

Kitui County Assembly

THE HANSARD

First County Assembly – First Session

Tuesday, 10th September 2013

The County Assembly met at 2:58pm

[The Speaker (Mr.GeorgeNdotto) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

(Communication from the Chair)

The Speaker: Next order

C county Assembly Clerk: [Mr Mutambuki]: Administration of Oath

The Speaker: Next order

County Assembly Clerk: Communication from the Chair

The Speaker: Honourable members I want to take this opportunity to welcome you back to the County Assembly formal session after the well-deserved recess. I hope you enjoyed yourselves, I hope you did some good work when you were away on leave, I hope your now back fresh ready to go all the way up to December without any interruption in trying to do justice to our people, so I want to take this opportunity to say *karibu* and I expect this session to be very very very busy.

The governor, am sure, is ready to give us some business. The MCA's, am sure, you're ready to generate Motions and Bills arising from what you learnt from your trip and therefore in very short time it will be a matter of what do we decide first, what do debate first rather than do we have any work. You might have noticed for sometimes we don't have enough work, we have to keep on doing a few things which are not very important but from now on, I believe and trust there will be a lot of work to do. After we go through this agenda, I would like to give the MCA's an opportunity to say something about the trip we are planning to undertake this week. Perhaps I would like to report that one and maybe I would like

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to say something about the trip or the tour which we had last week. I would like to say something and give further direction on how to handle that tour and therefore I will give you an opportunity to say something about it.

The Speaker: Next order

County Assembly Clerk: Messages.

The Speaker: Next Order!

County Assembly Clerk: Petitions.

The Speaker: Next Order.

County Assembly Clerk: Papers.

The Speaker: next order

County Assembly Clerk: Notices of Motions?

The Speaker: next order

County Assembly Clerk: Statements

The Speaker: Next order

County Assembly Clerk: Motions and Bills

The Speaker: Now Honourable members, this being the first meeting after the recess I think we don't have much to do but you recall for quite sometimes we have been, on your behalf, we as speakers and lately we included some of you into the committee, we have been negotiating with the government about your welfare.

The discussions have been going on for quite some time and at the end of the discussions we agreed with SRC-Salaries and Remuneration Commission-they had asked us to give them three months to determine your salary and our allowances. After lengthy discussions we reluctantly agreed to give them three months to come one way or the other about your salary and allowances. That period of three months is ending on this Saturday-on 14th when we expect the commission to tell us about your new salaries and allowances.

Instead of coming up with whatever figure or whatever position they want take they have come up with a revised position, a revised strategy that they are sending some of their officers to the counties to discuss with the counties about pre-evaluation of your salaries and allowances-pre-evaluation- that is to discuss the modalities for the evaluation of your salaries and allowances.

They were supposed to come to Kitui the day after tomorrow to discuss with you and the office of the governor arrangement for evaluation. When we met last week-[the Speakers and some of your representatives], we thought we must bring this discussion one way or another to an end, we can't keep on discussing because now the commission is coming with a new strategy to delay determining our issue because if they are coming this week for pre-evaluation, evaluation will be in December, discussion in January, may be salary if is there will be next year June or so forth. So we

thought we must bring this discussion to an end and tell the commission we just can't continue that way. So the committee decided we should not and I think I have told you this one, meet with these people instead let us meet all of us, all the MCA's in the country-we meet and determine our destiny together and tell the government accordingly. So when the committee was left behind, they sent a message to say the meeting is this Saturday 14th at Kasarani stadium and therefore I wanted to get your views on this whether we are going the right direction or the wrong direction and whether we have your blessings to go ahead and make arrangement for that meeting purely to go and meet and determine our destiny because the commission has not been very honest with our discussion and then we have to go and say which way forward all of us because *hii maneno ya boardroom* must come to an end. So honourable members the position is we are required to go to Nairobi-is a meeting for one day on 14th- and we come back. I am not asking you to discuss about the modalities of going or not. I will let you know how we will do it. I want to know your views whether you think we are doing the right thing or we are misbehaving by going to Nairobi to meet the others to discuss and pass resolution and go home. Are we on the right track or going the wrong direction? Is there anybody with a comment? I see... who is this? I can't see you...okay, okay. That is Clay?...oooh Honourable Clay [hon. Mwalili]

Hon Mwalili: Thank you Mr Speaker and am happy that we are all here after the recess. Mr Speaker as regards that matter, I think it is on the right track, on the right track but I must also say this should have happened long time. Like I always say there is no way you agitate for your rights, there is no way you can agitate for salary increase in whispers. It must be done very loudly. Nobody feels very nice or nobody celebrates dipping their hands in the pockets to hand over money to anyone. It's usually a difficult exercise and therefore any means necessary to have County Assembly members throughout this country properly remunerated is welcome and am sure Mr. Speaker once we get to Kasarani on Saturday, I think there is going to be a good resolve, there is going to be a good strategy to press the authorities that be to remunerate MCA's countrywide properly so that at least we can focus on development, we can focus on leadership matters rather than looking behind to see whether our families are still intact or not because Mr. Speaker if you had a one-on-one with most of the MCA's here, they had to sell something to come back to this house. One of the members I won't disclose who it is, took his bull to the market yesterday and he kept on bargaining over the phone until the **prospectus** left and when he said I can take a two thousand cut, by the time they go to the trader, he said my truck is already full, Mr. Speaker I had to use M-pesa

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to do some **ticket** for our colleague to be with us here. What am trying to say Mr. Speaker is- we are underpaid –**properly**- and once we get there Mr. Speaker am sure the resolve is going to be a good resolve and we going to have a strategy to pressurize the authorities that be to give us what belongs to us. Thank you Mr Speaker

The Speaker: Very well the honourable Clay that's good contribution. Anybody else with a comment? I just wanted to have a feel of what you think about that decision; you are comfortable with it or you're not comfortable with it? Should we go ahead and go to Nairobi or we stop it?

Members: We go

The Speaker: *Hebu nisikia mkikanyaga chini wale wanasema twenda kanyanga chin*

[Footthumping]

The Speaker: [chuckles] Right after this session, this formal session I will come back may be with the Clerk you remain seated so that we agree how we are going and how we are coming back and then we prepare ourselves for that trip. It is the most important trip for us it means a lot...

[Applause when hon. Mwende enters the house]

The Speaker: That is in your honour Mwende!

[Laughter]

The Speaker: It's a very important trip and I believe we will achieve something. Maybe I can say there are only two or three issues left and I would rather say it out of the formal session when I come back. Now with that, I would like to say we don't have much to be discussed because we don't have an agenda and will ask you to remain upstanding so that we adjourn the house.

The County Assembly rose at 3:38 PM.

