

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



ITA NI MUTHIANI

**FIRST KITUI COUNTY ASSEMBLY
(THIRD SESSION)**

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR
ON THE OPENING OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE KITUI COUNTY
ASSEMBLY**

Honorable Members,

I want to take this opportunity to welcome you back to the Assembly from recess today the 11th of February, 2015 as we officially open the Third Session of First Kitui County Assembly. It is my sincere hope you had good rest during the recess and at the same time you had an opportunity to interact with your employers and also review various development projects in your Wards. That rest was very necessary after continued hard work of legislation, oversight and representation during the second session. I believe we are now ready to tackle the work ahead of us during this session.

Honorable members,

You will recall when we started our work as legislators in March 2013, we were faced with a lot of challenges. We were all beginners in the new role we were expected to play in the County Government. We accepted the challenges and also accepted to listen and learn. We organized relevant trainings, workshops and

seminars consistently both locally and overseas. We interacted with various people who helped us to learn and understand our mandate and how to go about our work. As a result today I'm proud to say ours is one of the most competent Assemblies in Kenya. Through adequate preparations, we now know the legislative procedures; we know our oversight mandate, not forgetting our duty to articulate the interests of our people in the Assembly. Congratulations! Any Speaker would be proud to preside over such an Assembly. I am personally very proud of you.

Honorable Members,

You will recall that the just concluded recess can be termed as a successful working recess. Honorable members of this Assembly were able to, among other things undergo a legislative training as from 15th to 20th December 2014. Also, during the recess, Honorable Members had also an opportunity to interact with the local Kitui county citizenry and inspect projects that have been implemented by the County Government as from 19th to 24th of January, 2015. Indeed these experiences have also enabled members understand their legislative and oversight function better and hence there is a higher expectation of undertaking a better legislative and oversight role during this third session.

Honorable Members,

You will also recall that in the course of the second session, the Kitui County Assembly achieved various legislative milestones with thirteen (13) Bills being passed and forwarded to the Governor for assent.

Of these, two Bills have already been published, namely;

1. The Kitui County Markets and Farm Produce Trade Bill, 2014 (Assembly Bill No. 9)
2. The Kitui County Charcoal Management Bill, 2014 (Assembly Bill No. 5)

Three (3) of the Bills have been returned to the Assembly with memoranda by the Governor, namely;

1. The Kitui County Business Licensing Bill, 2014 (Assembly Bill No. 10)
2. The Kitui County Health Facilities Management Committee Bill, 2014 (Assembly Bill No. 6)
3. The Kitui County Villages Bill, 2014 (Assembly Bill No. 15)

However, there are other Bills that have not been assented upon and the Governor had not referred them back within the fourteen (14) days period as stipulated under the provisions of Section 24(6) of the County Government Act, 2012. These are;

1. The Kitui County Abattoirs Bill, 2014 (Assembly Bill No. 8)
2. The Kitui County Alcoholic Drinks Control Bill, 2014 (Assembly Bill No.4)
3. The Kitui County Sorghum Bill, 2014 (Assembly Bill No. 7)

You will also recall that the report on the Kitui County Flag, Symbols and Names Bill, 2014 (Assembly Bill No. 14) was tabled, debated on and a vote on adoption of the report deferred by the chair.

We expect to handle even more Bills, both private and public, during this session. I would encourage Honorable Members to be more proactive in initiating legislation touching on issues affecting the electorate.

Honorable Members,

The previous session also witnessed the adoption of various motions among them;

1. Motion on absorption of ECDE teachers in Kitui County.
2. Motion on approval of the Kitui County Assembly Car Loan (Members) Scheme Fund Regulations, 2014.

3. Motion on approval of the Kitui County Assembly Mortgage (Members) Scheme Fund Regulations, 2014.
4. Motion on approval of the Report on Guidelines for Community Level Infrastructural Development Programme and Pro Poor Program.
5. Motion on approval of the report on Guidelines for Establishment of the Community Liaison Committees for Minerals and other Natural Resources in Kitui County.
6. Motion on approval of the report on the Kitui County Integrated Development Plan 2013 – 2017.

Honorable Members,

As you are well aware, the court case Petition No. 368 of 2014 filed by the County Assemblies Forum (CAF) concerning county government budget ceilings is still pending in court with the court expected to enter a judgment on it on the 20th of February, 2015. Meanwhile, the court issued an interim ruling on the same, granting spending of up to seventy five (75%) of the approved ceilings. It is quite clear to all of you that assemblies, Kitui included, are running on a very tight budget and as a result we have to ensure prudent management of the Assembly's limited resources.

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. We have had difficult challenges in the past both legal and administrative and even personal. But God has always guided us to solve them without tarnishing the good name of our Assembly.

It is my sincere hope we will continue with the same spirit, knowing that we must follow the Laws as we deliver services to our people. 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 second mandate.

Thank you!

God bless you all.

THE HON GEORGE M. NDOTTO
SPEAKER OF KITUI COUNTY ASSEMBLY
February 10, 2015