

**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**  
**MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY**  
**THE HANSARD**

Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025

The Assembly met at 3:00 p.m.

*[The Speaker (Hon. Johnson Mukuha) in the Chair]*

*(The National Anthem and the EAC Anthem were played)*

PRAYER  
CONVOCATION

**The Speaker (Hon. Johnson Mukuha):** Your Excellency Dr. Irungu Kangata, CBS, the Governor Murang'a County, Members of the County Assembly, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Section 30 (2) (k) of the County Governments Act, 2012, requires the Governor to deliver an annual state of the County address and vide a letter referenced No. MCG/CS/ADM/5/5 VOL V (14) dated 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025, His Excellency the Governor notified the Speaker of the Assembly of his intention to address the Assembly on Tuesday, March 18, 2025 in the County Assembly Chambers at 2:30 pm.

In this regard, pursuant to the provisions of Section 30 (2) (k) of the County Governments Act, 2012 and the provisions of Standing Order No. 23(1) of the Murang'a County Assembly Standing Orders and by a Gazette Notice No. 3360 which was published on March 5, 2025, I gave a notice of this special sitting to the Members of the County Assembly; therefore, accordingly, this sitting is properly convened.

Your Excellency, it is also a custom of this Assembly to recognize invited guests seated at the Speaker's gallery and the public gallery. I therefore wish to recognize the following guests seated in the Speaker's gallery: His Excellency Stephen Munania, the Deputy Governor, Murang'a County.... *(Applause)*..... if it is possible, you can rise wherever you are. Mr. Joshua Nkanatha, MBS, County Commissioner.... *(Applause)*.... members of the County Security Committee, the County Assembly Service Board members, members of the clergy from various religious

organisations; the chairperson Bar Owners Association..... (*laughter*)..... the chairperson, Chamber of Commerce Murang'a Chapter, the vice chancellor Murang'a University College..... (*applause*)..... the principal, Michuki technical training institute; the managing director Delmonte Kenya Limited, the Chief Executive Officer Kakuzi PLC, the chairperson Murang'a Youth Forum and the County Executive Committee Members Murang'a County Government.... (*applause*).....

Your Excellency, allow me to recognize the distinguished members of the Budget and Economic Council, and appreciate them for supporting your vision for a better Murang'a.

Your Excellency, allow me to give a special mention to the County Commissioner, other national government administration officers and the entire County security team. We acknowledge their role in creating a supportive environment for effective County service delivery.

Last but not least, your Excellency, I equally recognize our religious leaders, members of the fourth estate and our esteemed investors, and we are all welcome here.

Your Excellency, honourable members, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, it is now my singular honour and privilege to invite His Excellency Dr. Irungu Kangata the Governor of Murang'a County to issue his State of the County address to this Assembly.

Your Excellency.

### **STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS**

**H.E. The Governor (Hon. Dr. Irungu Kangata):** The Hon. Speaker, the Honourable Members of the County Assembly, invited guests, Murang'a County residents, ladies and gentlemen. First and foremost, let me register my utmost gratitude and appreciation for being accorded this opportunity to address our great County from the podium of the County Assembly. It is a civic duty bestowed to the office of the Governor by the people, the Constitution and the law. I most sincerely thank this Honorable House for this important occasion on which the Governor is expected to make a status of the County address and appraise this most important House and also the residents of Murang'a. I thank this County Assembly for being a partner in making Murang'a County great.

Hon. Members, your commitment and passion has greatly contributed to the success that we have had for the last two and a half years. You have been great change agents. We appreciate the ideas and inputs that you have given us to make the County better.

Mr Speaker, I am happy to report that after two and half years of collective efforts, Murang'a County and the people have created a County that is now, more stronger, more confident, and with a robust economy. Today, Murang'a is going forward because of the values that we hold. Murang'a people believe in enterprise, hard work, and deep responsibility towards family and God. Our progress lies in the heart of families, communities, and a motto of one God one aim. Winston Churchill the former prime minister of the United Kingdom once observed about elections "At the bottom of all the attributes paid to democracy is the little man, walking into the little booth, with a little pencil, making a little cross on a little bit of paper-no amount of rhetoric or voluminous discussion can possibly diminish the overwhelming importance of the point." This observation by Winston could be construed to mean that the voter is a rational citizen, that when he or she goes to the ballot, he has minimum expectations from the leaders. By the stroke of the pen at the ballot, the voter and the leaders establish what is called a social contract and with the leaders expected to be accountable to voters, the voice of the ordinary citizen therefore matters in democratic governance. In any case, the Honorable Members of this House represent the people.

Mr Speaker, allow me to quote one emperor of Rome called Augustus, and why I quote Rome is because most of the institutions we currently in democratic countries were inherited from this place, including this democracy, and therefore it is important for one to understand some of the thinking behind the people who came up with these modern innovations, including democracy, Therefore, when Augustus was dying- at the death bed he said " I found Rome a city clay, I left it as a city of marbles" Hon, members ask yourself and congratulate yourself that you found your ward a city of clay and by the time God willing you will be leaving your position, you will have left it as a city marbles. Congratulate yourself. ....(Applause)....

Mr Speaker, within two and a half years, most of our children are now attending dignified pre-school education institutions. The shacks that were our ECDE institutions have been replaced by modern buildings with terrazzos, ceilings, good walls and educational murals. Out of the 700 ECDEs in Murang'a, 507 have so far been renovated. Hon. Members, we believe that you will assist in renovating the balance. One ECDE is located in a village, therefore, this renovation has created thousands of jobs for the young people; these includes masons, foremen, painters, handy men, among others.

After two and a half years we can now confirm that our 42,000 ECDE learners, they get fortified uji every day. This ensures that the next generation of Murang'a children will grow and

become productive. This makes these ECDE learners excited and attracted to school. This makes a progressive society going forward. But also, jobs have been created this includes riders, the cooks, and uji champion whose role is to clean utensils. Our school feeding program pilot for primary schools is still ongoing. However, it requires the approval by the national government Ministry of Education and also a budgetary allocation from this honourable House to help us to upscale to all primary schools if indeed you will endorse that idea later on.

Mr Speaker and Honourable Members, a County cannot progress without good health. A good health system is more important particularly to the vulnerable members of society like the elderly, the children, and persons abled differently. It is on that basis the County invested in a social health program. Each year, about 40,000 households benefit from this program translating to about 160,000 individuals. Without this program, many households would have sold their properties and descended in poverty. Even the well-off would have parted with their money to support their kin through fundraising. Of course, not every Murang'a household is in this program, however, a burden relief to 160,000 individuals can only mean better for the Murang'a households.

The recruitment is made annually around the month of November in each primary school. The recruitment panel has community representation including religious institutions and provincial administration. The County however apologizes to the recruitment panels for the delay of their allowances that were to be paid by Social Health Authority (SHA) which has failed to honour its promise. The county is following up on the issue and if the money remains unpaid, the County will have to look for a budget to pay the same.

Last expense support under Kangata Care is intended to support orphans who drop out of school upon the demise of their parents. Many families have been supported to ensure orphans remain in school through the Ksh100, 000 cash support. SHA owes 212 beneficiaries and we are following up for that payment. SHA stopped last expense when it came into being and therefore the County took the cover to the private sector. We are following 115 unpaid last expense claims with the provider. We are happy also to report that the county has now expanded beyond the last expense to include marriage and welfare package under this program. Next week we expect to give welfare benefits to one birth and two marriages that will have been paid out to beneficiaries.....

*(Laughter)* .....

Mr Speaker, on health, within two years we have built and expanded more than 30 new facilities. Mr. Speaker and Hon. Members I may not be able to quote each and every facility

because they are many, but allow me to mention that in Gatanga, Kenneth Matiba Hospital, which is in Kakuzi/ Mitumbiri, the completion of Kirwara Hospital new block, ongoing expansion of Mitumbiri Health Centre, the ongoing construction of a maternity in Gituamba Health Facility in Gatanga. In Kandara we have new wards in Bildad Kaggia, Kagira Dispensary, Gatitu Dispensary. In Kigumo we have Gathima-ini lab, Boro dispensary and we have equipping Kigumo Hospital. In Maragua we have expansion of Maragua Hospital, Ihigaini, Nyagachugu and Ikundu dispensaries. In Kiharu we have Mukuyu dispensary, Mbari ya Hiti dispensary and Kambirwa maternity. In Kangema we have Karurumo and Gacharaigo dispensary and also renovating the new Kangema Hospital. In Mathioya we have Thuita dispensary, Karung'e and Kagongo dispensaries.

Mr Speaker, the county is aware the suffering dialysis patients undergo while seeking dialysis services. Murang'a County has had only four functional dialysis machines at Murang'a Level 5 Hospital. The county added eight more at Murang'a level 5 now totalling 12 to serve Kiharu, Mathioya and Kangema sub counties. The county then added four new machines at Kigumo hospital to serve the middle part of Murang'a, that is Kigumo and Maragua. Recently, the County entered into strategic partnership to provide mobile dialysis services to Kandara and Gatanga Constituencies.

Hon. Members, to reduce the long distances that patients have to travel to seek medical services for chronic ailments such as cancer and diabetes, the county introduced Telemedicine. It has turned out to be one of our most important programs that has saved patients time and money. To ensure sustainability of the program, the County has been requesting for co-contribution from the patients in the program. To support telemedicine, the county has placed machines in key strategic facilities. These machines include; haematology machine that check blood levels, biochemistry machines that check kidney and liver functions, X-ray and ultrasound machine; therefore, providing state of the art service in deep rural areas of Murang'a County. The County Government congratulates the medical staff working in Kiria-ni dispensary in Mathioya and Sabasaba Health Centre in Kahumbu Ward, Kigumo. These two facilities have been the best telemedicine sites based on the number of patients who attend each day.

Mr Speaker, energy needed to power public facilities, including street lights and hospitals can be very expensive. The county foresaw a possible crisis with the state energy provider as it has happened in other counties and therefore decided to do solarisation. So far 70 medical facilities

have been solarized, the county headquarters and various sub-county offices, the library, and ongoing street lights solarisation. Money saved by this program can be redirected to other important programs in the county. The County would have taken the path of confrontation with the energy provider by demanding for outstanding payments of way-leaves fees by the state energy provider as provided for by Murang'a County Finance laws. However, we decided not go that way and to go towards the area of solarisation as opposed to confrontation.

Hon Members, community health promoters do a fantastic job in promoting healthcare services at the grassroots level. However, the County is aware that their stipend has delayed for the last few months. The county is working hard to unlock the issue urgently and we apologize for that.

Mr Speaker, agriculture remains the backbone of our economy. We must make it productive. That can only happen by providing linkages between farmers and industries. Murang'a County must move beyond subsistence farming to prosper. As this is the only way to guarantee cash for families. The subsidy programme of the County Government is an effort to subsidize agriculture production and increase returns to the farmers. So far, this program has 21,667 farmers who receive monetary support of Kshs 2,400 after three months. This support supports production. Murang'a County Creameries Co-operative Union (MCCU) daily milk collection as a result has moved from 38,000 to 48,000 litres collection, as a consequence.

Hon Members, the County milk factory was mired in debt and had collapsed and we had to revive it and give it to the farmers. Currently, it is doing adding value to about 5,000 liters per day. There is an ongoing procurement for modern machines which might help the factory upscale. It is also one of the sites identified by the County for possible investment destination in our planned May 2025 Investors Conference. Legacy debts owing to farmers remain a bottleneck though. In addition, other milk up-takers have also reported an increment in milk production as a result of the original goal of the subsidy.

We thank the County Assembly for approving various documents that underpin this program, and supporting through relevant budgetary allocation to the program.

Mr Speaker Sir, the Inua Mkulima program also supports farmers by providing fertilizer and certified seeds. Currently, this program has more than 70000 farmers who get about 2kgs maize certified seeds and also fertilizer as per the last season. We engage Simlaw seeds, Kenya Agricultural Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO) and also the National Cereals and

Produce Board. Data suggests that, maize output tripled last season hence alleviating food insecurity for families. We hope we shall get maize to sell to industries next week when we start mopping up exercise. This season, full consignment is yet to reach National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) stores in Maragua therefore, that is why there has been a delay in announcing whether we have seeds, so we ask Hon Members and the members of the public to give us a little bit of time, we wait for those maize to reach Maragua. Otherwise, we have already paid to the National Cereals and also to Simlaw seeds.

Hon Members, the mango program has enabled mango prices to move from Kshs 3 to Kshs23 per Kg hence alleviating poverty in lower region. Sorghum uptake has been low due to birds' problems but we are hopeful that those who chose to pursue it will find benefits.

Avocado grading line in Ng'araria, Kandara is awaiting final inspection and installation to enable us commission it. Once we create true linkages between industry and farming, subsidy goals will have been met and support redirected to other areas that can help farmers.

Mr Speaker, in our manifesto we promised equity across the County in the distribution of development projects. To attain this objective, and in close consultation with Hon. Members, we initiated the implementation of community-based projects. Yes, we are aware of various court judgements on this issue but Murang'a found a way to circumvent that issue. Various ECDE have been done, renovated, concrete roads done, grading of roads done, various footbridges done, there has been construction of social halls, there have been cabro works, bodaboda sheds and we can only tell members thank you for your good work.

Mr Speaker, urbanization is a present trend in Murang'a that we must be prepared for. Therefore, to cater for urbanites who do not have cows to benefit for Inua Mkulima or farms to do maize farming, we had to come up with this program. Whereas it is very costly for a County government to tarmac roads, Murang'a County strives to tarmac urban roads using County resources through this program. Since inception of the program approximately two years ago, the County has paved several centers. We can talk of Gatura, Gatunyu and Kaguku in Gatanga; Gacarage, Kabati and Muruka in Kandara, Muruka is ongoing; Kirere is ongoing in Kigumo, but Kangari and Muthithi are also done in Kigumo; Ciumbu, Kenol, Zabka and Maragua in Maragua; Muranga town, Mukuyu and Kahatia in Kiharu; Kangema, Kanyenya-ini and currently Kihoya in Kangema; and also, Kiria--ini, Gitugi and Kamune in Mathioya.

However, we were advised by the County Assembly Committee on Roads to consider cabros, this being informed by the costs of installation as well as maintenance. Cabros are cheaper and they are also more appealing to the eye, therefore we decide to go the cabro way. Mr. Speaker sir, the residents of this County have played a key part in the successes that we have witnessed. Apart from electing us to public office, our residents have demonstrated high level of patriotism by paying County taxes. This patriotism and confidence have been demonstrated by performance of local revenue collection. We have recorded an upward trajectory in local revenue collection since the onset of this administration. The revenue collection in financial year 2021/2022 it was approximately Kshs 520 million, in the FY 2022/23 it rose to about Kshs 682 million, in FY 2023/2024 went to Kshs 1.116 billion. In FY 2024/2025 as at 16<sup>th</sup> March 2025 it stood at Kshs 670 million, compared with Ksh 591M on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2024. This means an increase of Kshs 79 million or 13 per cent increase in the same period compared to last financial year.

This of course has been helped partly by automation. The County has automated revenue collection including: parking, cess, markets, quarry, building permits, lands, medical facilities, and liquor. The County has also automated its own staff human resource management including leave, promotions. We have a clock in system that we have developed which is being piloted with chief officers. The County has a fleet management system which has helped reduce fuel costs.

The County is currently implementing on pilot basis a geo-spatial technology that will form the umbrella of all these technologies. Hon. Members, a good government must motivate its own staff. As a result, the County has endeavored to ensure its employees are paid on or before 5<sup>th</sup> of every month. Due to Social Health Authority (SHA) problems, the County procured a medical insurance scheme for employees who are entitled to it as per Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC) guidelines that is Jubilee insurance.

However, challenges in human resource management remain, including the fact that this County of ours, out of all the budget that we have 53 per cent of it goes to pay salaries and I repeat 53 per cent, that is what we call actual budget, leave alone what we call written budget, actual means when you are actually implementing it as compared to other forms of the budget where it is just a figure appearing in a document. These are legacy problems that we inherited and therefore the County has frozen employment, except for what we call essential services like healthcare. That explains why we came up with the idea of internship; because internships somehow help us manage ballooning of wage bill. To remedy this problem, the County has to endeavor to increase

its own revenue so that, that percentage shrinks and we think if our revenue goes that way, we will be approaching the statutory 35 per cent that is set by law. The other issue on recruitment is that the County is aware of complaints concerning how fair our recruitment process is and therefore we will be bringing to you honorable members what we call a Human resource written examinations policy which will be attempting to create a more objective way of recruiting public employees through a written examination. We shall be the first County, if you endorse that idea.

Honourable members and Mr. Speaker sir, one of the major issues affecting the country and our County in particular is the issue of youth unemployment. To address this, the County embarked on the Murang'a Youth Service (MYS) program in an effort to address the rampant unemployment among our young people. In its second year now, the program is currently active with the fifth cohort. So far 5,200 youths and 5200 parents have benefited from this work-study program. These youths have also made our County cleaner and boosted environmental protections. The program has also awakened County polytechnics. On average before this program, County polytechnics used to have about four students. Currently we have about 100 per each village polytechnic.

Hon Members, education in primary, secondary and college is not devolved. However, previous County Assembly passed a law that gave the County the legal mandate to support bursaries as welfare programme. Unfortunately, the Controller of Budget issued a circular dated 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025, which stopped bursaries by counties unless an agreement between counties and ministry of education is entered into. Further, a court case was filed in Nakuru by an NGO which issued orders stopping Murang'a from proceeding with bursaries. Hon. Members, unless we find a solution to this, ward-based programme bursary that has beneficiaries of about 35000, Inua Masomo programme that has about 8,000 beneficiaries; university fees that we give to day scholars once they get admission to the university about 1200 per year. The Nyota Yetu programme that has about 1,400 beneficiaries will stop

The County has entered appearance in the Nakuru case hoping to vacate the order. A decision will be issued on or before end of April 2025. Parallel to this, the County will tomorrow, that is Wednesday send a delegation to meet Cabinet Secretary in charge of Education to try to negotiate this intergovernmental agreement, we hope we succeed.

Mr Speaker sir, challenges exist though. National government policies impact on County service delivery. For instance, the County wishes national government to hasten completion of

Gikono land fill to enable us get space to process refuse from the growing Kenol region. Honourable members, you would imagine the kind of money the County expends to get refuse all the way from Kariara in Gatanga, we bring it to Murang'a town, our Karii dumpsite. Therefore, our Karii dumpsite in Murang'a town is at saturation point. We are happy to report though that there is an indication that a handover that might happen soon. However, we hope that hand over will have all equipment. Otherwise, if we get a handover without all the equipment, then that handover will not be of much use. Further, we are also happy to report that we have investors who have proposed to establish at their own cost, what we call a sorting bay and they do recycling and there is even a proposal to recycle plastic into diesel. Infact, the proposal we have been given is, that investor will come, take all plastic materials in Murang'a, and Murang'a County government will be getting free diesel out of that .....(applause)..... We are still negotiating with that investor, but we hope, once that happens, we shall be getting free diesel through recycled materials in Murang'a.

The national government also needs to help us to survey, beacon and also title formerly Del Monte land apposite Makenji. This Honourable House passed a master plan intending the County to establish an industrial city. The County is planning a mega investors conference in May 2025, but without these processes including National Lands Commission support, this land might not be investor ready.

SHA also needs to be streamlined. Kangata Care is currently tied to SHA. Further, the County hospitals depend on SHA reimbursements to survive. SHA also owes Murang'a County money from defunct NHIF. Without adequate reimbursements or debts repayments, the County struggles to buy medicines and restock its medical supplies.

The County is also experiencing challenges in internet down time which is caused by factors beyond our control. The County is working with the service providers to help circumvent this problem of the down times.

In addition to this, the County has noted a potential threat of what we call cyber security in our systems. Therefore, recently, we conducted a cyber security penetration test and it was established that we need to do some remedial work to ensure that those systems are more stable.

Also, hon. Members, another area we would want the national government to help this County and generally other counties by the way is the problem of Universal Health Care (UHC) staff. This was a national government project where during Covid, certain cadres of healthcare employees

were employed by the national government and placed in County establishments; nurses, clinical officers. They have been fighting so that they get full employment. I am sure you have found them demonstrating outside there and some of them, not everyone, I think around 40 percent have withdrawn service and that is definitely impacting on our service delivery in our health care systems. The problem is not ours but it is us who are experiencing the problem.

Hon. members and the Speaker, going into the future, Murang'a County will be strong, it will be prosperous again, Murang'a County will win the race for the future... *(Applause)*.... Murang'a County will see the dreams of a better future in Murang'a in the new avocado factories that are being built in Murang'a County. We shall see a better Murang'a when we see the empowerment of that mango farmer who is now earning better returns.....*(applause)*..... we see a dream of a better Murang'a in terms of the tea farmers who now earn the highest sums in Kenya for the small-scale farmers, we see a better Murang'a in terms of the new infrastructure coming up under smart city programme..... *(Applause)*..... The dreams of a good Murang'a will be realised once the first well planned industrial city in Kenya is established in Makenji area sooner than later. ....*(Applause)*..... Thousands of jobs will be created; thousands of farmers' products will be added value.

The spirit of Murang'a intellectual talent can only be realized through the annual Kikuyu music festival. Our persons abled differently who have been supported by the County through wheelchairs, that is the dream of the new Murang'a. The underage mothers who have gotten maternal support, that is the dream of a new Murang'a. Therefore, Hon. Members and Mr. Speaker Sir, it is up to us this generation to create history and make Murang'a the greatest County in Kenya and in the entire Africa..... *(Applause)*.....

We thank this Assembly for your singular focus on development. We thank Murang'a County staff for their dedication. We thank Murang'a citizens for their inspiration and dreaming big. We can do it brothers and sisters. We move forward in love, unity and in faith in God. Victory against poverty and development is now within reach. We are not there yet, but we can win this war. The challenges are many but those who we are from Murang'a will know the spirit of finding solution. Matiba and Rubia gave us multi-party democracy. Our sons built the largest banks and businesses in Kenya. Those of us who are here we can build a better Murang'a together.....*(Applause)*.....

Therefore, Mr. Speaker sir, I will be giving you some documents, one, a Comprehensive status report on: the implementation of the County Government's Policies, Plans, Programs and Performance of the County Executive Committee and County Public Service; and two, report on various public participation conducted by the County Executive

Thank you Mr Speaker and Hon Members, may God bless you, may God bless Murang'a. Thank you.

### ADJOURNMENT

**The Speaker (Hon. Johnson Mukuha):** Thank you your excellency. Honourable members I wish to thank His Excellency the Governor for his state of the county address, to this assembled Assembly and the county at large.

Your Excellency, honourable members of the Assembly, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, we have come to the conclusion of our Business today and there being no other Business, this House now stands adjourned until Tuesday April 1, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. when the House resumes from the short recess.

I request that we all be upstanding until His Excellency and the entourage leave the chamber but before that we shall have the national anthem

*(National Anthem and EAC anthem were played)*

*The House rose at 3:47 p.m.*