

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



FIRST KITUI COUNTY ASSEMBLY (THIRD SESSION)

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR ON THE WELCOME ADDRESS TO THE SENATOR OF KITUI COUNTY HONORABLE DAVID MUSILA

Honorable Senator of Kitui County, David Musila E.G.H., Hon. Members of Parliament, Hon. Members of the County Assembly; Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen; Good Afternoon.

Honorable Members

It gives me pleasure to welcome the Honorable Senator of Kitui County, Honorable Members of Parliament and Honorable members of the First Kitui County Assembly to this special sitting of the Third Session of this Assembly. It's an exciting time for the Assembly as we continue to grow and adapt, remaining always motivated and responsive to the needs of the people of Kitui County.

Honorable Members

Today's sitting is informed by the County Assembly Interim Standing Order 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 therefore graced by the presence of our Senator this afternoon, the Hon. David Musila.

Honorable Senator

It is a moment of great inspiration for us all to have you in this House to address the Assembly. We are very eager to listen to you because from your address today, the Kitui County citizenry will renew their confidence and hope in what we, as a County, would wish to accomplish.

Honorable Senator

Before I invite you to talk to us, allow me to make some brief remarks. Honorable Members, there is no doubt that Kenya is at the dawn of a new dispensation – indeed a new chapter. Kitui County Assembly like other assemblies across the republic is however not devoid of its own daunting challenges. When we started in March 2013, we were all beginners in the role we were expected to play in the county. Lack of proper facilities and structures, shortage of staff, inadequate office space for committees and employees, congested chambers, unfamiliarity with parliamentary procedures, inadequate funds and unnecessary interference by constitutional institutions such as the Commission on Revenue Allocation, Transitional Authority and Controller of Budget, were some of the challenges we faced as a new entity in devolution.

Honorable Senator

Today I am proud to say that members of this county assembly showed resilience and accepted the challenges, listening, learning and adopting necessary measures to overcome these hurdles. Since the inception of the County Assembly Service Board, we have employed qualified personnel and organized relevant trainings, workshops and seminars consistently for both members of the Assembly and employees. We have interacted with various people who have helped us to learn and understand our mandate and how to go about our work. I am also

pleased to inform you that necessary plans are underway to construct a modern chamber.

Honorable Senator

A quick glance at the membership of the First Kitui County Assembly gives me pleasure to inform you that there are a number of professionals from varying backgrounds who voluntarily abandoned their careers to join this House. In addition, women, youth and persons with disabilities are ably represented herein.

Honorable Senator

As the legislative arm of the Kitui County Government, the task ahead of us is enormous, the expectations are high and the challenges intimidating. However, I want to assure you that the most encouraging thing is that the people of Kitui County are fully behind us in our efforts to change the county for the better. We shall continue to endeavor to enhance good working relations with our counterpart, the County Executive, in steering our county towards development and realization of vision 2030.

Honorable Senator

Indeed we have made several notable accomplishments in the two sessions since the birth of this Assembly. I wish to reiterate here that the Assembly will not tire in ensuring the success of the County and the delivery of services to our people. The Kitui County Assembly has passed thirteen (13) Bills and forwarded them to the Governor for assent. The Assembly has likewise witnessed the adoption of various motions. Numerous statement requests have also been made. Honorable Members are becoming more proactive in initiating legislation touching on issues affecting the electorate. Moving forward, we therefore expect to handle more Bills, Petitions and Motions.

Honorable Senator

According to Article 96 of the Constitution, the cardinal role of the Senate is to protect the interests of the counties. So far, I wish to congratulate the Senate for providing leadership in ensuring counties get a fair share of the national revenue. I wish to in particular thank Hon. David Musila for the good work he has undertaken to spur development not only in Kitui, but in all the counties. In order to ably attain our objectives as an Assembly, consistent and adequate funding is crucial. I therefore wish to call upon the Senate, through you Sir, to consider ways to ensure financial stability and independence for all County Assemblies.

Honorable Members of Parliament

We are very grateful to you for having accepted our invitation to attend this special sitting of the Third Session of this Assembly, to listen to our Senator's address to the people of Kitui County. We always look upon you as our elder brothers and sisters serving the same people in the same capacity as we do. I want to assure you of our cooperation in working together towards building the counties and the republic of Kenya. We look up to you for support, advice and guidance in matters relating to our mandate. Honorable Members of Parliament, I take this opportunity to cordially welcome you to this auspicious occasion.

Honorable Senator

On behalf of myself and the County Assembly, I wish to assure you that we will continue playing an integral role in the legislative process, to ensure we provide an enabling legislative framework within which to pursue the people's development objectives.

And now it is my pleasure and privilege to invite Honorable David Musila to address the House. I warmly welcome you sir.

Thank you!

THE HON GEORGE. M. NDOTTO
SPEAKER OF KITUI COUNTY ASSEMBLY

March 19, 2015