencies to promote programs such as the Agriculture Sector Development Support program, my government procured climate-smart technologies comprising egg incubators, juice extractors, feed mixers among others which were distributed to farmer groups across the County.

Mr. Speaker,

103. In my manifesto, I pledged to improve livestock health, elevate the quality of our local animal breeds, and bolster production. In pursuit of this promise, we have managed to control livestock-notifiable diseases through the vaccination of **110,000**, heads of cattle against Foot and Mouth Disease, **150,000** against Lumpy skin disease, and **95,000** against Black Quarter/Anthrax respectively also introduced subsidized artificial insemination (AI) services, resulting in the successful Insemination of **16,720** cows resulting to **6000** calves. A good number of cattle are yet to calf down. To control pest, we have undertaken the construction and rehabilitation of **30** plunged cattle dips and also distributed assorted acaricides to **105** plunged cattle dips.

104. To economically empower women groups in wards, we procured and distributed **68,224** one-month-old chicks in a project that is still ongoing in our County. In an effort to bolster local incubation capacity, we acquired and distributed **94 incubators**, each capable of holding **264 eggs**.

105. We have also made significant strides in livestock breeding by procuring and distributing **656 purebred Dorper** sheep. To further enhance our breeding programs, we have acquired and distributed 7 purebred dairy cows to Persons with Disabilities in Ngenyilel ward, contributing to the improvement of the dairy sector.

106. To safeguard human health and bolster skin, hide, and leather development we have renovated two slaughterhouses (Burnt Forest and Eldoret main slaughterhouses).

- 107.** We have undertaken the construction and rehabilitation of **30 cattle dips**, crucial for ensuring the health and well-being of our livestock. Supporting these efforts, we have supplied and delivered acaricides to **105 cattle dips**, facilitating effective parasite control.
- 108.** In the dairy sector, we have completed the construction of seven milk cooler structures in strategic locations, including Chebororwa, Kapsiliot, Progressive, Tingwo, Abai, Kipchamo, and Bindura. Additionally, we have successfully connected electricity to **16 milk cooler structures**.
- 109.** To promote sustainable forage resources, we have supplied and delivered **420 kilograms** of Desmodium seeds and **300 kilograms** of Panicum seeds across the County.
- 110.** In the fisheries sector, we have distributed **170,000 fingerlings** to fish farmers and **18,000kgs of fish** feeds to cushion farmers against the high cost of production. This has greatly boosted the uptake of fish farming and led to increased fish production in the County.
- 111.** The Agricultural Sector Development Support Program (ASDSP II) has contributed to crop transformation and livestock and fisheries production into commercially oriented enterprises that ensure sustainable food and nutrition security. Since inception of the program, a total of 9,260 Value Chain Actors (VCA) have been reached through capacity building. This program has facilitated the County Agriculture Sector Steering Committee (CASSCOM) develop CASSCOM Bill already sent to this honourable house through the agriculture committee.

Mr. Speaker,

112. Moving forward to Lands, Physical Planning, Housing, and Urban Development, we have witnessed a remarkable transformation in service delivery within Uasin Gishu County as we look ahead, the vision of smart urban city development with affordable, high-quality housing for our citizens stands at the forefront.

113. One of the major breakthroughs of my administration was the issuance of more than **600 title deeds** to residents of **Maili Nne, Kuinet, and Hill School Settlements**, thereby enhancing property ownership and security.

114. My administration constructed 300 meters of road to bitumen standard between Bishop Muge and Sports Club enhancing infrastructure and connectivity.

115. In a bid to beautify the soon to be Eldoret city, my administration undertook major improvements to key roads, including Harambee Road, Fims Roundabout, and Korosiot Roundabout, to ease traffic flow.

116. Cognizant of devolving administrative services, my administration completed the Ziwa Town Manager's Office.

117. My administration is in the process of preparing new zoning regulations and a policy on street naming and addressing which shall ensure effective land use planning and facilitate efficient navigation and accessibility within the County.

Honourable Members,

118. I urge the House to consider and approve the legislation once tabled.

119. As our population continues to rapidly grow, my government is committed to conferring municipal status to Burnt Forest, Moi's Bridge, Ziwa, Turbo, Moiben, and Kesses. This transformation will empower these areas with greater autonomy and resources to independently drive local development initiatives.

Mr. Speaker,

120. The Municipality of Eldoret has diligently **carried out** its obligations in accordance with the Urban Areas and Cities Act. Remarkable progress has been achieved, exemplified by a range of initiated and completed projects during the review period.

121. In collaboration with development partners, the municipality successfully completed infrastructural projects with support from the first phase of Kenya Urban Support Program (KUSP), a World Bank funded infrastructure development initiative. This has resulting in the 2.33 kilometers of drainages, 2.63 kilometres of cabro paved roads and 13 kilometers of footpaths, development of a recreational park (The Eldoret Arboretum, drainages in the CBD and Kapsaos as well as the installation of high mast lighting in Ngomongo, Kipkarren, Kapsaos and Asis area in the CBD.

122. Furthermore, through counterpart, funding support from my administration, the municipality successfully completed the maintenance of critical road infrastructure built through KUSP and KISP funding. This include roads in Kamkunji, Hill School Estate, Munyaka Estate, and Kimumu Areas. Other achievements include the maintenance of Sosiani Bus Stage, Eldoret Hospital to Nandi Road, CBD and cabro back lanes, Public Works to Moi Girls Road, Panvila to Langas Road, Kamkunji and Huruma Estate Roads, 64

Street, railway crossings at Muliro Street, Darma Street, Central Bank, and KPLC Office to West Market Storm Water Drainage, as well as the upkeep of NMT corridors from Sogomo to Chepkoilel Junction and NBK – PCEA Church, Zion Mall to KCC to RVTTI to Kaplimo, among others. **The ongoing construction of Sixty-Four Stadium has achieved a completion status of 70 percent.** Following the conclusion of the first phase of KUSP, my administration has continued and commits to support the completion of this major facility.

Honourable Members,

123. My government looks forward to the planned launch of the second phase of Kenya Urban Support Programmme. We have lined up development of infrastructure projects, including roads, non-motorized transportation, stormwater management, enhancement of CBD vehicular and human traffic flow as well as road marking, social infrastructure which includes, the enhancement of green spaces, beautification, street lighting and the management of River Sosiani. This also includes the physical infrastructure at the industrial zones, covering the Export Processing Zones, and the County Aggregation Industrial Parks (CAIP).

124. In our preparation to mitigate the challenges that are posed by the impending El Nino rains, my administration is swiftly addressing CBD drainage management backed with a comprehensive plan for the development of a drainage system as outlined in the Storm Water Drainage Master Plan.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members

- 125. Eldoret is soon becoming a City.** On Wednesday 20th September, the Senate standing committee on Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations recommended that Eldoret Municipality be granted city status, citing compliance with the Urban Areas and Cities Act of 2011.
- 126.** The committee made this recommendation in its report after conducting a fact-finding mission in the municipality from September 13 to 15, 2023.
- 127.** The report stated that Eldoret Municipality met the requirements for city status as outlined in Section 5 and the First Schedule of the Urban Areas and Cities Act, 2011.
- 128.** If approved, Eldoret will join Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu, and Nakuru as Kenya's fifth city.

Mr. Speaker

- 129.** The General Economic and Commercial Affairs (GECA) Sector is a significant player in the delivery of the targets of my administration on development of trade and industrialization, promotion of tourism, and strengthening cooperative movement and regional integration.
- 130.** Empowering trade cooperatives and driving industrialization are the keys to unlocking our County's economic potential and shaping a prosperous future.
- 131.** In the year under review, we constructed and rehabilitated 12 markets and shall be constructing/ rehabilitating more markets spread across the County this financial year.

Honourable members,

132. The design of the 7-storey Iconic retail market at the CBD has been approved and is set to commence soon upon its gazettelement.

133. In collaboration with the Ministry of Trade, Investments and Industry, my administration will soon launch the Export Processing Zone occupying 135 acres of land in the Cherunya area in Langas ward. This presents great opportunities including enhanced economic development, reduced post-harvest losses, access to markets, investors accessing all the requisite infrastructure hence enjoying economies of scale, skills transfer, employment opportunities, increased industrialization and export among many other benefits.

134. On the same, my government has set aside **Ksh 250 million** towards establishment of County Industrial and Aggregation Parks on the **56 acres in AMS land**. The amount is a match of an additional **Ksh 250 million** from the national government.

135. My Government has achieved the following in the last one year;

- a.** The disbursement of the Inua Biashara Fund loans totaling **30 million** Kenyan shillings to **299** individual SMEs and **88** group applicants.
- b.** Partnering with the Stanbic Foundation and GIZ to provide interest-free loans totaling **Ksh 7.3 million** supporting **150** SMEs across the County.
- c.** A total of **700 MSMEs** benefited from capacity-building initiatives, which covered opportunities in wholesale/export trade of fresh produce, as well as training in Business

Resilience, Digital Marketing, Financial Management, Quality and Productivity Improvement, and Human Resource Management.

- d.** In revenue collection, we achieved a milestone by collecting **Ksh 300 million** from Single Business Permits and signages, marking a **40 percent increase** from the previous Financial Year (2021/2022). This success was accompanied by a significant reduction in counterfeits and illegal businesses.
- e.** The Markets, on the other hand, exceeded their target by collecting **Kshs. 33,716,660**, surpassing the expected **Kshs. 28,583,314**.
- f.** To promote tourism and showcase the County as a potential tourism destination, Kesses Dam has been developed as a water-based tourism destination, set to be commissioned the month of October for public utilization.
- g.** The County Arboretum is open to the public. As part of this initiative, we constructed a gazebo and watchtower where visitors can relax and enjoy the scenic views of the town.

136. The County Co-operative Enterprise Development Fund played a pivotal role in supporting **39 cooperative** societies with substantial loans amounting to **Ksh 81.3 million** in the year under review. This financial boost empowered these cooperative entities to thrive and contribute significantly to our local economy.

137. Additionally, **20 milk coolers** have been **fully operationalized**.

This strategic move has led to a remarkable improvement in the quality of milk and increased volumes of chilled milk being aggregated.

138. To enhancing efficiency in milk collection and reducing transportation costs for dairy cooperative societies, the Fund financed over **Ksh 80 million** to **29 Cooperative Societies** in Asset loans.

139. Empowering women and youth is a priority, and we extended support to **19 Women-based** Cooperative Societies with a total of **Ksh 45 million** and **17 Youth-based** cooperatives with **Kshs 24 million**.

140. We also aligned our cooperative structures with **Bottom up Economic Transformation Agenda and Nguzo Kumi**, ensuring that each ward has a corresponding cooperative.

141. Recognizing excellence in cooperative performance, my administration is proud to honour Kurur Women Consumers Co-operative Society and Olendu Elders Co-operative Society as the best-performing cooperative societies.

142. Membership in co-operatives surged to an impressive **102,000**, reflecting the growing trust and engagement of our residents.

This has translated into a robust financial landscape with a share capital of **Kshs. 280,966,015**, deposits totaling **Kshs. 2,257,074,547**, a turnover of **Kshs. 975,502,034**, and an asset base valued at **Kshs. 3,603,708,606**, encompassing physical assets and loans extended to members. These achievements underscore the vitality of cooperative societies in our County's socioeconomic fabric.

Honourable Members,

- 143.** My last pillar in this State of the County Address is on **Service delivery**. This is a crucial arm that has continued to restore efficiency, convenience, competitiveness and dignity of our great people of Uasin Gishu.
- 144.** This pillar comprises; Office of the Governor, Finance, Economic Planning, Public Service Management, Devolution and Public Administration, County Public Service Board, Partnership, Liaison and Linkages, Office of the County Attorney and County Assembly.
- 145.** The above-mentioned sectors provide the overall leadership in the County by strengthening partnerships, liaisons and inter-governmental relations; promoting quality service delivery and devolution; and ensuring prudent management of public finance and economic affairs.
- 146.** The goal of this sector has been achieved through sector-specific strategies implemented by the Public Administration and Governance and therefore, has continued to re-position and improved the public service at all levels of the government.
- 147.** As a County, we recognize that a motivated workforce is the keystone of a successful institution, and we are steadfast in our commitment to fostering efficiency and positive outcomes in public service.

Mr. Speaker,

148. Since my assumption of office, we have achieved significant milestones in this crucial sector.

149. Our dedication to staff development has been evident through continuous training programs, equipping our team with the latest skills to enhance service delivery. This was underscored by the establishment of ward and sub-County offices, ensuring government services are readily accessible at the grassroots level. My administration has;

- a. Completed and operationalized Turbo Sub County offices, which witnessed a remarkable infrastructural transformation, progressing from a mere **20 percent** to full functionality.
- b. Developed Cluster 3 ward offices (Huruma, Kapkures, Kipsomba, and Moi's Bridge), advancing from a meager **5 percent** completion rate at the start of my administration to an impressive **25 percent**.
- c. Made significant progress in Cluster 4 office establishment, with offices at Kapsoya, Kipkenyo, Langas, Cheptiret/Kipchamo, Ngeria, and Megun reaching an impressive **60 percent** completion rate.
- d. **Introduced inspectorate uniforms**, complete with service numbers, exemplifying our commitment to enhancing the professionalism and transparency of our dedicated team, further bolstering public trust.
- e. In the realm of inspectorate services, bolstered efficiency through the procurement of communication equipment, facilitating seamless coordination and communication for emergency response and dispatch purposes.
- f. In collaboration with the national government, particularly the Council of Governors and the Senate, we successfully organized the

inaugural biennial devolution conference in Eldoret. Themed '**10 years of devolution: The present and the future,**' the conference not only fostered fruitful discussions but also showcased Eldoret's capabilities in trade and accommodation as we eagerly anticipate city status.

Honorable members,

150. Part 6 of the County Governments ACT 2012 creates a decentralized form of government at the County Level. Sections (50,51 and 52) further creates the offices of Sub-County Administrator, Ward Administrator and the village administrator respectively.

151. In the spirit of devolution and efficient service delivery, **my Government is committed to devolve some if not most of the functions** to these offices so that the people of Uasin Gishu can receive proper services at the village level.

152. I therefore urge this honourable house to walk with me down this path even as I challenge you to take the County assembly sittings to "**mashinani**" for our people of Uasin Gishu to feel our presence and be informed.

Mr. Speaker,

153. Permit me to submit an annual report to the County assembly on citizen participation in the affairs of the County government

154. My Administration was able to carry out a number of public participations across all the 30 wards. Amongst others, we had public participation on;

a. Milk Feeding Programme for the ECDE;

b. Annual Development Plan for the financial year 2023/2024;

- c. Budget preparation for the financial year 2023/2024;
- d. Financing Locally Led Climate Action Programme (FLLOCA)
- e. Project Identification Committee (PIC)

155. I can confirm that my administration successfully managed to coordinate the scheduled public participations and we are bearing fruits as County based on the opinions from the public.

Mr. Speaker,

156. The **County Public Service Board** plays a pivotal role in the efficient functioning of the public service by overseeing tasks related to advertising vacant positions and the recruitment of staff.

157. Between April and September of this year, the board carried out recruitment exercises resulting in the appointment of **23 employees** across various departments and **493 casual employees** were transitioned to permanent and pensionable terms.

158. My Government has diligently drafted the Performance Contract for the fiscal year 2023/24, pending its official launch. Furthermore, the CPSB has completed the review of the staff establishment, along with a comprehensive revision of the strategic plan for the period 2023-2027 and the Human Resource Policy.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members

159. My administration intends to hire Vocational Training Tutors and casuals on a contract basis. I hereby urge the County Public Service Board to go against the norm, **conduct the interviews** and **make appointments at a ward level** once these jobs are

advertised. This shall give our constituents **a sense of belonging and recognition** as part of this great Government.

Mr. Speaker,

160. One of the notable achievements that symbolize growth and progress by the sector of **Finance and Economic Planning** was our own-source revenue collection, which came close to reaching **Ksh 1 billion**.

Honourable Members

161. The most notable success is evident in our own-source revenue, which experienced a remarkable **14 percent growth**, collecting **Ksh 982,050,748 million** during the 2022/23 financial year, compared to **Ksh 858,349,786** in the previous fiscal year.

162. With God's grace as I come back next year before this house, my administration will achieve a record revenue collection that has never been met since the inception of devolution. **Watch this space!**

163. Furthermore, we made substantial progress in the absorption of development funds, which improved to **76 percent** in Financial Year 2022/23, a significant increase from **63 percent** in Financial Year 2021/22. This is only the beginning, as we strive to achieve an absorption rate of **90 percent** this year.

- 164.** Equally noteworthy is the substantial reduction in overall **pending bills**, from **Ksh 708,064,063** in Financial Year 2021/22 to **Ksh 276,325,598** in Financial Year 2022/23.
- 165.** My Administration successfully prepared and received approval for the Uasin Gishu County Integrated Development Plan 2023-2027 from the County Assembly.
- 166.** We have formulated the FY 2023/24 Budget, totaling **KSh 10,247,307,488** which encompasses of **Ksh 7,057,152,476** in recurrent expenditures and **Ksh 3,190,155,012** in development expenditures.
- 167.** Our implementation of a new revenue management system shall be a significant milestone, and cashflow management shall be improved, ensuring that necessary resources are available on time to support the seamless execution of the County government's budget.
- 168.** Finally, contracts valued at **KSh 415,164,783.10** were awarded to Persons With Disabilities, Women, and Youths under the AGPO (Access to Government Procurement Opportunities) program, further demonstrating our commitment to inclusive economic development.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members

169. As I conclude, my administration has set up mitigation steps in preparedness for the upcoming El Nino rains following a warning issued by the Kenya Meteorological Department on heavy downpour beginning next month to January 2024.

170. Even as we focus on our preparedness, I would like to thank the citizens of our great County of Uasin Gishu for their generous food contributions this year which assisted thousands of families in Turkana, Baringo and Laikipia Counties through the Save a Life Initiative.

Mr. Speaker,

171. This State of the County report depicts my commitment and leadership in accordance with article 10 of the constitution on national values and principles of governance.

172. In my last one year, my leadership has been guided by patriotism, participation of our people, inclusivity, protection of the marginalized, governance, integrity, transparency, accountability and sustainable development amongst many other values and principles.

173. Honourable Members, it is now 398 days in office **working together** and demonstrating **unity of purpose** on our mandate as leaders of this great County, the Royal County.

174. Allow me to **appreciate the honourable Members of the County Assembly** for their unwavering leadership in discharging their duties namely; to oversight, legislation, and representation, all of which are crucial for the overall development of our County. I convey my gratitude for the expeditious **consideration and approval of the County Executive**, and for this, I say Asante Sana.

175. On the same breath, allow me to also thank the County Executive for fulfilling their functions in line with article 36 of the County Government's Act read with article 183 of the Constitution of Kenya.

176. Besides the County Executive Committee having the power to determine its own programme of activities and observing integrity and disclosing any interest in any matter before the committee, they are also tasked to;

- (a) Supervise the administration and delivery of services in the County and all decentralized units and agencies in the County.
- (b) Perform any other functions conferred on it by the Constitution or national legislation
- (c) Carry out any function incidental to any of the assigned functions.

Mr. Speaker,

177. I wish to bring to your attention and seek your indulgence in the challenges touching on the ongoing multiyear projects initiated in the last term. These are projects in following departments; Health, Administration, Sports and Cooperatives. These projects include;

- a) Ziwa Level 5 hospital
- b) Kesses Level 4 hospital

- c) Moiben Level 4 hospital
- d) Turbo Level 4 hospital
- e) Cluster 3 and 4 ward offices
- f) Sub county office
- g) Chagaiya High altitude training
- h) 64 Stadium
- i) MoiSoy farmers' cooperative union
- j) Ngenyilel VTC
- k) Jackson Mandago special needs assessment center, Among others.

178. These projects, **Honourable Members** will require an estimated figure of **5.45 billion**, to complete against our constrained budget.

Honourable Members,

179. I would rather we consider scaling down some of the projects so that we are able to complete based on priorities and the impact to the residents of Uasin Gishu County.

Bearing in mind the Nguzo Kumi Manifesto and the third generation CIDP.

Mr. Speaker,

180. I wish to thank the friends of Uasin Gishu County government, those who have stood with us, those who have prayed for us and those who have worked this journey with us within and outside the County.

181. I know you believe in us, you believe that the future of Uasin Gishu is bright, you know we are the best and you know we are The Champions! I give you my commitment and that of my government

that we will work tirelessly to ensure we deliver for you, the people of Uasin Gishu County.

182. I stand here today and confirm that **Hali ya Kaunti yetu iko imara!**

183. **May God Bless our beautiful and progressive County, Eldoret, our fifth city to be and the great people of Uasin Gishu!**

H.E. Hon. Jonathan Bii Chelilim

GOVERNOR, COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF UASIN-GISHU