

NAIROBI CITY COUNTY



STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS BY

HIS EXCELLENCY SAKAJA A. JOHNSON, EGH,
GOVERNOR

NAIROBI CITY COUNTY GOVERNMENT

WEDNESDAY, 11 FEBRUARY 2026

The Honourable Speaker,

Nairobi City Assembly Leadership,

Honourable Members,

Distinguished Guests,

Members of the Diplomatic Community,

Members of the Press,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon,

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

It is a solemn duty to stand before you today, not to seek applause but to render account. A city is defined not by its ambition but by its delivery. Promises are easy; governing is the real work; governing honestly — acknowledging what remains unfinished while steadily advancing what matters most — is the truest measure of our calling.

What the people of Nairobi want is not intentions but outcomes. Article 10(2) of the Constitution demands that we exercise authority with dignity, equality, justice, inclusivity, and accountability, standing ready to account

for our decisions. We have moved this city forward, deliberately, measurably, and with purpose. We are on course to transform Nairobi.

Nairobi stood at a decisive moment. The city had grown faster than our infrastructure, faster than our systems, faster than history prepared us for. And when systems strain, it is ordinary people who suffer.

For too long, government was distant, slow, unresponsive. Services existed; access did not. Projects were announced; completion was uncertain. Responsibility everywhere; accountability nowhere. Children came to school hungry while leaders debated menus. Mothers traded without dignity, with no safe spaces for infants or cold storage for produce. Families endured endless delays while illegal water connections siphoned supply. The sick were told to wait, to go elsewhere, to buy their own medicine: not healthcare, but neglect thinly dressed as procedure.

We did not inherit a blank slate; we inherited backlog, debt, imbalance, fragmentation. Leadership is proved by confronting the present, not complaining about the past.

My administration chose, deliberately, to reject the normalisation of dysfunction. We chose system over spectacle, delivery over declaration. We began with fundamentals, because when the basics work, trust follows; when trust follows, reform becomes inevitable.

We began by feeding our children. There are moments when we must decide what kind of city we are. We chose not to give a stone when a child asked for bread. Today, 323,470 learners in 230 ECDs and public primary schools eat a hot meal daily. We have served over 72 million meals through our 17

Central Kitchens and our partners Giga Kitchen. This programme has created 2,500 new jobs, raised farmers' incomes, and transformed families — children perform better, absenteeism declines, parents breathe easier.

Dishi na County school feeding is not an expense we tolerate; it is a responsibility we honour. Parents contribute five shillings per meal; the County subsidises the rest; the most vulnerable ten per cent pay nothing. No child is turned away. Hunger will not be a background condition of learning.

Last month, the County Executive Committee approved the Nairobi City County School Feeding Policy, anchoring this constitutional right in law, extending coverage to informal settlements, and expanding from 17 to 69 kitchens. No child will be left behind.

Honourable Members,

Opportunity must follow hope. Through fair identification and transparent disbursement, we can ensure one hundred per cent transition to secondary school. This January, I issued scholarships worth 170 million shillings to 3,828 beneficiaries and processed ward bursaries for 56,525 learners, totalling 295.5 million shillings — the highest allocation since devolution began.

I recall Jasper Onyinkwa Mokuu, a top KCSE performer and scholarship beneficiary. His father lost work after the pandemic. When I met Jasper and his parents in my office, there were no words — only tears. They spoke of hope restored. They thanked me, but truly, honourable members, it is you who made this possible. When you pass a budget, see not just the numbers but the people.

Jasper sat in my chair and spoke to two students who had been stranded, giving advice. These are real stories. More than 40 students received scholarships last month alone to join grade 10. One father wrote: “You changed my life.” That letter belongs not to me, but to you in this assembly and to Nairobians. Education is not generosity. A city that educates its children secures its future; a city that neglects them mortgages it.

To support growing enrolment, we have built classrooms and provided free pre-primary education through capitation grants of 3,200 shillings per child — 100 million shillings for over 30,000 learners. While furniture worth 120 million shillings has been distributed to ECDs.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

Prudent financial management has been our pillar. Digitisation enhanced efficiency, transparency, and real-time monitoring. Collections rose each year. Last year, we achieved historical financial performance - 13.8 billion shillings in own-source revenue — the highest since devolution began.

Various revenue measures were undertaken in the year including the implementation of the 2019 valuation roll, capturing over 30,000 previously unvalued properties and 21,000 new properties, expanding the rateable base. This saw rates revenue rise from 2.48 billion shillings to 3.3 billion shillings in FY 2024/25; our target now is 6.5 billion shillings.

Enhanced enforcement and structured tenant account monitoring in county estates saw housing revenue increase from 503.4 million shillings to 798.8 million.

We have worked towards addressing the huge pending bills.

Pending bills, initially reported at 119.5 billion shillings, were revised down to 71.6 billion shillings through forensic reconciliation. We tackled unjustified legal claims, aligned historical loans, corrected registers, and conducted a comprehensive IFMIS cleansing across 12 financial years.

Quarterly and annual statements are now submitted on time to both the Public Accounts Committees (PACs) of this house and the Senate. For the first time in over a decade, audit outcomes improved: no adverse opinions and all reports qualified in FY 2024/25.

This is discipline. This is duty. This is honour to Nairobians who entrust us with their hard-earned money. I thank this Assembly: many achievements would not be possible without your support to pass the budget.

The Ward Development Programme (WDP) has ensured equitable development across all 85 wards, raising allocations from 715.8 million shillings in FY 2022/23 to 857.7 million shillings in 2024/25, with total payments of 2.7 billion shillings.

To ease business costs, we launched the Unified Business Permit, consolidating multiple licenses into one. Over 300,000 businesses have registered under UBP. In January 2026, we launched the Liquor Pay system. A system designed to transition the County's liquor licensing protocol from manual, bureaucratic, and prone-to-corruption processes to a fully automated, transparent, and cashless system. Liquor Pay automates the entire process from application, inspection, and payment to approval, removing the need for physical visits. Easing compliance for over 13,000 bar owners.

Markets are Nairobi's heartbeat. Six new county markets rise: Mutuini (85%), Kahawa West and Jujo (65%), Karen (40%), Miraa (15%), Dandora East (5%). We have invested in improving the state of our current markets. A cold storage pilots at City Park Market supports 5,000 traders to preserve their fresh produce for longer; the same will be rolled out in all our markets. Childcare facilities allow mothers to trade in peace. To ease movement and decongest Haile Selassie Avenue the link road between Wakulima market and muthruwa market has been opened; also, the loop road behind Wakulima Market has been opened to Jogoo Road. 150 modern kiosks across six wards have been constructed. This is not charity; this is justice.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Infrastructure is the backbone of a thriving city. We are upgrading roads, pavements, ramps, streetlights, and stormwater drain.

Work is ongoing along key city corridors including Moi Service Lane, City Hall Way, the Archives area, and Taifa Lane by replacing old pavements with durable, high-quality and modern cabro paving, placement of dustbins, installation of ramps to accommodate persons living with disabilities. Modern street lights have also been installed. This transformation will continue throughout the CBD and into the wards.

147 kilometres of roads were rehabilitated with county funds, while 61 kilometres with national fuel levy funds. Pedestrian walkways and footpaths, manholes, and gully covers have been restored. Together with other agencies, we are coordinating road planning to ensure movement flows efficiently.

Boda boda operators now work in designated circles with reflectors. Digital taxi and boda boda pick-up/drop-off points have reduced congestion and improved safety.

Cleanliness is systems, not slogans; and we are putting the systems in place. 4,500 Green Army workers are now permanent; 150 technical staff support them. New tippers, skip loaders, and compactors were procured. Dandora dumpsite has been improved. 63 recycling companies, 125 private waste providers, and 79 community-based organisations now partner with the County. 1,000 litter bins have been installed in Starehe, Dagoretti North, Westlands, Kamukunji Sub-counties and Parks sections. We continue to install these bins. Integrated waste transfer stations are coming, with estate-level, predictable clean-ups.

Water distribution is a test of government competence. We increased city capacity by 140 million litres through the Northern Collector Tunnel. Residents now receive water more frequently. New pipelines in Lang'ata ended years of intermittent supply.

Charles Njoroge of Mihango is one of the residents who has appreciated the new connection of water – part of the Eastern Nairobi Water and Sanitation project which has transformed the lives of residents in Embakasi, Utawala, Ruai and Njiru. Having piped tap water to his house is a celebration, he no longer relies on borehole water whose quality was not assured when delivered.

In December I commissioned a new 67 million shillings water pipeline in Lang'ata ending years of residents going without water in their taps. We have enhanced enforcement of illegal connections.

1,686 new water points have been added, including prepaid public dispensers at 0.5 cents per 20 litres, which is considerably lower in comparison to formal water kiosks. Boreholes and 10,000-litre tanks have been distributed to every ward. City Hall's water system has been refurbished for staff dignity.

Work is not done yet; we still need a lot more water in the city. The completion and commissioning of the Northern Collector (140,000 m³) and Karimenu (23,000 m³) has been officially done. We are now preparing for optimisation of Ngethu and development of Maragua Dam which will increase water supply by another 200million litres daily.

Sewer coverage is expanding from 52% to 60% by 2027, with new lines in Riruta, Donholm, Njiru, Kiamaiko, and St Georges. Ruth Wanjiru, a resident of Metameta, Ngei Ward, said the new sewer line in the ward that was completed last year is the best thing that has happened to her having not to jump over raw sewage anymore. The new line has improved the lives of over 140,000 residents in the area. Wanjiru's story is one of many we want to continue transforming by increasing the sewer coverage from the current 52 per cent to 80 by 2027.

Simplified Sewer Systems now serve informal settlements, replacing flying toilets and restoring dignity. We launched the Simplified Sewer Systems to transform sanitation in various informal settlements – which were barely served by the main line. Brian Wasike, a resident of Mukuru, who is here today, where it was launched says dignity has been restored through the Simplified Sewer System away from the flying toilet, which were a menace and a health hazard.

Honourable Members,

Health is where leadership becomes personal. Nairobi County hospitals are now Level Five, from Level four: Mbagathi, Mama Lucy Kibaki, Pumwani Maternity, Mama Uhuru Kenyatta, and Mama Rachel Ruto Mutuini. NICUs, HDUs, dialysis, dental services, and complex procedures are operational. 99 of 119 facilities are digitised, improving accountability and efficiency. SHA outreach has already reached 2.5 million Nairobians with screenings and vaccinations.

Key for us has been to secure land titles and leases for the people of Nairobi but more so our public institutions. We have issued close to 3,000 lease titles to Nairobians and institutions that have been long unjustly deprived of their property. Currently, we have 5,000 leases that are being finalised at the Ministry of Lands; once they are done, we will issue them to the rightful owners.

Over 8,500 plots in various county schemes - Kahawa West, Kahawa Jua Kali, Mowlem Ward Regularisation, Kayole, Dandora and Kariobangi South have been surveyed and regularisation is ongoing.

The majority of what we are doing will be implemented in the sub-counties and further to the ward level. In ensuring we have further devolved services delivery we have operationalised the boroughs and appointed the six (6) managers.

These six (6) borough managers are part of the 8,000 new staff members, most of them young people, who have been recruited in the past three years.

Their recruitment ranges from members of the executive, the green army, and medical services practitioners.

The recruitment of 1,460 City Constables has restored security, cleared illegal structures, and regulated traffic.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

Trust is rebuilt through experience. Children learn because they are fed. Trader's work in dignity. Hospitals heal. Water flows fairly. Opportunity widens.

No city progresses while waiting to be persuaded. Citizenship is not a spectator sport. Comply. Participate. Be vigilant, for perpetual vigilance is the price of progress.

I honour the mandate the people of Nairobi gave me. They entrusted me with constitutional powers to transform the city. I will not betray that trust. In the year 2020, Nairobi got into a misadventure that ended up being costly. The NMS experiment left us with a 16billion hole in pending bills, low staff morale due to mistreatment and a defilement of devolution. The functions bestowed upon us by the constitution will remain County functions. We shall not transfer them. Nairobi is not just a county; it is the capital city and collaboration with the National Government is inevitable; infact it is encouraged.

The future of Nairobi is ours. Let us make Nairobi work — consistently, fairly, and with dignity for all.

God bless you all! God bless Nairobi! God bless Kenya!
Lazima iWork!

Honourable Speaker, pursuant to Section 30(2)(j) I hereby submit to the county assembly the annual report on the implementation status of the county policies and plans.

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