



**COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF VIHIGA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**H.E. DR. WILBER OTTICHILO'S ADDRESS TO THE SPECIAL SITTING OF  
THE THIRD COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF VIHIGA**

**ON 12<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022,  
AT THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS, VIHIGA**

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Hon. Wilberforce Kitiezo Gwadoya – Deputy Governor Vihiga County,

Hon. Chris Omulele - Speaker County Assembly of Vihiga,

Hon. Ambaka Kilinga – Clerk of the County Assembly of Vihiga

Mr. Ezekiel Ayiego – County Secretary and head of County Public Service

County executive Committee Members Present

Honourable Members of the County Assembly

Chief Officers Present

Members of staff from both the County Executive and County Assembly

Distinguished Members of the Public

The fourth estate

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

**Good morning,**

**Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,**

It is an honour to address the first sitting of this Third Vihiga County Assembly today, as the Governor for Vihiga County pursuant to Standing Order 23 (1) of this assembly.

Before I go into details of my speech, I wish to congratulate the Speaker of this assembly, Honourable Chris Omulele on your election as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Speaker of Vihiga County Assembly. It is my hope that you will guide this assembly in transacting its business diligently and expeditiously for the benefit of the people of Vihiga County and Kenya in general.

My resounding Congratulations to all the elected Members of the County Assembly from the 25 wards that form Vihiga County for your successful election as the representatives of the people. Congratulations to the eleven nominated MCAs for your nomination to the Vihiga county assembly to represent different interest groups.

I further take this opportunity once again to thank the people of Vihiga County for electing me as Governor of this great County. I wish to assure them of my total commitment to the socio-economic transformation of our

County in the second-term tenure as a Governor. Last and not least, I wish to thank the people of Vihiga and Kenya for conducting themselves peacefully during the recently concluded 2022 General elections.

**Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,**

My address to this honourable assembly today is structured as follows: The first section gives general introductory remarks. The second section provides the summary of the roles of the County Executive and the County Assembly as spelled out in the County Government Act 2012. The third section gives a brief experience on how the two arms have related in the last ten years. The fourth section provides the challenges faced during my first term, while the fifth section gives the highlights of my achievements. The last section presents a summary of my 2022-2027 development agenda.

## **COUNTY GOVERNMENT DEFINITION AND MANDATE**

**Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,**

Article 176 (1) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 establishes the County Government's two arms, the County Assembly and the County Executive.

Parts III and V of the County Governments Act 2012 provides for the legal framework and the specific roles of the County Assembly and the County Executive respectively. The highlight of the legal roles of both the legislature and executive are as follows.

The County Executive is responsible for the execution of County Government's functions as per the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya (2010). The Executive manages, coordinates and is accountable for all County Government resources, functions of the county administration and the delivery of devolved services and is required to facilitate and engage citizens in the process.

Through the County Executive Committee (CEC), the Executive is responsible for the preparation of county policies, plans and budgets for approval by the County Assembly, and the submission to external regulatory offices of the National Treasury and Office of the Controller of Budget. The CEC is also responsible for implementation of all laws passed by the County Assembly and National Assembly; it also prepares laws for consideration by the County Assembly. The Executive provides regular non-financial and financial reports to the County Assembly, and to external regulatory and

oversight offices of the Controller of Budget and the Office of the Auditor General.

The County Assembly's roles are to represent citizens, exercise the legislative authority of the County Government and oversight the County Executive. The County Assembly makes and passes all county laws required for the effective performance and exercise of the powers of the County Government. It also approves county policies, plans and budgets and oversights implementation by the County Executive. The Assembly is also responsible for vetting and approving nominees for appointment to county public office.

**Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,**

The assembly has the role to summon our County Executive Committee Members (CECMs) to appear before them and to respond to questions on various issues. However, the challenge has been proper procedures have not always been followed. There have been cases where CECMs have been summoned randomly without following the laid-out procedures, and when they have responded, due to lack of time to prepare, their responses have been inadequate and sometimes this had led to their reprimand by the Assembly.

I therefore humbly call upon this assembly, to follow the prescribed procedures, where all summons go through the Clerk of this County Assembly to the County Secretary, giving enough notice as is required by the Assembly Standing Orders.

To enhance smooth working relations between the Assembly and the Executive, we have created a new position of County Assembly Liaison Officer in our new County Organizational Structure. The role of this officer will be to ensure all issues raised by the County Assembly are promptly addressed by the County Executive.

**Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,**

While the two arms of the County Government are independent in their defined roles and functions, they are interdependent in delivery of service and socio-economic development of the County. Therefore, synergy between these two arms of government is absolutely necessary.

## **10 YEARS OF DEVOLUTION**

### **Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,**

The past first and second generation of devolution in our county experienced significant disharmony between the executive and the assembly, which led to overall poor delivery of services to the people of Vihiga County. The disharmony centered mainly on allocation of resources through budgeting processes.

How do we then avoid this problem as we move forward into the 3<sup>rd</sup> generation of devolution? To promote smooth working relations, I propose we implement the following:

1. ADHERE to the rule of law
2. Work out a framework of engagement and consultation on any of the issues between the Assembly and the Executive – particularly matters on budget, legislation, reporting mechanism and communication between County Executive and the County Assembly.
3. Within our County Executive structure, we have created the County Assembly Liaison Office to coordinate our engagement.

This office will cultivate and foster a general understanding between the executive and the assembly, ensuring smooth engagement and operation between the two arms of government. Issues of key importance to the people of Vihiga County will have to be jointly deliberated on between the two arms before being tabled to the assembly. This informal discussion (Kamukunjis) will be jointly managed and coordinated by both arms of the County Government.

We need to agree on priorities especially on matters of budgeting. It should be appreciated that budgeting is the role of the executive. According to section 37(1) of the Public Finance Management (County Governments) Regulations, 2015, the changes that the county assembly can make, either by increasing or decreasing the expenditure per vote, should not exceed one percent of the votes' ceilings. One of the key documents in analysing legislative amendments is the County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP), and the aforementioned legal framework around the CFSP goes on to depict some of the legislative amendment powers.

### **Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,**

The two arms of the County Government each has its own budget, although the County Assembly still has to receive funds through the executive. The Council of Governors are in support of the County Assemblies Forum's request to have Counties Assemblies receive their funds directly from the National treasury.

However, due to the current arrangement of disbursement from the executive, it has been misconstrued that it is the executive that has the money; and therefore, there has been that demand that the executive funds a number of activities of the assembly which is against the law. There have been many cases where due to that pressure the executive has used its budget to fund the assembly activities. This has led to serious audit queries that has ended into the executive receiving adverse opinion from the Auditor-General. Therefore, moving forward this matter should be addressed appropriately.

All that I have said above was discussed in detail in during the members induction in Mombasa, but I have felt that I should emphasize the same further in this address. I believe if we go by what we learned during the induction, service delivery will be greatly enhanced for the benefit of the people of Vihiga County and earlier acrimonies between us will be something of the past.

**Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,**

Some activists in Vihiga are very litigious. We have been taken to court by various organizations and individuals and accused jointly or singularly. However, instead of working together to deal with these legal issues, previously we have been approaching these cases individually and sometimes antagonizing each other. We have not worked as a team, leading to losing cases and some of them still in court.

With the establishment of the office of the County Attorney, who is responsible for legal issues in the County Government, both in the Executive and the County Assembly; we expect now that any legal issues against the County Government of Vihiga, will be decisively handled together by the County Attorney and the legal team of the County Assembly.

## **CHALLENGES**

**Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,**

The following are the challenges we faced during the second generation of devolution as a county:

### **Governance challenges –**

#### **1. Disbursement of funds from Treasury –**

This remains as major challenge to date. During the first Council of Governors meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022, this matter was discussed as a main agenda and a matter of concern. Counties are unable to operate and service pending bills. We hope the new Government will sort this issue out with urgency. Further the Council of Governors agrees that counties should improve their Own Source Revenue (OSR) collection to address this matter at county level.

I wish to note that we have made tremendous progress in increasing our Own Source Revenue collection from KES 93 million in 2017 to KES 236 million in 2022. We plan to automate all our revenue collection systems and hope this will increase our OSR to about KES 500 million by 2025.

To achieve this, we will need the participation of this County Assembly and the people of Vihiga County to raise money for the development of Vihiga. The executive will soon be forwarding the financial bill for 2023/2024 in which we have identified new revenue streams for collecting more money.

In our structure we have also created a new revenue collection directorate expected to enhance revenue collection.

## **Human Resource Challenges**

### **2. HR and Wage Bill -**

We inherited a large workforce from the defunct local government when County Governments started in 2013. The initial government also employed its own staff. It was expected under the Transitional Authority, that they would rationalize and come up with harmonized staffing structure for all County Governments. However, this did not happen.

As a result, all County Governments have a major challenge on wage bill. While the Public Finance Management Act directs that wage bill should not exceed 35% of the total revenue of the County, most if not all Counties wage bill ranges between 35-60%. In our case, our wage bill is at 42%.

Despite of having a bloated workforce, the challenge is that most of it is inexperienced and unqualified to take care of activities of the county government. We suffer from underperformance from inexperienced staff.

To find a solution to his problem, the County Public Service Board (CPSB) undertook a Human Resource audit of our workforce in the county beginning 2021 but were unable to complete due to the challenges of COVID-19. I am happy that the board has now finalized the report and it will soon be submitted to the Executive for consideration for implementation with the concurrence of this assembly.

### **3. Pending Bills -**

#### **Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,**

We inherited KES 2.8 billion in historical pending bills. We were directed by treasury to have a payment plan for these bills from 2018 to date. We have to date paid KES 2.3 billion. We have a balance of KES 500 million.

Further, due to the problems of disbursement from treasury, we have our own pending bills to the tune of KES 600 million which we have yet to settle.

To sort out the issue of pending bills, and to implement the government's directive that all pending bills must be sorted out before new projects are started, the executive has resolved that during this Financial Year 2022/23, we should focus on paying pending bills so that next financial year we focus on our development agenda.

Therefore, we will soon be bringing to this assembly a supplementary budget that will focus on pending bills and completion of stalled projects that were started in the county.

#### **4. Corruption**

**Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,**

Corruption is a national pandemic and requires to be fought by everybody and not those in leadership alone. We inherited a system that was plagued by corruption cases, particularly in staff recruitment and procurement. During my first term, I dedicated my time and effort to put in place governance structures that would minimize corruption practices within the county government system. With the help of EACC we undertook corruption risk assessment of the entire Government system and identified sectors which had corruption challenges or were prone to corruption. Out of the assessment we came out with a program on how to mitigate corruption incidences in the identified sectors.

As regards endemic corruption in procurement processes, we introduced e-procurement through IFMIS. This has drastically reduced corruption in this process, although still certain elements of corruption persist.

As regards irregular employment of staff, we undertook HR audit in collaboration with the Directorate of Personnel Management in the office of the President and a report was produced and submitted to the County Government for implementation in 2019.

Unfortunately, by the time we received the report we did not have the CPSB that was expected by law to approve its implementation. When the board was brought on board in 2020, it felt that it needed to carry out its own independent audit before taking any action. Therefore, they commenced their own audit in 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic they were unable to complete. I am happy to report that they have now concluded on this exercise and are now ready to submit the report for implementation by executive.



## **5. Work Ethics**

### **Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,**

We inherited a government system with very poor work ethics. Every effort during my first term tenure as a governor, has been made to improve work ethics within our governance system. However, this has been less successful because the CPSB had not developed a County Public Service law/Act that spells out the ethos and values of the County Civil Service and disciplinary measures to be taken against those who break the same.

Further, this has been complicated by the fact that the Human Resource audit report had not been completed and presented to the executive for implementation. During my second term, this issue of work ethics will be given top priority to improve on service delivery and etiquette of the staff in County Public Service

## **6. Public Participation**

Public Participation is core to devolution. Devolution was created to enhance citizen participation in their own development agenda and destiny. Therefore, Public participation is crucial in the development agenda in all counties.

However, despite of having polices and legislation on public participation, there still exist many challenges on how to conduct efficient and effective public participation that uses data and information for rational decision making. There is serious need for civic education of our people on their role and participation in planning and decision making.

To address this issue, the executive constituted ward development committees early this year to form the core team to coordinate public participation and development planning processes at the ward level. This was because of the outcry and complaint that their respective MCAs were making development decisions without involving them, even though all those projects were captured in the CIDP and were proposed by them.

We hope that our new MCAs, who are patrons of these committees, will work closely with them to ensure that development planning and project implementation at the ward level are executed through a participatory process.

Where there is concern regarding the membership of these committees, the executive is open for discussion with the relevant MCAs on how best to strengthen the committees so that they are all inclusive.

I wish to commend the County Assembly through the initiative of the previous speaker for the launch of the BUNGE MASHINANI which takes legislation and public participation to the local level. The first Bunge Mashinani was held in Luanda, I attended the forum, and it was very successful. I strongly recommend to the new leadership of the assembly to continue with this initiative and have it conducted on rotation across the entire county.

**Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,**

Despite of the above challenges, we were able to make significant achievement in various sectors, that have greatly enhanced the socio-economic development of the people of Vihiga County. These achievements were possible due the decision the executive made to allocate development resources at the ward level to ensure that development was undertaken across the entire county without favour or compromise.

We started by allocating KES 20 million per ward annually but due to pressure from Treasury to pay pending bills, this was reduced to KES 15 million annually.

It is the wish of the executive that this policy is continued with appropriate adjustment in the implementation of the same, whereby the ward development committee will play a crucial role in selecting projects to implemented annually. Due to the pressure we have to pay pending bills as a priority, we plan to allocate at least KES 20 million per ward starting the financial year 2023/24.

**ACHIEVEMENT OF MY FIRST TERM**

**Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,**

The following is a summary of achievement by sector during my first term. My previous achievement is based on the 2017-2022 CIDP that was prepared through Public Participation on assumption of office in august 2017.

**1. Establishment of County Governance System**

Without an efficient and effective governance system, our county cannot prosper. Therefore, during our first term we dedicated significant time in establishing a functional governance system. We established a new organizational structure of the County Government as well as the following:

- We initiated performance contracting,
- We also initiated corruption risk assessment with EACC,
- We established a Public Participation and Civic Education Directorate,
- We operationalized County Human Resource Advisory Committee (CHRAC),
- We automated procurement through IFMIS,
- We established CBEF as well as the County Audit Committee.
- We enacted and assented to 43 bills into Acts of the County Government
- We formulated 23 Policies and 12 Regulations of the County Government.

These actions among others significantly improved the efficiency and functioning of the County Government. However, there is still more to be done particularly as regards to Human Resource Management. In particular, reducing the wage bill to the recommended 35% of the total revenue received annually.

## **2. Health Services**

### **Mr. Speaker, Hon. Members,**

We inherited a non-functional health sector that had literally collapsed. There were no drugs, no staff and there was no equipment in most of our health facilities. My administration gave top priority to the revival of the health sector during my first term. As a result, I am happy to report that significant improvement has been achieved across board in the health sector.

We have witnessed overall improvement in the health infrastructure. For example, 24 new health facilities have been constructed and operationalized. The referral hospital was renovated and fully equipped with modern diagnostic equipment and machines like the modern CT-scans currently installed at the County Referral Hospital. Among the new units established are: the Cardiac Unit, Renal Unit, ICU, Dental Unit and the Oncology Unit. We have improved drastically the availability of drugs and non-pharmaceuticals in our health facilities.

We have recruited over 400 healthcare staff and 1,460 CHVs. The mother and child program commonly known as Ottichilocare was initiated in 2019 and to date, over 9,000 mothers have benefitted from the program.

We commenced the construction of the 160-bed hospital plaza and funeral home both of which have stalled due to lack of funding.

In conclusion, I note that a lot has been done in the health sector but there is still a lot more to be done to improve the health sector and ensure that the Universal Healthcare principles are implemented to the letter.

### **3. Infrastructure and ICT**

During my term, we opened, graded, graveled and maintained 1,253KM of County Roads, we constructed 46 river structures (Bridges, Box culverts, footbridges and river crossings), we established the County Mechanical Unit and Installed solar streetlights in 19 Markets together with 22 High mast flood lights across major spots in the county.

In collaboration with the National Government, we identified several roads for upgrading to tarmac/bitumen standards. These are: Gisambai-Shamakhokho road, Mbale-Magada-Luanda Road, Mago-Mululu road and the Lunyerere-Kivagala road. We also constructed to bitumen standard the Mbale-Munoywa road.

Although most of the roads in the county are currently all weather and motorable, it is our desire to start upgrading most of the main roads in the sub-counties to bitumen standard in the long run, to ensure we reduce the high annual cost of maintenance of these roads.

### **4. Water and Sanitation**

**Mr. Speaker, Hon. Members,**

Water is life and Vihiga is fortunate to have many rivers and water springs spread across the county. However, there has been little effort to expand the old water projects and start new projects in order to avail piped water at a household/community level. Therefore, during my first term as Governor, we resolved to expand the existing water schemes, develop new water schemes and protect community water springs.

In collaboration with the National Government, and with funding from the Belgium Government, we commenced the expansion of the Vihiga Cluster Water Project that was intended to double the water supply capacity from 6.3 million to the current 12.5 million litres per day. The project is expected to supply water to over 270,000 households across the county. The physical works of the project are complete and the three water schemes are now operational. However, there is still a big challenge in the distribution of water to institutions and households due to lack of funding.

We have further expanded and operationalized 10 existing water schemes across the county. We have drilled and operationalized 36 community water boreholes and protected over 100 water springs.

The construction of a biodigester sewage plant is ongoing at Mbale town and a pilot sewerage purification plant is being constructed at Hedwe in Kegoye.

## **5. Climate Change Governance**

I am happy and proud of Vihiga County having been the pioneer county on Climate Change action. We already have legislation and policy in place. We have established a Climate Change Directorate, County Climate Change Planning Committee and Ward Climate Change Planning Committees. This makes Vihiga County among the first in Kenya to fulfill the Financing Locally Led Climate Action (FLLoCA) requirements for funding. In addition to these, we have gone further to implement 5 Climate Change Investment Projects on water provision to communities, supplying water to over 200 households.

Under the FLLoCA program, the county will be receiving annual funding for ward projects that will focus on climate mitigation and adaptation for the next five years. We have already established climate change ward committees in readiness for the same.

## **6. Cohesion and Integration**

**Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,**

To fast-track development in our county, we need unity of purpose. We need to function as one community. To promote this unity of purpose, we undertook the following during my first term.

- We have successfully held annual cultural festivals in December.
- We also established a County Religious Leaders Forum
- We successfully managed to convene a Vihiga County Leaders forum and held 2 county professional meetings.
- We have a functional CSO forum that culminated in development of an MoU between CSOs and the County Government.
- The relationship between the County Government and the Chamber of Commerce has been of consultative and cooperative.

## **7. Education, Science and Technology**

**Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,**

This is one sector that has been greatly transformed in the County. We have built 210 new ECDE classrooms, equipped and staffed with 824 recruited qualified ECDE teachers. We have registered all our 32 Vocational Training Centres (VTCs), fully equipped them, recruited 193 TVET instructors and introduced capitation of KES 15,000 on top of the National Government capitation, making TVET education free in Vihiga County. That has led to an increase in enrolment from 2,700 students to 5,700 students in our VTCs. To further strengthen the quality of education in these fine institutions, we have established 5 model specialized VTCs at Keveye, Maseno, Kaimosi, Solongo and Emmukunzi.

We have established the Vihiga County Education Fund (Bursary) that has benefitted over 25,000 students annually since 2018. We have also introduced the Governor's Scholarship Programme that so far has 465 bright student beneficiaries from poor economic backgrounds across the county.

Despite of the above achievements, we still have a lot to implement to improve the performance and expansion of our education sector. We still have to expand our VTCs and equip them and increase enrollment. We are yet to complete the construction of ECDE classrooms and accompanying facilities in our public Primary Schools. The bursary available is inadequate due to high demand and there is urgent need to increase funding of the Governor's scholarship.

## **8. Youth, Sports, Culture, Gender and Social Services**

### **Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,**

This sector has witnessed tremendous progress and achievement during my tenure as Governor in my first term. We enacted the Sports Act which enabled us to establish Sport Funding for our sporting activities in the county. As a result, many teams in different sporting disciplines have been funded, particularly in soccer. We have our four teams playing in the premier leagues (Vihiga United, Vihiga Queens, Bunyore Starlets and the Vihiga Bullets FC). Vihiga Queens are the reigning National Women Premier League champions for 4 consecutive seasons and the CECAFA African Champions in 2021. They represented the region in the CAF competition in Egypt. As a result, many of our players have been recruited by various international teams.

We have also been able to promote talent through annual talent extravaganzas and hosted the County Youth Conference. Further, we recently enacted the Youth Service Act, which will ensure the youth play an active role in the County Government Governance system and have access to dedicated funds to promote entrepreneurship and job creation. Particularly, the Act guarantees their access to the 30% allocated access to tenders in the County Government.

We also enacted the PLWD Act. However, this Act has not been operationalized due to various challenges.

Under Social Protection, my administration issued 649 bursaries to Orphans and Vulnerable children, 100 PLWDs were issued with wheelchairs, 11,000 indigents have been registered with NHIF under UHC program. We also succeeded in enacting the Vihiga County Disability Act, and ensured KES 406 million of Uwezo, Youth, Trade and Women Enterprise Fund was issued to 2,439 groups between 2018-2022. All these efforts earned the County

Government recognition by the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) for promotion of equality and inclusion of special interest groups.

Aside from sports, we have regularly held cultural festivals for the Maragoli, Bunyore, Tiriki and Terik communities since 2017. We have also commenced on the construction of cultural centres for the same communities. Already, Hamisi and Maragoli cultural centres have been constructed but not operationalized. We have also played a crucial role in the conservation and protection of cultural forests through fencing, reforestation and acquiring of title deeds.

We have actively participated in annual KICOSCA games. We have also sponsored various schools and community choirs to the National Music Festivals annually.

## **9. Trade and Commerce**

We have established the Trade and Enterprise Fund, constructed 7 new market sheds, 38 new bodaboda sheds, formed 24 market management committees, constructed market amenities (ring roads, toilets, cabro surfacing and fencing) and completed the Luanda Omena Market. However, a lot remains to be done to create a good enabling environment in our local markets to promote businesses.

## **10. Disaster Preparedness**

**Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,**

Our Disaster Management Act is in place. On top of that, we have acquired and deployed to service a 10,000-litre fires engine, a 2,000-litre Rapid Response Vehicle and recruited and trained 17 Fire Marshalls.

## **11. Agriculture**

In this sector, we have increased maize production from 8 bags/acre to 15 bags/acre – by issuing subsidized seed and fertilizer and improved extension services. Through the NARIGP program, we have increased agricultural value addition in Poultry, Banana, Dairy and Indigenous Vegetable benefitting 748 farmer groups. Mwitoko Fish Farm and Aquaculture Training Centre was completed. We have formed and registered 180 cooperatives and established the County Cooperative Fund. Mukhalakhala, Serem and Lunyerere Slaughterhouses have been completed and opened.

To enhance dairy farming in the County, we have distributed 435 dairy heifers, 80 dairy goats to farmers. We have also distributed 13,175 chicks to

farmers. We have inseminated 22,588 cattle, Vaccinated over 25,000 animals against various diseases.

## **12. Environment, Renewable Energy and Natural Resources**

**Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,**

We have attained 35.9% tree coverage against the nationally required 10%. This has been made possible through the reforestation of 12.8ha of Maragoli Hills, 4ha of Kibiri Forest and 2ha of Ebusiekwe hills among other private efforts by individuals and community groups. We have also rehabilitated and fenced 5 traditional forests and established Maragoli hills forestry offices and tree nursery.

Under renewable energy, we have solarized the Vihiga Cluster Water Projects and 10 boreholes, we have solarized the Maragoli Hills Forestry office and installed solar water heating systems in 12 dispensaries and at VCRH.

For waste management, we purchased 2ha of land for construction of a waste management plant and have acquired 1 skip loader, 1 garbage compacter and installed garbage bins in major towns and markets.

## **MY 2022 - 2027 SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

**Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,**

Our vision for Vihiga county is to become a Prosperous and Model County in Kenya. We intend to achieve this through implementation of good governance practices, impactful development projects and programs. This must be driven by our motto of – “Maendeleo bila Mapendeleo wala Ufisadi”.

My socio-economic development agenda for Vihiga County is be based on:

1. National Medium-Term Plan (MTP) IV 2023-2027
2. My Manifesto for the people of Vihiga County 2022-2027
3. Unimplemented projects and programs in the 2018-2022 CIDP
4. The preparation of 2022-2027 CIDP

The details of my agenda as highlighted in my Manifesto to the people of Vihiga County are available on [www.vihiga.go.ke](http://www.vihiga.go.ke) and [www.ottichilo.co.ke](http://www.ottichilo.co.ke) . Copies of the same document have been shared with the public.

To operationalize my manifesto, the law demands preparation of a people-led County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) through public participation. The department of Finance and Economic Planning within the



County Government has already embarked on the preparation of the 2022-2027 CIDP under the guidance of the Ministry of Devolution. We hope to complete and launch this important document by 12th December 2022 as is required by the law.

It is in this CIDP that my proposals as contained in my Manifesto will be further discussed through public participation, approved and incorporated in the CIDP for implementation. Other projects not contained in my manifesto will also be discussed and if approved, incorporated into the CIDP. The CIDP will have projects and programs funded by the County Government, the National Government, Development partners and Non-Governmental Organizations among others.

**Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,**

Allow me now to present the main highlights as captured in my manifesto.

### **1. Governance**

The following projects and programmes will be implemented:

- a. Create a Corruption Prevention Committee/Unit To work in collaboration with EACC
- b. Promote effective Public Participation through Ward Development Planning Committees
- c. Enhance transparency and accountability using ICT platforms in all governance activities
- d. Establish County Social and Economic Council to focus and advice socio-economic development of the county

### **2. Human Resources Development and Management**

The following projects and programmes will be implemented:

- a. Operationalize a new governance structure based on the first experience
- b. Strengthen service delivery unit to enhance project monitoring and evaluation
- c. Operationalize and strengthen performance contracting
- d. Work in collaboration with Kenya School of Government to complete the South Maragoli campus
- e. Operationalize the County Human Resource Management System
- f. Introduce staff biometric system for efficient staff management

### **3. Health and Medical Services**

The following projects and programmes will be implemented:

- a. Promote Universal Healthcare Coverage (UHC) in the county
- b. Complete the 160-bed hospital Plaza with specialized clinics, modern theaters, dialysis unit, HDU and ICU
- c. Upgrade the sub-county hospitals to level 4 and upgrade our Referral Hospital to level 5 teaching hospital
- d. Complete and commission the county Funeral Home with a hearse
- e. Complete Givigoi sub-county hospital
- f. Ensure health facilities are well equipped, staffed and have regular supply of drugs and non-pharmaceutical materials.

#### **4. Water and Sanitation**

**Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,**

The following projects and programmes will be implemented:

- a. Ensure supply of clean and reliable water to households from the Vihiga Water Cluster Program and from other county water schemes
- b. Expand and rehabilitate existing water distribution piping system of different water supply schemes and protection of various water springs
- c. Enhance the conservation of our water catchment areas and sources particularly the wetlands and riverine areas.
- d. Restructure Amatsi Water Services Board to allow for efficient and effective service delivery
- e. Operationalize all sunk and capped boreholes

#### **5. Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives**

The following projects and programmes will be implemented:

- a. Promote agribusiness through NARIGP and other projects
- b. Increase investment in extension services
- c. Promote apiculture and dairy farming
- d. Promote fish farming for income generation and nutrition
- e. Build agricultural training centre
- f. Establish a soil testing laboratory
- g. Establish a veterinary lab

#### **6. Education, Science and Technology**

**Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,**

The following projects and programmes will be implemented:

- a. Continue to enhance access to ECDE through construction of more classrooms and hiring of more teachers

- b. Expand the scope of the Bursary and Governor's Scholarship program
- c. Continue to provide significant scholarship/bursaries to our students as an incentive to promote technical and vocational training.
- d. Strengthen and equip 5 specialized model TVET institutions.
- e. Establish more TVET training institutions
- f. Establish innovation and business hubs within our TVET institutions.
- g. Establish Vihiga County Youth Business Start-up Fund for the youths.
- h. Increase the scope and funding for the Governor's scholarship programme.
- i. Pilot ECDE feeding program

## **7. Transport and Infrastructure**

The following projects and programmes will be implemented:

- a. Continue to improve and maintain our entire rural road infrastructure to at least all-weather motorable standards.
- b. Identify key roads for development to bitumen standards, through a consultative process. At least 5 km per subcounty.
- c. Complete all the stalled bridges and river crossings that had been started between 2014 to 2017.
- d. Enhance the installation and maintenance of high mast lighting across the county.
- e. Introduce performance-based road maintenance program for all county roads.

## **8. Trade, Commerce & Industry**

**Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,**

The following projects and programmes will be implemented:

- a. Expand market infrastructure (market stalls, sanitary facilities and install solar lighting) and put up model markets, in the 2 new municipalities of Luanda and Cheptulu.
- b. Enhance the Trade and Enterprise Fund to develop the SMEs and entrepreneurship ventures in the county.
- c. Promote development of SMEs and cottage industry to grow the economy of Vihiga county.
- d. Create a new market space for Mbale town.
- e. In partnership with the National Government, complete the granite factory at Ebuyangu in Emuhaya subcounty.
- f. Establish modern eco-toilet facilities in Mbale Town and other markets.
- g. Promote eco-tourism at Maragoli Hills and Kibiri Forest.

## **9. Environment, Natural Resources, Energy & Climate Change**

**Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,**

The following projects and programmes will be implemented:

- a. Strengthen the Ward Climate Change Committee adaptation and mitigation efforts through the FLLoCA Program and Climate Change Fund.
- b. Formulate policies on sand harvesting and growing of Eucalyptus in riverine areas.
- c. Collaborate with national agencies to conserve the county water resources, forests and wildlife – fencing off of Kibiri Forest will be accorded priority.
- d. Establish a waste recycling and management plant in Luanda South ward.
- e. In collaboration with Kaimosi Friends University, establish Climate Change Centre.
- f. Complete and operationalize the biodigester waste facility in Mbale and promote use of biodigester technology at household level.
- g. Establish a model solar powered village.
- h. Complete and operationalize Kaimosi Hydropower Plant in collaboration with KENGEN.
- i. Develop and operationalize Mbale Gardens.
- j. Protect and conserve traditional forests and shrines.

## **10. Gender, Sports, Youth, Culture & Social Services.**

The following projects and programmes will be implemented:

- a. Set aside adequate space and develop decent county burial grounds-county cemetery.
- b. Establish talent centers at subcounty levels.
- c. Operationalize the Youth Service Act.
- d. Operationalize the PLWD Act.
- e. Enhance the Sports Fund Allocation.
- f. Build resource centers at the subcounty and eventually the ward level.
- g. Establish a County Rescue/Rehabilitation center.
- h. Build a county Talent Center, cultural center, and museum.
- i. Complete construction of Hamisi Stadium and rehabilitate Kidundu Stadium.

## **11. Lands, Physical Planning, Housing & Urban Planning**

**Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,**

The following projects and programmes will be implemented

- a. Automate all public land in the county into a land management information system.
- b. Complete the Governor's & Deputy Governor's residence.
- c. Develop affordable low-cost housing in Mbale in partnership with developers.
- d. Update Spatial Plans for Vihiga Municipality
- e. Finalize Spatial Plans for Luanda and Cheptulu and have the towns declared municipalities.

## **CONCLUSION**

### **Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,**

For all that I have presented in this speech to be achieved, there is need for cooperation, support and inclusion of everyone. From the staff of the County Government of Vihiga, National Government, the County Assembly of Vihiga, the Vihiga County Leadership, Development partners and finally, the people of Vihiga County.

The big task of development and progress of Vihiga County is not a singular preserve of the County Governor alone. It is a collective cooperation of efforts and abilities of all stakeholders endeared to Vihiga County. My role as Governor will be to create an enabling environment that will facilitate the PEOPLE to become the ENGINE and centre of DEVELOPMENT. My administration will be an enabler of possibilities.

### **Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,**

I am keen to build a lasting foundation of transforming our county to socio-economic prosperity through a culture of hard work, inclusivity and honesty. I desire to build a cohesive and integrated society in our county. I therefore call upon all political leaders to support me in this endeavor. Further, we need to work together as leaders and as a community to fight the vice of corruption collectively.

Through continued and sustained peace in our County and the Nation, I desire to foster an accountable and transparent administration that will always consider the input of the people. You, the people of Vihiga County need to own your government. The electioneering season is over. Let us respect our own leaders and refrain from abusing and demeaning them on our digital spaces.

### **Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,**

Corruption is a national pandemic that touches every citizen and affects all our lives. Fighting it is also a collective responsibility of all. From the Governor, down to the last person in this county. During my tenure as your

governor, I need the people of Vihiga County to be vigilant and proactive in identification and reporting of this vice in any and all aspects of service delivery by the County Government of Vihiga. To that end, I will establish a 24-hour toll free complain and corruption prevention hotline. I will also establish an Anti-Corruption Committee at the County to coordinate all corruption risk assessment and prevention activities.

**Once again, Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,**

I wish to convey my appreciation to all that have supported me, supported the County Government, and continue to have the passion for development of our people and our County. We will work with the National Government for a more integrated development of our County.

A big appreciation also goes to our development partners who have walked with us the far we have come. The journey is halfway. I am looking forward to finishing the remaining journey during my tenure with you, engaging and collaborating to improve the socio-economic welfare of our people.

**Finally, Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,**

I once more thank you all for attending this first session of the 3<sup>rd</sup> County Assembly of Vihiga.

May God bless all of you, our County and our beloved country Kenya.

Thank you.