

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF LAMU



THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAMU

THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 20th November, 2024

*The Assembly met at the
Main Chambers, at 10:30 a.m.*

[The Speaker (Honorable Azhar Ali Mbarak) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

Speaker (Honorable Azhar Ali Mbarak): Next Order.

Clerk-at-the-Table: Communication from the Chair

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

The Speaker (Honorable Azhar Ali Mbarak): Honorable Members, I would like to extend a warm welcome to our esteemed Governor, His Excellency Issa Abdalla Timamy, as he joins us in the County Assembly for his annual State of the County Address.

Honorable Members, It is once again the time for the Governor to fulfill the constitutional obligation of delivering the Annual State of the County Address. This requirement is stipulated in the County Governments Act of 2012, specifically in Section 30, Sub-section 2(k).

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Honorable Members, Section 30 (2)(k) of the County Governments Act, 2012 mandates the Governor of a County Government to deliver an Annual State of the County Address. This address shall encompass, but is not limited to the following components:

- (a) A comprehensive report detailing the measures implemented to uphold the National Values as specified in Article 10 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010;
- (b) An annual report concerning the implementation status of County policies and plans, pursuant to Section 30 (2)(l) of the County Governments Act, 2012;
- (c) A report evaluating the performance of the County Executive Committee and the Public Service, which must be presented to the County Assembly for consideration in accordance with Section 47 (3) of the County Governments Act, 2012;
- (d) A report addressing citizen participation in the operations of the County Government, as outlined in Section 92 (2) of the County Governments Act, 2012;
- (e) Any additional information that the Governor considers pertinent.

Honorable Members, based on the above statutory requirements, it is evident that the State of the County Address can only be delivered in the Assembly to give it legitimacy for consideration by the House.

Therefore it goes without saying that the content of such an address when delivered outside the Assembly remains foreign to the Assembly and therefore cannot form part of the Business of the House for debate.

Honorable Members, In accordance with our Standing Orders, the Governor shall address a Special Sitting of the Assembly annually and may also address the House at any other time deemed appropriate. Upon the conclusion of the Governor's address, the sitting shall either be suspended or adjourned as directed by the Speaker, until a specified time or date determined by the Speaker.

Subsequent to the Governor's address, a Member may present the address to the table of the House as soon as practicable. It is important to note that the debate

concerning the motion shall be limited to a maximum duration of four (4) sitting days.

Honorable Members, In conclusion I wish to express my sincere appreciation to all individuals who have gathered for this special occasion, including members of the clergy, political leaders, county executive officials, representatives from civil society organizations, and esteemed members of the general public.

It is now my privilege to invite His Excellency Issa Abdalla Timamy to deliver his State of the County Address.

STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS

H.E Hon. Issa Abdallah Timamy(Governor Lamu County): Thank you Honorable Speaker. Honorable Speaker, Honorable Majority and Minority Leader, Honorable Members of the County Assembly, Honorable Members of the County Executive, County Chief Officers, Religious Leaders, Community Leaders, Colleagues, Friends and the People of Lamu County; Assalam Aleykum?

Allow me to begin by expressing my gratitude to all of you for your commitment and time to attend this state of the county address. Your presence underscores us collective dedication to advancing the prosperity of our beloved Lamu county. Today, as I stand before you, I am filled with a deep sense of gratitude and responsibility for the opportunity to serve as your Governor. I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks to the people of Lamu for placing their trust in my leadership.

I am grateful to God for the opportunity to address this House as I reflect on the achievements, opportunities and progress of implementation of devolved service delivery in the second year of the third cycle of Devolution in Kenya. I am thankful to the County Public Service for being their team leader alongside the Late Deputy Governor in discharging my duties as spelled out in the constitution, especially Article 174 (D) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, that identifies my role in promoting social and economic development and the provision of proximate, easily accessible services to the people of Lamu).

This has been made possible by the County Executive Committee Members, Chief Officers and other staff. Particularly dedicated officers at the lowest levels waking up every morning to diligently discharge their duties. I have enjoyed working with the Lamu County Assembly that constitutes of members, serving with boundless energy, resilience and selflessness.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Allow me, before I delve into the core content of this address, to request the House to be upstanding as we observe a moment of silence in honour of our Late Deputy Governor H.E Raphael Munyua Ndung'u, (minute of silence)May the Almighty God comfort all his family, friends and the people of Lamu.

Thank You.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I am most privileged to be the team leader in the journey to make Lamu a progressive and vibrant county where the well-being of every citizen is a top priority. I am persuaded by our clarion call "Ni raha si raha! " which is a service mantra and not any longer a campaign slogan. I have woken up daily to go to work motivated by the desire to eradicate poverty, underdevelopment, inequalities and unemployment among the youth. This is a clear pathway to attain a Prosperous Value Based County with a High Quality of Life.

Pursuant to the provisions set out in Section 30 (2) (k) of the County Government Act, 2012, I hereby give an account of the state of devolution by presenting the progress report of the all sector performance under my leadership. The address also highlights my unwavering commitment to deliver transformation by resolving development challenges facing the county.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

We appreciate the role played by national government state departments and agencies. My government has collaboratively worked with the institutions responsible for overseeing its expenditure such as: The Senate – on the extent of national revenue allocated to county governments; Controller of Budget – with regard to allocation of finances as per the county budget; and EACC – with regards to integrity of government officials and corruption risk assessment and the Office of Auditor General on effectiveness on the use of public resources. This has ensured improvements in the efficiency of devolved service delivery.

PUBLIC SERVICE TRANSFORMATION

Mr. Speaker Sir,

It is said that staff are the key asset any organization will have; I am convinced that our staff are not only the key asset but the only asset we have. Therefore, the only thing we have is each other, we can only deliver as a team. Ensuring the county public service is highly motivated, enthusiastic and enjoying a conducive working environment is my top priority. I have noted gaps in the public service. The County Executive has discussed this and a plan led by the County Secretary is currently in

place while holding meetings to address the gaps. The complexity of modern-day world poses a challenge to old held silo approach in delivery of services. The demand to be competitive and responsive as a county government to the citizens is necessary. In this regard we must collaborate internally and adapt the One Government Approach to devolved service delivery.

In delivering citizen centered services, departments and Semi-Autonomous Government Agencies (SAGAs) are coordinated through the Department of Devolution. A citizen just needs to walk to an agriculture office at the ward level and are promptly served on revenue or education matter. We are many departments and agencies but one government. Our primary client, the citizen just does not care which department, they expect services from the county government. We are therefore in the process of developing a one government approach coordination framework.

My expectations are that every officer strives to care and do their job diligently. Work is sacred, work is a form of worship, if only we treated and cared about our work the same way we cared about deity and worship. We must orient our performance to focus on the people of Lamu and realize it is not business as usual under my leadership.

FINANCE, BUDGET AND ECONOMIC PLANNING

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Lamu County is charting a bold path towards financial excellence, proving that management and transparency are not just ideals but achievable realities. The Finance and Budget Departments have transformed operations, setting new standards in efficiency and accountability. With robust financial systems in place, we have enhanced the accuracy of budgeting, accounting, and reporting, ensuring compliance with regulations and best practices while streamlining workflows to save time and reduce costs.

Revenue collection has soared, with a 36% increase in Own Source Revenue-rising from Ksh. 154 million in the Year 2022/2023 to Ksh. 213 million in the Year 2023/2024. This remarkable growth reflects improved forecasting, strategic collection enhancements, and collaboration with revenue-generating departments. At the same time, pending bills have been reduced by 29%, from Ksh. 69.2 million to Ksh. 49.1 million, demonstrating effective cash flow management and strengthening trust with our vendors. We have made transparency and inclusivity the cornerstone of our budgeting and economic planning processes.

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Mr Speaker Sir,

Lamu county Won two awards as “The Most Comprehensive County Budget Review Outlook Paper” in the county budget transparency survey in 2022 and “The Most Comprehensive County Integrated Development Plan” in the county budget transparency survey ,2023 awarded by the International Budget Partnership Kenya. Through the 2023-2027 County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP), informed by data and community priorities, we are building a foundation for sustainable growth. Our strategic investments in key sectors like blue economy and infrastructure are unlocking new opportunities, positioning Lamu County for long-term prosperity. Today, we celebrate these achievements as a testament to what is possible with strong governance, community partnership, and unwavering dedication. Together, we are shaping Lamu County into a model of financial innovation and integrity.

EDUCATION

Mr. Speaker Sir,

In the past year, the County Government of Lamu has made significant strides in education, youth empowerment and social services. In Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE), we have 305 teachers, including 5 under affirmative action and have trained 250 teachers in literacy, numeracy, and leadership through partnerships with the Aga Khan Academy. Learning materials worth Ksh 10 million have been distributed to 131 ECDE centers, while numerous classrooms and facilities have been constructed and rehabilitated to improve access and quality of education.

Our Vocational Training Centers (VTCs) have also seen major advancements, including the introduction of specialized courses, employment of 25 new instructors, and financial support for 470 students by covering their tuition fee and NITA exam fees. The centers are now streamlined to implement the KNEC curriculum, with instructors receiving capacity-building training. Additionally, we have over the two Years disbursed over Ksh 326 million in scholarships and bursaries, ensuring that students across Lamu County can access quality education and training opportunities. These efforts reflect our commitment to enhancing education, empowering our youth, and fostering socio-economic growth for all residents of Lamu County.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Since assuming leadership, my administration has conducted routine maintenance of roads for the 25 road projects where the scope includes but not limited to bush

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clearing, grading and gravelling for a road network totaling to 91.0 km. We have also opened up new roads totaling to 23 kilometers. This includes; 15 km of the security road traversing Amu ranch, 2.4km of Hindi-Kibokoni road and 5.6km of Hongwe secondary - Mtondoni has been re-opened. The department has undertaken improvement of walkways totaling 7000.0 square meters in; Shiban road Shella, walkways within Mkomani, Siyu, Faza, Pate, Kiunga and Kizingitini Seafront. In addition, we have undertaken installation of 50 units of streetlights in Mkomani and Shella wards, 12 units of solar streetlights in Bargoni, Mkunumbi, & Mswakini, and repair of 14 high mast solar streetlights countywide.

Furthermore, the department has undertaken improvement of stormwater drainage system in Hindi Town by upgrading 1 street to cabro status and providing 2 vertical drainages pits, improvement of stormwater drainage in Witu town where 1000 square meters of walkways was upgraded to cabro status and 3 vertical drainage pits constructed, improvement of stormwater drainage system in Mkunumbi town by upgrading 1 street to cabro status and constructed side drains and improvement of stormwater drainage system in Mpeketoni town through construction of side drains and improvement of vertical drainage system.

HEALTH SERVICE, ENVIRONMENT AND SANITATION

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Health sector reforms is one of the subjects that is very dear to my heart and has therefore seen significant impactful change in the short period I have been in office. I would like to start by congratulating this house for its active role in the enactment of two important laws in the health sector, namely:

- The Lamu County Facility Improvement Financing act, 2023
- The Lamu County Health services and Community Health Act 2023.

These two legislations are improving efficiency in our health facilities and streamlining procurement processes while allowing hospitals to plan for and utilize their own revenue.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

just about Thirteen years ago Lamu County was classified to be in the red zone in as far as maternal and infant mortality indicators are concerned which were over 667 deaths per 100,000 live births. In a bid to steer Lamu closer to the SDG target of 70 deaths per 100,000 live births, I picked up on efforts from my first term in office and have in a short period of time opened and operationalized 5 Maternity and New

Born Units at Mpeketoni, Maisha Masha, Mkunumbi, Siyu and Nda. We have also done a basic SONOGRAPHY UNIT, at Kizingitini dispensary which has seen pregnant mothers get OBSTETRIC-SCAN without having to travel all the way to Faza.

All these crucial interventions ensure that our pregnant mothers have easy access to diagnostic and skilled birth process which ultimately improves maternal and Infant outcomes. Our latest facility based maternal Mortality and infant mortality at 103 deaths per 100,000 live births is making a significant downward change from 667 deaths per 100,000 back in 2013.

Mr. Speaker sir, as the rest of the world is moving towards the era of Minimally Invasive Surgeries, I have made sure that Lamu County is not left behind. We now have a Minimally Invasive Theater with Modern Urology and Laser Equipment as well as the Endoscopy Unit which I have launched recently. Honorable members, it is a source of pride for me and Lamu to know that over 82 patients have travelled from Malindi, Mombasa and beyond to come for these services in Lamu County, due to the availability and affordability of these services here compared to other places.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I intend to improve the theatre further to include Laparoscopy, Colonoscopy and ENT Services. This is evident in the budgetary allocation of 2024/2025 Financial Year. Mr. Speaker, Universal health Coverage is a key target and deliverable set by the World Health Organization and SDGS. It is also a key pillar in the Vision 2030 and a key agenda of our President H.E Dr. William Ruto. I am glad to report that my administration is leading from the front in this crucial national endeavor. Through an initiative dubbed **Timamy Care**. Afya Mashinani, Afya Majumbani, our Doctors and community health promoters have in the last 1 Year visited over 36,500 Households to offer health services including visiting bedridden and elderly patients at the comfort of their homes. The Beyond Zero van which had been grounded for over 3 Years before I took office has been refurbished and has done over 68 integrated outreaches to far-flung and difficult to access areas of our County, offering Curative, Preventive and Promotive Services. Doctors from our level 4 hospitals have visited dispensaries to attend to diabetic and hypertensive patients for an unprecedented 108 times in the past 1 year, a model not yet seen in any other county in our nation.

Mr Speaker, the introduction of the new **Emergency Response And Referral Unit** with employment of 14 new Emergency Medical technicians and introduction of the Emergency Number 0714-888889 to better coordinate our emergency response. Our EOC won the World Bank Sponsored Averted Disaster Award for Outstanding Disaster, Risk Management Intervention. Lamu was awarded at Himeji, Japan, on

June 19th 2024. Honorable members, I am certain that you are aware a number of new projects and interventions we have implemented including;

- The New Mokowe County Referral Hospital, with Orthopedics, Eye and Maternity Units;

- The signing of an MOU with Kenya Medical Training College which will see them introduce new courses such as Nursing, Orthopedics and Trauma, at the Mokowe Campus.

- The Mangai Dispensary was renovated and equipped and is now operational.

- The new Semi-Private Wards at Mpeketoni are now in use; and

- The upgrading of the Mortuary with a capacity of 12 bodies at

Mpeketoni; and A New Dental Unit is now Operational and is able to offer a wide range of dental health services to Mpeketoni residents and its environs.

Lastly, one of the Most exciting projects that I look forward to is the Kiunga Maternity Theatre and Radiology Unit, which will see our pregnant mothers in need of Caesarian Sections, Scans and X-rays be served in Kiunga. For the First time, once completed our people in Kiunga will be served by medical doctors and get advanced health services. These interventions will equally help a great deal in improving our maternal and infant survival indicators.

Mr speaker and Honorable Members allow me to finish this section by expressing immense gratitude for your support and cooperation, which has and will enable us transform this sector in a historical and positive way.

WATER AND ENERGY

Mr. Speaker Sir,

As you are aware, we have challenges in our county in regards to water. My government has put in place measures to ensure there is water in every household. That is why we have taken initiatives to purchase water boozers and pipeline extension in Mokowe. We have also installed desalination plants in Kiwayu, Faza and Siyu. My administration has further empowered the Lamu Water and Sanitation Company (LAWASCO) to improve water management in furtherance of our universal water access agenda. Water Governance is a key component in

management of water schemes. Continuous capacity building and training of water service providers on water resources management has boosted sustainability of our water projects just to mention a few- Uziwa, Bahari, Lake Amu, Ndambwe and Mapenya water projects. In the past we have witnessed vandalism of water infrastructure in various areas, following unemployment of security personnel. This problem has now been abated.

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Significant strides were made in achieving the development objectives for agriculture, irrigation, and food security outlined in the Annual Development Plan for the 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 financial years. Among these achievements was the procurement and distribution of 93.2 metric tons of certified seeds, benefiting over 9,375 farmers. This initiative enabled the cultivation of 11,650 acres, with an anticipated production of 10,485 tons of maize, cowpeas, and green grams. Efforts to expand the area under cashew nuts and coconuts included the distribution of 6,866 grafted cashew nut seedlings and 3,000 coconut seedlings sourced from the AFA Directorate of Nuts and Oil Crops. These seedlings were provided to farmers to increase acreage under these crops. Additionally, the county has collaborated with a private investor to develop a cashew nut processing factory in Hindi.

To enhance irrigation agriculture, Ksh. 15 million was invested in establishing a 5-acre cotton seed bulking farm at Sinambio under irrigation. Further, the Moa irrigation project was rehabilitated, placing 6 acres under irrigation, and a 5-acre irrigation project was initiated at the Hindi showground. At the ATC farm in Mpeketoni, irrigation infrastructure was extended to cover 5 more acres. Preparations for a modern climate-smart nursery under a solar-powered irrigation project at Witu TCN farm are also underway, supported by the FLLoCA project.

Modernization efforts at the Agricultural Training Center (ATC) included the renovation of the training hall, dining hall, offices, and toilets at a cost of Ksh. 8 million. Cotton production also saw improvements through the mobilization of 12 tons of hybrid cotton seeds from stakeholders, resulting in the planting of 8,000 acres with an estimated production of 8,000 tons of seed cotton, valued at Ksh. 576 million at Ksh. 72 per kilogram. Farm mechanization was boosted by maintaining 19 operational tractors out of 25, purchasing 2 new tractors, and acquiring 1 plough. This facilitated ploughing of 4,836.5 acres, generating a revenue of Ksh. 8,629,339. The department transitioned from the KCSAP program to the Food Security Resilience Project (FSRP) and rolled out the Kenya Agricultural Business

Development Program (KABDP), redeploying staff and resources to ensure smooth implementation.

Lastly, agricultural extension services were strengthened through the recruitment of 7 new extension staff, deployed to Faza Ward, Shella Ward, Basuba Ward, Hongwe, Mkunumbi, and Lamu West Sub-County. These collective efforts represent significant progress in achieving the county agricultural and food security goals for the year.

FISHERIES, BLUE ECONOMY, LIVESTOCK AND COOPERATIVES

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Due to the fact that we border the Indian Ocean, we are privileged to be among the blue economy counties. Hence, we are at the forefront in the initiative to sustain and protect our marine resources, promote sustainable fisheries, enhance coastal development, and ensure the long-term health of ocean ecosystems for future generations. The department has supported fishermen by providing them with fishing gear and marine training. In addition, we have constructed several landing sites for the fisherman to preserve their equipment, ensure safe docking and facilitate smooth operations for their daily activities, Under the KCAP project we also provided various community groups with Fishing boats and other implements. In partnership with the KPA, we have delivered as promised, ensuring that all the fishermen were compensated. I can confirm that the exercise was done without any delays, discrepancies, or issues, and all affected parties received their due compensation in a timely and transparent manner.

Under my leadership, we have successfully operationalized the Nagele Market and ensured that livestock vaccines are readily available for our herders. Additionally, I am proud to inform the house that our county has facilitated the transportation of over 2,000 livestock from Lamu to Oman through our port. This not only enhances our revenue collection but also opens new export markets for our livestock, benefiting both local farmers and the economy.

Psm/A, Devolution, Disaster Management And

Resource Mobilization

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The County Government of Lamu, through the Department of Devolution, Disaster Management, and Resource Mobilization, has made remarkable strides in delivering critical services and enhancing the lives of our residents. One of our major initiatives is the ongoing construction of sub-county offices in Faza Ward, now 70% complete.

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This project, in collaboration with the State Department of Public Works, will bring services closer to the residents of Lamu East, eliminating the need for travel to Mokowe County Headquarters. It will not only save time and money but also ensure quick responses to emerging issues.

Additionally, we have renovated and equipped offices in five wards – Kiunga, Mkunumbi, Hongwe, Bahari, and Witu – with computers to provide a conducive work environment and improve service delivery. Plans are underway to furnish priority wards, including Mkomani, Shella, and Witu, with modern office furniture. Our collaboration with the national government has strengthened community cohesion, as seen in the rotational celebration of National Holidays across the county. This partnership demonstrates our commitment to unified service delivery for the benefit of our people. During the recent El Niño rains, which caused flooding in parts of Witu, Hindi, and Hongwe, we acted swiftly to mitigate its effects. Working closely with the Kenya Red Cross and World Vision Lamu Branches, we ensured no lives were lost. These efforts underline our readiness to address emergencies effectively.

In line with our disaster management strategy, we have established an Emergency Operation Center, equipped with a hotline (0714 888889) operational around the clock. This center coordinates emergency responses using a multi-agency approach, ensuring timely and efficient interventions. Medical evacuations, whether on land or sea, are promptly handled by our dedicated teams using land and boat ambulances. We have further enhanced our maritime safety capabilities through the acquisition of a search-and-rescue boat, provided in partnership with Go Blue and the Kenya Maritime Authority. This vessel recently played a crucial role in rescuing fishermen and recovering their equipment following a boat accident near Tenevi.

To ensure operational efficiency, we have developed Standard Operating Procedures for the Emergency Operation Center and marine rescue operations. Amid the ongoing drought, we have conducted extensive water trucking operations to affected areas in Hindi and Witu wards, particularly targeting schools during the third term of 2024. While water trucking is costly and unsustainable, it has alleviated the immediate needs of our communities. To further streamline emergency responses, we are finalizing the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) plan. This plan, monitored at the Emergency Operation Center, will incorporate tracking systems for ambulances and an app called "Ambulense" to monitor vehicle movements and ensure quick assistance. A 3CX communication system will allow multiple dispatchers to handle distress calls simultaneously, minimizing response delays.

On the security front, our proposal to counter violent extremism has significantly improved Lamu's image, debunking perceptions of insecurity and attracting visitors

to our region. This success is reflected in the growing number of tourists enjoying Lamu's cultural and natural offerings.

Finally, our department contributed to the publication of the Darubini Magazine for the annual Lamu Cultural Festival and helped establish the Lamu Virtual Museum, set to be officially launched by H.E. the Governor and the French Ambassador on November 29, 2024. These initiatives showcase Lamu as a premier tourist destination, fostering economic growth and cultural preservation. These achievements highlight our commitment to service delivery, disaster management, and resource mobilization for the benefit of all residents of Lamu County. We look forward to building on this progress as we continue to transform the lives of our people.

LANDS, PHYSICAL PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Mr Speaker Sir,

The Lands and Physical Planning Department of Lamu County has achieved significant milestones in enhancing land management, development, and community support. A GIS lab has been established to facilitate data analysis and policy advice, and the review of the Lamu County Spatial Plan is underway with input from multiple stakeholders. The Department has finalized titling for Katsakairu. Eight Physical and Land Use Plans have been approved by the County Assembly. Ensuring sustainable land development. Efforts to attract investment include processing titles for key projects like the Equatorial Nut Processors and CPF shopping mall. Local plans for Moa, Safirisi, and other areas have been completed, alongside the launch of the Lamu County Lands Information Management System (Lamu CLIMS) to improve land-related services.

The Department also completed the County Valuation Roll, enhancing land rate collection. Community engagement efforts include land clinics in Lamu East and titling of public lands in Hindi, Mokowe, and Mpeketoni. Capacity-building initiatives for MCAs and the formation of a Development applications and Control Committee have improved service delivery and revenue generation. These achievements highlight the department's commitment to transparency, sustainability, and inclusive development.

TOURISM, CULTURE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT

Mr Speaker Sir,

As your Governor, once again I am proud to present the significant strides we have made in advancing trade, preserving our cultural heritage and fostering economic growth in Lamu County. These achievements are a testament to our shared vision of

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a prosperous and inclusive county, driven by innovation, resilience, and collaboration with our communities. Transforming Market Infrastructure We have prioritized the development of modern market infrastructure to support our traders and improve the county's economy. The completion of the Majembeni Market, equipped with essential facilities such as floodlights and a well, has enabled traders to extend their business hours and operate in a safer environment. With 32 stalls already occupied, this market is a beacon of economic activity and community support. The Witu Open Air Market, completed in just one year, now brings traders together under one roof, ensuring that buyers can easily access goods and services. Its thoughtful design includes a canopy, round corridors for seamless movement, market stalls, and a prominent signboard, enhancing visibility and

accessibility. The Hongwe Market, now in its second phase, will significantly boost the welfare of traders and the overall efficiency of commerce in the region. Similarly, the Mpeketoni Open Air Market has transformed local economies by creating opportunities for small businesses and entrepreneurs, with 129 stalls already occupied. Improving Hygiene and Accessibility

We have taken deliberate steps to ensure hygiene and accessibility in our markets. The construction of an ablution block at Mpeketoni Market has improved sanitation while also providing a space for worship. Additionally, the rehabilitation and operationalization of a four-door toilet at the old Mpeketoni Market includes facilities designed specifically for persons with disabilities. Enhancing Market Security and Accessibility. To enhance security, we constructed a perimeter wall at the Mpeketoni Open Air Market, which has made the work of security guards more effective. Paving works at the same market have ensured smooth transportation and better accessibility for buyers and suppliers alike. Supporting Local Artisans and Entrepreneurs through the purchase and distribution of Jua Kali equipment, we have empowered skilled artisans who lacked the tools to start or expand their businesses. This initiative has not only created employment opportunities but also strengthened the informal sector, a vital part of our county's economy.

Celebrating Culture and Unity

Lamu's rich cultural heritage remains a cornerstone of our identity and a key driver of tourism. The annual Lamu Cultural Festival, which we have sponsored since 2013, continues to promote peace and stability while fostering harmonious coexistence among diverse communities. Working with stakeholders like the National Museums of Kenya, we aim to enhance existing activities and introduce new initiatives to position Lamu as the "Island of Festivals."

Looking Ahead

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As we continue to invest in infrastructure, economic empowerment, and cultural preservation, I remain committed to ensuring that all projects are inclusive, sustainable, and aligned with Lamu's unique environmental and cultural heritage. Together, we will build a thriving county that provides opportunities for all and preserves the traditions that make Lamu truly special.

CONCLUSION

Mr. Speaker Sir,

In conclusion, I want to reassure all of us that with your continued support, we will achieve more for the people of Lamu. To the citizens of our County whose aspirations we work so hard every day to meet and deliver the promise, this report is just our second year of passion to do good with integrity. The journey ahead requires unity, resilience and unwavering commitment from all of us. Let us continue to work together to build a Lamu County that thrives on inclusivity, innovation and accountability. I pledge to uphold the trust you have placed in me and to lead with integrity and dedication. Let therefore remain united in our mission to transform Lamu into a beacon of hope and prosperity.

Thank you and May God bless Lamu County.

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker (Honorable Azhar Ali Mbarak): Honorable Members, there being no other business, the Assembly stands adjourned until today in the afternoon, 20th November, 2024 at 2: 30 p.m.

The Assembly rose at 12:30 p.m.