



COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF TAITA TAVETA

e-journal

February, 2017



**County Government
rolls out capititation
to learners in ECDEs
and Vocational Training
Centers**

**Smaller Holder Productivity
and Profitability initiative launched**
Desilting of Njoro Kubwa Canal begins

State of the County Address



**Mheshimiwa Spika wa Bunge la Kaunti,
Waheshimiwa Wajumbe wa Bunge la Kaunti,
Mabibi na mabwana,**

Ninayo furaha kupata fursa hii ya kuhutubia bunge letu siku ya leo tunapoelekea kuadhimisha miaka minne baada ya kuanza kutumika kwa mfumo wa ugatuzi. Hii leo nimefika hapa ili tuweze: kuangazia mafanikio ya serikali yetu ya kaunti, kutathmini changamoto ambazo tumepitia tukitoa huduma na kutekeleza miradi tofauti na kuweza kuangazia ni mbinu zipi mwafaka ambazo tunaweza kutumia kufikia upeo wa juu kimaendeleo.

Mheshimiwa Spika,

Katika sekta ya elimu, tumeweza kuboresha mazingira kwa kujenga madarasa mapya, kununua viti na meza, pia vifaa vya masomo na kuajiri walimu katika shule zote za chekechea. Kufikia sasa tumemaliza kujenga madarasa 139 mapya, na yale ambayo yamefanyiwa ukarabati yakiwa ni 49. Pia, Karakana mpya ambazo tumejenga katika vyuo vya kiufundi ni 11, zilizofanyiwa ukarabati ni 4; na mabweni manne yakiwa tayari yamejengwa.

State of the County Address

Serikali yenu ya kaunti kufikia sasa imeweza kuajiri walimu 645 wa kufunza katika shule za chekechea kwa kuwapatia kandarasi, na kati ya hawa, walimu 325 wamepata ajira ya kudumu. Kwa waliosalia, serikali imewashauri wapate vyeti vinavyotambuliwa na tume ya kuajiri walimu nchini (TSC) kuwawezesha kupata ajira ya kudumu. Pia katika shule hizi zote za chekechea tuna mpango wa kutoa chakula cha mchana ili kuhakikisha wanafunzi wanaendelea na masomo yao pasi kusumbuliwa na njaa.

Tunavyofahamu ni kwamba shule za msingi na za upili zinasimamiwa na serikali ya kitaifa. Lakini, tumejizatiti kuhakikisha kwamba wanafunzi wetu wanapata matokeo bora katika mitihani ya kitaifa kwa kuwapelekea vyakula na vilevile kuwasambazia watoto wetu wa kike taulo za sodo.

Katika idara ya vyuo vya ufundi, kumekuwa na changamoto ya wanafunzi wachache kutoweza kusalia shuleni hadi wamalize masomo yao. Ili kuhakikisha tunakabiliana na changamoto hii, serikali imetenga fedha za kuwapa wanafunzi hawa kama BURSARIES. Pia, kila mwanafunzi katika vyuo hivi, tunamlipia shilingi elfu kumi kwa mwaka kama karo.

Zaidi ya hayo tumetafuta wahisani tofauti ku-saidia wanafunzi wasio jiweza katika vyuo hivi kuwalipia karo; kufikia sasa, wanafunzi 176 wamelipiwa karo katika vyuo tofauti na mashirika kama vile KCB na SCHUPA INTERNATIONAL kutoka Ujerumani.

Mheshimiwa Spika,

Uchumi wa kaunti yetu hutegemea kwa kiasi kikubwa sekta ya kilimo na, mifugo. Kwa hivyo, kuimarisha na kuweka mikakati ya kuweza kukuza sekta hiyo imekuwa mojawapo ya ajenda kuu katika serikali yangu. Ili kuhakikisha kuna mifugo wa hali ya juu, idara ya mifugo imenunua ng'ombe dume 44 ambao walikabidhiwa wafugaji kwa ni ya kuboresha mbegu ya mifugo yetu.

Vilevile, ili kuimarisha zaidi sekta ya mifugo, tulianzisha kituo cha kuboresha mifugo ambacho ni cha kipekee humu nchini. Kituo hicho kiko pale Bachuma na kufikia sasa kimesaidia wakulima wa mifugo kupata mbegu bora za mifugo.

Tumeangazia sekta hii pia kwa kuanzisha mfumo wa utungaji ng'ombe mimba kwa kutumia mipira (AI) ili kupata mbegu bora na za kisasa ambapo, zaidi ya ng'ombe mia sita zimetungwa mimba kupitia mfumo huo na matokeo yake yamekua na ufanisi wa zaidi ya asilimia 60. Vituo hivyo vinapatikana katika kaunti zetu ndogo zote nne.

Mheshimiwa Spika,

Kati ya changamoto zinazokumba sekta ya kilimo ni uhaba wa mvua na kubadilika kwa hali ya hewa, utumiaji wa mbinu duni za kilimo, upungufu wa vifaa kwa bei nafuu, kutotumia utaalumu ulioko na zaidi ya yote ukosefu wa pesa zinazolenga wakulima wadogo wadogo.

State of the County Address

Ili kukabiliana na baadhi ya changamoto hizi, serikali imeendelea kuwahamasisha wakulima kubadili kilimo kutoka kilimo jadi hadi kilimo cha kisasa. Ni kutokana na hali hii ambapo serikali imeweza kufanya yafuatayo;

- ♦ Ununuzi wa tinga nne ndogo za kusukuma kwa mkono ili kulimia maeneo ya milimani zinatarajiwa mwishoni mwa juma hili katika kaunti yetu.
- ♦ Kufufua sekta ya ushirika ili wakulima wajiunge katika makundi ya ushirika.
- ♦ Mazungumzo baina ya kaunti yetu na ya Mombasa ili wafanyi biashara wetu wa bidhaa za kilimo watengewe mahali pao katika soko la kongowea.
- ♦ Kuhimiza wakulima wapande mbegu zinazostahimili ukame na kukomaa kwa haraka kama vile mtama, mawele na mihogo.
- ♦ Uboreshaji na ustawishaji wa mazao kama vile macadamia. Serikali yenu inashirikiana na ubalozi wa Slovakia humu nchini ili tupate usaidizi wa kilimo cha macadamia. Hivi karibuni tutaanzisha nasari za Macadamia kule Werugha, Sagala na Ngerenyi.
- ♦ Vilevile tumesambaza mbegu za kisasa za migomba katika kaunti ndogo ya Taveta na uboreshaji wa kilimo cha machungwa maeneo ya Sagalla. Pia tumesambaza mbegu za viazi ulaya katika sehemu za Ngerenyi na Werugha.
- ♦ Pia tumesambaza samadi ya ng'ombe kwa wakulima walio Wundanyi, Ngerenyi,

Werugha, Wumingu, Chawia, Mrughua na sehemu nyingine.

- ♦ Tumeweza kununua pamp nane za kusaidia kunyunyuzia mashamba maji katika wadi ya Kaloleni.
- ♦ Tumechimba mabawa matano ya maji ambayo ni Manganga, Mvita, Wesu, Sangenyi na Uthiani pamoja na kuchimbwa kwa kisima cha Bonfance Mghanga katika wadi ya Mbololo.

Mheshimiwa Spika,

Kama nilivyosema hapo nyuma sehemu nyingi za kaunti yetu ni kame na kuna uhaba mkubwa wa maji. Katika kaunti ndogo ya Voi, ujenzi wa mradi wa maji wa Kisambinyi-Ghazi Phase III ambao tumeshirikiana na wahisani wetu wakuu, Mamlaka ya Kushughulika na Majanga tofauti (National Disaster Management Authority, NDMA) umekamilika. Mradi huo wa kilomita 11, utawanufaisha zaidi ya wakaazi 4,000 wa Ghazi.

Vilevile tunashirikiana na Shirika la Msalaba Mwekundu kufanya marekebisha ya bomba la maji kati ya Itinyi na Marungu kule Voi ili kuhakikisha tunafikisha maji katika maeneo ya Buguta na Kasigau bila matatizo. Zabuni za mradi huu tayari zimetangazwa.

Pia tukishirikiana na shirika hilo la Msalaba Mwekundu, tutatekeleza mradi wa maji wa Nakuruto utakaosambaza maji maeneo ya Kasokoni na Challa kule Taveta.

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Vilevile, mradi wa maji wa Kaloleni katika kaunti ndogo ya Voi unaelekea katika awamu ya mwisho na wakati wowote kuanzia sasa wananchi walengwa wataanza kutumia maji. Pia zabuni ya mradi wa kutoa maji kutoka Kisambinyi hadi Koenyi utatangazwa mwezi huu.

Pia kuchimbwa kwa visima vya maji (boreholes) katika maeneo tofauti kwa mfano Rong'e Nyika, Mwachawaza, Uthiani, Mahandakini, Zungulukani na Malukiloriti ni shughuli ambazo zinaendelea. Visima hivi vitasaidia pakubwa kusambazwa kwa maji katika maeneo tofauti ya kaunti yetu.

Miradi mingine ya maji ambayo tayari imekamilika ikisuburi kuzinduliwa katika kaunti ndogo ya Mwatate ni kama ifuatavyo; Mdeminyi, Mwasinenyi-Mwatate, Mwasinenyi-Landi, Josa-Modambogho, Kwa ndoto na Mwanginyi.

Mheshimiwa Spika,

Katika sekta ya Afya tumeweza kujenga zahanati na vituo vya kujifungulia akina mama kwa mfano kule Malukiloriti, Mahandakini, Kiwalwa, Wongonyi, Kirumbi, Modambogho na Mwatate.

Vilevile tumeweza kujenga zahanati katika kila wadi ili kuhakikisa huduma za afya zimemfikia mwananchi kule mashinani. Baadhi ya zahanati ambazo tumezikamilisha ni zile za Malukiloriti na Wongonyi; ile ya Mwangea imekamilika tumesalia kuweka vifaa ili iweze kuanza

kutumika rasmi. Zahanati za Lumi, Kachero, Shigharo, Paranga, Salaita-Migungani, Gimba, Bamako na Kirumbi ujenzi unaendelea na zitakamilika hivi karibuni.

Tukishirikiana na serikali kuu, tumeweza kuinunulia hospitali ya rufaa ya Moi mashine za kisasa kama ile ya kupima saratani ya matiti, x-ray na zile za kusafisha figo. Serikali ya kaunti inalipia mashine hizi pesa taslimu shilingi milioni 95 kila mwaka.

Tukishirikiana na washikadau kama vile World Vision tumeweza kukarabati majengo katika hospitali ya Taveta na kuanzisha kituo cha YOUTH FRIENDLY CENTRE katika hospitali hiyo. Fauka ya hayo, tumesha unda kamati simamizi za vituo vyote vya afya mashinani, na hivi majuzi tuliandaa warsha ya mafunzo kuhusu usimamazi wa vituo hivi katika kaunti ndogo ya Taveta. Madhumuni ya warsha hii ilikua ni kuwapatia wanakamati hao uwezo na utaalamu wa kusimamia vituo hivi vya umma.

Mradi wa kutoa huduma za bure za afya kwa wakongwe wa zaidi ya miaka 65, watu wanaoishi na ulemavu na waathiriwa wa dhulma za kijinsia unaendelea vyema.

Katika Idara ya Ardhi na Madini tumeweza kufanya shughuli ya kutathmini madini yaliyo katika eneo la Kasigau na utafiti umeweza kubaini kuwa kuna madini ya shaba (copper) katika eneo hilo na sasa tunasubiri matokeo ya maabara kuhusu usafi wa madini hayo kabla hayajaaza kufukuliwa.

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Madini mengine ambayo yamepatikana kuwa na viwango vya kuvunwa ni green tourmaline na radiolite yanayopatikana katika eneo la Wusi/Kishamba.

Idara hiyo pia inatarajiwa kufanya ukaguzi wa madini mengine yanayopatikana katika kaunti hii ambapo tunalenga kuona kama kuna uwezekano wa kupatikana kwa madini ya shaba, manganese na graphite.

Katika Idara ya Ardhi tumeweza kuunda ramani za miji yetu kama vile Maktau, Bura na Maungu ili kurahisisha shughuli za kupanga miji hiyo ipasavyo.

Mheshimiwa Spika,

Kaunti yetu ni mojawapo ya sehemu nyingi ambazo zimeathirika Zaidi na janga la ukame kuanzia July 2016. Athari hii inatarajiwa kuendelea mwezi huu wa pili, wa tatu na wa nne hadi tutakoposhuhudia msimu wa mvua za masika.

Ni Kutokana na mkutadha huu, ambapo serikali yetu ikishirikiana na washikadau wengine kama vile Shirika la Msalaba Mwekundu na Shirika la Kushughulika na Majanga ya Ukame nchini, imeweka mikakati ya kukabiliana na ukame huu na athari zake.

Serikali yetu itatoa mchango wake wa shilingi milioni moja kwa shirika la msalaba mwekundu ili kusaidia kukabiliana na baa hili la njaa humu nchini.

Vilevile, leo saa nane tutakutana na washikadau

kule voi katika ukumbi wa CDF na ningependa kuchukua fursa hii, kuwaalika nyote kuhudhuria mkutano huo ili tuweze kujadili pamoja njia mbali mbali za kukabiliana na janga hili.

Katika mkutano huo, kila idara katika serikali yetu itatoa mpangilio wa jinsi tutakavyo kabiliana na janga hili.

Mheshimiwa Spika,

Kupitia kwa ushirikiano wenu na kitengo cha ruwaza ya Taita Taveta 2020 tuliweza kuandaa kongamano la wawekezaji mwezi wa saba mwaka jana ambapo wafanyibiashara wengi walionyesha nia ya kuwekeza katika kaunti yetu.

Tayari Jumuiya ya nchi za umoja wa ulaya wamekubali kutoa kitita cha shilingi milioni mia na ishirini ili kujenga kiwanja cha ndizi na bidhaa za matunda katika kaunti ndogo ya Taveta. Hivi leo mkutano kuhusiana na swala hilo unafanyika mjini Voi kati ya maafisa wa serikali ya kaunti na wawakilishi wa jumuiya hiyo.

Mheshimiwa Spika,

Wizara ya utawala na ugatuzi imechangia pakubwa katika kuhakikisha kwamba ugatuzi unafika mashinani. Kupitia kamati ya bunge husika, mswada wa kuunda baraza la wazee wa miji ulipitishwa na tayari mipango ya kuujadili mashinani unaendelea. Wizara hii pia imehusika kuhakikisha kwamba elimu kuhusu miradi ambayo imetekelezwa na serikali inafikia wananchi. Kwa sasa hivi ni kwamba wananchi wamehamasishwa kuhusu majumu yao katika kufanikisha ugatuzi.

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Wakati huu wa siasa, ningependa kuwasihi kwamba tuendeshe siasa ya Amani tunaporudi kwa wananchi na kuwarai watupigie kura kwa mara nyingine. Siasa ni kuuza sera na si matusi kwa wengine. Sote Tuzingatie kuuza sera na tuwache kuchafuliana majina. Taita Taveta itabaki Taita Taveta kabla, wakati na baada ya uchaguzi.

Ninapomalizia ningependa kuwajulisha kwamba kwa mtazamo wangu, yafuatayo ndiyo mada muhimu za kufualitiwa kwenye bajeti zitakazofuata.

1. Kuhusu maji lazima tuzidi kulenga swala la kusambaza maji kwa wingi – hasa kwa sehemu kame. Ninafuraha kuwajulisha kwamba kampuni yetu ya maji yaani Tavevo – walitangaza zabuni na wamepata waekezaji wa kutoa maji kutoka Njoro kubwa kuyaleta Salaita na baadaye Mwakitau. Hakuna siku tutaweza kufanya miradi kama hii inayogharimu ma bilioni ya pesa tukitumia pesa za mgao. Pia sheria zilizopitishwa na bunge la kitaifa zinatuzuia kukopa pesa za miradi mikubwa. Kwa hiyo inabidi tutumie mbinu zingine kama vile tunavyofanya na Tavevo. Muekezaji ajenge alafu tulipe pole pole wakati tukitumia maji.
2. Kama nilivyosema mapema kwamba ukulima ndio uti wa mgongo wa uchimi wetu. Kwa hiyo lazima tuzidi kushika mkono wakulima na wafugaji wetu.

Kama mnavyojua tayari tumeanza mpango wa kutoa mikopo kwa wakulima wadogo wadogo.

Vile vile tunazidi kutafuta mbinu za kuongeza vifaa vya kulima kama vile tinga za kusukuma kwa mkono – ambazo zitasaidia wakulima milimani na hata sehemu za Taveta.

Nimekuwa na mazungumzo kwa mda sasa na development partners kuhusu kuomba msaada na ninafuraha kuwaeleza kwamba ifikapo mwezi wa tatu, tutakua tuko tayari kutangaza rasmi kuanza kwa ushirikiano huo ambao pia utalenga wakulima wadogo wadogo.

3. Kuhusu kitengo cha afya, itabidi sasa tupunguze ujenzi wa majengo na tulenge uongezaji wa vifaa, madawa na wahudumu.
4. Kwa upande wa elimu vile vile itabidi tuangazie masilahi ya waalimu, vifaa vya kufundisha pamoja na matkaba.
5. Ijapokuwa maswala ya ardhi ni jukumu la serikali ya kitaifa, ni muhimu tutoe mchango wetu ili kuhakikisha kwamba watu wetu nao wamepata vyeti miliki vya mashamba yao. Kwa hiyo tutazidi kuchangia tuwezavyo ili kukamilisha upimaji na utoaji wa vyeti sehemu sifuatazo:-

⇒ Godoma

⇒ Ngoloki

State of the County Address

- ⇒ Sangenyi/Mwataru
- ⇒ Kishushe
- ⇒ Chala Njukini
- ⇒ Kimala – Mata
- ⇒ Kasigau

6. Works

Ukarabati wa barabara zetu za mashambani.

7. Utalii

Utalii wa ndani michezo kama kivutio cha utalii utamaduni.

Asanteni, kwa kunisikiliza.



**Mhandisi John M. Mruttu
Gavana.**



Governor Eng. John Mruttu accompanied by her deputy Mary Kibuka pose for a photo with the Members of the County Assembly after giving his address

TRANSFORM 20
TAITATAVETA 20

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF TAITA TAVETA



Happy New Year 2017

Education



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Eng. John M. Mruttu-
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County



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County Government develops a policy to fund students in public Vocational Training Centres



Mwagafwa Youth Polytechnic students in a practical lesson

All students in registered Vocational Training Centres in the County will receive Kshs. 10,000 per trainee per year to improve access to quality of education at the Youth Polytechnics.

This is contained in the proposed Vocational Training Centres capitation policy that has been tabled in the County Assembly for debate and approval.

In this financial year, the County Government has allocated Kshs. 25 million for technical and vocational training education. The fund will cater for cost of instruction materials, examination utilities, critical operational costs, repair, maintenance and improvement of the centres and also to cater for the electricity and water expenses among others.

Education

“The Capitation Policy applies to all public vocational training institutions dully registered by the County Government. It will benefit trainees enrolled undertaking various accredited programmes in the institutions,” reads the policy in part.

The capitation will be a top up as parents will be expected to be contributing money for costs such as boarding, internal examination, lunch for day scholars and costs of other development projects initiated by the institutions.

The policy document further states that vocational training institutes must achieve at least 80% retention and completion rates of trainees benefitting from the capitation to qualify for disbursement.

The introduction of the capitation policy is to increase retention and completion rates of the trainees because low enrolment remains a challenge facing youth polytechnics in the County despite the County Government investing heavily in the sector.

Education and Libraries County Executive Committee Member Jemima Tuja says despite the department investing millions in infrastructure development in youth polytechnics, the number of trainees joining the institutions remains low.

“The County Government has invested heavily in constructing training workshops and classrooms in our youth polytechnics, but parents are failing us by not bringing their children to the institutions to acquire relevant technical skills for employment and self-reliance purposes,” said Tuja.



Chumvini Youth Polytechnic training workshop constructed by the County Government

Education

Tuja adds: “We are doing a lot in improving the infrastructure of our youth polytechnics, but our efforts are being frustrated by negative attitudes towards youth polytechnics. Some parents have been claiming that such institutions are for academic failures, which is not the case.”

Already 11 training twin blocks have been constructed in various polytechnics in the County with 4 receiving renovation and 4 dormitories being constructed.

The County has 24 vocational training centres with an enrolment of 2,250 trainees but still they have the potential of accommodating 4,350 trainees.



Mwagafwa Youth Polytechnic twin block complex constructed by the County Government

Mwagafwa Youth Polytechnic- Wundanyi



Transformation



Education



Relief to parents as County Government implements capitation for children in all public ECDEs



Governor John Mruttu (seated in spectacles) assisting ECDE children goes through their learning materials provided by the County Government

The County Government through the Department of Education and Libraries has introduced capitation in all the 327 public ECDEs to supplement parents efforts to ensure children access quality early childhood education.

Education and Libraries County Executive Committee Member **Jemima Tuja** says the capitation will reduce the cost of education thus ensuring children irrespective of their backgrounds are enrolled in school.

“The ongoing implementation of the Early Childhood Development and Education Capitation Policy 2016 will not only enhance quality education in our public ECDEs but will also improve performance and management of the ECDE centres,” said **Tuja**.

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**Public ECDEs in the
County**

Education

According to Education and Libraries Chief Officer Philomena Kirote, parents will be required to pay Kshs. 600 annually as the County Government pays Kshs. 1,000 which will cater for the children's basic needs to ensure they are retained in school.

"Children from disadvantaged families normally were used to being sent home due to school fees problems thus denying them access to education. Introduction of this capitation will help retain the children in schools," she said.

The parents however will be required to meet extra costs unique to the ECDE centre their children are studying in, repair and maintenance of the centres among others.

The disbursement of the funds into the respective accounts of the ECDE centres began in February 2017.

The rolling out of the policy will benefit 15,794 children who are currently enrolled in the 327 ECDEs.

In improving the learning environment in the ECDEs, the County Government has employed 645 caregivers where out of these 325 are engaged on permanent and pensionable terms, construction of 139 new ECDEs has been done while 49 have been renovated and providing them with quality furniture and instructional materials. Feeding programme in these ECDE centres has also been rolled out.

Orkung'u Pre-school-Taveta Sub-County



Transformation...



Education



Some of the ECDE teachers display their appointment letters immediately they were issued to them in the inaugural ceremony to engage ECDE teachers on permanent and pensionable basis at Moi Stadium



Governor John Mruttu giving parents learning materials for their children in ECDEs in Sagalla Ward, Voi Sub County

About Taita Taveta County

Taita Taveta County Factsheet

Taita Taveta County is located in the Coastal region of Kenya.

It covers an area of 17,084.1 sq km.

The County experiences an annual mean rainfall of 650mm per annum with temperatures averaging 23 Degree Celsius.

It has 4 Sub Counties i.e. Taita (Wundanyi), Mwatate, Voi and Taveta.



Economy of Taita Taveta County

Taita Taveta County has several mineral deposits other than iron ore which was discovered in 1992. Asbestos, chalk, limestone, gemstones, construction stones and sand are also among the regions minerals portfolio.

The County is also known for its large-scale sisal farming with vast sisal plantations covering parts of the County.

The County is ecologically diverse with a number of forests hosting a large variety of indigenous and exotic tree species.

It has water resources such as Lake Challa , Lake Jipe and Mzima springs that supply the coastal region with water.

Large parts of the County lie within the Tsavo East and Tsavo West National Parks; the country's popular tourist destination.

Source:KenInvest

Agriculture



County set to benefit from Small Holder Productivity and Profitability efforts from FAO and USAID



Taita Taveta County is one of the three counties that will benefit from a three-year project that is meant to increase Small Holder Productivity and Profitability among farmers, courtesy of Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Speaking when they met Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries County Executive Committee Member Ben Mghana, representatives from the two institutions said the project's objectives are to find ways of increasing production, finding

markets for agriculture produce and strengthening capacity of farmers water and other crucial inputs for farming.

"We want to support households to practice farming so as to produce and sale high value nutritious foods in the County which will in turn improve food security and promote living standards," said Ken Barack Okoba, FAO representative.

The County Department for Agriculture indicated that it will work hand in hand with the two development partners to ensure the project is fully realised.

Agriculture

“The full realisation of this project is of importance to the County residents as its objectives of improving food security and productivity are well articulated in our departmental objectives that we are also working to fully achieve,” said Evans Mbinga, Agriculture Chief Officer.

To ensure the team from FAO and USAID work well in implementing the project, County extension officers have been deployed to work with the technical team that is expected to visit various parts of the County.

The technical team has so far visited various irrigation schemes in Mwatate Sub County to collect data before selecting the best groups they will work with. They include Bura Valley Irrigation Scheme, Kipusi Valley and Rong’e-Msau Irrigation Schemes.

More than 7 million dollars have been set aside for the implementation of the three-year project.



Governor John Mruttu (in a grey coat, centre) when he visited one of the farmers producing tomatoes in Taveta Sub County

Agriculture



County residents urged to embrace the use of hermetic storage bags to deal with the huge post-harvest losses



A USAID official giving Mwatate Sub County residents the hermetic bags for storing their farm produce for a long time without being infested by pests

County residents have been urged to fully embrace the newly launched hermetic grain storage bags that are affordable and efficient.

The hermetic storage technology (HST) comes with specially designed storage bags that provide moisture and pest control without the use of pesticides. This technology is expected to save the country huge post-harvest losses estimated to be more than Kshs. 50 billion.

Speaking in Mwatate during the launch of the use of the latest technology storage bags,

Governor John Mruttu said that the bags are crucial in helping farmers evade post-harvest losses since they have been losing their produce to pests due to poor post-harvest handling techniques.

“These bags preserve the quality of grains for more than three years without using any chemicals to keep off pests and eliminates the risks of contamination, post-harvest storage infestation and fungal growth. This technology will go a long way in boosting the County’s food security,” said Governor Mruttu.

Agriculture



The sacks are reusable for up to three years can be used to store cereals like maize, beans, cow peas and miller among others.

George Orido, USAID Technical Director says the technology has been proven to be safe for humans since no chemicals are applied to preserve the grains.

“The technology was carried out carefully and tested to ensure that it contains no side effects to human beings,” he said.

The bags are air tight and water proof thus they protect farm produce from any form of contamination. They cut off oxygen to any pest within the farm produce stored in them, thus they suffocate them to death.

The technology that is sponsored by United States Agency for International Development (USAID) will help many small scale farmers deal with post-harvest management of farm produce.

The campaign to promote the use of the bags has been dubbed “*Zuia njaa na gunia tano kwa kila jamii*” also targets other African counties in a bid to ensure the continent is food secure.



Governor John Mruttu giving farmers in Mwatate Sub County the hermetic bags for storing their farm produce

Water & Irrigation



Approximately 2,000 farmers to benefit from desilting of Njoro Kubwa Canal Water Project



A section of the Njoro Kubwa Canal that is being desilted

More than 2,000 farmers in Taveta Sub County are expected to benefit from the ongoing desilting of Njoro Kubwa Canal which will increase water supply to their farms. The farmers mainly drawn from Mboghoni Ward have been complaining of inadequate water supply as they depend on the canal to irrigate their farms.

Governor Eng. John Mruttu while commissioning the desilting works, said the process will not only provide water for the farmers but also livestock keepers will benefit from the process especially

during this period when drought is biting hard in several parts of the country.

“After the desilting has been done farmers and livestock keepers will have enough water for irrigating their crops and for livestock consumption. This canal has a great economic impact of the area as it supports agriculture which is the key economic activity here and at the same time promote food security,” he said.

The desilting works are being done by the County Government in conjunction with the National Water Corporation which has provided an excavator to desilt the canal.

Administration

Peter Njenga, Marley Dingiria sworn into office as County Executive Committee Members



Peter Njenga taking his oath of office after being appointed County Executive Committee Member for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure

Peter Njenga and Marley Dingiria who were appointed to the County Executive Committee Members positions were sworn into office on January 27.

The two, Peter Njenga (Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure) and Marley Dingiria (Water and Irrigation) were sworn in office by Senior Principal Magistrate Nicholas Njagi at the Wundanyi Law Courts.

Governor Eng. John Mruttu wished them well in their new responsibilities and urged them to take charge of their dockets; where transparency on how they conduct their duties being the guiding principle.

“As you take up your new responsibilities we wish you the very best, however I and the Taita Taveta citizenry have high expectations from you. Bring on board your expertise that will help the County Government achieve its objectives,” he said.

Administration

Governor Mruttu also urged them to ensure they follow the Constitution to the letter and all other laws as they began their duties.

“Take up your responsibilities being guided by the Constitution and other relevant laws within your areas of operation. You should uphold the law as you execute your duties,” he said.

Prior to their appointments, Njenga was the County Chief Officer for Livestock and Fisheries and Dingiria was the County Chief Officer for Environment, Tourism and Natural Resources.



Marley Dingiria taking his oath of office at the Wundanyi Law Courts after being appointed the County Executive Committee Member for Water and Irrigation

PICTORIAL



Governor John Mruttu listening to a resident of Kaloleni Ward, Voi Sub County in an earlier public forum when he visited the area



Governor John Mruttu with Kaloleni Ward MCA Omar Ahmed checking on the water pipes for the Kaloleni Water Project

PICTORIAL



Governor John Mruttu (left) with the medical team at Mwatate Sub County Hospital when he visited Mrs. Ruth Masawe who had delivered triplets at the hospital



Governor John Mruttu (right) having a word with Chief Justice David Maraga (left) in a past function in Nairobi

PICTORIAL



Governor John Mruttu attending a Sunday service at Msheghesheni ACK Church in Taveta Sub County



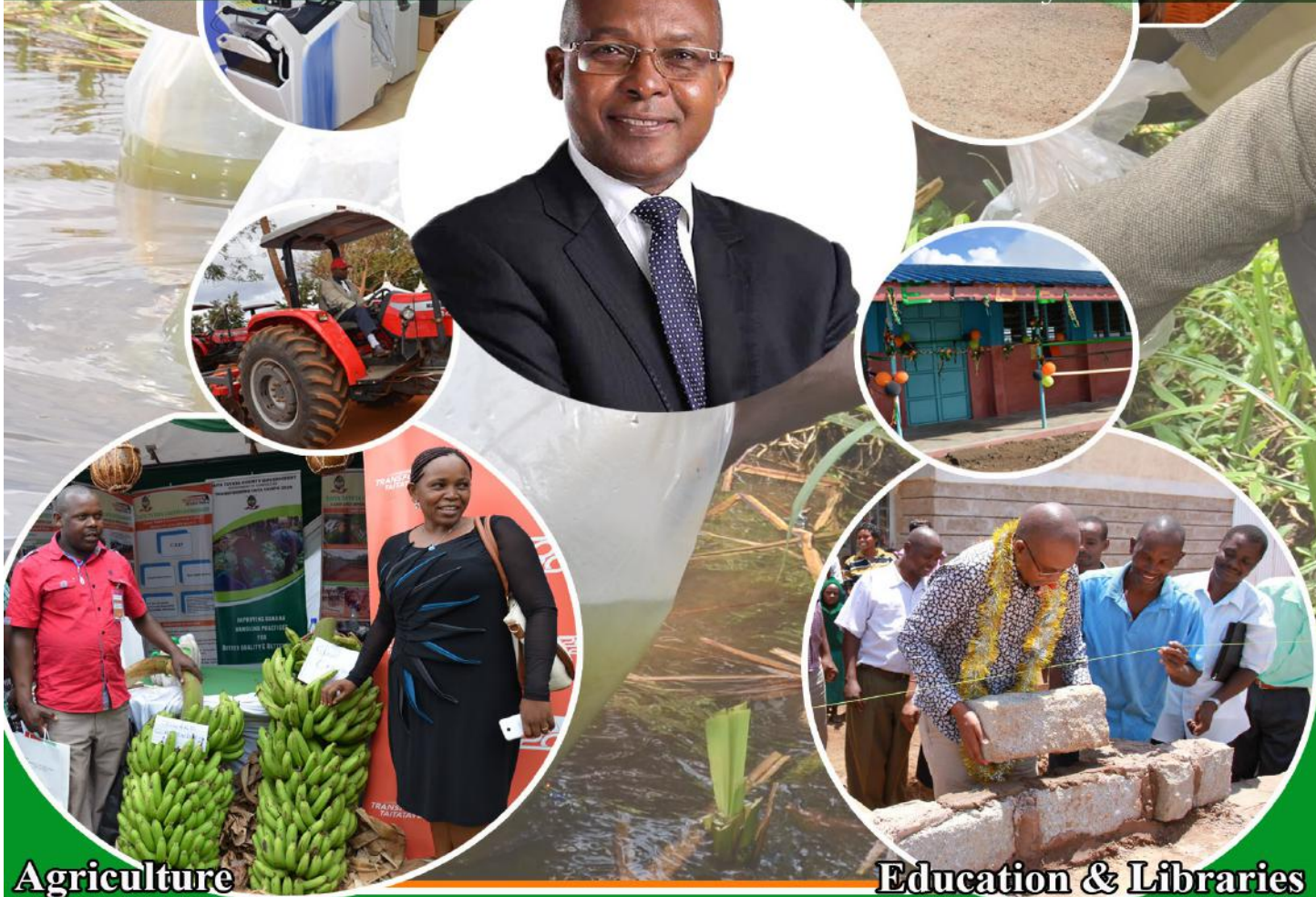
Governor John Mruttu (right) with Deputy President William Ruto (left) after attending intergovernmental council on budget to discuss how to increase funds for the devolved functions

TAITA TAVETA COUNTY'S ACHIEVEMENTS



Health & Medical Services

Roads and Infrastructure



Agriculture

Education & Libraries



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