



THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY

SECOND ASSEMBLY- (THIRD SESSION)

ASSEMBLY SECTORAL COMMITTEES' REPORTS ON

THE COUNTY INSPECTION TOUR ON PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KITUI AND SERVICE DELIVERY ACROSS THE
COUNTY CARRIED OUT BETWEEN 20TH FEBRUARY- 2ND MARCH, 2019.

THE CLERK'S CHAMBER
P. O BOX 694 - 90200
COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KITUI,

MARCH, 2019

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PREAMBLE

Mr. Speaker,

It is my honour and privilege to present to this House, the findings/observations and the recommendations by the Assembly sectoral Committees following the conducted county inspection tour which was carried out from 20th February -2nd March, 2019.

Committees' mandate

Mr. Speaker,

The Assembly Sectoral Committees derive their mandates from the provisions of Standing Order No. 190(5) and the second schedule to the Standing Orders, which define the functions of the committee as follows;

- a. Investigate, inquire into and report on all matters relating to the mandate, management, activities, administration, operation and estimates of the assigned department;
- b. Study programs and policy objectives of departments and the effectiveness of the implementation;
- c. Study and review all county legislation referred to it;
- d. Study, assess and analyse the relative success of departments as measured by the results obtained as compared with their stated objectives;
- e. Investigate and inquire into all matters relating to the assigned departments as they may deem necessary, and as may be referred to them by the County Assembly;
- f. To vet and report on all appointments where the constitution or any law requires the County Assembly to approve, except those under Standing Order 185 (Committee Appointments); and
- g. Make reports and recommendations to the county assembly as often as possible, including recommendation of proposed legislation.

The Assembly Sectoral Committees conducted projects inspection and service delivery across the county within the provisions of Article 185 (3) of the Constitution which states that; **-"A County Assembly, while respecting the principle of the separation of powers, may exercise oversight over the County Executive Committee and any other County Executive organs.**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mr. Speaker,

This report was made possible by the selfless commitment of numerous individuals who contributed expertise and diverse human resource to see this assignment come to completion. Without their invaluable input, this publication would have been ineffectual.

Mr. Speaker,

I also express reflective gratitude to various Sectoral Committees for their stamina and secretariat for his technical support in the entire exercise. It is through their enthusiasm, tireless hard work and commitment that we credit the accomplishment of this very imperative mission.

Mr. Speaker,

Finally, Special mention must go to Office of the Speaker and that of the Clerk for the facilitation accorded to all sectoral committees in the fulfilment of the oversight mandates.

Thank You,

HON. EMERITUS K.MUSYA (MCA)

CHAIRPERSON LIASON COMMITTEE

SIGNED:..... DATE:

COMMITTEES GENERAL OBSERVATIONS, FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1.0 COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION, TRAINING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT. COMMITTEE GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND FINDINGS.

- i. The committee noted that the County Government is putting a lot of attention and emphasizes on educational programs and projects which are not devolved at the expense of devolved functions.
- ii. The committee established that several projects under the sector had stalled.
- iii. Committee noted a serious under staffing in both ECDEs Centres and Vocational training Centres. Further, the committee established that many vocational training centres are being run by instructors with very basic grade test qualifications which put to question their capacity to impart relevant knowledge and skills to the concerned trainees.
- iv. Committee further noted that increased enrollment rate in some vocational training Centres has resulted in congestion in workshops and dormitories. Further, some structures in the centres are in a state of despair. For instance, the roof of a water tank and the ceiling of one of the dormitories in Kyuso Vocational training Centre is almost collapsing.
- v. The Committee also established that many ECDEs and Vocational are not equipped and furnished and lacked teaching and learning material.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.

- I. The Committee recommends that in reference to the Governors manifesto pillar number three on Education and Youth empowerment, the ministry must redesign its performance targets accordingly. For instance, the pro-poor program should be fully managed by the line Ministry to improve on equitable distribution, efficiency and effectiveness.
- II. The committee recommends immediate completion and operationalization of all stalled projects and institutions. Further the County Government should make budgetary allocations towards investment and expansion of physical infrastructure and secure all the Vocational training Centre through proper documentation of land ownership, registration, survey and fencing.

- III. Committee recommends that the County Government should recruit more instructors, ECDEs teachers and other personnel and equip them with relevant knowledge and skills that matches the current job market demand. There should be continuous in-service training to the instructors and ECDEs teachers as well as establishment of a comprehensive scheme of service.
- IV. Committee recommends that in the subsequent financial budgets estimates, the County Government should increase funding to the education Sector to establish a feeding program, facilitate equipping and furnishing of ECDE's Centres, purchase of teaching and learning material, outdoor playing equipment, construction of sanitary facilities and provision of clean and adequate water to all learning institutions .
- V. The Committee recommends establishment of a proper organizational structure of the directorate of the ICT department and devolving ICT function to all Sub-County and Ward offices for efficiency and effective service delivery.

2.0 COMMITTEE ON LANDS, INFRASTRUCTURE AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE GENERAL FINDINGS:-

The committee noted the following general findings which cut across the entire county:-

- i. There are so many stalled projects especially ward administrators' office blocks.
- ii. Roads are graded without developing furniture resulting to the poor roads network during and after rain fall. This compromises value for public money being unrealistic.
- iii. The bush clearing exercise is done earlier than grading of roads, leading to the bushes growing back before grading takes place.

COMMITTEE GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The following are the general recommendations for action to be taken by the County Executive Committee Member whose portfolio falls under:

- i. Stalled projects should be reconsidered for funding in the next financial year to serve the purpose they were intended to.
- ii. Whenever roads are evaluated the required furniture should be considered for installation to increase road sustainability.

- iii. The CECM Ministry of LIHUD should provide quarterly reports on a timely basis.
- iv. In the spirit of consultation and cooperation, the CECM Ministry of LIHUD should keep the Committee updated on all policies, plans and programs ongoing and upcoming.
- v. The Ministry should establish county lands in every village for provision of village administrators' office blocks.
- vi. Whenever there is a development of a new road, bush clearing should go hand in hand with grading, this is to avoid growing back of bushes before grading takes place leading to wastage of public resources.

3.0 COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ECONOMIC PLANNING COMMITTEE FINDINGS

The Committee established the following, that;

- i. The approved Finance has not yet been put to effect since it was approved by this Assembly.
- ii. Some progress has been made regarding automation of revenue collection. The committee discovered that at least some revenue collection clerks had been issued with POS Machines as earlier recommended by the committee during its previous assessment of revenue collection in the county carried out from in January 2018.
- iii. Cash Handling is still being practiced despite the efforts made in automation of revenue collection.
- iv. There are complains of delayed payment of allowances to revenue collection officers within the County.
- v. There were reported cases of rampant encroachment at Zombe and Waita Markets leading to limited trading space.
- vi. Street lights had been installed at various markets but lighting was not enough for the entire market. For Example in Ikutha and Mutomo Markets.
- vii. Parking for traders' and visitors vehicles at Kitui and Mwingi town was inadequate and also posed a risk to road users as vehicles are parked haphazardly.
- viii. Traders at Tseikuru, Mutomo, Waita and Nthangani markets were apathetic in paying levies citing the unhygienic conditions of toilets which they say go for days

without cleaning with the cleaners having deserted duty due to delays in payment of their allowances. The delay had eroded their zest to work.

- ix. The work of revenue clerks at Kitui East Sub- County is hampered by lack of a vehicle to facilitate their movement to various collection points. To worsen the matter, the clerks had not been paid for a period of three months when the committee went calling; a situation the committee noted demotivates them.
- x. Most Revenue offices and Cess Points are not connected to electricity posing a security threat to the monies collected and also a challenge to charging of the POS machines.
- xi. At Ikutha market, traders have declined to use the newly constructed market sheds on argument that the views were not incorporated during the public participation on the development of (BoQs) the Bills of Quantities; hence the sheds were not put up as per their expectations.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Hon. Speaker

To achieve efficiency and optimize in revenue collection and management, the County government should;

Come up with appropriate policies to streamline the administrative system. This should include modernizing its financial system to achieve the following;

- i. Providing citizens with convenient and secure payment options for different services provided by the county.
- ii. Providing the County the ability to monitor revenue collection from several sources on real time basis
- iii. To minimize cash handling by revenue clerks with a view to curbing corruption.
- iv. Integrate e-government technology will increase efficiency as more clients will be able to access more services without necessarily going to government premises thus boosting revenue collection.
- v. Speedy implementation of the Finance Bill and further that this House through the Committees on Finance and Planning and that of Implementation do follow up the said matter.

- vi. There is need to expand the cess collection booths/offices through making them permanent and spacious to give revenue clerks enough space and comfort for work and installation of key working tools including computers, electricity, CCTV Cameras, safes for keeping vital documents and security equipment storage compartments.
- vii. Address the problem of inexperienced and unqualified personnel by exposing them to training facilities and opportunities (continuous capacity building to enhance their ability and experience in revenue collection and accountability).
- viii. Ensure that taxpayers are fully consulted before any new taxes, levies and charges are introduced.

4.0 COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE FINDINGS AND OBSERVATIONS

Mr. Speaker Sir,

- i. The committee observed that the ward administration officers are faced with facilitation challenges both Logistical and communication.
- ii. The committee also observed that all the ward Administration blocks are incomplete with around 65% of the construction work having stalled, pit latrine sunken posing serious health hazards.
- iii. Political interference in the office chain of command in that relaying of information may not be adhered to due to political inclination.
- iv. The committee noted that all the ward administration offices are not fully Equipped with work stations, office stationary and lack technical staff with requisite skills.
- v. The committee noted that there was communication disconnect and dissemination of the information from ward office to the village. In most cases non – staff who are politically aligned usurp the powers of the administrators.

COMMITTEES RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Speaker sir,

In respect to the findings and observation, the committee on Public Service and Administration makes the following recommendations:-

- i. The county ministry on public service should avail sufficient funds to complete all stalled ward administration offices for effective service delivery.
- ii. The county public service board should develop a proper scheme of service to ensure Career progression and retention of ward officers on basis of performance, personal academic credentials and qualifications this will motivate the officers hence high productivity.
- iii. The county ministry on public service and administration should create ward office kitty to facilitate the ward operationalization to enhance efficient and service delivery.
- iv. Casual staff should be sourced by line ministry and be engaged on a renewable contract basis of at least one year.
- v. The county ministry on public service and administration should Provide a utility car to the ward administrators to facilitate their administrative roles.

5.0 COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE FINDINGS AND OBSERVATIONS

The Committee made the following findings, THAT:

- i. The health facilities visited are understaffed which affects health service delivery in Kitui County as health staff are overworked. Further some dispensaries are closed when the medical officers are out on official duties.
- ii. The health facilities visited do not have staff quarters and where available, are insufficient. Further, others are dilapidated and in need of renovation.
- iii. Casuals engaged in the Kitui County public service are working in unfavourable conditions, characterized by irregular payments, lack of tools of work, payments below the minimum wage, haphazard termination of their contracts, among others.

- iv. The youth polytechnics visited do not have sufficient instructors, despite others being centres of excellence.
- v. Issues affecting employees and casuals apply across all ministries and departments in Kitui. Further, promotions and annual salary increments have been major issues affecting employees.
- vi. The County Government has engaged KCHIC registration clerks on contract and are stationed at Financial Services Associations (FSAs) offices. However, at one office visited, there were assertions of unfavourable working conditions including: irregular payments, inadequate facilitation to execute their duties like using their own funds to travel to and from Kitui without reimbursement and their contracts being terminated and renewed haphazardly.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommended THAT:

- i. Budgetary allocations should be made towards recruitment of staff in the hospitals, dispensaries, and health centres visited, and any other departments that have staffing needs. This will lead to improved service delivery in Kitui County.
- ii. Budgetary allocations should be made towards promotion and annual increments for deserving employees which will improve their motivation leading to better service delivery.
- iii. The working conditions of casuals should be improved including timely payment, provision of working tools, amongst others. Further a policy on engagement of casuals should be drafted. Minimum wage should also be adhered. All pending payments due to casuals should also be made within thirty (30) days after adoption of this report.
- iv. More market cleaners should be employed for Kitui County markets. This will improve hygiene standards and at the same provide employment opportunities. Further, once their contracts are terminated, they should be paid all their dues to ensure that they are not disadvantaged.

6.0 COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND MINERAL INVESTMENT DEVELOPMENT

COMMITTEE FINDINGS

Mr. Speaker Sir, during the County tour the Committee observed the following;

- i. Under - utilization of transformer; the committee noted that most transformers installed in town across the County are under-utilized.
- ii. Use of diesel powered generators; the Committee identified that a good number of boreholes use diesel powered generators to pump water from the intake points to the reservoir tanks.
- iii. Non-functioning solar floodlights and street lights; the committee observed with great concern that very many solar flood light and street lights installed by the County Government across the county are not functioning.
- iv. Un-energized power lines; the Committee observed that many power lines constructed by the County Government have not been energized.
- v. Damaged transformers; the Committee noticed that many transformers across the County have blown out and not replaced the necessary authorities.
- vi. Climate Change; the Committee observed that the climate in kitui county has drastically changed due to deforestation and other acts associated with deforestation such as charcoal burning.
- vii. Stalled projects; the committee observed that there are many projects that were started by the County Government and stalled somewhere in the process of their implementation.
- viii. Lack of drainage systems; the Committee observed that most of the developing town across the County have well established drainage systems.
- ix. Lack of tree nurseries; the Committee observed there are no tree nurseries managed by any organized groups across the County despite the County Government putting effort and budgeting for this program from one financial year to another.
- x. Falling powerlines; the Committee observed that after the December rain season many electric poles started falling and there is no intervention by the any relevant authorities.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

- i. The Committee recommends that Ngomeni Rock Catchment be connected with a 3- Phase power line to pump water that serves a 5Km kilometre radius. The committee further recommends that the people living around the dam be empowered to form community based organisations that will see them in income earning activities such as tree nursery business.
- ii. The Committee recommends that the ministry to consider repairing broken power gadgets and tighten sagging wires that are a threat to the students and the entire environment.
- iii. After learning that residents of Kazui in Kivou Ward suffer from water shortage due to inadequate funds to buy diesel for the generator, the Committee recommends that Kanzui borehole should be budgeted for a solar panel plant to pump water to the reservoir tank that will ensure continuous water supply.
- iv. The committee recommends that Kamulewa borehole that was left incomplete be retendered to complete it. The Committee further recommends that a solar power plant be installed to pump water and ensure a continuous power supply.
- v. Being a growing busy town, the Committee recommends for a well-established drainage system in Nuu town that will reduce contamination of surface water and river water.
- vi. After visiting Syou Youth Polytechnic in Mutito/ Kaliku Ward the Committee recommends that the ministry to consider supplying the institution with electricity in order to make it easy for the students who will be learning courses such as welding.
- vii. The Committee recommends that the ministry should budget to connect Zombe level IV hospital with electricity so as to support operations that require energy supply such as refrigeration, lighting and other machinery that have been scuttled.
- viii. The Committee recommends for a solar panel plant at Thua - Kyamatu water project to substitute the generator and ensure a 24 hour water supply.
- ix. Being the only health facility in Kanziko town that has not been connected to electricity despite a power line within the institution, the Committee recommends

that the ministry be connected power to support operations that require energy supply such as refrigeration.

- x. The Committee recommends for upgrading of the single phase powerline to 3 - phase in Mutomo Level IV hospital to support the heavy medical equipment that have been installed in the hospital by the County Government. The Committee further recommends for a well-established drainage system within the hospital.
- xi. The Committee recommends that Kangweni borehole that serves the three Wards; Mbitini, Nzambani and Chuluni Wards be installed with a solar power plant that will ensure a continuous water supply.
- xii. After visiting the Kangukangu water project in Kanyangi Ward, the committee observed that the single phase power line installed at the water intake point is not sufficient to pump water and therefore recommends that the Committee should consider Upgrading to 3 – phase powerline.
- xiii. The Committee recommends that the Ministry should organise a clean-up of the Kalundu Eco Park that has been heavily littered with plastic bottles. Despite the County Government effort to provide litter bins.

7.0 THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE, INDUSTRY, I.C.T & CO-OPERATIVES

GENERAL COMMITTEE'S FINDINGS

The committee noted the following;

- i. Most markets do not have market cleaners. On enquiry, it was noted that most of the market cleaners were on strike since they had not been paid their wages for several months while some markets did not have any cleaners assigned to them.
- ii. Most of the markets lacked proper infrastructures such as modern toilets, flood lights, fences, water tanks, livestock ramps and sheds.
- iii. Traders in some areas did not pay market rates since the revenue collectors don't demand it from them.
- iv. The crusher site project at Kyusani, Kwa Vonza is yet to kick off and could not ascertain the ownership of the site land.
- v. The KICOTEC centre was established and continues to operate without a legal framework nor a policy document.

- vi. There is no existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between KICOTEC and Trendy Technical and Vocational Training Centre which should set out the framework of cooperation, coordination, and collaboration.
- vii. The KICOTEC centre lacks a spacious storage area for their finished products. The center expects to increase production in future therefore the current store will not be sufficient.
- viii. There's inconsistency in timely delivery of materials used in production such as buttons, threads, clothing materials etc. This inconsistency greatly affects production.
- ix. Workers Welfare – the workers are not provided with health insurance, transport to and from the center, accommodation or housing allowance. This poses a major challenge to the employees. The canteen in the center is finished yet not functional. The workers go to eat outside.
- x. The workers are currently working without a contract- their previous contract expired on 19th January, 2019.
- xi. The centre does not have an assigned vehicle for doing deliveries of the finished products.

COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

- i. The county revenue department should ensure its officers collect revenue from the market traders to avoid losses incurred from non-collection of revenue.
- ii. The county ministry of Trade, Co-operatives and Investments should focus on renovating the existing markets by installing livestock ramps, modern toilets, flood lights, water tanks and fences.
- iii. There is need for an ultra-modern market in Kyuso town since it is a sub county headquarter. Kyuso Town Market is strategically positioned as a central market hub for other markets such as, Katse, Tharaka, Ngomeni, Tseikuru, Nguni, Kamuwongo and Mwingi.
- iv. The County Government should employ more market cleaners to ensure each market within the county is appropriately cleaned and maintained. The market

cleaners should also be paid on time to avoid the numerous strikes currently being experienced.

- v. The crusher site at Yatta Kwa vonza Ward should be operationalised as soon as possible.
- vi. There is need for creating a marketing team/department to help in marketing the KICOTEC centre both within and outside the county. Additionally, this team can be tasked with the responsibility of making follow ups on orders done to ensure that individuals/institutions collect their orders in time.
- vii. Within the park, the committee recommends for more litter bin around the park.

8.0 COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND SANITATION

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

The Committee having been able to visit various health facilities across the County made the following general observations;

- i. There are serious staffing challenges faced by different health facilities in the County which hinder quality, and optimal service delivery across the County.
- ii. Many health facilities are faced with inadequate and/or no structures suitable for proper service delivery across the County.
- iii. The County has invested substantial amounts of monies to put up new structures in various health facilities across the county, however the majority of these structures are not in use due to incompleteness, and/or lack of basic features for suitable use due to poor workmanship.
- iv. In some cases, the contractors did the work awarded without close consultation with the facility administration which led to poor quality of work and consequently rendering the projects unsuitable for use.
- v. The offices of public health and public works are not empowered to offer professional supervisory role on the works done in many facilities. As a result, these works fall short of the required specific ideal standards for special structures such as theatre rooms, and maternity rooms.
- vi. In rare cases, some incomplete projects were approved for full payments indicating possible collusion between the concerned officials and the contractors.

- vii. Some complete projects were yet to be handed over to the facility administrations hence remaining idle though completed.
- viii. In some health facilities, projects were not awarded based on the facility's priority of needs.
- ix. The issue of ambulances was a big mess ranging from misuse by the users, breakages taking too long to address, the security of the ambulances (some were stolen from the facilities compound) without due diligence being employed.
- x. In all the facilities, the new Health Facilities Management Act passed was yet to be implemented hence denying the facilities the benefits of this new ACT.
- xi. The County allocation given to many of the health facilities was based on their earlier status, and not the current one therefore, the allocations are not in tandem with the current financial needs of the facilities.
- xii. The drug supplies from KEMSA are fairly regular and consistent, however proper arrangements need to be put in place to address the issue of reagents used in labs which were left to be procured by the facilities.
- xiii. The K-CHIC program has kicked off in all the level IV hospital across the county and services are absolutely free for all patients using the K-CHIC card however, it is worth noting that none of the hospitals has received their reimbursement claims since the inception of this program.

COMMITTEE'S GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee hereby recommends that:-

- i. The County Ministry on Health and Sanitation should address the staffing needs in various facilities through urgent staffing.
- ii. The structural needs of different facilities should be addressed in order to optimize the service delivery in these facilities.
- iii. There should be proper consultation before awarding of projects and during project implementation to ensure facility needs are addressed in order of priority and high quality of works.

- iv. Before payments are made to contractors proper consultation and approvals should be sought to ensure payments are made to those who deserve.
- v. Clear policies and guidelines should be provided to govern the use of ambulances across the county.
- vi. The new Health Facilities Management Act enacted should be implemented immediately to boost the management level in all facilities.
- vii. The County Ministry on Health and Sanitation should fast track handing over of all complete projects for immediate use.
- viii. Efforts to ensure prompt supply of drugs and have buffer stocks to ensure smooth supply should be employed at the county headquarters.
- ix. The County Ministry on Health and Sanitation should revise its revenue allocations to all health facilities to match the current status and needs.
- x. Projects should be constructed under the professional supervision of the offices of public health and public works to ensure that all structures meet the specific ideal standards of special structures such as theatre rooms and maternity.
- xi. Timely disbursement of funds and reimbursements of monies on costs incurred as a result extra workload from the K-CHIC program should be streamlined to avert a looming financial crisis in the level four hospitals across the county.

9.0 COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, SPORTS AND CULTURE

COMMITTEE FINDINGS/ OBSERVATIONS

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The committee on Tourism, Sports and Culture during the recent County inspection exercise, inspected several projects under the line ministry and made the following findings;

THAT:

- i. Most projects have stalled especially those that were initiated by the former regime. An example of such projects are the Lower Eastern Culture and Heritage Centre in Tseikuru ward.
- ii. The Kalundu Eco-Park project is a viable one and the site is very ideal for an eco-park which will act as a recreation centre for the Kitui citizenry.

- iii. Both Mutitu and Mumoni forest are gazetted as important bird areas (IBAs) by the County Ministry of Tourism, Sports and Culture in conjunction with Nature-Kenya. The two forest reserves are home to Hinde's babbler - a species of bird in the leiotherichidae family.
- iv. That the ministry during the financial year 2017-2018, embarked on the construction of the Main entrance gate with a sentry house, a boundary wall and a car park at Mutomo Hills Plant Sanctuary. The boundary wall is complete but the main gate and car park both have stalled.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS:-

- i. The Ministry should apportion adequate funds for the completion of the stalled Lower Eastern Culture and Heritage Centre and any other stalled projects.
- ii. The Ministry should come up with a policy paper and guidelines detailing the development of the Kalundu Eco-Park and Mutomo Reptile Park respectively.
- iii. Since Kalundu Eco-Park is landmark project for the ministry, the County Government should allocate adequate funds to enable the line ministry carry out her planned project activities at the Park in order to operationalize it.
- iv. The Ministry should take advantage of the gazzement of both Mutitu and Mumoni forests as Important Bird Areas and develop as birds' tourists attraction sites.
- v. Facilitate creation of cut-lines within the forest reserves to curb rapid spread of fire in case of fire outbreak.
- vi. The Ministry should formulate relevant legislation with a view to protect the important tourist sites from encroachment by illegal herders.
- vii. Pre-qualify the Site Support Groups (SSGs) for supply of tree seedlings to interested parties. This should be done on continuous basis with an aim to empower these groups economically.
- viii. The Tourism sector should hasten the process of establishing a snake park at Mutomo sanctuary to ensure snakes are well caged and confined in one area thus minimizing snake bites which has been rampant in Kitui south.

- ix. The Ministry should consider upgrading at least two playgrounds in each ward in an attempt to promote and develop sports from grassroots level. In addition, the ministry should promote sports through youth tournaments at all ward levels and provision of sports equipment.
- x. The Ministry should embark in an aggressive marketing campaign to highlight Kitui County as a fascinating tourism destination through use of both local and international platforms to display the county's unique tourist attractions sites like Mwingi North Game Reserve, South Kitui Game Reserve and the anticipated Reptile Park at Mutomo Sanctuary respectively. Further, the bizarre myth linked to the unique Nzambani rock that if one goes round it seven times, they have their gender changed, can also play a significant role in attracting both local and foreign tourists to Kitui county if featured at such forums.
- xi. That the Ministry should consider building partnerships with private investors with a view to privatize some tourist sites. Similarly, in the case of Kalundu Eco-Park, the ministry should embrace the Public Private Partnership initiative as a way encouraging investors in hospitality sector.

10.0 COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, WATER AND IRRIGATION

GENERAL COMMITTEE FINDINGS AND OBSERVATIONS UNDER AGRICULTURE AND WATER SECTOR IN KITUI COUNTY

In her inspection exercise, the Committee was able to establish a number of findings and observations as discussed below;

- i. The Committee observed that provision of water has not been addressed to satisfaction considering the budgetary allocation given to the sector since inception of devolution.
- ii. The Committee observed that most of the implemented water points are left open exposing both human and animals to physical injuries, drowning and contamination making it unfit for domestic use.
- iii. This Committee observed that many water projects had stalled while others had been left halfway done. This implies that the projects have not been able to benefit the residents in those areas, a clear indication of improper use of public funds.

- iv. Further, the Committee observed that the M&E department was not doing its work professionally and effectively in ensuring quality work is delivered by contractors before they hand over projects to the beneficiaries and before payment for the same is completed.
- v. The Committee established that public participation has been carried out in various parts of Kitui County but the Committee realized that what has been missing is the consideration of the public ideas and priorities in the planning documents such as the Kitui County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) and the Annual Development Plan (ADP).
- vi. In addition, the Committee observed that most of the water sources were being run by generator power, an operation that has proved to be very expensive due to frequent purchase of diesel and constant breakdowns which require repairs. This has often led to shortage of water supply to the people.
- vii. Further, the Committee established that Kitui County has a potential of being a water secure County. This was based on the existing water harvesting projects if well extended through piping this water can be supplied to many areas surrounding the water catchment.

COMMITTEE'S GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- i. This Committee recommends that in order to completely solve the challenges of water in Kitui County there should be an approved County Water Strategy Paper. All water resource management issues will be handled by this strategy paper including maintenance, rehabilitation pricing of water across the County among other challenges facing the water systems.
- ii. This Committee strongly recommends specific standards of constructing Earth dams and Boreholes.
- iii. Full stakeholder's involvement must be allowed in line with the principles of citizen participation which is provided in Article 201 (a) of the Constitution of Kenya and Section 87 of the County Government Act. This will allow the members of the

public an opportunity to prioritize their needs and in addition enhance the sense of ownership.

- iv. Further, in the sector of Agriculture the Committee recommends that the county government should include “promotion of alternative drought resistant crops” considering that not all areas in the County would support similar crops.
- v. That there is need for mapping of farmers of various crops and livestock so as to enhance strategy formulation especially on productivity of the same.
- vi. That there is need to come up with expression of interest policy so as to enhance offtake of the already implemented and the proposed programs /projects.
- vii. The Committee strongly recommends scooping of mega earth dams in all the wards because the wards have huge catchments. This will ensure the commitment that the government of the day made is achieved and thus this will greatly improve the livelihoods of the Kitui County residents together with that of the livestock.
- viii. Provision of skilled manpower as well as well-structured technical team like engineers especially where there are huge projects, heavy piping and all other projects which require advanced technology in order to give advisory skills and technology needed in particular water programs/projects. This will ensure prudence in the use of public finances as provided for in Article 201 (d) of the Constitution of Kenya.
- ix. This Committee recommends fencing of all the water points so as to prevent contamination of water, siltation of earth dams and protect human and animal lives.
- x. Training and equipping of individuals with skills and basic knowledge to manage the systems after the infrastructure are handed over to the community.
- xi. Feasibility study and scientific tests should be done before investing into huge projects. This will ensure prudence in the use of public resources.
- xii. Procurement and tendering laws should be adhered to in order to ensure qualified contractors are awarded the works aimed at ensuring proper workmanship is realized.

- xiii. Non-performing contractors should be identified, blacklisted and denied the opportunity to handle county jobs for breach of contracts.
- xiv. Further, the Committee recommends employment of green energy in water pumping because it is cost effective and reliable. This should go hand in hand with holding the Sub-County engineers accountable for the failed water projects in the entire County.
- xv. Local leaders who are the community representatives must collectively be involved that is respective Members of County Assembly, Ward development committees, Ward administrators etc.
- xvi. The County technical staff responsible for project implementations must be fully utilized to achieve quality service delivery.
- xvii. Need for service agreement with the contractors in that maintenance, servicing and repairs of water infrastructures are done by the contractor for a certain period of time after completion of the projects to ensure quality workmanship.

11.0 CONCLUSION

Mr. Speaker,

The inspection tour was worthwhile for it accorded the Sectoral Committees an opportunity to get the facts as they are on the ground hence coming up with useful findings and recommendations.

Honourable members were able to meet with the general public to get their feelings on general service delivery by the County Government.

In conclusion, I urge this House to continue playing its oversight role as the County pursues the full realization of the objectives and principles of devolved units as enshrined in Article 174 of the Constitution 2010.

Mr. Speaker,

The County Government should implement the above recommendations to the latter for this County to realize the five development pillars in H.E The Governors Manifesto.