

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



FIRST KITUI COUNTY ASSEMBLY (FOURTH SESSION)

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR ON THE OPENING OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE KITUI COUNTY ASSEMBLY

Honorable Members,

I take this opportunity to welcome you back to the Assembly from recess today the 9th of February, 2016 as we officially open the Fourth Session of the First Kitui County Assembly. It is my hope that the recess was spent in a worthwhile manner and that you had an opportunity to interact with the electorate, review various development projects within the wards and also actively participate in matters of county importance as the representatives of the citizenry of this county. I believe we are now ready to tackle the enormous work that lies ahead of us during this session.

Honorable Members,

You will recall that the just concluded recess was in itself a successful working recess. Honorable members of this Assembly were able to, among other things undergo a legislative training as from 7th to 12th December 2015 and as from 4th

to 8th January 2016. Also, during the recess, Honorable Members had an opportunity to inspect projects that have been implemented by the Kitui County Government as from 18th to 26th of January, 2016. Indeed these experiences were meant to enhance members' capacity and give them the requisite practical experience in order to undertake their legislative and oversight function better. There is therefore very high expectations of undertaking a better legislative and oversight role during this fourth session. In this regard, I wish to call upon all the committees which were involved during the inspection of projects tour across the whole county to move with haste and immediately convene to sit and finalize their respective reports before the end of February, 2016 so that the due process of implementation of the recommendations begins in earnest.

Honorable Members,

You will also recall that in the course of the third session, the Kitui County Assembly achieved various legislative milestones with six (6) Bills being passed and forwarded to the Governor for assent.

These Bills include;

1. The Kitui County Flag, Symbols and Names Bill, 2014 (Assembly Bill No. 14 of 2014).
2. The Kitui County Village Bill, 2014 (Assembly Bill No. 15 of 2014).
3. The Kitui County Supplementary Appropriation 1, 2015 (Assembly Bill No. 2 of 2015).
4. The Kitui County Supplementary Appropriation 2, 2015. (Assembly Bill No. 3 of 2015).
5. The Kitui County Appropriation Bill, 2015. (Assembly Bill No. 4 of 2015).
6. The Kitui County Finance Bill, 2015. (Assembly Bill No. 5 of 2015).

We may have fallen short of our expectations in terms of legislations. However, the bar has been set high. We expect to handle even more Bills, both private and

public, during this session. I would encourage Honorable Members to be more proactive and redouble their efforts in initiating legislation touching on issues affecting the electorate. These legislations provide legal mechanisms that help sort out certain problems affecting our county.

Honorable Members,

The previous session also witnessed the adoption of various motions which include, among others;

1. Motion on the Revocation of Lease and Recovery of Land Parcel No. Nzambani/Maluma/529.
2. Motion on the Adoption of the Culture, Youth, Sports and Social Services Committee Report on Consideration of the Guidelines for Operation of the Youth Local Infrastructure Savings and Investment Program.
3. Motion on the Recommencement of the Project on Construction of Sand Dams across Kitui County.
4. Motion on the Adoption of the Report of the Procedure and Rules Committee on Amendments to the Kitui County Assembly Interim Standing Orders.
5. Motion to update the County Assembly on the Status of Human Resources in Kitui County by the Kitui County Public Service Board.
6. Motion on the formation of a disaster preparedness and management unit in Kitui County.
7. Motion to identify and conserve historical, religious and cultural heritage sites in Kitui County.
8. Motion on roof water harvesting.

While these motions were meant to correct certain injustices or improve and initiate certain desirable actions, regrettably Honorable Members little effort has been made to implement the formal proposals contained therein.

Honorable Members,

As you are well aware, the National Treasury, in the 2016 – 2017 Budget, has proposed that counties will share Ksh 302 Billion in the next financial year. Out of this amount, the allocation to Kitui County is among the top ten (10) county allocations and shall receive an equitable share of Ksh 7.84 Billion. This is a considerable increment from the previous equitable share of Ksh 7.2 Billion in the financial year 2015 – 2016. This, honorable members is not a mean allocation. As an assembly, we should endeavor to redouble our oversight efforts as we are the custodians of the interests of the citizen of Kitui County and we are accountable to the people on how the allocated monies are being spent. I wish to urge the relevant committees to take a lead role in this accord.

Honorable Members,

We have continued to mature as an Assembly. This makes me very proud of you and I salute you Honorable Members. As we move forward, I wish to urge you that we persistently observe the rule of law in all our undertakings as Honorable Members at all times. This will enable us to sufficiently ensure that the rule of law is observed also within the whole county as we shall be leading from the forefront.

Honorable Members,

As we all know, this session may prove to be a very unique session in the history of our county. The General Elections will be held on the second Tuesday of August in 2017 in accordance with the supreme law of the nation. Soon, Honorable Members and the rest of the country may enter into election mode. Our legislative and oversight roles are likely to be minimal when this time comes. As this is inevitable, I therefore wish to urge that we do as much as we can before that time comes.

Honorable Members,

I wish to once again re-affirm my commitment to serve the Kitui County Assembly honestly and to the best of my ability. My main objective as your Speaker is to assist you not only to deliver your mandate but advance your individual and collective welfare. Remember we all need to work together to achieve the ultimate goal of serving our people well so that come 2017 they will be persuaded to give us a second mandate. The second chance of all of us to come back is in our hands.

Thank you!

God bless you all.

THE HON GEORGE M. NDOTTO
SPEAKER OF KITUI COUNTY ASSEMBLY

February 9, 2016