STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS BY SEN. ALEXANDER MUNYI MUNDIGI TWONAGA, SENATOR FOR EMBU COUNTY DELIVERED TO THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF EMBU ON 17TH NOVEMBER 2026 IN THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS AT 2:30 PM.

The Speaker of the County Assembly, Hon. Josiah Muriithi Thiriku,

The Deputy Speaker Hon. Ibrahim Swale,

The Majority Leader, Hon. Peter Murithi Kombole,

The Minority Leader, Hon. John Ngari Mbaka,

Honourable Members of the County Assembly,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Afternoon,

Mr. Speaker Sir,

1. It is a profound honor to stand before this distinguished Assembly, representing the people of Embu County who have entrusted us with the solemn duty of leadership.
2. Allow me to sincerely congratulate you and all Honorable Members for taking up your mandate with determination and for the confidence placed in you by the people. Today, I reaffirm my commitment to protect their interests, promote prosperity, and drive opportunities for development across our County.
3. I am truly honored and humbled to address this esteemed Assembly as the Third Senator of Embu County under the 2010 Constitution. This comes at a time when we are taking stock on the positive outcomes of devolution, while also acknowledging the growing demand for transparency and accountability in leadership from the people.
4. Today's occasion is not merely ceremonial, but is rooted in the Senate and County Assembly Standing Orders, which allows me to attend and address before this Assembly. These provisions, as stated in Senate Standing Order 247 and your Standing Order 28, grant me the privilege to be here.

5. I therefore take this opportunity to share my aspirations, expectations, insights, thoughts, and vision for our county. It is my hope that this occasion will, among other priorities, enhance and deepen our commitment and working relationship that is constitutionally designed for the mutual benefit of the Assembly and the County Senator's Office in delivering to the public.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

6. As leaders, it has been my desire that we frequently convene to reflect on our successes, address challenges, and review our goals to meet the expectations of our people in the current era shaped by devolution. I want to emphasize my strong belief in the concept of devolution. I firmly believe that the future of our nation, both in terms of socio-economic development and political stability, depends greatly on the successful implementation of devolution.

7. Additionally, I firmly believe that County Assemblies play a vital role in the devolution framework. Therefore, I take this opportunity to engage with county assembly members and emphasize the significant role they have in advancing the devolution agenda.

8. To solidify this belief, it is important for the Embu County Assembly to continue to oversight the County Executive to ensure the delivery of high-quality services, ensuring accountability and implementing policies and legislation that strengthen the devolution process.

9. County Assemblies play a critical oversight role over County Executives. Separation of powers and checks of balances are key objectives of devolution as expressed in Article 174(i) of the Constitution. Further, Article 185 (3) provides,

Mr. Speaker Sir,

<u>WORKING TOGETHER: SENATE AND COUNTY ASSEMBLY PARTNERSHIP</u>

10. The Constitution envisions a cooperative relationship between the Senate and the County Assemblies. I encourage deeper collaboration between our Committees — on agriculture, health, infrastructure, education, water, land, and finance — to enhance evidence-based oversight and ensure greater impact of policies and laws.

11. Through consultation, public participation and shared legislative priorities, we can amplify the voice of Embu both locally and nationally. Together, let us champion citizen-centered leadership — one where every child in **Mbeere South**,Mbeere North Runyejes and Manyatta knows they are heard and valued.

12. Similarly, the partnership between the Senate and County Executives must be strengthened. The Senate's oversight role is critical to ensure that investments in

our counties deliver real value. Together with the County Executive, we can attract investment, create jobs, and grow our local economy while ensuring every shilling is used properly.

ACHIEVEMENTS FOR EMBU COUNTY

13. In the last 4 years, I have worked diligently in the Senate to stand up for Embu County. Allow me to highlight some of the areas where we have made progress—

(1) Education Sector

14. In the Education Sector, I have consistently advocated for quality, accessible, and equitable education for all children in Embu and that our children and teachers have the support and safe environments they deserve. Some of key issues that I have championed in the Senate include—

(i) ***Reversal of Delocalization Policy*****:** On 16th February 2023, I called for the implementation of the reversal of the delocalization policy for teachers, ensuring our teachers can serve close to their families and communities. This action sought to ensure that teachers wishing to return to their home counties could do so, addressing teacher welfare, family unity, and morale, and pushing for timely processing of transfer requests by the Teachers Service Commission (TSC).

(ii) ***School Infrastructure and Safety*****:** I have also raised concerns regarding the welfare of teachers administering national exams as well as i advocated for timely payment of retirement benefits to teachers within three months of retirement. I also expressed the rising cases of fires in boarding schools. Additionally, I requested for additional financial assistance for renovations at Wachoro Boys Secondary School and raised the issue of asbestos roofing in several schools, emphasizing the need for safe learning environments. Again, I have ensured that Grade 10 learners acquire the needed ICT and digital skills, I have personally undertaken efforts, in my capacity as your Senator covering approximately 40% of all-day schools, to equip day them across Embu County with computers. I hope that by next year I will have covered over 80% of all-day secondary schools in Embu county. This initiative is aimed at providing learners with the necessary digital resources and practical exposure to effectively develop and apply ICT skills in their education and future careers. I have also supported several Government offices and church institutions through the provision of computers to strengthen their operational capacity in their day-to-day administrative activities.

(iii) ***Support for School Institutions:*** Through my continued commitment to supporting educational institutions, I have made personal sacrifices to address the pressing needs of needy schools. Recognizing the urgent need for improved learning facilities, I took the initiative to support the renovation of

Karura primary School, **Kambuki** Primary School, **Kinthithe** and Gikondi Primary School, reaffirming my dedication to creating a better learning environment for our children. I have also supported the development playing fields at **Kaweru** and **Kirima** Primary Schools, creating better facilities for our children to grow their talents. In addition, I have supplied staff furniture to **Gikiiro** and **Gatirari** Day Secondary Schools to improve the working environment for teachers and improve their comfort in the delivery of their professional duties. Again, I will be delivering furniture to **Ngoori TVET kiritiri**,, Sewing Machines to Full Gospel **Gatunduri TVET**, and a car wash machine together with a water storage tank to **Kanothi Cooperative Group**. My aim is to support skill development and promote economic empowerment within the community.

(2) <u>Agriculture and Cooperative Development</u>

15. As the Vice Chairman Committee on Agriculture Livestock and blue economy, I have made it my priority to fight for our farmers. I have brought the challenges facing macadamia, miraa/muguka, coffee, milk, Fish farming and other cash crops to the Senate, seeking better market access, fair pricing, and protection from irregular disposal of cooperative assets. Some of the key issues I have brought to the attention of the Senate and the National Government include—

    (i) ***Cash Crop Advocacy:*** On 28th March and 10th April 2023, the I sought statements on the state of macadamia nut production and marketing, and the broader status of the sector in Kenya, highlighting the need for better market access and support for farmers.

    (ii) ***Wildlife and Crop Destruction:*** The issue of crop destruction by wildlife is a recurring issue affecting residents of Embu County. I therefore advocated for expedient compensation for affected farmers and urging for effective mitigation measures.

    (iii) ***On Advocacy for Affordable Fertilizer Prices:*** I was the first to raise a statement in the senate on the need to reduce the prices of fertilizers from 7000 to 2500 in a move aimed at making farm inputs more affordable.

    (iv) ***Safeguarding Farmers' Assets:*** In 2024, H.E. the Governor took the lead in negotiations, in which I also actively participated, to secure the waiver of debts owed by **Gikundu** and **Murue** Cooperative Societies. These efforts were aimed at easing the financial burden on the societies and safeguarding the livelihoods of coffee farmers affiliated with these two major coffee factories.

    (v) ***Compensation and Market Access:*** I pushed for timely compensation for farmers and for the National Cereals and Produce Board to purchase cereals from Embu, supporting local agricultural markets.

(vi) ***Miraa/Muguka Legislation:*** I requested that the Senate Standing Committee on National Security, Defense and Foreign Relations carries out public participation on the consideration of miraa/muguka in the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Bill, defending Embu's economic interests in this cash crop.

(vii) ***On livestock development and dairy productivity:*** I have consistently urged the ministry to consider reducing the cost of animal feed to increase milk production

(3) <u>Road Infrastructure.</u>

16. I have persistently advocated for the completion and upgrading of national government roads in Embu development of key infrastructure including—

(i) ***Road Upgrades****:* I have been firm, and vocal in pushing for the upgrading of the Makutano–Mwea Embu–Chuka–Meru Road to a dual carriageway, both in the Senate and in every public rally attended by the President and his deputy.

This project remains a top development priority for our region.

If this dream is realized, I shall formally request that this landmark infrastructure be named as **<u>Mundigi Highway</u>**, as a symbol of progress and responsive leadership.

Once again, as your duly elected and devoted Senator, I have severally championed the completion, upgrading, and proper maintenance of national government roads across Embu County, including the Kiritiri-Kiambeere, Siakago–Kanyuambora, PI–Makima, Kivue–Kevote, Kathageri-Kanyuambora, Gikuyari-Kirie roads, among others.

I have also consistently advocated for the tarmacking of at least **100 kilometers** of roads in every constituency to improve connectivity, facilitate trade, and promote economic development.

Additionally, I remain hopeful that, through my continued advocacy and collaboration with other leaders, our long-term dream is to see the existing Embu Airstrip upgraded into a fully-fledged airport and the construction of a bypass connecting Embu Town with neighboring towns. These strategic infrastructure projects would enhance connectivity, facilitate trade and investment, stimulate economic growth, and create new opportunities for our people. This is part of my broader vision of transforming Embu into a **CITY.**

(4) <u>Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Funds:</u>

17. I have personally engaged KenGen to support Seven Folks Primary School following a fire that destroyed its dormitory. KenGen responded positively, and reconstruction works are currently ongoing. I also approached KPLC to support the renovation of

the computer laboratory at Kirigi Secondary School in Manyatta, and the company successfully completed the works and I equipped it with 10 computers.

18. Currently, we are at the final stages of securing Kenya Pipeline's approval for the comprehensive renovation of Kiangungi Secondary School in Runyenjes, a significant step towards ensuring that local communities benefit from national utility investments.
19. ***Additionally***, I have submitted the following requests to KenGen:

    1. Sponsorship of 3K FC: A request for KenGen to become the club's main sponsor as it competes in the Kenya Premier League.
    2. Irabari Primary School: A request for KenGen, for the renovation of classrooms to improve the learning environment.
    3. Malikini Secondary School: A request for KenGen, for the construction of a science laboratory to enhance science education.

20. I am pleased to report that progress on all three requests is very encouraging, and the engagements with KenGen are advancing well.

(5) <u>Health and Social Welfare</u>

21. The well-being of our people is paramount and every Embu resident deserves dignity, security, and quality health care. Some of the initiatives to promote health and social welfare of the people of Embu included:
    (i) ***Older Persons Cash Transfer (OPCT):*** On 9th March 2023, I requested a statement on the status of the OPCT program in Embu, advocating for timely and equitable disbursement of their money. As your Senator, I have championed a major milestone for our senior citizens: Elderly persons aged 70 years and above can now receive their payments directly through M-Pesa, eliminating the need to travel to towns to access their money. Reducing the burden on our elderly, and ensuring they receive their support with greater convenience, dignity, and security.
    (ii) ***Medical Personnel Welfare:*** I raised the issue of the ongoing strike by medical personnel, seeking solutions to healthcare disruptions.
    (iii) ***Social Health Authority (SHA):*** I raised concerns regarding the administrative challenges facing (SHA), alongside the need for the automatic enrolment of senior citizens and persons with disabilities into the healthcare system. My intervention was aimed at strengthening the delivery of (UHC) while promoting inclusive social protection for the most vulnerable members of society.
    (iv) Following my intervention, one of the immediate developments was the appointment of **Madam Mwangangi** as the Chief Executive Officer of SHA.
    (v) ***Fire Tragedy Response:*** I sought a statement on the June 2024 fire at the Embu Governor's Office, pushing for accountability and improved disaster response.

(6) Security, Administration, and Land

22. I have worked to enhance security and administration by advocating for efforts are intended to make Embu safer and more efficient for all as follows—

(i) ***Deployment* of Officers**: I successfully advocated for the deployment of an Assistant County Commissioner of **Kiambeere Division**, strengthening local administration and enhancing security operations within the area. As I address you today, the people of Kiambeere are benefiting from improved access to government services and as a direct outcome of my efforts.

(ii) Additionally, as your committed Senator, working closely with the Governor, we are engaging the Ministry of Interior to consider providing additional security service vehicles across all 4 sub-counties to strengthen the fight against illicit alcohol and drug abuse, which continue to negatively affect the well-being and mental health of our young people. I urge all stakeholders and members of the community and church leaders to join hands in addressing these challenges in order safe the future of our children.

(iii) ***Land Registry Operations:*** I raised concerns about the operations of the Embu Land Registry, seeking efficiency and transparency in land transactions.

(iv) ***Police Welfare:*** I requested statements on the welfare of police officers upon transfer or retirement, emphasizing the need for dignified service conditions.

(7) Trade and Investment

23. I have worked closely with other leaders, under the leadership of the Governor, **Her Excellency Cecily Mutito Mbarire** towards the establishment of the Embu Modern Market. A project with an allocation of **1.2 billion**. Today, I am pleased to report that what many people dismissed as a mere joke is now becoming a reality, with construction works already underway with the aim of supporting local traders, attracting investment, and stimulating economic growth.

(8) Water, Sanitation, and Environment

24. I believe that access to clean water, sanitation, and a safe environment is a right for every Embu resident. Some of the key issues that I followed up in this sector included:

(i) ***On Domestic Water Supply and Dam Construction:*** I have prioritized domestic water supply in my Senate advocacy, championing the development of water projects like Kamburu water project, aimed at addressing water challenges across Mbeere South. I continue to push for the construction of Kamumu Dam in Mbeere North, as well as Thambana and Thūchi dams, to enhance water access to Manyatta and Runyenjes

constituency. In line with food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). My objective is to ensure that every household has access to reliable water supply, thereby strengthening food security and improving livelihoods through sustainable agricultural production.

(ii) ***Sewerage System Relocation:*** I requested a statement on the relocation of the Embu sewerage system by EWASCO, emphasizing public participation, fair compensation, and environmental safeguards.

(iii) ***Asbestos Hazards:*** I raised the issue of asbestos roofing in schools, advocating for safe learning environments and public health.

(iv) ***In addition***, have taken the initiative to renovate old boreholes originally drilled by Plan International in Mbeere North and Mbeere South, restoring access to clean water for communities in need. This is not intended to undermine the efforts of the County Government, but rather to complement its work in fulfilment of my responsibility as an elected Senator to serve and support vulnerable communities.

(9) <u>On Minerals and Other Natural Resources</u>:

25. I have consistently engaged the Ministry of Mining on the need to facilitate the extraction of the critical mineral deposits identified at Kiangunguru Hill in Kiambere Ward. In my engagements with the Ministry, I have emphasized the importance of ensuring that the tender is awarded to a responsible investor who will work closely with the county government and the community, promote local participation, create economic opportunities, and ensure that the exploitation of these natural resources translates into tangible benefits for the people of Embu County.

(10) <u>Governance, Accountability, and Public Participation</u>

26. At the heart of our work is the principle of transparency and accountability Some of the issues that included: -

(i) ***Oversight and Accountability:*** I have consistently and professionally used Senate mechanisms to demand accountability in public funds, project implementation, and service delivery across all sectors. Through effective oversight, Embu County has risen from position 46 in previous years to rank number 1 in Kenya in Fiscal Performance Assessment Report. This achievement would not have been possible without the Executive led by the Governor, and the MCA's playing their oversight role. I sincerely thank the Assembly for this valuable contribution.

(ii) ***Public Participation:*** I called for public input on critical legislation, such as the Miraa/Muguka bill, with the objective of promoting value addition to Muguka. This would create opportunities to develop products such as Muguka wine, juice and chewing gum.

(iii) I further recommended proper research to establish the potential medicinal applications of Muguka, to see whether it is possible use it in stress-management.

If you note the issues that I have championed at the Senate, they align closely with the Embu County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2023–2027 and continued consultation with leaders and citizens on the issues that affect their lives. Therefore, my approach in championing for the rights of Embu County is grounded in consultation, public participation, and accountability. Additionally, the desire to drive progress toward prosperity, opportunity, and improved quality of life for all residents of Embu County

Mr. Speaker Sir,

(11) <u>On Resource Allocation to Embu County</u>

27. Through collective Senate efforts, Embu County has continued to receive vital funding allocations each year to support education, health, roads, agriculture, water projects among others. However, as your Senator, I know we must do even more.

In the Financial Year 2023/2024, the Senate considered and passed the County Allocation of Revenue Fund Act, 2023, which received Presidential assent on 30th June, 2023 in which Embu County Government's allocations is as follows—

SNO.	FINANCIAL YEAR	EQUITABLE SHARE	ADITIONAL ALLOCATION FROM DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS & OTHERS
1.	2022 / 2023	5,125,243,762	471,571,580
2.	2023 / 2024	5,341,810,744	704,587,198
3.	2024 / 2025	5,369,896,832	688,098,415
4.	2025 / 2026	6,266,341,672	416,207,422
5.	2026 / 2027	6,266,341,359	747,075,408

Mr. Speaker Sir,

28. As indicated in the table above, I have consistently done my best, in my capacity as your Senator, to champion the interests of Embu County and secure additional resources for our people for last four years.

The results of these efforts are evident. Over the past four years, Embu County has received more than **Kshs 1.1 billion** in additional funding, secured through sustained advocacy, engagement, and representation on behalf of the people of Embu

This is a clear demonstration of what focused representation can achieve when the interests of the people are placed first.

In the 2026/2027 financial year, The Senate appropriated Kshs.6,266,341,359 to Embu County government inequitable share. An additional Kshs.7,470,754,008 was allocated as conditional funding through the County Governments Additional Allocation Act. Its however worth noting that these funds are not always released in full by the National Treasury. The funds are also released very late in the financial year. This negatively affects the implementation of budgeted projects and programmes by the county government. In this regard, I will continue to champion timely release of funds to counties by The National Treasury to ensure seamless project implementation. In addition, I wish to declare my support towards allocating Road Maintenance Levy Funds to the counties. Counties face tremendous challenges in road maintenance and its only reasonable they be supported to do so. Its also worth noting that Embu County does not receive funding from the Equalization Fund for marginalized areas despite Mbeere North and Mbeere South being marginalized zones. I will continue to lobby that Embu County be included amongst the counties that benefit from this funding.

Allow me to appreciate H.E The Governor for her wisdom in ensuring all wards get guaranteed minimum development funding through the Wards Equalization allocation. This has ensured equity in sharing of development funding.

In accordance with the law, all funds were duly budgeted by the County Executive, through the Department of Finance, and submitted to this Assembly for approval in accordance with the legal deadlines.

As your senator I appreciate the Executive for this commendable work and thank this Honorable Assembly for its cooperation and timely approval of the budget through the enactment of the Appropriation Act.

Mr. Speaker, in addition I wish to sincerely appreciate Her Excellency the Governor, **Hon Cecily Mutito Mbarire** and her entire County Executive team for their commitment to the prudent management of public resources, particularly in the face of a huge burden of pending bills they inherited.

Despite these financial challenges, their continued efforts to steer the affairs of the county are commendable and worthy of recognition.

(12) Advancing Accountability and Integrity Through Oversight

29. Resources must not only be allocated but also well-managed. I firmly believe that accountability and integrity must guide all levels of government — from the Senate, to the County Assembly, and the Executive. Without accountability, development stalls. With integrity, we guarantee that the dreams of our people are achieved. These funds must translate into better roads, better hospitals, empowered farmers, and thriving youth. Proper planning, good oversight, and strong accountability are the bridges between allocation and transformation.

30. In this respect—

    a. ***Committee Oversight:*** I call upon the Public Accounts and Investments Committee, and all Sectoral Committees of this House, to continue inspecting projects, monitoring spending, and ensuring no public shilling is wasted.

It is my firm belief that corruption will be locked out from devolved units only when County Assemblies carry out proper oversight, transcending across all the functions being undertaken by the county executive. Here, the County Assembly committees will serve as the primary implementers of specific sector oversight through budgetary allocation and ensure adherence to the County Annual Development Plan, which is a component of the County Integrated Development Plan.

b. ***Scrutiny of audit reports:*** I commend the Public Accounts and Investment Committee of this County Assembly for tirelessly scrutinizing and examining the county governments audited accounts of financial statements as tabled in the House. In this regard therefore, the recommendations, suggestions and comments in the reports tabled and adopted by the County Assembly should be acted upon by the County Executive in the next budget period.

c. ***Compliance with constitutional and legal provisions on public finance management:*** In additional to oversight, the Assembly, must promote accountability which is fundamental principle outlined in Article 201(d) of the Constitution, it is necessary for the County Assembly to enact the County Finance and Appropriation Acts in alignment with national goals and the Vision 2030. By doing so, we not only ensure coherence in our fiscal policies but also contribute to the overall development of our county.

31. As a Senate, we are fully committed to enforcing compliance and implementing strict spending measures that will facilitate a downward trend in recurrent expenditure while placing greater emphasis on development.

32. However, I am aware of the resource constraints that have curtailed the assemblies oversight mandate. As your Senator, I will continue to advocate for higher ceilings and financial autonomy of the county assembly to ensure our leaders fulfil their constitutional mandate of oversight, law-making and representation.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

<u>VISION FOR A PROSPEROUS COUNTY: FUTURE PLANS FOR EMBU COUNTY</u>

33. Looking ahead, I am guided not only by Embu County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP 2023-2027), Vision 2030, and the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), but dialogue between citizens and leaders gathered here to understand the priorities for Embu County that I must pursue at the National level. My mission to defend the interest of Embu county is clear. Some of the issues that I will immediately pursue include:

    (1) **Fourth Revenue Sharing Formula:** Champion Embu's case in the upcoming Fourth Revenue Sharing Formula debate, to secure more funds for Embu

County based on our needs and our growing population. Some of the key issues I will be advocating for include:

- *Protection of Current Allocations* - Ensure that Embu does not receive less than its 2024/25 allocation, regardless of changes in the formula. The “no loss” or “stabilization principle” is vital to maintain ongoing projects and service delivery.
- *Population:* Ensure the population data used is up-to-date and reflects Embu’s actual numbers, including urban growth and migration patterns.
- *Equal Share:* Support a strong basic share for all counties to guarantee operational capacity, as advocated by the Central Region Economic Bloc (CEREB) governors.
- *Geographical Size:* Argue that the semi-arid, sparsely populated areas (like Mbeere North and South) require higher per capita investment in infrastructure and service delivery.
- *Poverty and Income Distance:* Highlight Embu’s poverty rate (28.2%) and income disparities, especially in arid and semi-arid areas, to justify increased allocations for pro-poor programs and climate resilience.
- *Consideration of Economic Contribution:* Argue that counties’ contributions to the national economy (e.g., agricultural exports, hydroelectric power from Seven Forks dams, tourism potential) should be factored into allocation decisions, as recommended by CEREB.

(2) **Education and Vocational Training:** Education equips children and youth with knowledge and skills, enabling them to participate in economic activities and improve their livelihoods. Access to quality education also ensures that all groups, including marginalized communities, have a fair chance at success. Some of the key priorities I will be championing in the education sector include: -

- ***Clarity on the new education curriculum:*** There’s need for citizens to have clarity on the roll out the Competency-Based Curriculum and Junior Secondary School and the costs on parents.
- ***Improve Learning Environments:*** Advocate for safe, well-equipped schools (removal of asbestos roofing, improved infrastructure).
- ***Teacher Welfare and Policy:*** Champion fair deployment, welfare, and professional development for teachers, including ECDE and PI teachers.
- ***Increase Access and Equity:*** Push for timely disbursement of capitation, bursaries, and scholarships to ensure no child is left behind***.***
- ***Strengthen Vocational Training:*** Support the establishment and equipping of vocational training centers to boost youth employability
- In addition to my initiatives and advocacy at the Senate, I have taken the initiative to provide computers to day schools across the County following the introduction of ICT subjects for Grade 10 learners,

ensuring our students have access to essential digital learning resources.

(3) **Health:** On of the key items on my agenda is to ensure the well-being of all Embu residents by promoting access to affordable, quality healthcare through increased funding, infrastructure upgrades, and recruitment of health personnel. Some of the key areas I will ensure oversight on in the Health Sector include: -

- ***Universal Health Coverage:*** Promote access to affordable, quality healthcare through increased funding, infrastructure upgrades, and recruitment of health personnel.
- ***Maternal and Child Health:*** Prioritize completion and equipping of maternity and neonatal facilities.
- ***Social Protection:*** Ensure timely and equitable disbursement of the Older Persons Cash Transfer (OPCT) and inclusion of vulnerable groups in health programs.
- ***Disaster Preparedness:*** Advocate for better emergency response systems and health infrastructure resilience.

(4) **Infrastructure, Roads, Energy, and Public Works:** Good roads, reliable energy, and public works enable movement of goods and people, boost trade, and attract investment. I wish to advocate for greater investment in infrastructure to open up our villages, towns, and markets and drive rural transformation. Key areas of focus include: —

- ***Road Upgrades and Connectivity***: Lobby for completion and maintenance of key national and county roads to spur trade and mobility.
- ***Expand Rural Electrification***: Advocate for increased household connections and conversion of hydroelectric dams to multipurpose use for local benefit.
- ***Promote Green Energy:*** Support adoption of solar and other renewable energy sources for public lighting and water pumping.
- ***Public Works:*** Push for safe, accessible public buildings and modern markets.

(5) **Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Cooperatives:** Promote agricultural development, focusing on supporting cash crops like Miraa/Muguka, tea, macadamia, milk, fish farming and coffee, to increase income to famers and lift more families out of poverty. Some of the key areas that we can advocate for at national level include: -

- ***Promote Value Addition and Market Access****:* Advocate for investment in processing facilities for cash crops like coffee, tea, macadamia, and miraa to increase farmers' incomes and create jobs.

- ***Subsidize Inputs and Extension Services****:* Push for affordable certified seeds Affordable animal feeds, fertilizers, and increased agricultural extension support.
- ***Strengthen Cooperatives****:* Safeguard assets of farmer cooperatives and improve governance to protect members' interests.

(6) **Lands, Housing, Urban Development, and Physical Planning:** Proper land use planning supports provides better infrastructure, sanitation, affordable housing and ensures sustainable urbanization**.** Some of the priority areas I will be championing include: -

- *Efficient Land Administration:* Push for digitization and improved service delivery in land registries.
- *Affordable Housing:* Support PPPs and county initiatives for decent, affordable housing.
- *Planned Urbanization:* Advocate for the development and implementation of town plans and improved urban infrastructure.

(7) **Trade, Tourism, Investment, and Industrialization:**

- *Support MSMEs:* Champion business-friendly policies, market infrastructure, and access to credit for small businesses.
- *Develop Tourism***:** Leverage sites like Mwea Game Reserve and the southern route to Mt. Kenya for tourism growth.
- *Industrial Parks:* Advocate for the development of the County Aggregation and Industrial Park to attract investment and create jobs.
- **Promote Local Products:** *Support value chain development and branding of Embu's agricultural and artisanal product.*

(8) **Youth, Gender, Sports, and Social Services:** *Empowering youth with skills and opportunities drives economic growth and innovation.* This would tap into national and county opportunities to build the next generation of entrepreneurs and innovators.

- ***Empower Youth and Women****:* Promote skills development, entrepreneurship, and access to funding for youth and women.
- ***Sports and Talent Development:*** Support sports infrastructure and talent programs to nurture local talent.
- *Social Protection:* Advocate for programs targeting vulnerable groups, including the elderly and persons with disabilities

(9) **Water, Environment, Climate Change, and Natural Resources:** Reliable water supply is vital for domestic use, agriculture, and industry while environmental conservation mitigates the impact of droughts, floods, and other climate-related hazards. Priority area include: -

- ***Expand Access to Water****:* Push for increased investment in water storage, distribution, and irrigation infrastructure.
- *Promote Environmental Conservation:* Support reforestation, sustainable land management, and climate adaptation initiatives.
- ***Improve Sanitation****:* Advocate for modern sewerage systems and solid waste management in urban centers.

(10) **Governance, Public Participation, and Accountability:** Transparent and accountable governance reduces corruption and waste, ensuring resources reach intended beneficiaries. Priority areas include: -

- ***Strengthen Oversight:*** Ensure transparency and integrity in the use of public resources through robust Senate and County Assembly oversight.
- ***Promote Public Participation****:* Facilitate citizen engagement in planning, budgeting, and monitoring of county projects.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

HONOURING THE ROLE OF MCAS

34. As I conclude, allow me to remind you that you are the closest leaders to the people. You listen to their needs, witness their struggles, and share in their dreams. Your work is not easy — it requires courage, dedication, and vision. But it is you who stand at the very frontline of devolution, and it is through your leadership that Embu County's future will be written. I encourage you to continue championing development, promoting transparency, and standing strong for your wards.

35. As your Senator, I will continue to amplify your efforts nationally–ensuring Embu's voice is heard loud and clear in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

A CALL FOR UNITY

36. Finally, the future of Embu County is in our hands. As you are well aware, the first 10 years of devolution was marked by frequent disagreements between Governor, MCAs and the previously elected senators. With this in mind,, I wish to commend the Governor, Members of this County Assembly, and church leaders for prioritizing dialogue, mutual understanding, and cooperation.

    In my capacity as the Senator for Embu County, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to His Excellency President **William Ruto** and his Deputy, Prof. **Abraham Kithure Kindiki**, for their commitment to development in Embu County.

We recognize the progress made in key sectors, including Roads, Water, Education, Healthcare, the modern market worth 1.2billion, Agriculture particularly in Tea, Coffee, Dairy, Macadamia, Miraa, Cotton, Ndengu and reduction of fertilizer prices. Cash transfers to senior citizens and employment of 120,000 teachers with Embu county being the greatest beneficially.

It is on the strength of these tangible interventions and our shared commitment to improving the lives of our people that I firmly support the Broad-Based Government and its guiding principle of **"Usawa ni Sawa"**.

I also wish to emphasize that the progress we are witnessing has been greatly enhanced by our collective commitment to unity among leaders. My consistent call for unity between the **Governor**, the **Senator,** and other leaders has helped foster a collaborative environment that prioritizes development over division. Together, we remain committed to advancing the economic prosperity and well-being of the people of Embu County. One key message that we must all appreciate is that politics and electoral competition should never be allowed to divide us. We are one family united by our shared identity as the people of Embu County. Our priority should always be dialogue, even where we hold different political opinions.

As the Book of Isaiah 1:18 says "***Come now, and let us reason together***" ***(Njooni tusemezane.)*** This timeless message shows the importance of constructive dialogue in resolving differences and fostering unity.

Your commitment to dialogue and collaboration is a commendable example of leadership that places the interests of the people above political differences.

Let us remain true to the promise of devolution. Our best days are ahead. And together, we will build a better, brighter, and more prosperous Embu County.

As your senator I wish you blessings, Merry Christmas, Happy new year in advance, and success in your elections scheduled for 10th August 2027.

May God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob guide, protect and bless you all as we continue working together for a stronger Embu.

God bless you all.

God bless Embu County.

God bless Kenya.

DR. TWONAGA ALEXANDER MUNYI MUNDIGI,
SENATOR, EMBU COUNTY