

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KITUI



THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY

SECOND ASSEMBLY - THIRD SESSION

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

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ON THE WELCOME ADDRESS DURING THE OPENING SESSION AFTER THE AUGUST RECESS

Honorable Members,

I take this opportunity to welcome you back to the Assembly today the 24th of September, 2019 as we officially resume work after the recent recess. It is always a refreshing opportunity to take a rest from your normal duties. I hope that you have come back rejuvenated and prepared for the enormous work that lies ahead of us that the people of Kitui entrusted us to undertake. As I have said time and again, I am certain that you fit the bill. This Assembly has the right caliber of members and I am proud of this fact.

Honorable Members,

As you were aware, during the recess period, our Assembly hosted the Senate of Kenya for a whole week as from 15th - 20th September, 2019 for the 2nd Senate Mashinani. It was a great honor to have the whole Senate of Kenya in Kitui and more so have them use our premises for their legislative activities. I take this opportunity to thank those who proposed the County Assembly of Kitui to host

our big brothers, the Senate, led by Hon. Sen. Enoch Kiio Wambua, MP, our very own Senator for Kitui County. You really made us proud! We boast of having one of the best modern debating chambers across the country and for a whole week this chamber was used both as a debating chamber and also as a committee room for the Sen. Moses Kajwang led Senate Public Investments and Accounts Committee.

Honorable Members,

You are also aware that despite the limited office space in our Assembly, other Senate committees including the staff of the Senate were ably accommodated and they were able to dispense off their duties without any interruption whatsoever. Alongside this, we had allowed you Honorable Members to sit in different counterpart committees and also participate in public forums held outside the Assembly in order to share experience and allow for knowledge transfer on the best practices in legislation. It was a good benchmarking opportunity and I believe that we all, in one way or the other learnt something that will enhance committee work, our public participation events, committee external visits and also levels of debate during the plenary. In the spirit of *taking debate to the next level*, I expect the best out of this engagement since it was not in vain.

Honorable Members,

The strength of any legislative organ is anchored on its staff. Our Assembly staff were also granted an opportunity to benchmark with their counterpart Senate colleagues. The Clerk of Assembly had made proper arrangements for all of the staff to be around and practically participate in the one week learning engagement. I am certain that we shall have improved levels of performance and output for the benefit of our Assembly.

Honorable Members,

There is time for everything and a season for activity under the heavens as the Holy Book mentions. A time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a

time to dance, a time to embrace and a time to refrain, a time to be silent and a time to speak. You are aware Honourable Members that we lost one of our members of staff last week on Wednesday, the Principal Finance Officer, Mr. Algustus Musyoka, following a short illness. I shall be providing details of the funeral arrangements soon and on how to assist the bereaved family. In honor of the departed member of staff I kindly request that we observe a minute of silence.

Honorable Members,

You are seized of the fact that county governments are undergoing harsh economic times due to the delay in the passing of the Division of Revenue Act, 2019 and subsequently the County Allocation of Revenue Act, 2019. This has greatly affected operations within our county. The Assembly has not been left out as well. Allow me also to mention that just like other assemblies across the Republic, our assembly is faced with the perennial challenge of delayed disbursement of funds to County Assemblies. This adversely affects effective implementation of our work plans. It is an enormous impediment indeed. Financial autonomy of the assemblies is the only way out. Our hope is that the Senate will be able to resolve this matter the soonest possible.

Honorable Members,

During the recess, the Assembly leadership and the Liaison Committee undertook a one week training on the management of county affairs. Also, all the assembly committees retreated for a week to come up with the 2019/2020 annual work plans for their committees. Allow me Honourable Members to congratulate your commitment to the work bestowed upon you. We have so far been able to pass important motions, discussed statements, passed regulations and also other committee reports because of this.

Honorable Members,

As we commence sittings, let us ensure that we undertake our legislative, representation and oversight roles in an exemplary way without fear or favor.

We, as an Assembly have the capacity to legislate on matters that can uplift the living standards of the people and also enhance their capacity of living a decent life. I urge members to come up with more motions, bills and regulations that can make this a reality. The great people of this county are certainly banking their trust in us. I will support you in any way needed to make this a reality.

Honorable Members,

I once again re-affirm my assurance to serving this House candidly and to the best of my ability. I commit myself, as your Speaker, to assist you to deliver your mandate and advance your individual and collective responsibility to the people of Kitui County. We all need each other in order to attain a vision of a prosperous and self-sufficient county.

Thank you!

God bless you all.

HON GEORGE M. NDOTTO

SPEAKER OF KITUI COUNTY ASSEMBLY

September 24, 2019