

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KITUI



THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY

SECOND ASSEMBLY - (FIRST SESSION)

SPEAKER'S SUBMISSION TO THE WILL OF THE HOUSE

Fellow Honourable Members,
The Clerk of Assembly,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon,

Let me take this distinctive opportunity to dutifully thank the Almighty God for the great favor he has bestowed upon us. I also would like to sincerely acknowledge you Honourable Members for your resounding trust in me. I am extremely humbled by your belief and show of confidence in my leadership ability and therefore your resolve to elect me as your Speaker.

Honourable Members,

This new capacity brings with it one of the greatest milestones in my life. I am deeply honored to occupy it. To this end, I wish to affirm that from this moment onwards, the institution of the County Assembly becomes my ward.

The onus is now on me to keep the promise of discharging my new responsibilities with all fairness and impartiality. It is my greatest aspiration that I will selflessly serve in this capacity. On this very premise and conviction, I therefore enthusiastically submit to the will of the House.

Honourable Members,

As your Speaker, I vow to fervently preserve the powers, privileges and immunities of the House without which optimal performance shall be greatly compromised. I shall also defend and uphold the dignity of this House, and ensure persistent adherence to the Constitution and other laws including compliance to the Standing Orders that aid in the management of the business of the House. My novel prayer is that I shall successfully steer this House to greater heights for the benefit of our people, the esteemed residents of this County.

Honourable Members,

I respectfully also wish to congratulate all of you for having emerged victorious in the hotly contested general elections. I am well aware that you all underwent a rigorous campaign exercise and I applaud you for securing an opportunity to serve both as elected and nominated members of county assembly. I believe that the experience earned by members of the First County Assembly of Kitui whom at this moment deserve a standing ovation for having been re-elected to this House shall be of significant value in mentoring the new members. Together we shall forge ahead and ensure that we achieve and adhere to the objects and principles of devolution as outlined in Article 174 and 175 of the Constitution.

Honourable Members,

Article 185 of the Constitution as read together with Section 8 of the County Governments Act, vests the legislative authority of a County Government in its County Assembly. It is important therefore to note that the Assembly is responsible, in among other duties, to make laws that are necessary for, or incidental to, the effective performance of our County Government as per the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution. For this reason it is imperative that we maintain confidence in our people by objectively performing the three fundamental roles of the County Assembly which are, legislation, oversight and representation.

Honourable Members,

In the coming days, you shall be assigned into committees of the Assembly, I urge you to offer candid and responsible oversight on the Executive. In this regard, I call upon all political party leaderships with members in this House to move with speed in commencing the process of constituting these committees. My office and that of the Clerk of Assembly shall be open to offer necessary guidance when necessary.

Accordingly, Honourable Members, your utmost co-operation while respecting the separation of powers, in exercising oversight over the county executive committee and any other county executive organs shall be fundamental in ensuring the successful performance of the County Government.

Honourable Members,

I am well aware of the great challenges that lie ahead, nevertheless, I believe that your immeasurable capacity shall be equal to the upcoming assignments.

It is only by working together that we can achieve our common goals. This House operates on Rules and Procedures as contained in our Standing Orders which aim at guiding us all in our roles as Members of County Assembly. The dignity of this House is crucial and I am sure with your co-operation we shall all actively participate and conduct our roles.

Honourable Members,

I ask you to join me in congratulating the Office of the Clerk of Assembly. I am sincerely humbled by the manner in which this office has ably presided over this entire process. Honorable Members you will agree with me that the members of staff under the astute leadership of the Clerk of Assembly have explicated tremendous experience and proficiency on parliamentary procedures which have visibly been demonstrated during the successful two days orientation exercise held on Tuesday and Wednesday of 5th and 6th of September, 2017, the subsequent swearing in of the Members of the Second County Assembly of Kitui and finally the just concluded elections. As the new Chairperson of the County Assembly Service Board I commend you and urge you to continue facilitating the Honorable Members in all aspects necessary to discharge their duties with such high degree of impartiality and efficiency witnessed.

Honourable Members

Before I conclude, allow me to thank the esteemed members of the public seated in the both the public gallery and the Speaker's gallery for gracing this historic occasion which comes only once in a period of about five years. Ours will be an Assembly of the people. Our doors remain open to the public.

Honourable Members

Finally, it is said, and I quote the words of a famous Greek historian:-

“Those who know how to win are more numerous than those who know how to make proper use of their victories.”

Nominations have been made in this Assembly. The victory is now behind us. Of essence from now onwards shall be to make proper use of that victory collectively as a House. We should put the interests of the people of Kitui County before any other interests. This shall ultimately become a yardstick against which our Assembly will be judged by the citizenry.

I would like to wish us all the very best in our future deliberations and I know that with the Lord on our side, we shall deliver. May God bless the County Assembly of Kitui, our beloved County and the nation of Kenya.

Thank you!

SPEAKER OF THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KITUI

Thursday, 14th September, 2017