

**SECOND ASSEMBLY  
(009)**

**SECOND SESSION  
(060)**



**COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KITUI**

**COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KITUI**

**SECOND COUNTY ASSEMBLY - (SECOND SESSION)**

**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

**TUESDAY 27TH FEBRUARY, 2018 AT 2.30 P.M**

1. The House convened at Thirty minutes past Two O'clock.
2. The proceedings were opened with a prayer.
3. **PRESIDING** - Hon. Speaker on the chair.

*(Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 37(1), the Honorable Speaker varied the sequence of business in the Order Paper)*

4. **Communication from the chair**

The Honorable Chair made the following communication:

**Senator of Kitui County, Honorable Enoch Kiio Wambua, M.P.;**

**Hon. Members of Senate and the National Assembly;**

**Hon. Members of the Second County Assembly;**

**Distinguished Guests;**

**Ladies and Gentlemen.**

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Good Afternoon.

**Honorable Members,**

Today's sitting is informed by the County Assembly Standing Orders No. 21 (1) which states that, "*The Speaker may, in consultation with the Leader of the Majority and the Leader of the Minority Party, allow the Senator of the County or a visiting Governor or other such visiting dignitary, to address the County Assembly on such occasions as may be appropriate.*" We are today therefore dignified by the presence of our Senator, the Hon. Enoch Kiio Wambua.

**Honorable Members,**

I wish to state that the presence of the Senator of Kitui County is a clear indication of his interest and dedication not only to this Assembly but the county as well. I am certain that together, we can make this county the best model for good governance and socio economic development.

**Honorable Senator,**

Today, this House is keen to listen to your inaugural address. We appreciate your profound visit which tells us that you are ready to work with us amicably to realize the gains of devolution and prosperity as a whole. As the legislative arm of the County Government of Kitui, this Assembly is aware of the enormous task

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that lies ahead of us. However, I want to assure you that the Honorable Members are up

to the task. We shall continue to undertake our legislative mandate as per the Constitution in order to steer our county forward.

**Honorable Senator,**

I wish to inform you that this House is composed of fifty four (54) highly knowledgeable and vastly experienced members both elected and nominated who voluntarily left their former professions and heeded to the higher calling of service to the people of Kitui. Out of these, thirty six (36) are men and eighteen (18) are women. The majority party is Wiper Democratic Party Movement with thirty (30) MCA's. The minority party NARC has thirteen (13) MCA's, Independent five (5), Jubilee Party three (3) MCA's, Muungano Party two (2) MCA's and PPK one (1) MCA. This far, I am proud to say that members of this County Assembly have shown competence, resilience and dedication to their newly acquired mandate.

**Honorable Senator,**

Since the inception of the Second County Assembly on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2017, their legislative capacity has continued to be richly enhanced

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in anticipation of the work that lies ahead. We began on the right footing in matters oversight, representation and legislation.

Just to mention but a few, in matters oversight, several sectoral committees have undertaken county executive committee departmental projects' inspection tours and are currently developing reports on their findings.

In matters legislation, we recently adopted a motion on charcoal trade in Kitui County with the House proposing to adopt the county government's policy and directive on banning commercial burning and trade of charcoal within the county amongst other proposals.

We expect to have more legislative business geared toward the welfare of our county. We are all aware of the drought situation within our county which is negatively impacting on the livelihoods of the citizens and the threat of environmental degradation that needs urgent measures to be curbed, if we are to avoid disaster in future.

**Honorable Senator,**

This Assembly as an institution, has not been void of challenges. As you can clearly see, we are encountering a defining challenge of sitting space for the Honorable Members. This chamber which we are currently occupying cannot suffice to as an ideal debating chamber We anticipate that soon we shall move into a new modern chamber after the ongoing renovations are through.

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**Honorable Members,**

Article 96 of the Constitution highlights the fundamental role of the Senate as that of protecting the interests of the counties. I congratulate the Senate for the leadership provided so far.

It is now my pleasure and privilege to invite Honorable Enoch Kiio Wambua, the Senator for Kitui County to address the House. Welcome sir.

**Thank you!**

## **5. SENATOR'S ADDRESS**

To God be the Glory.

Thank you Mr. Speaker for the opportunity to address honorable members of the County Assembly of Kitui. May I also thank each honorable member here present for making the choice to avail yourself and listen to me. Asanteni sana.

Mr. Speaker, I have come in the distinguished company of honorable senators and members of the National Assembly. I thank

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you honorable colleagues for the great respect you have bestowed on me and indeed on the County Assembly of Kitui. This is, without doubt, the way to go, it is the way of the future.

Mr. Speaker, in the Second Schedule of the County Governments Act, there is a provision for the Senator to address his/her County Assembly. So it can be said, and correctly so Mr. Speaker, that I am here to fulfill a legal obligation.

Mr. Speaker, this assembly and the office of the Senator of Kitui County share very important roles in the best interest of the County Government of Kitui. The same Mr. Speaker is true of all county assemblies and all senators in the 47 counties in the country.

The legislative role of the County Assembly Mr. Speaker is so important to the extent that it makes laws necessary for the effective performance of functions and exercise of power of the County Government of Kitui. Of course honorable members of this assembly are also mandated by the Constitution and the law to oversight the Executive arm of the government. This important function is clearly stated in Article 185 (3) of Constitution of Kenya (2010).

Mr. Speaker, each one of these members is a monitor of county

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resources in their respective wards and indeed in every corner of the county. In this respect Mr. Speaker, this assembly- as part of its legislative role and mandate - must continuously and consistently receive, debate and approve plans for the management and exploitation of county resources. Article 185 (4) (a) of Constitution of Kenya (2010) is explicit on this mandate.

I am happy Mr. Speaker that recently this assembly approved a motion to ban unregulated trade in charcoal and sand in Kitui County. My only concern on this score Mr. Speaker is that the resolution of this assembly came long after a policy statement had been issued and effected by the Executive. Going forward Mr. Speaker, I would advise that proper procedures and timely consultations be undertaken for a smooth running of affairs in our county.

Mr. Speaker sir. We must all commit to the conservation of our environment and sustainable exploitation of resources in our county. The next step after the ban Mr. Speaker is a very important one.

We all know that thousands upon thousands of families especially in Kitui South, Kitui East, Mwingi Central, Mwingi North and Kitui Rural have entirely relied on proceeds from charcoal burning to place a meal on the table, educate their children, pay for medical

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treatment and virtually take care of their daily subsistence. As leaders, we must urgently and in oneness of mind find and make available other sustainable sources of livelihood for our people.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the leadership of Kitui County which this honorable assembly is central part of, must have the courage to stand firm in the protection of our environment and resources. Equally important, we must naturally be sensitive to the wishes, interests, welfare and aspirations of our people. Striking a healthy balance between the two variables Mr. Speaker is what will define the quality of our leadership.

I wish to remind this assembly through you Mr. Speaker that the County Government of Kitui, and indeed every county government in this country, consists of the Executive and the County Assembly. [Article 176(1) of Constitution of Kenya (2010) None of these two arms is subject to the other. None can work in isolation.

Mr. Speaker, the complementary role of the office of the Senator of Kitui County and the County Assembly of Kitui cannot be gainsaid. In the execution of the mandate of the office of the Senator of Kitui County Mr. Speaker, Article 96 (1) of the Constitution of Kenya (2010) charges me to represent my county in the Senate, protect the interests of my county in the Senate

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(and outside the Senate) and protect the interests of the County Assembly of Kitui in and outside the Senate.

As stated above, Mr. Speaker, the County Government of Kitui consists of this honorable Assembly and the Executive arm headed by the Governor. So Mr. Speaker, and for the avoidance of doubt, it is my constitutional responsibility to take care of the interests of this Assembly and the Executive. A review of the Senate Hansard reports will show that my commitment to this role is beyond reproach. And for me to continue to be effective in the protection of these interests Mr. Speaker, I urge this Assembly and the Executive arm of the County Government of Kitui to share information especially on matters of policy, human resources and the management of public finances committed to your charge.

I urge this assembly through your office Mr. Speaker to help me establish and entrench proper and effective channels of information sharing as we pursue win-win outcomes for the great people of Kitui County. My office fully commits to doing our part to ensure smooth flow of information.

I am sadly aware Mr. Speaker that this assembly is yet to approve the list of chief officers submitted to your office by the office of the Governor of Kitui County.

Details as to what the challenge could be have not been shared.

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Mr. Speaker, I plead with this assembly to play its role in ironing out whatever issues stand in the way of the approval. Further delays on this front Mr. Speaker would only serve to curtail proper functioning of the Executive arm of the County Government of Kitui.

But the delay Mr. Speaker, in and of itself, is sufficient testimony that information flow and proper consultations are not taking place between the Executive and the Assembly. Let us all in one accord, Mr. Speaker, seek to cure this anomaly so as to serve our people better and avoid costly delays in service delivery. Injustice delayed is justice denied, then it should follow that service delayed is service denied.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I am aware that last week your assembly passed a supplementary budget as requested by the office of the governor. It is only four months Mr. Speaker to the end of the 2017/2018 financial year. This assembly and my office play a complementary role in carrying out oversight on the functions of the County executive. Duty calls us Mr. Speaker to execute this mandate objectively and without malice, prejudice or ill-will. We could choose to be proactive in the exercise of this constitutional mandate. This way we shall avoid unnecessary conflicts in the discharge of our mandate.

It would serve our people much better if all of us found time and

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reason to sit both formally and informally to brainstorm and help develop guidelines towards better absorption of funds within the remaining period of time. Failure to do this will only serve to deny our people the much needed service from each one of us.

Mr. Speaker, there is every likelihood that the Senate would soon be debating a bill on a proposed Ward Development Fund. On this matter Mr. Speaker, when the Bill finally comes up for debate, you can rest assured that the voice of the Senator of Kitui County in support of this initiative will be loud and clear.

As a matter of fact Mr. Speaker, I am in consultation with relevant authorities to consider drafting a Bill or amend excising legislation to allow county assemblies a level of autonomy in the management of their budgets. It is not practical for county assemblies to be effective in their oversight role over the Executive and yet continue to rely on the same Executive for their exchequer.

Mr. Speaker, I appeal for harmony across the political divide in this assembly. Let us pursue unity of purpose as we serve our county. We must stand united in every good and desirable effort meant to make Kitui County a better place for our people, our visitors and, indeed for all of us.

Soon Mr. Speaker, the IEBC will be embarking on an important nationwide exercise. The commission will be presiding over a review

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of boundaries for wards and constituencies across the country. This assembly Mr. Speaker will be required to play a critical role in this all-important exercise.

I urge members to engage the public fully and properly to correct glaring disadvantages in the existing boundaries within our wards and constituencies. Mr. Speaker Sir, my office will work very closely with the leadership and residents of each of our 40 wards and 8 constituencies to achieve the best outcomes in this exercise.

Lastly and very important Mr. Speaker Sir, the County Assembly of Kitui should, as a matter of urgency, put more money in the emergency fund to address the food deficit situation in our county. Our people Mr. Speaker are starving as a result of recurrent rain failures. We must unite in seeking ways of feeding our people and on this matter Mr. Speaker, every leader in this county must be ready to bear the weight of leadership to lighten the burden of life weighing so heavily on the people who have elected us. This is my solemn plea; it is my charge to each of one us.

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Thank you honorable members of the County Assembly of Kitui.

To God be the Glory.

6. **ADJOURNMENT**-And the time being thirty-one minutes past Three O'clock the Hon. Speaker adjourned the House.

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7. **ASSEMBLY ROSE**- at Thirty-one minutes past Three O'clock

**Memorandum**

*The Honorable Speaker will take the chair on  
Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 at 9.00 A.M.*

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