

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



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

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR
ON THE WELCOME ADDRESS TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR OF KITUI
COUNTY DR. JULIUS M. MALOMBE**

Your Excellency, the Governor of Kitui County Dr. Julius Malombe, the Deputy Governor of Kitui County, Honorable Members of the first Kitui County Assembly, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen. It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to this special sitting of the Third Session of this Assembly.

Honorable Members

You all reckon that this day is indeed of great importance to us all. Today's sitting is informed by the Kitui County Assembly Standing Orders No. 18 which states that "The Governor shall address a special sitting of the Assembly once every year and may address the Assembly at any other time."

Your Excellency

This Assembly consists of the constitutionally recognized representatives of the people of Kitui County. A quick glance at its membership 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 including women, youth and persons with disabilities. I wish to assure you that the Honorable Members are prepared for your address today which will enable us have a better insight of your political philosophy and economic strategy for Kitui County, going forward.

Your Excellency

The 27th of March this year, marked the second year since County Governments came into being and as so, it is the time to reflect on the direction, progress, challenges and achievements of the devolved units of governance. Kitui County Assembly like other Assemblies across the republic has not been devoid of its own experiences so far. We have encountered numerous challenges, for instance, lack of proper facilities and structures, staff shortage, inadequate office space for committees and employees, a congested chamber, unfamiliarity with parliamentary procedures, inadequate funds and unnecessary interference by Constitutional Independent Commissions.

Your Excellency

Even though County Governments are allowed to operate their own Revenue Fund accounts as outlined under section 109 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012, the disbursement of monies to counties from the National Treasury has consistently been outside the mandated time-frame. No County has for the past 15 months received monies from Treasury before the 15th as stipulated by law. This delay of funds and more significantly the imposed budget ceilings have caused an impediment in the efficient and effective operation of the Assembly. In order to achieve our objectives as an Assembly, steady and adequate funding is critical. It is therefore necessary for appropriate action to be taken urgently to ensure and guarantee financial stability and independence for all County Assemblies.

Your Excellency

I want to assure you that this County Assembly shall work together in comity, mutual respect and cooperation, with the County Executive. However, I need to observe here that as an independent arm of the County Government, the Assembly requires total independence from the Executive in the performance of its core mandates, namely, representation, legislation and oversight. We trust that your Government will continue to accord the necessary support to the County Assembly and I assure you, we will do the same without compromising our roles.

Your Excellency

This Assembly is grateful for the continued support you have shown in its legislative work. I wish to acknowledge your assent into law of, among others, The Kitui County Charcoal Management Bill, 2014, The Kitui County Markets and Farm Produce Trade Bill, 2014 and most recently, The Kitui County Villages Bill, 2014. In addition, the Guidelines for Implementation of the Community Level Infrastructure and Pro - Poor Programs, the Guidelines for establishing the Community Liaison Mining Committee and the Guidelines

on the Implementation of the Youth Local Infrastructure, Savings and Investments Program have been passed by this Assembly.

Your Excellency

Your government shall be held to account on your commitment to implement the Constitution and other policies, including the Kitui County Integrated Development Plan 2013 – 2017 which is the foundation for sustainable development of our County. Its effective implementation is pivotal in delivering prosperity and a high quality of life for us all. You can count on the support of the Assembly to help realize the goals set out in the County policies and plans.

Your Excellency

We shall expect your Government and this House to be the glue that holds the people of Kitui together, to constantly work on long term cohesion and to see that the marginalized and the poorest of poor in our society can see hope in our governance.

Your Excellency

With those few remarks, it is now my pleasant duty and privilege to invite you to address this honorable House. Welcome.

Thank you!

THE HON GEORGE M. NDOTTO
SPEAKER OF KITUI COUNTY ASSEMBLY

APRIL 8TH, 2015