

KERICHO COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THE HANSARD

Second Assembly

Fifth Session

Tuesday 29th June, 2021

(The House met at 2.30 p .m.)

[Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): Let's proceed!

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): Honorable members this afternoon we are privileged to have in our midst His Excellency the Governor Kericho County Hon. Paul Kiprono Chepkwony who has accompanied the County Executive Committee Member in charge of Finance and Economic Planning, Hon. Patrick Mutai and the Chief Officer in the department of Finance and Economic Planning madam Leah Chirchir.

Pronouncement of the Kericho County Budget highlights for the Financial 2021/2022 by the County Executive Committee Member for Finance and Economic Planning.

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): County Executive Committee member in charge of Finance and Economic Planning and Head of treasury pronounce of the Kericho County Budget highlights for the Financial Year 2021/2022.

Dr. Patrick Mutai (County Executive Committee Member in charge of Finance and Economic Planning): Mr. Speaker, once again it is my privilege to present to this honorable house the budget highlights of Kericho County Budget for the Fiscal Year 2021/22.

First allow me to appreciate His Excellency, the Governor of Kericho County, H.E. Prof. Paul Kiprono Chepkwony for the time and immense support he accorded in the development of these estimates. I also wish to recognize the efforts of our late Deputy Governor H.E. Susan Kikwai, OGW who until her demise was actively engaged in all the budget preparation stages.

I acknowledge the efforts of our Deputy Governor H.E Lily Ng'ok, County Executive Committee Members, Chief Officers, the Budget and Appropriation Committee led by Honorable Albert Kipkoech of the County Assembly and the entire Finance and Economic Planning Department staff who played a key role in coordinating, drafting and preparation of these estimates.

I say a big thank you to the residents of Kericho County who responded to the call for public participation and made their submissions via email and memoranda during this pandemic period. This is a true reflection of a bottom-up approach in the planning and budgeting process as enshrined in Article 201 of the Constitution of Kenya and provided for in Section 125 (2) of the Public Finance Management, Act 2012.

The Budget Context Financial Year 2021/22

Looking at the recent development and economic outlook of both local and global fronts, the COVID – 19 Pandemic and the ensuing containment measures has devastated global economies disrupting businesses and livelihoods. Global prospects remain highly uncertain one year into the pandemic. New virus mutations and the

accumulating human toll raise concerns, even as growing vaccine coverage raise expectation. Economic recoveries are divergent across countries and sectors, reflecting variation in pandemic-induced disruptions and the extent of policy support. The outlook depends not just on the outcome of the battle between the virus and vaccines, it also hinges on how effectively economic policies deployed under high uncertainty can limit lasting damage from this unprecedented crisis. Global growth is projected at 6 percent in 2021, and decline to a modest 4.4 percent in 2022.

Mr. Speaker, until the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, Kenya was one of the fastest growing economies in Africa, with an annual average growth of 5.9% between 2010 and 2018. With a Gross domestic product of 95 billion dollars, Kenya recently reached lower-middle income status, and has successfully established a diverse and dynamic economy. It also serves as a point of entry to the larger, 300 million East African market. Kenya's Gross domestic product was estimated to contract by 1.0 percent in 2020, due to effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The projection assumed that the corona virus crisis weakens during the first half of 2021, with the emergence of vaccines. The greatest impact of the corona virus crisis on the Kenyan economy was felt in the second quarter of 2020. Within this period, the country's Gross domestic product decreased by 5.5 percent, the first negative growth in recent years. The third quarter of 2020 followed the negative tendency but already showed a recovery, with the Gross domestic product growth rate measured at minus 1.1 percent. A sectoral strong performance contributed to the rebound. Mining and quarrying, and construction grew by 18 percent and 16 percent, respectively, while favorable weather conditions supported robust growth in agricultural activities. Considering the same scenario, the forecasts pointed out a strong rebound for the Kenyan economy in 2021, with an expected 6.9 percent growth of the Gross Domestic Product. Besides being an economic powerhouse in East Africa, Kenya is also one of the countries with more COVID-19 cases in the region.

Mr. Speaker, on a positive note, the growth outlook is favorable. The economy is projected to grow by 5.0% in 2021 and 5.9% in 2022. The rebound assumes that economic activity will normalize due to a full reopening of the economy, the Economic Recovery Strategy being successfully implemented, and Kenya capitalizing on an expected improvement in external liquidity and benefiting from initiatives to meet its external financing needs. Inflation is projected to remain within the Central Bank of Kenya's target range of 2.5% to 7.5%, and fiscal and current account deficits are forecast to narrow as a result of improved revenue collection and exports.

Mr. Speaker Sir, on the mass vaccination efforts by the Government, according to the Ministry of Health, 1.28 Million vaccine shots had been administered by Sunday 27 June, 2021 representing 2.6% of the total population. Kenya's COVID-19 vaccination drive has prioritized the elderly, healthcare workers and people living with underlying conditions.

Mr. Speaker Sir, on the local front, as at Friday, 25 June, 2021, Kericho County had vaccinated 16,897 people against the received 22,000 vaccine doses, Out of this, 12,623 jabs were administered during the first dose, represented by 61% males and 39% females, and 4,724 jabs administered for the second dose represented by 59% males and 41% females. The government is however hoping to obtain more doses of the vital jabs soon to protect more people from the disease. Other than the mass vaccination efforts, the Kenya government has also imposed other containment measures against the virus, including a nationwide curfew, a ban on public gatherings and the mandatory wearing of face masks. The current containment measures imposed on the thirteen Lake Region and Western counties including our County will ultimately negate the gains on the economic rebound particularly on the Micro Small and Medium enterprises

I now turn to year 2021/2022 budget estimates.

Mr. Speaker, The FY2021/2022 Budget Estimates have been prepared in accordance with Article 201 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 and Section 129 to 130 of The Public Finance

Management (PFM) Act, 2012. In preparing these estimates, I have taken reference to the Annual Development Plan (ADP) FY 2021/2022 and County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP 2021) as approved by this honorable House.

Estimates of revenues applied in this budget are those proposed in the National Government Budget Policy statement (BPS) for the year 2021. The basis for allocation of resources among departments and county organs are the approved fiscal policies and financial objectives mentioned in the County Fiscal Strategy Paper 2021 and the development priorities contained in the approved County Annual Development Plan FY 2021/2022.

3. FINANCIAL YEAR 2021/2022 BUDGET ESTIMATES.

Mr. Speaker, The FY2021/2022 Budget Estimates have been prepared in accordance with Article 201 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 and Section 129 to 130 of The Public Finance Management (PFM) Act, 2012. In preparing these estimates, I have taken reference to the Annual Development Plan (ADP) FY 2021/2022 and County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP 2021). Estimates of revenues applied in this budget are those proposed in the National Government Budget Policy statement (BPS) for the year 2021. The basis for allocation of resources among departments and county organs are the approved fiscal policies and financial objectives mentioned in the County Fiscal Strategy Paper 2021 and the development priorities contained in the approved County Annual Development Plan FY 2021/2022.

Mr. Speaker Sir, Allow me to highlight the forecasted expenditure for the departments of the County Government of Kericho. The estimates comprise of Equitable Share at Kshs 6.43 billion, Own Source Revenue Kshs. 494 million comprising of Facility Improvement Fund is projected at Kshs 184 million and local collections at Kshs. 309.5 million, conditional grants from National Government at Kshs. 203 million (comprising of Routine Maintenance levy Fund of Kshs 162 million, development of youth polytechnics of Kshs 22.8 million and user fee reimbursement at Kshs 18 million). Donor grants amounting to Kshs. 511 million comprising of;

Danish International Development Agency at Kshs 11.9 million, Kenya Devolution Support Programme of Kshs 102 million, Agricultural Sector Development Support Programme of Kshs 26.7 million and transforming Health sector systems for universal care at Kshs 75.9 million, and Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Kshs 294.5 million. The fiscal responsibility principle has been adhered to as recurrent expenditure represents 57% at Kshs 4.93 Billion while development expenditure translates to 43% at Kshs 3.67 Billion of the county total revenues as envisioned in the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 Section 107 (b).

4. DEPARTMENTAL ALLOCATIONS AND FUNDING PRIORITIES

COUNTY ASSEMBLY SERVICES

Mr. Speaker, Articles 177(a), 185(1) and 185(3) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 provide for three main mandates of a County Assembly i.e. representation, legislation and oversight. In this spirit, the County Assembly will continue to exercise the vested legislative authority of the county, develop robust legal and regulatory framework for enactment of relevant laws and policies, strengthen public participation and provide oversight over the County Executive and other County Organs. Therefore, I propose to allocate KShs.719.7 million for recurrent activities and Kshs. 7.4 million for development expenditure.

PUBLIC SERVICE MANAGEMENT

Mr. Speaker, this department majorly facilitates administration in liaison with the County Departments, for government functions and activities at the Sub County and Ward levels, Provide information on service delivery to the County residents, Supervise County Government staff in the Sub Counties and Wards and Provide security and safety of County property and

staff within the County premises. During this COVID 19 pandemic period the department has continued to coordinate the county activities in liaison with other departments, access and coordinate the preparedness, mitigation, and response to disaster emergencies like fire and landslides to cushion the residents against long-term effects. Therefore, **Mr. Speaker**, I have allocated KShs.9 Million to be utilized in fabrication of fire engine which will be used in response to fire emergencies and KShs.6.4 million for development of ward complex offices to ensure public services are delivered to the ward level. Staff well-being is one of the core principles of this department, it is for this reason that I allocate KShs.58 Million towards staff comprehensive medical insurance cover to be provided by NHIF.

Mr. Speaker, the County Debt Management Strategy Paper 2021 provided for settlement of statutory debts. It is in this regard that I am proposing an allocation for KShs. 18 million for statutory debts owed to the various pension schemes.

Mr. Speaker, I am therefore proposing KShs. 395 million for recurrent expenditure and KShs. 6.4 million for development activities in this department.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Mr. Speaker, This office is established as per the provisions of article 180 of the constitution. In strengthening institutional frameworks for government business coordination and performance this entity has played a pivotal role where all county government departments get directions to ensure effective delivery of quality services through informed advisory.

Mr. Speaker, Articles 174 on the Objects of Devolution and Section 117 of the County Government Act on Standards and Norms for Public Service Delivery, enabled the establishment of the County Delivery unit to drive performance improvements in critical service delivery areas. The Unit will ensure that the County Government's development

priorities and flagship projects are implemented effectively so that they achieve tangible performance improvements and significant results on the ground. I therefore propose that the executive office of the Governor be funded to the tune of KShs.119 million.

COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Mr. Speaker, the mandate of the County Public Service Board requires the Board to perform on behalf of the County government on all that appertains to human resources management and institutionalization of articles 10 and 232 of the constitution of Kenya.

Early Childhood Development is a very important stage in the physical, social, emotional and intellectual development of a child. It lays the foundation for future learning and training and the ultimate goal for the County Government is to provide high standard early childhood education. This can only be achieved through a well-motivated ECDE teacher workforce. It is in this regard that the County Public Service Board is in the process of absorbing, promoting and confirming the 1200 recruited ECDE tutors to the County Public Service.

To transform the County Public Service to be professional, efficient and effective including promoting good governance, values and principles in the County Public Service, I propose to allocate KShs. 57 million to the department.

FINANCE AND ECONOMIC PLANNING

Mr. Speaker, The Department of Finance and Economic Planning is charged with responsibilities of developing and implementing policies, strategies and development plans for financial accounting, budget formulation and management, planning and management of socio-economic and political development resources. This is done based on the activities and

products that are critical for socio-economic development of the County and the country at large.

Mr. Speaker, this department will continue to provide leadership and policy direction in resource mobilization, prudent resource management and accountability for quality public service delivery. It will work closely with other public institutions in monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of programmes, projects and policies. This department aims to establish a resource centre at KShs. 2 million, spearhead implementation and the end-term review of the County Integrated Development Plan 2018-2022 at KShs. 1.3 million, coordinate the monitoring and evaluation exercise of all the County's development projects, preparation of the annual budgeting and economic planning policy documents, preparation of quarterly briefs or reports on development and acquire revenue collection system at KShs. 6 million. KShs. 53 Million has been allocated for General Insurance of county assets. **Mr. Speaker,** I have also set aside an additional KShs.70 million under development expenditure to cater for payment of retention money relating to development works for the period FY 2014/2015 to FY 2017/2018 and KShs. 30.5 million for settlement of the outstanding liability owed to the Kenya Revenue Authority.

Mr. Speaker, as part of the transition management of our workforce, the department intends to employ an additional of 83 revenue staff of which the priority shall be accorded to our trained Chebwagan Graduates. I plead with the honorable committee members of this house to accord it priority in order for the county achieve the revenue set targets.

Mr. Speaker, I intend to fund this department with KShs. 322 million for recurrent expenditure and KShs. 198 million for development expenditure.

HEALTH SERVICES

Mr. Speaker, the health services sector serves to build a progressive, responsive and sustainable technology-driven, evidence-based and client-centered health system for accelerated attainment of the highest standards and quality of health.

Mr. Speaker Sir, to achieve this, I have set aside Kshs. 53.6 million for completion of incomplete health centers and dispensaries, Ablution blocks for health facilities and Refurbishment and maintenance of existing facilities which will be shared equally among the 29 wards across the county. **Mr. Speaker**, in order to boost and improve access to quality and sustainable healthcare in the County there is need to equip and operationalize already constructed health facilities. I have therefore; allocated Kshs.59.8 million for purchase of medical and dental equipment, equip maternity wings, laboratories and surgical wards in all level ii and iii facilities across the County.

Mr. Speaker, Covid-19 pandemic has been with us for the last 15 months. I have to be cognizant of our health care workers who have been in the frontline in helping us to manage the pandemic and indeed they are OUR HEROES. As a government we will endeavor to provide them with the latest tools and equipment for protection and prevention so that they continue safely to serve us.

Mr. Speaker, we have to applaud our county referral hospital. Despite the limited resources, our facilities ranks top in service delivery within the region. With continued modernization and face-lifting the county referral, the county shall become the centre of medical tourism. From this end,

I propose Kshs.184.4 million be allocated as recurrent transfers to the seven facilities in the county in the form of Facility Improvement Fund (FIF).

Mr. Speaker Sir, it is in this regard that I allocate Kshs. 2.2 billion as forecasted recurrent expenditure and Kshs 230 million for development.

AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES

Mr. Speaker, as I have mentioned earlier, tea prices have been affected by Covid-19 Pandemic which has restricted global trade, this has direct fiscal effect in our county. Additionally, with enactment of Tea Act 2020 by our National Assembly, the administration and management within the tea sub-sector is expected to change over time.

Mr. Speaker, the Agriculture sector plays key role in ensuring food security in the county through value chain addition, agricultural training, farm technology demonstrations, and industrial crop development. Close collaboration with World Bank through the Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Project has been ongoing and we expect to get an additional KShs.294.5 Million to be utilized towards the project ongoing activities.

Mr. Speaker, extension services is critical in agricultural component in ensuring our farmers are equipped with the latest farming skills. In line with this under the Agricultural Sector Development Support Project KShs.26.2 Million has been allocated to carry out the extension services.

Mr. Speaker, I have allocated KShs.57.2 Million towards industrial crop enhancement which shall involve the rehabilitation and construction of Tea Buying Centers, purchase of coffee, pyrethrum and sugarcane seedlings in the Financial Year 2021/2022.

Mr. speaker, I urge the honorable House to pass any pending legislation regarding the regulation and management of Kabianga Tea Farm, Agricultural Training Centre, and Kipkelion Coffee Farm as this will go towards realizing the full potential of these institutions in terms of revenue optimization, youth employment among others.

Overall the sector has been allocated KShs.565.5 Million of which KShs.396.9 Million and KShs.158.5 Million is for development and recurrent expenditure respectively.

EDUCATION, YOUTH AFFAIRS, CULTURE AND SOCIAL SERVICE

Mr. Speaker, increasing the productivity of our capital and labour will be a key element in realizing our growth objectives.

This department plays an important role in driving our growth through promotion of efficiency, productivity and competitiveness amongst our youth through technology and technical innovation in vocational training centers.

Mr. Speaker, with the advent of devolution the current enrolment rate stands at over 2000 students in our Vocational Training Centers. This requires concerted efforts to keep investing in our youths so as to realize our county objectives and manifest our county tagline, “ALL YOU CAN IMAGINE”. As a county we have so far invested over KShs.200 Million in the last three years towards infrastructural improvement, purchase of learning materials among others. In this budget, emphasis has been given to equipping of the already constructed workshops and classroom at a cost of KShs.20.9 Million; this will go a long way in increasing the enrolment rate in our VTCs.

Mr. Speaker, sports is a brand, as we are known as “THE SOURCE OF CHAMPIONS”. In relation to this, we have to continuously invest in sports development through provision of adequate amenities and improvement of sports facilities. To this end, I propose to inject

KShs.12.1 Million towards improvement of Kericho Green Stadium to an international Centre for sports.

Mr. Speaker, regarding ECDE, our current enrollment rate is 51,000 of which 37,000 (Boys; 51%, Girls; 49%) are from public school while 14,000 (Boys; 48%, Girls; 52%) are from private school. Additionally, as a county we have constructed over 800 ECDE centers since the inception of the County Government. To realize this mandate, we intend to invest KShs.10.7 Million towards purchase of learning aids materials and related equipment, and KShs.33 Million towards construction and extension of ECDE centers.

Mr. Speaker, I have allocated Kshs. 89 Million towards bursary for our needy and deserving students.

Mr. Speaker Sir, The current teacher pupil ratio stands at 1:43 against the Ministry of Education set standard of 1:35. As a result the department plans to recruit additional 200 ECDE teachers.

Overall, I propose allocation of KShs.655.79 Million of which KShs.186.1 Million is for development and KShs.469.6 Million for recurrent expenditure.

PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND TRANSPORT

Mr. Speaker Sir, this budget will continue to empower businesses and entrepreneurs to invest and implement our transformational agenda by opening new roads, maintaining existing ones and other infrastructure in order to ensure that the residents of Kericho County can move across the county with ease. Additionally, the rehabilitation of access roads will optimize the use of local labor and materials, thereby generating short term employment for thousands of youth in Kericho County.

Mr. Speaker Sir, in order to achieve improved livelihoods through quality roads and transport network which in turn will facilitate delivery of essential services for sustainable Socio-economic development, I propose an allocation of KShs.91 million for recurrent expenditure and KShs.1.1 Billion for development expenditure. Out of this allocation of 1.1 billion, the priority programmes includes Construction of over 450 KMs of County Roads in the rural areas equitably at a cost of KShs.485.4 million. Further, the department intends to maintain an additional 150 KMs of roads under Routine Maintenance Fuel Levy Fund at a cost of KShs.162.2 Million. The county proposes to expand the transport infrastructure; therefore I propose an allocation of Kshs. 2 Million for the Rehabilitation of Kerenga Airstrip. Further, **Mr. Speaker**, in order to enhance accessibility, I have set aside KShs.27.4 million for construction of drainage structures and civil works. The County plans to implement Solar Lights Installation and Maintenance at KShs.5 million, which will supplement our source of energy and ensure sustainability of street lighting programme to market centres thus reducing electricity costs.

Mr. Speaker, building on these initiatives in a way that ensures seamless access to the movement of residents as well as goods and services, I have allocated KShs.2 Million for the completion of roads and drainage structures at Brooke Trading Centre. Additionally, **Mr. Speaker**, I have set aside KShs.5.2 Million for the construction of Boda-boda shades across the county.

Mr. Speaker, Infrastructure development projects are necessary to stimulate social-economic progress in the county thus the aforementioned investments are expected to open up significant trade opportunities for businesses in Kericho County which will spur economic growth.

TRADE, INDUSTRIALIZATION, CO-OPERATIVE MANAGEMENT, TOURISM AND WILDLIFE

Mr. Speaker, this department strives to promote and provide an enabling environment for the growth and sustainability of trade, co-operatives, industries and tourism development. It also facilitates promotion and regulation of internal trade through implementation of a timely and proactive policy framework, provision of training and market information access, enhance fair

trade practices and consumer protection through legislative intervention, as well as through provision of credit to local business community by ploughing back recoveries from the Enterprise Fund.

Mr. Speaker, to promote local trade and markets development I propose to allocate Kshs. 24 million to fund Litein, Chepnyoga, Kipsitet and Roret markets. To promote Tourism development, I propose an allocation of Kshs. 10 million to complete Chebulu Conservancy. Mr. Speaker, I also propose an allocation of KShs.19.5 million to boost the capacity of Farmers Cooperative Societies. The beneficiary societies are Koilsir, Kamiwa, Cheplanget and Torsogek at Kshs. 4.5 million each while KShs. 1.5 million is proposed to fund construction of parchment store at Kichawir Farmers' Cooperative Society.

Mr. Speaker sir, with the Kericho County Enterprise Fund Board committee being in place, I urge them to move with speed to hasten the management and collection of outstanding loans so that additional residents can gain from the enterprise low interest loan.

Mr. Speaker, I therefore propose to allocate KShs. 70 million and KShs. 53 million for recurrent and development expenditure respectively.

WATER, ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, NATURAL RESOURCES AND FORESTRY

Mr. Speaker Sir, the County seeks to improve water, environment and forestry related facilities thus ensuring access of water services to the underserved Kericho residents as well as SMEs in the rural areas. **Mr. Speaker Sir,** the department in its effort to serve as many households as possible with safe and clean drinking water, I have allocated Kshs. 74.2 Million which will be utilized to complete the already started projects, rehabilitate and augment the existing water supplies; drill and equip boreholes in marginalized and/or isolated areas.

Kipkobob Water Project is one of the County flagships projects. To facilitate completion of Phase I, **Mr. Speaker Sir,** I have set aside Kshs. 70 Million in this budget. This project is set to

benefit at least 1,500 households. Phase II of the project which comprises construction of the water treatment works among other components will start after the completion of Phase I Kipkobob Water Project depending on the availability of funds.

Mr. Speaker Sir, The department is supporting KEWASCO in its effort to be sustainable and will continue to provide grants to the water service provider towards bulk water supply to the tune of Kshs. 30 Million.

Mr. Speaker sir, the Kericho Town dumpsite is full and due for closure. In order to ensure positive social-economic, health and environmental impact there is the need to develop new sites in the sub-counties as per Waste Management Regulations, 2006. Furthermore, to promote prudent environmental management services the County has allocated Kshs. 6.5 million for the rehabilitation of the existing dumpsite at Kericho Town and clearing of wastes in Kericho Town, Kipsitet Trading Centre, Londiani Town and Sondu Town.

Mr. Speaker Sir, in an effort of working towards achieving the National policy of 10% tree cover by the year 2022, I have allocated Kshs.1 Million for purchase of indigenous trees and bamboo seedlings which will be planted in water catchment areas, schools and other public spaces.

Mr. Speaker Sir, Lastly climate change is real and environmental management and conservation is one of the pillars to ensure a cohesive and industrious county. The County Government through its various mandates will closely collaborate with National Government entities such as The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), The Kenya Forest Services (KFS) and the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) to achieve service delivery to its citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I therefore propose to allocate KShs.131.5 Million and KShs.181.7 Million for recurrent and development expenditure respectively.

LANDS, HOUSING AND PHYSICAL PLANNING

Mr. Speaker, The Department draws its mandates from The County Government Act No 17 of 2012, the Constitution of Kenya 2010, the Physical Planning Act Chapter 286 and Survey Act Chapter 299. This department has been pivotal in preparing the County Spatial plan to guide development, investment, infrastructure development and human settlement; promoting public participation in land development and management; profiling and planning for settlement squatters (Talai community) within the County; undertaking development control and ensure compliance to approved plans; generating geo-spatial data outputs; facilitating leasing of offices and residential accommodation to public servants. Identifying, implementing and managing projects in informal settlements to improve living standards and prevent proliferation of slums.

Mr. Speaker, I therefore propose to allocate KShs. 78 million for recurrent expenditure and KShs. 99 million for development expenditure. Major development expenditure of KShs. 10 million will focus on preparation of development plans for Kapkugerwet and Cheborge towns, and KShs. 42 million will be utilized to supplement KUSP funds for Construction of Modern Market at Kericho town. Mr. Speaker, I propose to allocate KShs. 20 million towards acquisition of land and construction of Governor's and Deputy Governor's official residence, KShs. 10million for Refurbishment of Non Residential Buildings and KShs. 7 million for Completion of Kericho Fire station.

Mr. Speaker, I also propose an allocation of KShs. 24 million Grant to Kericho and Litein Municipal Boards comprising of KShs. 14Million recurrent and KShs.10 million for development.

INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND E-GOVERNMENT

Mr. Speaker, the mandate of the Department of Information, Communication and E-Government is to position itself in order to grow a knowledge-based economy in line with Mid

Term Sustainable Development Goals and aspiration of Kenya's Vision 2030. This department aims to Improve and Service the ICT infrastructure in the County and it is in this regard that I allocate Kshs. 63 million for recurrent expenditure and Kshs. 31 million for development expenditure.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the proposed development expenditure will be utilized to finance Internet and communication at Kshs. 2.6 million, Kshs. 7 million for County Data Centre facility, Kshs. 3 million for CCTV and Biometric Access Control and Kshs. 2.4 million for Digitization and Automation. Mr. Speaker Sir, I further propose KShs.15 million to fund operationalization of Data Centre, Automation, Communication and ICT Centres.

Strategic intervention projects

Mr. Speaker, the County Government of Kericho in the Financial Year 2018/2019 initiated high impact, high value projects dubbed strategic intervention projects implemented across the County. The identified projects were subjected to feasibility study to establish the viability in terms of economic and social impact to the citizens. Mr. Speaker the projects are being implemented by line departments and currently under various stages of implementation.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to mention some of the ongoing strategic projects in the county.

Construction and equipping of theatre at Ainamoi Health Centre

Mr. Speaker sir, the aim of the project is to decongest County Referral Hospital by serving the residents of Ainamoi Sub- County and its environs. The project is currently at 85% completion rate. The structural building was contracted at the cost of Ksh14.1 Million. In order to complete the construction of the facility, I have allocated Kshs 8.1 million. A further Ksh 4.9 million is allocated for equipping the health facility. Mr. Speaker, once complete Ainamoi Health Centre will qualify to be upgraded to a Sub- County Hospital.

Construction of Maternal Child Healthcare at Kipsitet dispensary

Mr. Speaker sir, Kipsitet dispensary is located in Soin ward, Soin-Sigowet sub-county. It is another facility which needs to be upgraded to Health Centre because of its current workload. As a measure to undertake such an upgrading and in realization of the big four agenda under universal healthcare, the County government initiated phase one of construction of Maternal and Child Healthcare (MCH).

Mr. Speaker sir, the cost of constructing the MCH was Ksh. 10 million and the same was completed in the current financial year FY 2020/2021. In the FY 2021/2022, I propose to allocate Kshs 5.5 million to initiate Phase ii and equip the MCH in order for the facility to achieve its intended purpose.

Erection and completion of an emergency centre in Kaitui Dispensary

Mr. Speaker, Kaitui Dispensary is located along the busy Kericho – Kisumu Highway in Soliat ward, Soin-Sigowet sub-county at Kaitui center. The highway is prone to accidents which expose passengers and road users to risk of losing lives. As a measure to respond to these life threatening emergencies, construction of Kaitui Trauma and Emergency Centre was prioritized and implemented at total cost of Ksh. 9.2 million. Mr. Speaker Sir, the construction of structural building has been completed in the current Financial Year 2020/2021. To ensure the facility is operationalized, I propose to allocate Ksh.5.6 million for equipping the same.

Rehabilitation and construction of Kimologit water supply.

Mr. Speaker sir, Kimologit Water Project is located in Kamasian Ward in Kipkelion West Sub-County. Once, complete the project is intended to serve approximately 700 Household ending perennial water problem in the area. The project raising mains is 6.2km inside Tinderet forest, 2 no. Reinforced Concrete tank and pipeline distribution of 12.2km the cost of the project is Ksh. 186.2 million. The project is currently 48% complete. The project was implemented in phrases

and the County intends to complete the project in the FY 2021/2022. To achieve this objective of completing and operationalizing the water project, I have allocated Ksh. 144.2 million.

Construction of Kapkures water supply project

Mr. Speaker Sir, Kapkures Water Project is located in Chilchila Ward, Kipkelion West Sub-County and it's intended to serve residents of Songoyet, Sereng, Chepkitar and Kapkures. The project cost is Ksh 87.4 million. The project is currently ongoing and at 40% complete. I have therefore allocated Ksh 87.Million in order to complete within schedule and the residents to realize its benefits.

Kiptunoi and Kiboybei Water projects

Mr. Speaker Sir, Kiptunoi and Kiboybei Water projects are located in Kapsoit Ward, Ainamoi Sub- County. The project cost Ksh 35.7 million and Ksh 36.7 million respectively. And are intended to serve the lower and upper parts of Kapsoit ward. The current status stands at 26% and 20% complete respectively. Mr. Speaker sir, in order to complete and have both projects functional, I propose a total allocation of Ksh 58.6 million.

Proposed rehabilitation and construction of drainage and tarmacking of minor roads at Londiani town

Mr. Speaker Sir, the project is located in Kedowa/Kimugul ward in Kipkelion East Sub- County. The scope of work include tarmacking of approximately 4.6Kms (confirm the distance) and construction of drainage structures within Londiani town. The project cost is Ksh 224.7 million and currently works are at 90% complete. The project is envisaged to be completed in the FY 2021/2022. I therefore allocate Ksh 65.9 million towards the completion of this project. **Mr.**

Speaker Sir, the project will play a key role in promoting economic activities and growth resulting to improved living standards of the residents in the region by attracting new investors, expanding businesses and providing readily available markets for goods and services due to conducive business environment.

Rehabilitation and construction of drainage structures in Kapkatet Township

Mr. Speaker Sir, the project is located in Kapkatet Ward, Bureti Sub- County. The main objective of implementing this project is control run off rain water which causes flooding downstream and causing havoc to the residents living in Kapkatet market and its environs. The project has experienced slow implementation pace due arising issues which are currently being sorted out between the county government and KeNHA. The project is at 15% implementation rate. To complete the project, I have allocated Ksh 39 million.

Proposed erection and completion of a modern market at Sondu

Mr. Speaker Sir, this is one of the County Flagship project which is aimed at boosting County own source revenue while creating a conducive working environment for the SMEs. The project cost is Ksh. 128 million. With the completion of this project, the county envisages to increase its revenue by 10% annually from this market. The project is at its final stage of implementation and it stands at 93% implementation rate. To ensure the construction of the market is completed on budget and time, I have allocated Ksh. 52 million.

Roret pineapple plant

Mr. Speaker sir, the County Government of Kericho in supporting the President Big four agenda in realizing Kenya blue print Vision 2030. This is by promoting manufacturing through construction of Roret Pineapple plant located in Kisiara Ward, Bureti Sub- County. The plant

will promote value addition which will lead to high incomes to farmers and creation of jobs opportunities to the County residents. The planned contracted works are complete and I propose an allocation of Ksh. 6.4 million to pay for work done.

Soliat Locational Water Project

Mr. Speaker Sir, Soliat Locational Water Project is another important project being implemented under strategic intervention program. The project is located in Soliat ward and it's intended to serve approximately 400 households. The objective of this project is to supply clean and safe drinking water to residents. The project will aid in reducing water borne diseases leading to healthy population and hence productive County. The project cost is Ksh 102 million. The project is about 15% complete. I have therefore allocated Kshs 90 Million towards completion of this project.

KENYA DEVOLUTION SUPPORT PROGRAM (KDSP)

Mr. Speaker Sir, KDSP is a World Bank funded program which has two levels. Level 1 funds are for capacity building in office equipment and staff skills development while Level 2 funds are for projects which meet the qualifying requirements. During the financial year 2020/2021 Kericho County received two tranches of Kshs 30 million and Kshs 45 million making a total of Kshs 75 million under level 1. Following the outbreak of Covid 19 pandemic, The National Treasury authorized counties to utilize Kshs 30 million towards intervention of Covid 19 pandemic through purchase of Personal Protective Equipment for Health care providers, public health campaigns and sensitization programs and training on preventive measures. Implementation of capacity Building on office equipment and staff training is in progress.

Mr. Speaker Sir, during the financial year 2020/2021 Kericho County qualified for Kshs 102 million Level 2 of funds for projects. The National Treasury has advised that the funds shall be released to counties in the first quarter of the financial year 2021/2022. Mr. Speaker Sir, due to the acute shortage of oxygen in our health facilities as a result of increased demand out of Covid 19 pandemic I propose an allocation of Kshs 67 million to finance oxygen plant to be installed at

the Kericho Referral Hospital. Feasibility study on the project has been completed. The proposed plant has a capacity to produce 500 litres of oxygen per minute and its components are Oxygen plant equipment, Building structure, piping works, supply of oxygen cylinders and Motor vehicle for transporting oxygen cylinders to other health facilities. Implementation of the project is expected to commence in July 2021. Mr. Speaker Sir, once this plant become operational, Kericho County will be self-sufficient with cheaper oxygen and have surplus to supply the neighboring counties and private health facilities in the county hence generating revenue.

REVENUE RAISING MEASURES

Mr. Speaker Sir, as I had stated earlier, we intend to finance the FY 2021/2022 budget to the tune of Kshs 8.6 billion as highlighted in my financial year budget estimates above.

Mr. Speaker, the executive will be presenting the Finance Bill 2021 in the month of September which captures the various streams of revenue. This policy will be sensitive to the current health and economic dynamics happening, locally nationally and globally.

Mr. Speaker Sir, as directed by H.E The Governor, the County Government will not increase the various fees, charges and levies but will endeavor to widen the tax base.

However, Mr. Speaker, I am requesting the Honorable Members of the County Assembly to fast-track the adoption and approval of the Valuation Roll. This is key in enhancing revenue collection.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Finance and Economic Planning is proposing to set up Kericho County Revenue Authority which will be entrusted with revenue collection as well as achieving the revenue targets set by County Treasury. Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, the county is planning to recruit 83 revenue officers who will be responsible in collecting, enforcing and reporting. Currently revenue collection is below the target due to understaffing, retirement and natural attrition.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, the department will continue to engage key stakeholders such as Tea multinationals and real estate owners in coming up with negotiated land rates that will lead to increased Own Source Revenue. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, the county will always endeavor to

propose fees and charges that will be fair equitable and reasonable especially for the Micro Small and Medium Enterprises.

RECOMMENDATION AND WAYFORWARD

Mr. Speaker, as I read this budget speech, it is important to note that this is the last budget to be implemented by the current government and the second last to be prepared considering that next general election will be held on August, 2022. Taking this into consideration, I therefore advise as follows: -

- All sectors/ departments to ensure that all incomplete and ongoing projects to be completed before starting new projects.
- The departments to ensure projects are implemented as per specifications in order to avoid poor workmanship which leads to waste of government scarce resources.
- All pending bills to be prioritized and be treated as the first charge in the budget as directed by H.E. the President of the Republic of Kenya and re-emphasized by H.E. the Governor, County Government of Kericho through various circulars.

CONCLUSION

Mr. Speaker, this budget will maximize social benefits for all residents. It will support industries, spur economic growth and improve the quality of life. It will help us realize a cleaner environment; provide quality healthcare and social services, and enhance access to efficient public transport.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, once again, my gratitude goes to all those who made contributions towards the preparation of this budget. God bless you all. God bless Kericho. Thank you.

(Adjournment)

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): Thank you, honorable members we adjourn until tomorrow.

(The house rose at 3:30pm)

