

REPUBLIC OF KENYA**KITUI COUNTY ASSEMBLY****THIRD ASSEMBLY- FOURTH SESSION****OFFICIAL REPORT*****(THE HANSARD)******SPECIAL SITTING***

Thursday 13th February 2025.

The County Assembly met at 9.18 a.m.

[Temporary Speaker (Hon. Paul Maluki) in the Chair]

PRAYERS**COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR.**

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Paul Maluki): Hon. Members, a small Communication from the Chair that; immediately after the rise of the House, we'll be having a team from First Assurance as it has been previously communicated by the Office of the Clerk. You are all requested to remain in the Chambers immediately we are through with this morning session for that briefing. The Speaker is requesting all of us to be present. Let us be ready to get briefing on any matter that regards First Assurance, which is now covering Honourable Members and members of the service. Thank you. Next Order!

MOTIONS

**MOTION ON APPROVAL OF MEMBERSHIP TO THE COUNTY
ASSEMBLY BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

(Hon. Harrison Maluki-the Leader of the Majority Party)

Hon. Harrison Maluki: Thank you Hon. Speaker for this opportunity. Let me welcome my colleagues to this morning session. Hon. Speaker, I seek leave to move a motion on the membership to the County Assembly Business Committee.

THAT; pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 51 (1) (d), this Assembly hereby approves the nomination of Membership to the County Assembly Business Committee as follows:

1. Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya - Speaker
2. Hon. Harrison Maluki Mawia
3. Hon. Christopher Nzilu Nzioka
4. Hon. Alphonse Musyimi Mukwaiyu
5. Hon. Paul Maluki

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6. Hon. Gabriel Mutunga Munyao
7. Hon. Jacquelyne Cate Kalenga
8. Hon. Boniface Maundu Katumbi
9. Hon. Joseph Musyoka Mbite
10. Hon. Godfrey Muthengi Ndagara
11. Hon. Hussein Mwandia
12. Hon. Fastina Mwende Solomon
13. Hon. Charity Kathathi Musyoka
14. Hon. Sylvester Kitheka Munyalo
15. Hon. David Masaku Munyao
16. Hon. Priscila Martha Makumi
17. Hon. Malinga Munyao
18. Hon. Bernard Mwangangi Munyasya
19. Hon. Boniface Mukwate Katula
20. Hon. Alex Mutambu Nganga.

Honorable Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to urge my colleagues in this House to pass this motion on approval of membership to the House Business Committee. We all know that we cannot transact any business in this Assembly without this Committee because it is the one which schedules the activities of an Assembly. Therefore, it is one of the very important committees in this Assembly.

Honourable Speaker, we are all aware that, according to our Standing Order number 151(1) (d), House Business Committee needs to be reconstituted at the commencement of every session. That is exactly what we are doing, so that after its approval, members can sit down and plan or schedule for the other activities of the Assembly.

Honourable Speaker, you know, yesterday, I moved a motion on extension of sitting days; that is today and tomorrow.

Honourable Speaker, I know members of this House are aware that due to some activities which are coming next week and next week but one, we need this House Business Committee even to approve the adjournment motion whereby, without it, we cannot go anywhere.

Therefore, Honourable Speaker, I urge my colleagues in this Honourable House to support this motion and approve these members to serve in the House Business Committee for this session.

Honourable Speaker, with those few remarks, I request Honourable Katana, MCA for Nguutani Ward, to second this motion.

Thank you.

Hon. Stephen Katana: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. I stand to second the motion.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Paul Maluki): Thank you.

(Question proposed)

I will now open the floor for contributions before I put the question. Hon. Ndagara.

Hon. Godfrey Ndagara: Thank you so much Honourable Speaker and I also want to thank my fellow members for turning up this morning, even when there was an extension of the Assembly business today. We really want to thank our members for their commitment. This is a very pertinent Committee and as we know, we have a lot of activities that we need to undertake. And as I can see, even from the mood of the members, Mr. Speaker, I think you are able to put the question and then we are able to move. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Paul Maluki): I hear you, Honourable Ndagara. Let's hear what Honourable Mulandi from Mutonguni Ward has to say.

Hon. Benjamin Mulandi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me a chance to add my voice on the motion. Mr. Speaker, as you know, the committee on House Business is a critical committee at this stage. We need to have it constituted so that it can help us constitute other committees whose time has elapsed. So, Mr. Speaker, I think we all support the constitution of the House Business, so I request that you put the question so that we proceed. Thank you.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Paul Maluki): Thank you. Hon. Judith, then we give the whip for the Minority side.

Hon. Judith Wanza: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to support this motion. As you know, House business is the mother of all the other committees. And I think if we agree and then we pass it, I think we will have a way to transact to other businesses. So, kindly, I stand to support.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Paul Maluki): Thank you. Let's hear the Minority Whip. Then from there we'll have his counterpart, the Majority Whip. Kindly proceed Hon. Sylvester.

Hon. Sylvester Munyalo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I stand to support the motion. That's where the law of this Assembly starts. That's where the House Calendar emanates from.

Mr. Speaker, as I support the motion, being a Whip of the Minority party of this Assembly I submit names from my party. Mr. Speaker, as I support the motion, it must be noted that there is tension in this Assembly. That's the truth. You may support or oppose me on that, but it's the truth. Politics being what it is, it needs a small light to ignite a whole mountain.

Mr. Speaker, as I stand here, I stand with permission from the people of Matinyani. They have given me the mandate to represent them till 2027 and that will be a total of ten years.

Mr. Speaker, when you look for peace in politics, you will always be served with hot porridge of politics. Mr. Speaker, we come from the same sub-county, Matinyani and I love your brain when you're putting things in order the way they are. It's the order of the office. Let's seek for peace. Let's seek for a unifying factor of the Assembly to move our Kitui forward. We may feel greater, we may feel brave, we may feel the best, but by the end of the day, I can assure you, where the bulls fight, it's only the grass which suffers, and the grass is our people.

As we continue, Mr. Speaker, all the other committees, all the other happenings in the Assembly, with my fellow whip, we have our seniors, Mr. Speaker, we have the Majority Leader, the Minority Leader, we have the Deputy Speaker, we have the leaders of this House, we have the leaders of the committees, we have the chairmen and the vices, Mr. Speaker. Let's seek first the unity of the Assembly and the unity of the House and the unity of purpose will be there. Thank you.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Paul Maluki): I know Sylvester what you have said, you are even able to bring that peace you are saying and I know your capacity, so Hon. Sylvester go slow. Majority Whip, take the floor.

Hon. Boniface Mukwate: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I rise to support the motion on the formation of House Business Committee.

Mr. Speaker, being the one who nominated members from the Majority Party, we did all we could by trying to balance the list as much as we could. Mr. Speaker, I want to reiterate the words that Honourable Sylvester Munyalo has just said about unifying the House. I want to believe that he was just provoking us because it is clear, though we should not bring those allegations here in this House; that he is the one who is planning everything...

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Paul Maluki): No, no! Please don't go into that direction Majority Whip. Kindly, stick to the motion.

Hon. Boniface Mukwate: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I withdraw but that is the fact. And on the same, Mr. Speaker, I urge all the members to support this motion. Since, this House Business Committee is like a car key, whereby without it, the car cannot start.

Therefore, I urge all the members to support this motion so that we can continue with our Assembly business. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Paul Maluki): Thank you, I have seen that the microphone of the Majority leader is on but I kindly request that you allow Honorable Katumbi, then honorable Muange and finally you will give your final remarks before I put the question. Katumbi, kindly, take the floor.

Hon. Boniface Katumbi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, sir, for giving me this opportunity to add my voice. Mr. Speaker, I stand to support the motion and as I support, I want to thank my senior, the Minority Whip for submitting my name to this Committee, Mr. Speaker. I'm a member and I also want to recognize that our Deputy Speaker is now a member to the same Committee.

So, Mr. Speaker, I support the formation of this Committee because we cannot transact any other business in this House without it.

With those few remarks, Mr. Speaker, I support the motion. However, I have few concerns; I want to notify you that there is no gender balance in this Committee. Thank you.

Temporary Speaker: Thank you. Honorable Muange.

(Hon. Stephen Katana stood in his place)

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Paul Maluki): Unfortunately, Honorable Katana, you can't contribute on this motion because you already spoke while seconding the motion. Hon. Muange, take the floor.

Hon. Daniel Muange: Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity and I think it's a happy new year for all of us belatedly. I haven't met you guys in this kind of setup, so I wish all of you a happy new year.

Mr. Speaker, first things first. The House Business Committee is the very first Committee that is constituted so that other Committees can fall in place. There can only be 20 members in that Committee. So, those who have made it to the list, I want to congratulate them and give them my full backing.

So, Mr. Speaker, let's have this Committee in place so that the other Committees that are coming soon will be able to fall in place. I support the motion.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Paul Maluki): Thank you. Majority Leader, you can just reply since you had moved the motion.

Hon. Harrison Maluki: Thank you, Honorable Speaker. I want to appreciate the members who have just supported this motion. I believe it is a unanimous decision that we pass this motion Hon. Speaker.

Honorable Speaker, as I said earlier when I was moving this motion, the House Business Committee is constituted according to our standing Order No. 151.

Honorable Speaker, I want to appreciate the Whips of various Assembly parties for nominating members to this Committee because if it were not for them, we could not be having this list.

Honorable Speaker, as I said, the House Business Committee is a very important Committee in this Assembly and those who might not be aware, let them read Standing Order Number 151 (5) from (a) to (e). They will know the importance of this House Business Committee.

Honorable Speaker, I wanted to echo the words of Honorable Sylvester Munyalo, but he has stepped out and therefore, I will not tell him what I wanted to inform him because sometimes before you speak something, you should do soul-searching. You may be the problem yourself while telling other people to solve their problems.

I want to respond to the issue of Honorable Maundu Katumbi. Remember when we are nominating members to committees, we receive names from respective Party Whips. If you look at that list, you can count the members of the Wiper Democratic Movement in that committee. The list they submitted complied with the two-thirds gender rule.

So, it is upon you to ask your whip to confirm whether, when he was submitting the list, he complied with a third gender rule from within your party. So, I think it is good to interrogate the list well because to attain the two-third gender rule it comes from the respective parties which nominates members to respective Assembly Committee.

Therefore, Honorable Speaker, with those few remarks, let me appreciate my colleagues for unanimously agreeing that we approve this motion so that we can kick-start this session. Thank you, Honorable Speaker. I have heard members requesting that you put the question, Honorable Speaker.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Paul Maluki): I had already communicated that earlier, Honorable Katumbi. I don't want to encourage any discussion involving a member and another member. Your point was heard and we've also heard the Majority Leader. So, Honorable Members, allow me now to put the question.

(Question Put and Agreed to)

Hon. Members, I want to thank you sincerely for approving this House Business Committee. As it has been said, this is the backbone of the House Business in this Assembly. I now want to challenge members who have been nominated to that Committee. Kindly fast-track and make sure that all the pending businesses that the Speaker communicated yesterday and previously are addressed. And I also want to encourage our colleague MCAs that, let's be proactive.

This is the fourth session, we've started in high gear and I know by the end of this year we will be somewhere as an Assembly, and even as the people of Kitui County. Having said that, as I had previously communicated, and I will repeat myself, that a team from First Assurance is coming here. They want to address members from the chambers of course, the mace won't be there, so it will be kind of “*Kamukunji*”. And all members are encouraged to attend. You are aware that the insurance cover by CIC has expired.

Therefore, any question, any clarification that members would need, will be clarified by those officers from First Assurance. So, I request our colleagues who are not around to avail themselves.

With those few remarks, Hon. Members, let's be upstanding so as to adjourn the House.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Members, this House now stands adjourned until later today at 2.30 p.m.

The County Assembly rose at 9.51 a.m.