

**GOVERNOR'S STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS 2015**

**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**



**SAMBURU COUNTY**



**GOVERNMENT**



**H.E MOSES LENOLKULAL  
SAMBURU COUNTY GOVERNOR**

## **STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS, TWO YEARS AFTER DEVOLUTION**

Honorable Deputy Governor  
Honorable Speaker,  
Honorable Majority and Minority Leader  
Honorable MCAs,  
Invited Guests,

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I'm greatly honored today to stand before you, as we gather to mark and reflect on two years of devolution in our county  
I equally want to thank all of you who accorded this day its merit of importance and spared their time to congregate with us, and I therefore warmly welcome you all.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As I have always stated in the past, devolution and devolved governance has opened new doors and presented a lifetime opportunity to the people of Samburu county, to be able to decide and shape their own destiny in all spheres of life; including political and socio-economic development and reverse the high levels of poverty, illiteracy, HIV/AIDS, Insecurity among others.

We are aware of the fact that our underdevelopment as a pastoralist region in Kenya is largely attributable to marginalization stemming from the past Governments' policies and development agenda.

### **Honorable Members;**

As we form the County Government we all appreciated and were very much awake to the fact that we have an enormous task ahead. By this I mean that the goal of devolution cannot be achieved if those entrusted with the task to deliver it at the county levels do not have the will and audacity to do it.

I want to thank ones more those in political leadership, the County Government officers and the public at large for ably participating and giving us the humble time over the last two years, to establish the

necessary structures and lay the foundation stone for development and thus set us firmly on the path to reconstruct our future and put service delivery on course.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Today as I give an account of the milestones of our achievements, plans and challenges let's all appreciate the fact that the better part of the first year was spent putting in place physical and human resource structures as we transited into devolution from the previous Governance setups.

However, a lot has been achieved within the short time as my Government earnestly embraced the principal of service delivery and zero tolerance to corruption as the driving force and the guiding principal now and in the future.

I do appreciate the fact that ordinarily the expectations of all of us are high; to have a better life and enjoy the fruits of devolution. In the same breath, I assure you all that we are equal to the task and our overall goal to reduce poverty and illiteracy will be achieved in the long run. However the immediate results and outcomes of our work have borne fruits which are being felt across the County.

### **Honorable Members**

Samburu County is one of the high food deficit regions in Kenya due to low Agricultural food production and high aridity in many parts that favours pastoralism as opposed to arable farming. In order to overcome this unfortunate situation, my Government set food production as our top priority and therefore embarked on long term measures to increase the acreage under cultivation to reach at least 50% of the 140,000 Ha of arable or productive land in the County to be able to produce enough food to feed the County population. To achieve this, the County Government invested heavily on mechanization of farming and incentives to farmers to facilitate increased acreage under cultivation per a household.

The County Government therefore bought and distributed 27 tractors with implements to our farmers in addition to 200 tons and 75 tons of seeds and fertilizers respectively. Although the rain failed in the last season, we still reached our target of doubling the area under

cultivation. . This trend is expected to continue this season and we should be able to double our food production as a County. The County Government has assured farmers a ready market for cereals to cater for supplies by the County to our ECD centres and relief distribution by the County to supplement the WFP relief food. We have also established a relationship with NCPB and they have assured a ready market for the farmer's produce. They have already bought 3000 bags from our farmers. The County Government is also supporting a 100 Acre irrigation schemes in Nyiro and we plan to establish similar schemes in six other localities in Samburu North and East Sub-Counties as we strive to meet our target of 1000 Acres of irrigation if we have to meet the food deficit.

We have equally set our priorities and focus to improving livestock production through disease control and breeding for increased yields in meat and milk production. A livestock breed improvement program therefore took off where 1,400 bucks distributed and 245 boran bulls were bought and yet are yet to be distributed.. Dairy farmers in the Lerroki region also received 36 high milk producing dairy cows to facilitate a shift towards commercial milk production and processing. To date over one million shoats have been vaccinated against PPR whereas 300,000 heads of cattle were vaccinated against FMD and thus significantly reducing livestock loss due to effective disease control mechanisms.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

You are all aware that illiteracy has had underlying negative effects to the socio-economic status of our people and yet at the onset of devolution, over 80% of the population had no formal education. To reverse this trend the County Government focused on Early Childhood development based on our Constitutional mandate and also as a way to lay a strong foundation and deal with the root cause of illiteracy that stems from poor access to education.

To this end my Government constructed 90 ECD centres and employed 320 teachers to serve in the new and existing ECD centres which were also equipped and supplied with food. The County Government spends up to 17 Million every term on food supplies for the ECD centres. These inputs have seen an increase in enrolment at our ECD centers by 50%.

Besides, support has also been extended to the wider Education sector including the establishment of a bursary fund to benefit our High school and college students where a total of 90 Million is to be disbursed. The long awaited legislation is now in place and will accord the bursary fund a legal autonomy to operate and be run independently with structures going down to the village level.

In order to promote academic excellence the Government has committed to go the extra mile to give scholarships to those who excel with good grades in high school that enables them to pursue medical and engineering courses that will end up to avail the professional expertise that is currently lacking in the County. 27 of such students have benefited for scholarships while those with a mean grade of A or A- in KCSE have been given opportunity to work as interns awaiting University admission.

We have operationalized our Polytechnics having renovated and equipped one in each County. Maralal polytechnic have admitted the first batch of students last term.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good roads and communication infrastructure is critical to development and its poor state in our County over the years has suppressed economic gains made in other Sectors. It is therefore imperative that we improve our communication and road network to facilitate the speedy growth of other sectors. To this end, the County Government has graded over 350 of our rural roads including the Opiroi road and Maralal urban roads. A major flagship project we are undertaking is the Tarmacking of the 10 Km Maralal urban roads which we are commissioning today. I also want to indicate that I have had positive consultations with the National Government on the Tarmac of our major roads; Maralal Rumuruti Road which is ongoing and the Baragoi Maralal and Maralal -Wamba – Achers roads. I'm pleased to report that Samburu County has been awarded 300 Km of the 10,000 Km planned for tarmac by the Jubilee Government.

We have completed the installation of street lighting in Maralal town while the initial storm water management works has started awaiting a detailed design for implementation.

In our quest to provide clean and safe drinking water both in the urban and rural areas, the County Government has completed water piping in

such major centers as Kisima, Suguta, Wamba, Baragoi, Achers Post., We have drilled 10 boreholes including a 35 Million Barsilinga Water Supply all of which are now being equipped. Routine maintenance is also undertaken for over 30 boreholes which are also provided with fuel subsidies.

A grader has been bought and now available to continuously grade our roads as need arise.

Consultancy services procured for design of Maralal sewerage system, Maralal Storm water management and the Seiya Bridge are nearing completion and will soon be ready for implementation.

Construction of an Aluminum bridge for Geny River has already commenced at a cost of Ksh 55 Million and so is the 10 Million Sirata Water pan in Wamba East.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen:**

Our County is blessed with rich bio-diversity that is characterized by unique landscape, huge forest cover, and rare wildlife species. This natural diversity of our land, flora and fauna, is a great natural resources endowment that calls for conservation and protection.

As such my Government has given priority to Community led Conservation initiatives in form of Community Conservancies to protect our bio-diversity for sustainable utilization.

We have therefore established six conservation areas in Samburu Central and north sub-counties all of which were also supplied with Land cruiser vehicles that are fully fitted with radio communication equipment. Also supplied to the Conservancies are 10 base radio stations, 50 handsets to be powered by one repeater station at Poro radar station. These conservancies are being manned by the 185 community scouts who have been recruited trained and deployed.

This move will now boost our already robust tourist potential and increase income from tourism but more importantly act as a deterrent to bandits and has indeed helped us deal with insecurity in some of these conservation areas. We have also extended support in form of grants to the existing conservancies to the tune of 10 Million and are set to receive more grants in the coming financial years.

Seventeen posho mills have been procured and distributed to women groups across the county to promote women business enterprise.

A major livelihood and poverty reduction initiative that have been put in place by the trade department, is the establishment of a Youth and Women enterprise fund that is set to disburse up to Ksh 50 Million to these groups thereby economically empowering individual households. The County Government will continue to put more money to this fund that is already being run by an independent board.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen.**

We have made tremendous steps in improving the health of our people which was characterized by high disease prevalence and inadequate service provision leading apparently to high mortality rates. To salvage the situation the County Government embarked on health infrastructure improvement, increasing of the health work force, and procurement of drugs, materials and medical equipment.

We have refurbished the Maralal Hospital and equipped it with major essential equipment; namely two Laundry Machines, Ultra Sound machine, and four Incubators and has therefore been upgraded to a referral Hospital. Fifteen new dispensaries and maternity wards have been constructed whereas a continuous supply of drugs and medical equipment is being maintained for all the health facilities. We have so far spent Ksh 75 Million on drugs and medical supplies for the health facilities. We have now procured additional three ambulances to make a total of 12 ambulances available for referral services while two more mobile tracks have also been procured to run along with the Beyond Zero Unit and thus enable mobile services in each Sub-County.

Works for the Modern Health Centre in Archer Post has been tendered and will be starting soon. We have addressed the perennial shortage of health personnel in the County and have recruited 75 health staff with an additional 60 more yet to be recruited by close of the financial year.

The above inputs have enabled us realize positive impact in service provision and utilization given that deliveries in the facilities have increased from 12% to 25% whereas ANC visit increased from 40 to 70% and Community units from 8 to 18. Skilled deliveries increased

from 19% to 25% over the period. Full immunization for under five increased from 57% to 68%.

We have had an important partnership with the MPESA Foundation for a major funding of Ksh 578 Million for Construction of health facilities, training of personnel among others over a three year period.

The Natural Environment is one of our vital resources and it is our collective responsibility to conserve our heritage. The County Government has led the way and has put in place initiatives to be pursued by the communities leading to a sustainable utilization and interaction with our environment and natural resources. We have established nurseries in every ward to act as source of seedlings for planting. The department has planted over 10,000 trees in the past two years. We have also distributed 6,000 fruit trees across the County and have benefited our herders, youth and women groups.

We have obtained consultancy services in range management for all our conservancies and have built four gabions to control soil erosion caused by overgrazing and run off in the County and have established a quarry in Losuk and Lolmolog Communities. We shall construct seven more gabions to secure institutions and towns that are being threatened by huge gullies.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

The County Government has worked on Land adjudication and registration of our group ranches and have carried out meetings to square contentious issues between group ranches. We have also developed strategic plans for our major town and are in the process of being presented to the public as it has happened for Maralal town. Planning of major towns and centers is also ongoing.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen.**

To nature the sporting talent of our youth the County Government has put up 14 play grounds and is establishing new stadias in Baragoi and Wamba having commenced renovation works for the Maralal stadium that is currently ongoing.

We have supported the disabled persons in the society and 200 of them received wheel chairs and crutches. It is within our immediate plans to



build a major library in Maralal to promote and instil a reading culture in our people. Three social halls to support women and youth groups social activities are also in the pipeline. We shall pilot 20 schools on provision of Sanitary towels in the Coming financial year.

The County Government has put in place drought preparedness mechanisms for emergency response whenever the situation arises. We have entered into a partnership with WFP whereby we buy and donate food to WFP for them to distribute using their normal standard procedures. We have so far distributed over 15,000 bags of cereals (maize and beans) and cooking oil during in the last two dry seasons. The County Government will continue to allocate funds for drought response due to the vulnerability to drought by the population and the County at large.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen.**

We inherited a very volatile security situation when we took over as a County Government.

Though Security is not a mandate of the County Governments we played a key role and tirelessly worked to reverse the situation and bring about calm and peace that we have enjoyed for almost one and half years across the County.

We conducted peace meetings, employed rangers who are not only manning our wildlife and environment but also combating insecurity. However, as has always been the case, conflict recures and Samburu North is back at it again. We do appreciate the fact that under these circumstances no meaningful development can be achieved and we will take our intervention measures to the next level. We are closely consulting with Nairobi for a major intervention to get a lasting solution to this problem.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen.**

The milestones we have achieved today could not have been possible if the necessary structures and personnel were not in place. Having worked closely with the Transitional Authority in the initial stages of devolution the County Government has fully taken over all operations

having put in place the appropriate structures in terms of offices and personnel.. I can confidently report that we have recruited approximately 75% of our workforce a fact which affirms that service delivery is right on course. Capacity building of our staff has been undertaken at various levels and are properly managing the new system like IFMIS and so forth.

As we usher in the third financial year I want to urge all of you to walk with us, as our offices are always open for consultation, and I urge the public not hesitate to contribute to our development agenda through public participation. The next financial year will be a rigorous one for the Government as we it will involve execution of major development projects that are key to achievement of our set goals for the five year period.

Once again I want to sincerely thank the Samburu County Assembly for their sobriety, calm and support to the executive over the years as we went through devolution transitional period that was characterized by a number of uncertainties and teething problems.

God bless you and have a prosperous year through.