

REPUBLIC OF KENYA**KITUI COUNTY ASSEMBLY****THIRD ASSEMBLY- FOURTH SESSION****OFFICIAL REPORT****(THE HANSARD)*****SPECIAL SITTING*****Friday 14th February 2025.*****The County Assembly met at 2.40 p.m.******[The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya) in the Chair]*****PRAYERS****COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR****COMMUNICATION AS IT RELATES TO ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSONS AND VICE
CHAIRPERSONS TO VARIOUS COUNTY ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES**

Honourable Members, following the adoption of the report by the Committee on Selection on review of County Assembly committees' membership by the House today the 14th February, 2025 in the morning Sitting, the Office of the Clerk pursuant to Standing Order No. 159 (2) issued notices to all affected Committees to conduct elections as from 10.30am following the rise of the House.

Honourable Members, following Committees were expected to conduct elections;

S/ No.	COMMITTEE	POSITION(s)
1.	County Budget and Appropriations Committee	Chairperson & Vice chairperson
2.	Committee on Environment, Energy & Mineral investments	Chairperson
3.	Committee on Lands, Infrastructure and Urban Development	Chairperson
4.	Finance & Economic Planning Committee	Chairperson
5.	Committee on Basic Education, Training & Skills Development.	Chairperson & Vice chairperson
6.	County Public Investments and Accounts Committee	Chairperson & Vice chairperson
7.	Implementation Committee	Vice chairperson
8.	Delegated County Legislation Committee	Chairperson
9.	Committee on Culture, Youth, sports, Gender and Social Services.	Chairperson
10.	Committee on Tourism and Natural Resources	Chairperson

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Honourable Members, I wish to inform you that the elections were successfully carried out, and I wish to inform you of the following outcome of the elections:

S/ No.	Committee	Position	Member elected
1.	Committee on Environment, Energy and Mineral Investment	Chairperson	Hon. Alphonse Mukwayu Musyimi
2.	Committee on Lands Infrastructure and Urban Development	Chairperson	Hon. Sammy Musili Munyithya
3.	Finance and Economic Planning Committee	Chairperson	Hon. Daniel Kimanzi Muange
4.	Implementation Committee	Vice Chairperson	Hon. Fridah Maua
5.	Delegated County Legislation Committee	Chairperson	Hon. Stephen Ileve Katana
6.	Committee on Culture, Youth, Sports, Gender and Social Services	Chairperson	Hon. Benjamin Ndambu Mulandi

Honourable Members, however, the Public Investments and Accounts, the County Budget and Appropriations, Tourism and Natural Resources, and Basic Education, Training and Skills Development Committees were unable to undertake elections to fill the vacant positions and I wish to guide as follows;

1. That Hon. Priscilla Martha Makumi, who is the current Vice Chairperson for the Basic Education, Training and Skills Development Committee will serve as the acting chairperson of the Committee until the committee holds election to fill the position of the committee chairperson.
2. That Hon. Mercy Muliwa Muema, who is the current Vice Chairperson for Tourism and Natural Resources Committee will serve as the acting chairperson of the committee until the committee holds election to fill the position of the committee chairperson.
3. That the Public Investments and Accounts and the County Budget and Appropriations Committees will later be scheduled for elections to fill the positions of the Committees' Chairpersons & Vice chairpersons respectively.

Honourable Members, I challenge the County Assembly Parties to hasten and nominate Members to the Committee on Appointments, to the County Assembly Business Committee as envisaged by Standing Order No. 184(1).

Finally, I congratulate the Members who have been elected to leadership positions in various committees for their appointments and I wish them all the best in the discharge of their duties. Thank you.

Hon. Members, the Committees which didn't do elections for reasons well known to all of us, should do the needful and conduct the elections as soon as possible. The Committee on budget and appropriations cannot do anything before they elect their leaders. The same case applies to the PAC committee. I have over ten audit reports in my office which I will commit to that committee in our next sitting. I also have the quarterly financial statements from the County executive which I must commit to the Committee on Budget.

I therefore believe that once the dust settles, those two committees will do the needful and elect their chairpersons and vice-chairpersons.

For the Committee on appointments, the standing orders require that the Assembly parties are the ones to submit names but the names will be considered by the House Business Committee.

Remember we just formed the House Business Committee yesterday, so the Committee on appointments has to wait until Assembly parties submit the names.

I want to challenge the parties to do so immediately because the Committee on House Business will be retreating to Nairobi from tomorrow until Monday so that we look at the House Calendar which we must prepare and we can also add an agenda to consider the names submitted by the Assembly parties into the membership of the Committee on Appointments so that by the time we resume again, we have that Committee in place.

Hon. Members, allow me to issue another communication, communication number six of 2025;

COMMUNICATION AS IT RELATES TO CONCERNS OVER THE RECONSTITUTION
OF ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES

Honourable Members, my Office is in receipt of two letters from some Members of the County Assembly both dated 11th February, 2025, in which they express concerns regarding the reconstitution of Assembly Committees, particularly on the issues of lack of consultation and consensus among affected political parties and non-compliance with the gender threshold.

Honourable Members, at the onset, allow me to emphasize that the process of constituting committees of the Assembly is guided by the relevant provisions of the Standing Orders of the County Assembly of Kitui, as well as the principles established in law and parliamentary practice. Specifically, the placement and allocation of members to committees is a function of the respective political parties, which are responsible for nominating their members in accordance with their internal mechanisms and procedures. Standing Order No. 153 (1) provides that the Committee on Selection shall in consultation with County Assembly Parties nominate Members who shall serve in a Committee. The House in approving such nominations, does not interfere with the prerogative of political parties in this regard.

Honourable Members, further, the issue of gender parity in committee composition is similarly a primary responsibility of political parties, which are required to adhere to constitutional and statutory requirements when nominating members. The County Assembly, upon receiving the names as submitted by the political parties, ensures compliance with the applicable Standing Orders, which provide for and guide on the process of committee constitution for each specific committee under reconstitution.

Honourable Members, in light of this, I advise and guide that any concerns regarding the manner in which members were placed in committees or any perceived failure to meet gender thresholds should, in the first instance, be addressed within the structures of the respective political parties taking into account the interests of independent Members and small parties as envisaged under Standing Order No. 154(2). If unresolved, the matter may be escalated through the appropriate channels as provided for under the Standing Orders of the Assembly, such as the Selection Committee pursuant to Standing Order No. 153(2).

Honourable Members, I appreciate your dedication to the integrity of Assembly processes and assure you that the Office of the Speaker remains committed to upholding the rules and procedures that govern the conduct of Assembly business. Should there be any further clarification required on this matter, my Office remains open for engagement. Thank you.

Hon. Members, this communication is in response to some two letters which I received; one was signed by five Hon. Members, and the other one had an attachment list of around 32 members registering a complaint about the selection report. as per our standing orders, the issue of placement of members into committees, is a primary responsibility of political parties. My office

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doesn't interfere in anyway. So kindly I should not be involved in anyway with these disputes. Let the issues be addressed to the respective political parties. There are internal mechanisms for parties for addressing such issues. We have party constitutions we can be used. If there are any other issues, let them be handled appropriately. In the meantime, we shall do all that is needed to ensure that our Assembly standing orders are respected. Thank you.

Next Order!

STATEMENTS

SCHEDULE OF PLENARY BUSINESS AND COMMITTEE SITTINGS FOR THE
WEEK ENDING ON 7TH MARCH 2025 BY THE DESIGNATED MEMBER OF
THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY BUSINESS COMMITTEE.

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): I want to believe the designated member is Hon. Priscilla Martha Makumi, the acting Chair for Committee on Basic Education. Please take the floor.

*(Hon. Priscilla Martha Makumi read the schedule of
Business and laid the same on the table of the Assembly)*

Thank you. Hon. Priscilla Martha Makumi, nominated member by wiper party, for laying the schedule. Hon. Members as you can notice, apart from the annual calendar, there is no other report in the schedule. From the House Business Committee, I want to notify all the Chairs that we have agreed that before we schedule a report here, that report must have been received at the office of the Clerk, then taken to the office of the Speaker for approval, and then taken to House business Committee. That is the procedure which we have not been following because of the urgency of reports and sometimes Chairs delay Committee reports. So, kindly if you want your report to be tabled in this House, submit it on time. I will be tasking the chairs through the liaison Committee chairperson, the Hon. deputy speaker, kindly ensure that procedure is followed to ensure timely disposal of reports and any other Committee programs.

Next Order!

MOTIONS

MOTION ON ADOPTION OF THE REPORT BY THE COMMITTEE ON PROCEDURE
AND RULES ON THE FORMULATION OF THE SPEAKER'S RULES

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): I want to believe the designated member is Hon. Muthengi Ndagara. Please do the necessary.

Hon. Muthengi Ndagara: Thank you so much Mr. Speaker Sir. Without wasting a lot of time, I want to move a motion on adoption of the report by the Committee on Procedure and Rules on the formulation of the Speaker's rules;

THAT, pursuant to the provisions of section 38 of the Assemblies powers and privileges Act, 2017, as read together with Standing Order No. 187 (5) and 179 (6), this Assembly hereby approves the report by the Committee on Committee on Procedure and Rules on the formulation of the Speaker's rules, laid on the table of the Assembly on Thursday 13th February 2025.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I know that many of us here have copies of this report and therefore as we always say, we don't have to repeat everything that members have been able to read. I will be able to go through some very critical issues that needs to be passed on to these members so that they can be aware of them.

I want all the members to move together with me to page 16 on the part of acknowledgements.

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The development of the Speaker's Rules marks a significant milestone in strengthening the legislative framework and operational efficiency of the Kitui County Assembly. These rules form an integral part of the broader Kitui County Assembly Standing Orders designed to enhance public understanding, promote awareness, and build knowledge of the Assembly's functions, proceedings, and governance structures. They serve as an essential reference guide for Members of the County Assembly, Assembly staff, and the general public, ensuring clarity, consistency, and adherence to established parliamentary procedures.

The formulation of these rules has been a product of extensive deliberation, collaboration, and dedication from various stakeholders within the County Assembly. In particular, the Speaker extends profound gratitude to the Joint Committee on Procedure and Rules, the Speaker's Panel, the Committee on Powers and Privileges, and the House Leadership for their unwavering commitment and invaluable contributions throughout the process. Their collective expertise, insights, and meticulous review have been instrumental in shaping these rules to align with best legislative practices.

Special appreciation is also extended to the Office of the Clerk of the Assembly for its steadfast support, coordination, and technical guidance. Further, recognition is given to the committees' secretariat, whose tireless efforts, research, and administrative assistance played a crucial role in compiling this report and finalizing the Speaker's Rules.

The Speaker acknowledges and commends all individuals and teams who dedicated their time, knowledge, and resources to this important initiative. Their contributions have been vital in ensuring that these rules not only enhance the effective functioning of the Assembly but also uphold the principles of good governance, transparency, and accountability in legislative processes.

With these rules in place, it is our collective expectation that they will serve as a fundamental tool in fostering order, efficiency, and professionalism in the conduct of Assembly business.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I now urge Hon. Members to turn to page 18 on the speaker's rules.

ORDERS REGULATING CONDUCT OF HONOURABLE MEMBERS, MEMBERS OF THE SERVICE, ADMISSION AND CONDUCT OF MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES AND VISITORS WITHIN THE PRECINCTS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Mr. Speaker Sir, I now want to read some definitions of terms as used in these rules as an introduction.

Mr. Speaker Sir, these rules govern the admission and conduct of Honourable Members, media representatives, and visitors to the chamber and precincts of the Assembly.

For the purpose of these Orders, 'Clerk' means the Clerk of the County Assembly. "Exceptional circumstances" refers to events or occurrences lawfully declared in accordance with any written law, and may include epidemics, pandemics and other emergencies. 'Honourable Members' refers to the honourable Speaker and the honourable members of the County Assembly. 'Members of the Service' refers to the staff of the County Assembly, both permanent and pensionable, partisan and contracted staff. 'Officers of the Assembly' refers to the clerks at the table and the sergeant at arms. 'Special Permission' means permission to be granted in situations where it would normally have been prohibited under these rules. "Visitor" means any person who is neither a Honourable Member of the County Assembly nor an Officer or other employee of the County Assembly.

Special Permission; Special permission to be admitted to the County Assembly, whenever required by these Orders, may be given by the Speaker or in his or her absence, by the Deputy

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Speaker or members of the Speaker's panel. If neither of them is available, by the Clerk, the Serjeant-at-Arms or by their respective assistants.

Responsibility for the conduct of Visitors; Mr. Speaker Sir, Honourable Members and members of the service are responsible for the conduct of all visitors whom they introduce to the precincts of the Assembly, and are required to assist in enforcing these Orders. In exceptional circumstances, mitigation measures outlined by the Office of the Speaker and other public bodies are to be strictly observed at all times.

Access by officers of the County Assembly; Mr. Speaker Sir, Officers are authorized to enter and be present in the Chamber of the House and lobbies in the exercise of their functions while the House is sitting.

Firearms and other Offensive Weapons; Mr. Speaker Sir, Honourable Members and Visitors shall not bring any firearms or other offensive weapons into the precincts of the County Assembly. Honourable Members and visitors who are duly authorized to hold firearms must deposit them with the Serjeant-at-Arms at the time of entry and collect them at the time of leaving.

Dress code for Honourable Members, Members of the Service, Media and the Public/visitors; Mr. Speaker Sir, Honourable Members, Members of the service, media and the public/visitors should not enter the Chamber, Lounges and Committee Rooms without being properly dressed. Dressing must be neat, modest and of a nature that upholds the dignity of the Assembly. Honourable members and members of the service shall observe a formal dress code while within the chambers and a relaxed formal wear while on official duty outside the County Assembly.

Men's Formal Dress code; Mr. Speaker Sir, a formal dress code for men for purposes of these rules means a Kaunda suit or formal business Suit including a blazer/coat, long-sleeved shirt with buttons and a collar, long formal trousers, formal office tie, socks and formal office shoes or service uniform.

In furtherance of the above Mr. Speaker Sir, the following rules shall apply;

- a) Men must wear a tie at all times and not remove the coats/blazers while within the chamber.
- b) Coats/blazers must be black, charcoal, grey, navy blue or any other darkish colours.
- c) Trousers must be black, charcoal, grey, navy blue or any other darkish colours.
- d) Long sleeved shirts must be white, black, blue, cream, grey, striped or any other darkish colours.
- e) Waist coats and sweaters worn inside blazers/coats, must be black, charcoal, grey, navy blue or any other darkish colours.
- f) Shorts and jeans are not allowed whether they are suits or not.
- g) Official ties must be muted colours and not bright and flamboyant.
- h) Sun glasses and bowties are not allowed.
- i) Formal office shoes should be black, navy blue, grey, brown or any other darkish colours. Shoes that expose the toes shall not be allowed unless on medical grounds
- j) Sport shoes, canvas shoes and open shoes are not allowed.

Formal dress code for ladies; Mr. Speaker Sir, a formal dress Code for ladies for purposes of these rules means business skirt suits, dress suits and trouser suits. In furtherance of the above, the following rules shall apply;

- a) A Skirt suit, dress suit and trouser suit refers to a formal coat/blazer paired with a matching skirt, dress or trouser respectively.
- b) Skirt suits and dress suits should be below the knee and decent.

- c) Shirts and blouses worn inside the suits shall be white, cream, grey, black, striped or any other darkish colours.
- d) Sun glasses, sleeveless blouses and dresses are prohibited. Ladies should avoid wearing tight and revealing clothing.
- e) Shorts, culottes, Khaki trousers ('three quarter trousers') and jeans are not allowed whether they are suits or not.
- f) Coats, cardigans and neck scarves if worn must be black, charcoal, grey, navy blue, green and other darkish colours.
- g) Trouser suits may be worn but blazers and coats must fall below the hips to ensure modesty.
- h) African wear 'vitenges' are prohibited.
- i) Formal office shoes should be black, navy blue, grey, brown, white and red or any other darkish colours. Shoes that expose the toes shall not be allowed unless on medical grounds.
- j) Formal Office shoes should be of one colour.
- k) Sport shoes, canvas shoes and open shoes are not allowed.

Relaxed formal wear for men; Mr. Speaker Sir, Honourable Members and members of the service dress code while on official duty outside the precincts of the County Assembly is relaxed formal wear.

(Hon. Sylvestre Munyalo stood on a point of Order)

Hon. Sylvestre Munyalo: Mr. Speaker Sir, this is a House of rules and order. I am not sure whether you have observed what I have because you were facing down. If someone hurts another in this House jokingly, it may end up to be bad especially in the presence of the media. A joke in this House can only be classified as so if it doesn't extend to the bone marrow.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I have seen Hon. Ngwele and Hon. Kalamba exchanging ideas physically where one was showing a piece of paper while the other one was throwing bottles of water. I would kindly urge you Mr. Speaker Sir, to control such in this House. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): Thank you very much Hon. Sylvestre. Hon. Jeremiah you have a concern?

Hon. Jeremiah Mutua: Mr. Speaker Sir, mine is a concern and you can also give a ruling whether it is prudent for someone to ask for sex within the chambers because Hon. Kalamba has been complaining to me for the last two years.

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): Hon. Members, I think what we are doing is justifying the need for these rules. Can we allow Hon. Ndagara to proceed so that we now get rules that can guide our conduct. Hon. Sylvestre I hear you. It is true my head was down I didn't notice but if that happened then it shouldn't happen again. Thank you very much for bringing it to my attention. Hon. Jeremiah you are out of order in your concern. Proceed Hon. Ndagara.

Hon. Muthengi Ndagara: Indeed, these rules are very important. That is why I want Hon. Members to be keen so that we are able to see how we conduct ourselves when we get in here. Let's proceed, on page 22 on relaxed formal wear for men.

Mr. Speaker Sir, relaxed formal wear for men means neat long trousers, polo shirts, casual shirts and an option of either blazers, jackets or sweaters. Trousers should be either jeans, Khaki or official. Shorts, track suits, tight trousers, tight shirts are not allowed except during sporting events and they should not be tight and revealing.

In addition, Mr. Speaker Sir, appropriate footwear is required to maintain a smart yet relaxed appearance. Acceptable shoes include formal leather shoes, loafers, or clean and well-maintained casual dress shoes. Open-toed sandals, slippers, or overly sporty footwear such as sneakers should be avoided in official settings.

Relaxed formal wear for ladies; Mr. Speaker Sir, relaxed formal wear for ladies means decent smart casual dresses and skirts that must be below the knee or neat trousers.

Decent colored blouses, sweaters, blazers and jackets may be worn. Shorts, sleeveless blouses and sleeveless dresses are prohibited.

Coats, cardigans and blouses must fall below the hips to ensure modesty when wearing trousers. Open-toed sandals, slippers, or overly sporty footwear such as sneakers should be avoided in official settings.

Dress code for visitors/ public; Mr. Speaker Sir, Members of the public visiting the County Assembly shall be neatly and decently dressed.

Mr. Speaker Sir, Men should be officially dressed or be in a relaxed formal wear such as blazers, jackets, sweaters, neat trousers and polo shirts. Females should be officially dressed or be in a relaxed formal wear such as neat trousers, decent smart casual dresses and skirts that must be below the knee. Decent Colored blouses, sweaters, blazers and jackets may be worn. Shorts are not allowed.

Mr. Speaker Sir, visiting students should be in their full school uniform. A visitor shall not be admitted to the Speaker's Gallery unless they are properly dressed in the formal dress code described herein above.

Dress code for the media; Mr. Speaker Sir, any visiting media representative shall be dressed in official formal wear as described in rule 9 (1) and (2) above.

Religious Wear; Mr. Speaker Sir, religious attires for both men and women are permitted provided a member wearing a 'Kanzu' also wears an official coat as an outer garment.

Those whose faith requires them to wear a head gear may wear the same as long as the colour of the headgear is black, white, grey, navy blue and any other darkish colours.

Cooperation with Serjeant-at-Arms; Mr. Speaker Sir, Honourable Members are required to cooperate with the Serjeant-at-Arms in ensuring proper and appropriate conduct by all persons within the precincts, by complying immediately with their directives and any complaint regarding any of those officers should be addressed to the Speaker only after such compliance.

Members' Car Park; Mr. Speaker Sir, a visitor shall not enter or remain in the Honourable Members' Car Park without special permission from the Speaker or Clerk, unless he or she is-

- a) accompanied by a honourable member or Serjeant-at-Arms; or
- b) an authorized driver of a honourable member or member of the service or a senior government official, possessing a driver's pass issued by his or her employer and personally driving or in charge of a car bearing the official County Assembly car pass; or
- c) a Member of the Diplomatic Corps or head of a service or other distinguished visitor, in a flag-bearing car or the driver of such car.

Mr. Speaker Sir, guests of persons described in Order 11(b) and (c) must be escorted into the County Assembly buildings. They may not, without special permission, remain in the Honourable Members' car park by themselves, unless they are authorized drivers.

Admission to the Building or Gardens; Mr. Speaker Sir, a visitor shall not, without special permission be admitted into or allowed to remain in any part of the County Assembly Precincts unless he or she;

- (a) Is in possession of a pass bearing that day's date issued to him or her and signed by the Clerk or a County Assembly officer; or
- (b) Has a permanent pass signed by the Speaker or the Clerk.
- (c) Is accompanied by a honourable member or a member of the service or a person who holds a permanent pass.

Mr. Speaker Sir, Permanent passes may be issued to the Officers of Ministries, Departments and Agencies, and to approved representatives of the media or any other guests of the Speaker in a discretionary manner. A public function shall not be conducted in the Honourable Member's Lounge, restaurant, Gardens or in any other building within the precincts of the County Assembly without permission of the Speaker or the Clerk.

Upon leaving County Assembly Precincts, a holder of a pass for the day must surrender the pass to the Serjeant-at-Arms or any authorized Officer. Such pass may not be used again even on that material day upon surrender. Members of the public whose sole objective is to tour the County Assembly Precincts will be admitted without passes at suitable hours when the Assembly is not sitting, provided that they are escorted by Honourable members and the sergeant at arms officer.

Hours of admission; Mr. Speaker Sir, a visitor shall not, without special permission, enter or be allowed to remain in any part of the County Assembly Precincts after 8:00 p.m. nor shall any Honourable Member or member of the service, without special permission, admit or keep more than two visitors as his or her guests after 8:00 p.m.

Smoking; Mr. Speaker Sir, Smoking is not permitted in the precincts of the Assembly except in designated smoking areas.

Sexual Harassment; Mr. Speaker Sir, Sexual harassment of any honourable member, member of the service or visitor is prohibited within the precincts of the County Assembly.

"Sexual harassment" includes doing any of the following, if the person doing it knows or ought to know that it is unwelcome-

- a) making a request or exerting pressure for sexual activity or favours;
- b) making intentional or careless physical contact that is sexual in nature; and
- c) making gestures, noises, jokes or comments, including innuendos, regarding another person's sexuality.

Prohibition from use of abusive language; Mr. Speaker Sir, Honourable members and members of the service are prohibited from the use of abusive language amongst each other either verbally or on social media platforms.

Photographs and Videos; Mr. Speaker Sir, Honourable members and members of the service are prohibited from taking, sharing or resharing any un-authorized audios, photography and videography of County Assembly proceedings. Unauthorized photography and video recording by any honourable member, member of the service, visitor or external media is prohibited inside the Chamber and within precincts of the County Assembly.

Usage of Mobile phones within the Assembly Chamber; Mr. Speaker Sir, all phones must be on silent mode and no making calls whilst in the Chamber. Taking photographs and audio/video recordings with phones in the Chamber is prohibited.

Restriction of Admission; Mr. Speaker Sir, a visitor shall not, without special permission, be taken into the library or any other room reserved for Honourable Members or members of the service.

Exclusion or Expulsion; Mr. Speaker Sir, the Serjeant-at-Arms may exclude Honourable members or visitors from any part of the precincts of the County Assembly if he or she considers such exclusion necessary for the convenience of honourable Members or for preservation of order. Conduct that may necessitate the removal of honourable members or visitors from any part of the precincts of the County Assembly includes disorderly verbal or physical conduct, drunkenness or intoxication among others.

Admission to the Galleries; Mr. Speaker Sir, A visitor shall not be admitted to the Public Gallery without an admission Card signed by a Honorable Member or Clerk of the County Assembly. A Honourable Member shall not, without special permission, sign Admission Cards for more than two visitors to occupy the Public Gallery at any one time.

For special occasions designated by the Speaker, no such Admission Card shall be signed by any Honourable Member, but all admissions to the Speaker's Gallery shall be at the Speaker's sole discretion.

Admission to the Speaker's Row; Mr. Speaker Sir, a visitor shall not be admitted to the Speaker's Row without the permission of the Speaker.

Admission Cards for specified day; Mr. Speaker Sir, admission cards shall not, without special permission by the Speaker or Clerk of Assembly, be issued for any Gallery other than for a specified day.

Standing during specific events; Mr. Speaker Sir, in all Galleries, visitors shall be required to stand while-

- a) The Speaker, the Governor or the Senator formally enters or leaves the Chamber; or
- b) prayers are read.
- c) When recognized or called upon by the Speaker.

Visitors in the Galleries to remain seated; Mr. Speaker Sir, Visitors in the Galleries shall remain seated, except as required by Rule 33 or when entering or leaving and shall not applaud, clap, comment audibly, talk, make signs, use a phone, tablet or other device, display any placard, eat, chew, sleep, read books, newspapers, or other material save for the Order Paper for the day, take notes (unless in the Press Gallery) or create any disturbance. Visitors shall, if so required by an officer of the County Assembly, leave with the Serjeant-at-Arms at the entrance any brief cases, conspicuous luggage or other receptacles.

Media representatives; Mr. Speaker Sir, any representatives of the Media approved by the Speaker shall be admitted through a Media Admission Card to the Media Section of the Public Gallery, and to any special accommodation that may be reserved for the Media in the County Assembly Precincts.

Accredited representatives of the Media shall otherwise be subject to these Orders as applicable to all visitors who hold permanent passes, but they shall not, without special permission, operate as Reporters in any part of the County Assembly Precincts other than the Media Section of the Public Gallery or any Special Accommodation that may be reserved for the Media.

Adherence to the Rules; Mr. Speaker Sir, every honourable member, member of the service, visitor, public or media representative must adhere to these rules. Failure to which will amount to;

- a) Breach of privilege by a honourable member pursuant to section 16 (c) and (d) and Section 38 of the County Assemblies Powers and Privileges Act,

- b) Administrative action by the Clerk of Assembly for members of the service in line with the existing County Assemblies Services Act and the County Assembly Human Resource Manual;
- c) Revocation of a permanent pass issued to a person,
- d) Expulsion or ejection from the County Assembly Precincts by the Serjeant at arms officer,
- e) Any other penalty or sanction imposed by the Speaker at his or her discretion.

Commencement; Mr. Speaker Sir, these rules shall come into force upon adoption by the House.

Committee's recommendations; Mr. Speaker Sir, the Committee recommends that the House adopts the report of the committee on Procedure and Rules on formulation of the Speaker's Rules. These rules will go a long way in safeguarding the security of Honourable Members and members of the service and upholding the dignity of the Assembly, while at the same time guaranteeing the right of the public to access the precincts of the Assembly and follow its proceedings whether in Plenary or in Committees.

In conclusion Mr. Speaker Sir; To ensure orderly conduct of business in the County Assembly, Hon. Members, members of the service and the public are advised and encouraged to adhere to the Speaker's rules.

Mr. Speaker Sir, in Annex 1, we have members of this committee who have signed the adoption list. As you can see, the Committee on Powers and privileges held a joint meeting with the House leadership. Minutes of the same have been attached.

In conclusion Mr. Speaker Sir, I want to say that these Speaker's rules are long overdue. We have been visiting so many County Assemblies, even the National Assembly, which is a copycat of most County Assemblies in Kenya, and they all have Speaker's rules. We seem to be the only Assembly that doesn't have these rules. These rules are very important for the members here, for our security, as well as accounting for all the visitors we receive here.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, you realize that when we attend committees, members of the public will always look up to us especially to check not only on how we conduct ourselves, but also on how we dress while outside these chambers. Talking of our conduct Mr. Speaker Sir, we have some Hon. Members who heckle others even in public forums which is very improper.

Mr. Speaker Sir, it is my hope that these rules will restore the dignity of this House both within and without the precincts of this Assembly.

With those remarks Mr. Speaker Sir, I would want to urge all the members to support this motion.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I now beg to move the motion and request Hon. Jeremiah to second.

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): Thank you, Honorable Ndagara for moving that motion. Honorable Jeremiah, the Deputy Majority Leader, you may proceed.

Hon. Jeremiah Mutua: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I rise to second the motion, and also add some few words on the same.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I'm a football fanatic. I like playing football. I like watching football. In any game, there are what we call rules of the game. For instance, in football, rule number one is that we should use only one ball in the field. The moment an extra ball gets into the field, you must hear a whistle from the referee ordering the extra ball out of the field. Another football rule is that each team should have eleven players on the pitch. Anytime an additional player is noticed, the game must be stopped and the extra player expelled from the field. The same case applies to volleyball.

So, what I'm saying, Mr. Speaker, is that in any game, in any institution, in any environment, there must be rules and regulations. Mr. Speaker Sir, we are coming from different backgrounds, and I usually give an example of where I'm coming from, the banking sector. From my experience in the banking sector, there are days when we were expected to put on full suits while in other days we could dress down. The same applies to different sectors like the engineering, teaching, and so forth.

Mr. Speaker Sir, coming to the County Assembly of Kitui, it is paramount that we have rules of engagement. This institution cannot run like a market. We are referred to as honourable members. That means we should conduct ourselves with a lot of honor, a lot of dignity and a lot of respect. This necessitates for rules to guide us.

Mr. Speaker Sir, there is nothing as difficult as managing politicians. This is because politics is a game of ideologies. When politicians are allowed to speak, to act, to move, or to do whatever kind of an activity without any rules within the chamber, we can easily turn this chamber into a marketplace. It is for this reason Mr. Speaker Sir, I am seconding this motion which allows the County Assembly of Kitui to have rules and regulations to govern its operations. With rules and regulations that will dictate our dress code, debates and even the conduct of our visitors, we will have a harmonious and honorable environment not only for ourselves but also for everyone who visits the institution. This will eventually give us a very good reputation out there.

Finally, and very important Mr. Speaker Sir, members could be having a lot of questions such as; why do we need rules as an Honorable House? Why is Hon. Ndagara moving a motion telling us these are the Speaker's rules? Someone may argue that this is not a learning institution where we need rules. But Mr. Speaker Sir, I want to encourage Hon. Members to take this one positively, for the purpose of making this Honorable House as such, make it dignified. The perception of seeing these rules as a form of punishing some people, is a weak one and I would urge Hon. Members to desist from such perceptions.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I encourage members to perceive these rules as a tool to help us build an environment where all of us can coexist and work together with a lot of respect, not only within the precincts of the Assembly but also without.

With those remarks Mr. Speaker Sir, I second the motion. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): Thank you very much Hon. Jeremiah Musee Mutua.

Hon. Members, I will now propose the question.

(Question Proposed)

Honourable Members, I want to open debate before I put the question. Let me start with a ranking member, the Minority Leader, who has been here for three consecutive terms, and he participated actively when we were drafting these rules. Please take the floor Hon. Alex Nganga.

Hon. Alex Nganga: Thank you, Honourable Speaker for this opportunity. Honourable Speaker, I stand to support the motion as moved. In any institution, including family institutions, we must embrace rules and guidelines.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the County Assembly of Kitui is not a marketplace. It is a County Assembly like any other Assembly in the Country, and just like any other legislative authority, such as the National Assembly and the Senate, we must have rules. We must be very well guided and regulated.

Honorable Members, let us also agree that we are funded by the public thus we must be accountable to them.

Honourable Speaker, I want to identify with the mover of the motion, my young brother, Hon. Ndagara that this is not a marketplace. This is an honorable House, a legislative authority, and thus we must conduct ourselves with decorum. We must be guided and regulated on how we conduct our business.

Hon. Members, whether we like it or not, the Speaker of the County Assembly is the head of this institution.

Honorable Speaker, I want also to say this; The Speaker's rules do not supersede the laws of Kenya. The Speaker's rules are not superior to our Constitution. They are not superior to the County Governments Act. But, in the spirit of cohesion, in the spirit of respecting our institution, in the spirit of respecting the leadership of our institution, let us uphold the Speaker's rules as an Assembly.

Mr. Speaker Sir, allow me to say this as a minority leader; we have done so much in favor of each other. But, after checking with the other 46 County Assemblies, I have noticed that this County Assembly of Kitui is spending so much of our resources in the litigations. These are resources which ought to be utilized in offering services to the people of Kitui County through our core mandates of Legislation, Oversight, and Representing our people. Why should we go the way of wasting our resources on the litigations. Why do we waste our money on our resources in litigations? Because we are here every other time daring each other. The moment you dare me, I'll dare you. The moment we can talk, the moment we can agree, then we spare our resources for the purposes of why we were elected.

Honorable Members, let us observe the Speaker's rules. They are not an individual's rules by the name Kinengo. They are rules which are going to bring decorum in the way we operate. I have read them. They're going to even minimize these litigations. It is expensive to go the litigation way. It is humble, and most important, if we negotiate, we talk, we differ, but we don't go the litigation way. Honorable Members, I urge you to adopt these rules. They are not punitive. They are not. I've gone through them. They are only rules aiming at bringing decorum in this House by helping us respect each other and also respect the Chair.

Hon. Members, there must be a defining moment and as a ranking member in this Assembly, I see this as a defining moment.

Honorable Speaker, this might be a very unpopular statement, but allow me to make it; This Assembly has never been at war. With itself, with its leader, we have never been at war.

Honorable Speaker, as the leader of this Assembly, can you please organize a meeting, away from this Assembly, for the members of the WIPER party? We have become enemies and started hating each other. We are where we are today because of the governing party, called the WIPER party, which is at war with itself. If only they can put their house in order, we could not be where we are today. Even you, Honorable Speaker, have been robbed in discussions which don't belong to you. I pity you. I embrace you. But you are here at some times, being forced to get involved with issues that are not yours. You are a WIPER member, but the moment we get into this chamber, you are an equivocal arbiter and a mediator of the whole House. Please, Majority Leader, put your house in order. Your house, which is in disorder, has also robbed our Hon. Speaker into discussions where he doesn't belong to. He doesn't belong there. He is our member. We love him. But you are robbing him.

The Speaker's rules are not punitive to anyone. I must tell you Hon. members, two and a half years down the line, we must rediscover ourselves. You can see my sister, dressed like a lawyer. Of course, I know she is not a lawyer, but she is a very good friend of mine. Honorable Priscilla Makumi, my sister from my village. But I want to tell you guys, as an elder and as a ranking member in this Assembly, the Speaker's rules are not punitive to anyone. Actually, I looked at them together with my members of the NARC party. These rules are just a copy-paste of the National Assembly Speaker's rules but customized. They are not here to punish anyone.

WIPER party, can you put your house in order? We are here hating each other. We are here behaving like we are not members of the same County Assembly because of your shenanigans. Please settle your shenanigans. And let us operate as a County Assembly; we objectively oversight the county executive, we objectively engage His Excellency, the Governor and stop pointing fingers at each other.

Hon. Speaker, you will allow me to say this as I conclude; In absence of a clear definition of who represents the government in this County Assembly, and in a clear observation, adherence to the elections Act, political parties Act, County Governments Act, Speaker's rules, and the most supreme, the Constitution of Kenya, then I declare myself the leader of government business in this Assembly. I will be leading the government business, not based on any law, because there is no law. After the 2010 Constitution, Honorable Speaker, the position of leader of government business was abolished. We only have a majority leader and a minority leader. And in the absence of that primacy in law, today and going forward, I'll be the leader of government business.

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): Thank you Minority leader, I allowed you more time because of your position not as leader of government business but as a minority leader.

Thank you for supporting the Speaker's rules. As you have said, these rules are here just to govern our conduct and ensure that we conduct ourselves with decorum.

Let me now allow your counterpart, the Majority leader, to also contribute on this motion and if possible, we'll try to stick to the motion at hand but where you mentioned your counterpart, I'm sure he must respond but I humbly suggest that we stick to the agenda. But Majority Leader, you are at discretion to respond to anything.

Hon. Harrison Maluki: Honourable Speaker, thank you for this opportunity. I stand here to support this motion on Speaker's Rules. Hon. Speaker, we are Honourable Members and we need to be orderly in this Assembly.

(The Speaker consulted with Hon. Alex Nganga)

Honourable Speaker, I'm addressing you. I choose not to respond to anything because I have never been a hypocrite and I will never be. Honourable Speaker, what I want to request my colleagues is that we dispense-off this motion.

I speak with actions. Here with me, I have government business at hand which needs to be dispensed off in this House. Honourable Speaker, remember we called a special sitting to commit members of the Selection Panel brought in this House by His Excellency, the Governor. That motion is ready, Honourable Speaker. And as we also give our input to this motion, we also need to be cautious that we have another important motion before us. When I look around, those people who insinuate that they support the government agenda more than others are nowhere to be found in this House. So, in actual sense, the people who truly support government agenda are the people who are present here now.

Honourable Speaker, I was elected as a Member of the County Assembly for Migwani Ward to come here and represent the great people of Migwani. I understand my roles clearly which is legislation, representation, and oversight.

Honourable Speaker, the Party which I represent in this House, which is the Wiper Democratic Movement, it is orderly. It is only that it has been infiltrated by a few cartels in this Assembly who want to benefit in one way or the other. And sooner or later, it is good for those members – those who have been infiltrated, to know that they have a responsibility in this House and that it is good that each Assembly Party in this Assembly respects itself and we stop meddling in the affairs of other Assembly Parties.

Hon. Speaker, I support this motion and urge my colleagues in this Assembly to pass this motion so that at least we can have some order in Kitui County Assembly.

Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): Thank you, Majority Leader, for those comments. Indeed, to make it clear, it is not good to also leave things unclarified. What was envisaged by the County Governments Act, is that, the Majority Leader is the Leader of Government Business. That's why it is the Majority Leader who brings and tables Government Business on the floor of this House.

So, there could be leaders of government business politically, but as far as the County Assembly is concerned, the Majority Leader is the leader of Government Business. Deputy Speaker, you may add your voice to the motion at hand.

Hon. Christopher Nzilu: Thank you very much, Hon. Speaker. I rise to support the motion on Speaker's Rules. And I urge my fellow colleagues, Honourable Members, to also support the motion.

Honourable Speaker, I belong to the Committee on Rules and Procedure, which is mandated to come up with the Speaker's Rules. And, Honourable Speaker, many times we have gone through the rules. Not only us, but in your wisdom, you have also invited the House leadership, the Committee on Powers and Privileges to also go through and give their input to the Committee on Rules and Procedures.

Therefore, Honourable Speaker, for prosperity, for order, for good governance, for peace and for tranquility, there must be law and order hence, it is important and prudent that there be rules to guide any institution, the Assembly being no exception.

Therefore, Honourable Speaker, I support and I urge my Colleagues, the honourable members to support the motion in executing our mandate as an Assembly of oversight, legislation, and representation. Honourable Speaker, I beg to rest my point.

I am here to represent the people of Kyangwithya West Ward and there is no other person who is mandated by law to represent the people of Kyangwithya West other than the only “Lion of Kyangwithya West”, Hon. Christopher Nzilu Nzioka and I'm here to advance the interests of the people of Kyangwithya West in my mandate to legislate, represent, and oversight.

(Laughter)

Thank you very much.

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): Thank you very much. I can see you are speaking with “Watho” Thank you. Minority Whip, I can see your mic is on. Then after you, Hon.

Ngwele, Honourable Gabriel, Hon. Peter Mwanza, Hon. Muange and Hon. Kasinga in that order. I believe those are the only contributions that we have so that we can move on.

We have a Government Business before us and I also take it up from what Majority leader has said. Those people purporting to support the government should be here because we have a Selection Panel to be approved and if there is no quorum, we shall adjourn because people are leaving the chamber one by one. Honourable Minority Whip, please take the floor.

Hon. Sylvester Munyalo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm here to support the motion because I love the rules and I love the law.

Mr. Speaker, even in the Bible, there is the Ten Commandments, which we have to adhere to. Even before us, there was Mosaic Law, which I normally read through, Mr. Speaker. In any organization, even in the Devil's den, there is a constitution which is to be followed.

Mr. Speaker. I'm lucky to have been a leader in my primary school; I was a monitor, I was a prefect and I was a head boy at Mutendea Primary School. And, Mr. Speaker, I was also the head boy, Machakos Boys, in 1997. You can check their list. Mr. Speaker, I love the law and when the law is broken, it hurts me also.

Mr. Speaker, the rules which have been tabled here are very good, Mr. Speaker, for this House to proceed. We love each other like brothers and sisters. After 2027, we may meet here again or we may meet outside in other different places.

Mr. Speaker, these are some of our laws, I am holding. The Standing Orders, our Constitution is still there, Mr. Speaker. I normally carry it. Sorry, I did not come with it here. In my car, there is a Bible and the other six Catholic rules which I normally read, Mr. Speaker.

For me, when I go to church, I'm guided by those rules of the Catholic, the Bible, the Constitution, the Standing Orders, the Political Parties Act... Mr. Speaker, when we break the law, it has to be voiced.

Mr. Speaker, I'm the Whip, NARC Party and, Mr. Speaker, when the law is broken, by poaching one of my members, who is Honourable Kalamba, and nominating her to the Committee on Powers and Privileges, Mr. Speaker, I have also to act. Mr. Speaker, she was here and I will say it when she is here.

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): Hon. Sylvester...

Hon. Sylvester Munyalo: I will definitely donate her to the Wiper party.

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): Hon. Sylvester, are we still on the same motion?

Hon. Sylvester Munyalo: We are still on the same motion...

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): No, we are not!

Hon. Sylvester Munyalo: About the Rules and the Speaker's Panel, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): No, no! The rules are yet to be approved, wait until they are approved.

Hon. Sylvester Munyalo: They are here to be approved, Mr. Speaker, and I approve them.

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): Hon. Sylvester, you are debating a wrong motion.

Hon. Sylvester Munyalo: Mr. Speaker, I'm not debating, I'm just supporting the rules.

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): No, *Mheshimiwa* Sylvester you know I respect you very much, but kindly, I will not allow that.

Hon. Sylvester Munyalo: You won't allow it Mr. Speaker and...

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): You are debating a wrong motion. Can you raise those...?

Hon. Sylvester Munyalo: Mr. Speaker, we are sovereign and we support the Speaker's rules, Mr. Speaker...

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): Yes.

Hon. Sylvester Munyalo: But thank you, you have heard what I've said.

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): Thank you.

Hon. Sylvester Munyalo: And, Mr. Speaker, as I continue...

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): Yes.

Hon. Sylvester Munyalo: As I continue supporting the rules, Mr. Speaker, I will say this House is also governed by rules, Mr. Speaker. When important matters come in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, like in the morning, you gave only five members of this House a chance to talk, Mr. Speaker, but now you are giving the whole Assembly an opportunity to speak.

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): Hon. Sylvester, you are out of order!

Hon. Sylvester Munyalo: Mr. Speaker, if I'm out of order, I'll put my microphone off and get out. Mr. Speaker...

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): Please, Hon. Sylvester, unless you have any other agenda, please stick to the motion.

Hon. Sylvester Munyalo: Mr. Speaker, I have stuck to the motion, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): I respect you Hon. Sylvester.

Hon. Sylvester Munyalo: I also respect you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): No, then stick to the motion before us, kindly.

Hon. Sylvester Munyalo: Mr. Speaker, I also respect the Wiper Whip but on poaching my members, Mr. Speaker, I have to voice it.

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): Thank you. Please take your seat. Hon. Ngwele please...

Hon. Sylvester Munyalo: If I have to take my seat...

(Hon. Sylvester Munyalo walked out of the Chambers)

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): Okay, Hon. Ngwele.

Hon. Joseph Ngwele: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to contribute to this important motion on the Speaker's Rules. And I want to begin by observing that having had the good or bad luck of being once a member and then later not a member of the Assembly, I feel that the rules should have included some section on the treatment of former members of the Assembly who may want to access the chamber, who may want to access the compound of the Assembly and who may want to access the other areas like the library because, Mr. Speaker, having served here for five years and then you suffer the misfortune of not being re-elected, when you come back here, you should not be treated in the same queues as other ordinary members of the public. Not to imply that ordinary members of the public are in any way not respectable enough, but I feel that the Speaker's rules should have included something that gives preferential treatment to former members of the Assembly who want to access the Assembly precincts and other spaces reserved for members. And, Mr. Speaker, I'm saying this well knowing that each one of us – 60 or 61 of us actually, including the Honourable Speaker, is a candidate for that title, former member. So,

Honourable Sila, when you come back here later, you will need to be given preferential treatment as a former member of the County Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, the other thing that I want to observe is that...

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): Hon. Ngwele, I hear you on that part and indeed that should be included. Maybe when we do the second review, the issue of former members. You know when you're a former member, you're equivalent to a member. Maybe the only place you can restrict a former member is the chamber, but maybe the other areas they can access. I agree with you.

Hon. Joseph Ngwele: Okay.

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): Thank you.

Hon. Joseph Ngwele: The other thing, Mr. Speaker, that I wish to be considered for inclusion maybe in the future; is that there needs to be some regulation on how members in the chamber approach the Chair. Mr. Speaker, I have seen that people want to whisper something to the Speaker, they just walk, bow and approach the Chair while the Speaker might be trying to follow something important that is going on. And it's not certain that anybody who wants to approach the Speaker would have good intentions.

(Hon. Sylvester Munyalo re-entered the Chamber)

Therefore, I would propose that in a future review of the rules, there should be a requirement that members who want to approach the chair first ask through the microphone, "Honourable Speaker, may I approach the chair", so that they can be allowed, if the Speaker has that chance, or say, "wait" and so on. And maybe if the Speaker or any member in the Chair, members of the panel, wants to summon maybe one of the leaders or one of the members, the Speaker can also announce through the microphone. "Honourable Mulandi, can you please approach the chair?" I feel that's important inclusion...

Mr. Speaker, I was happy to see in the Rules a section on sexual harassment. A section on sexual harassment...

(Hon. Sylvester Munyalo stood in his place and spoke off-record)

Because I feel that as a mix of men and women, and a lot of us being young men and women, I feel, and Mr. Speaker, if I could use this opportunity.....

(Hon. Sylvester Munyalo spoke off-record)

Hon. Joseph Ngwele: If I could use this opportunity to explain or ventilate on something that happened.

(Hon. Sylvester Munyalo stood in his place once again)

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): Honourable Sylvester, Order! Order! Order! you can't cause chaos in this Assembly.

(Hon. Sylvester Munyalo spoke off-record)

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): You are causing chaos in this Assembly. Honourable Ngwele, please proceed.

Hon. Joseph Ngwele: I was saying that maybe it's a good opportunity for me to explain.

(Hon. Sylvester Munyalo spoke off-record)

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): Honourable Ngwele, please proceed.

Hon. Joseph Ngwele: Mr. Speaker, there is a general and incorrect assumption that sexual harassment happens to women. Sexual harassment happens to women a lot of times, but it also happens to men.

Mr. Speaker, in the morning, I was seated at one of the seats right in front of me, and one of the members of the Assembly came and said that, "this is my seat". Before I could argue that there are no designated seats for Hon. Members, she sat on me, Mr. Speaker. And because of her weight and warmth, I became a bit uncomfortable, so I moved. And another member who came also claimed the seat that I was sitting on, and tried to sit on me. And the second time around, I was wise enough, so I moved before I was sat on.

Sexual harassment happens equally to men and to women. And I'm one person who takes personal spaces very seriously. One of the things that I think I should... Sorry, the point that I wanted to make, Mr. Speaker, is that a lot of times, sexual harassment has been used falsely to put down men. Okay?

So, I think in the Speaker's Rules, there should be an inclusion that any member who makes false claims or claims of sexual harassment that are proved or investigated to be false should be subjected to the same sanctions that would be applied on a perpetrator of sexual harassment.

So that our concern and sensitivity to sexual harassment is not used to intimidate people. Because somebody... You see, our seats are quite squeezed. I could be passing, and then somebody screams that I have touched her. There needs to be a procedure on how such a matter is investigated. And in case the claim is found to be untruthful, then the person who made the false claim needs to face sanctions.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I'm one person who believes very seriously and strongly on personal liberties. The way we dress, the way we keep our hair relates very much to the areas of personal liberty. Mr. Speaker, you have observed that each successive Assembly that is elected in this county has much younger people than the previous one.

In the next Assembly, I am more than certain, when you look at the voting demographic, I'm more than certain that you'll have 23-year-olds, 25-year-olds and 28-year-olds in this Assembly. And young people value self-expression a lot, and they can express themselves in any manner or way. But mostly, they express themselves through their physical appearances and the way they dress.

Mr. Speaker, I do hope that in the future we will revise the Speakers' Rules to reflect the sensibilities of the men and women; the young men and the young women who might get elected into this Assembly in the future.

We might get away with legislating now that dresses and skirts should be below the knee. But there are people who come to this Assembly and find themselves very offended to be required to put on dresses that are below the knee. Because they have never done that in their lives, and they wouldn't understand why anybody would want to relate that for them. So that is something that can be looked at in the future.

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Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would seek the kind guidance of the Chair, whether these rules fall within the realm of what is defined in law as subsidiary legislation. Because I feel that if they do fall within the realm of subsidiary legislation, they should at some point be considered by the Committee on Delegated Legislation. And also, perhaps subjected to some form of public participation, even if it's through a “*Kamukunji*” of members. Although maybe that is something that should have been done at the very beginning. Ask members what you feel about this.

And if members participate in the drafting of the rules, it would make it easier for members to comply. And I make very careful distinction between compliance and enforcement. A lot of people try to enforce rules.

It is easier to get people to comply voluntarily. And people comply more voluntarily if they are participating in drafting rules and regulations that govern them. With those remarks, Mr. Speaker, thank you for your patience.

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): Thank you, Hon. Ngwele. We have heard you and have taken note of what you have said. Hon. Members, allow me now to put the question on the motion on adoption of the report by the Committee on Procedure and Rules.

(Question Put and Agreed to)

Next Order!

MOTION ON ADOPTION OF THE REPORT BY THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS ON VETTING OF NOMINEES TO THE SELECTION PANEL FOR SELECTING SUITABLE CANDIDATES FOR APPOINTMENT AS COUNTY SECRETARY, COUNTY ATTORNEY, AND SECRETARY TO THE COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD.

(By the designated member, Committee on Appointments)

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): Thank you, let that motion be deferred until our next sitting.

Next Order!

PROCEDURAL MOTION ON ADJOURNMENT.

(By the Leader of Majority Party)

Hon. Harrison Maluki: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Let me take this opportunity to move this procedural motion on adjournment. That pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 25 (3), this Assembly do now adjourn its sittings with effect from today, Friday, 14 February 2025 and resume its sitting on Tuesday, 4 March 2025 at 9 a.m. in order to allow members of the County Assembly to attend the County Assembly's Forum (CAF) General Meeting and undertake Committee's oversight activities.

Honourable Speaker, mine is to request my colleagues in this Honourable House the agenda on why we are adjourning today is self-explanatory in this motion and therefore I urge my colleagues to support this motion so that we adjourn for those two weeks.

Mr. Speaker, sir, with those few remarks, I beg to move this motion and request Honourable Jeremiah Musee Mutua to second this motion. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): Thank you, Honourable Jeremiah Mutua.

Hon. Jeremiah Mutua: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the motion and also agree with my brother, Honourable Harrison Maluki and the Majority Leader in the County Assembly of Kitui. That, Mr. Speaker, adjourning this House is giving the Honourable Members an opportunity to attend the CAF (County Assemblies Forum), which is scheduled to take place in Nairobi.

And, Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, I think earlier this week, that the opportunity to come together in the entire Country, which consists of 47 counties, will enable this County Assembly of Kitui to interact with the other Honourable Members. It is only through interactions that, Mr. Speaker, we are going to share issues that are touching our welfare as the Honourable Members. There's something we call shared prosperity. And shared prosperity, Mr. Speaker, does not mean sharing resources. We can also share ideas of what is happening in the other counties.

So, that CAF Forum is giving us an opportunity to interact, to learn from each other the best practices that are in Kitui, that are in Machakos, that are in Bungoma, that are in Nyamira. And, again, making that relationship and friendship for the remaining 2.5 years, Mr. Speaker, it will earn value for us as Honourable Members, Mr. Speaker.

As I also said earlier, Mr. Speaker, I want to be on record that, it is through this forum that one of my objectives will be achieved. Mr. Speaker, while I'm planning to attend that forum, I would like to ask a question, what is the security that a Kenyan MCA has? Mr. Speaker, these Honourable Members, they don't have bodyguards.

Our counterparts at the National Assembly and at the Senate, they have bodyguards. When they are moving all around the country, they have a staff called a bodyguard that improves and enhances their security. And remember, Mr. Speaker, myself and my MP, all of us were elected.

We were voted in through electoral process. And, Mr. Speaker, when MP, Senator, woman representative and even the Governor has a security officer and the MCA, Mr. Speaker, is left to loiter within the community without security. This is one of the contributions why we are losing MCA, Mr. Speaker, through abductions and arrests.

Mr. Speaker, this motion is coming to me emotionally because it's giving me an opportunity also to ask a question that an MP, Senator or even women representative can speak on behalf of their people that I don't want this thing to happen but nobody is bothering to arrest them.

However, Mr. Speaker, when an MCA says that this one cannot happen under his/her watch and he want to fight for his own people. An MCA, becomes a subject of arrest, becomes a victim of arrest by the institutions of this Country.

I am speaking because I was once a victim, having being arrested by the DCI (Director of Criminal Investigations) and subjected to NCIC (National Cohesion and Integration Commission) investigations for what I said. But same words an MP (Member of Parliament) will use, a Senator will use and a governor will use but nobody will be bothering about them. It is during this forum that this motion which the Majority Leader has just moved, is giving me an opportunity to ask those questions. I'm supporting the motion because it is giving me an opportunity to ask more questions which pertains my welfare as a Kenyan MCA not as Jeremiah Mutua.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, the motion is also giving us an opportunity to do oversight. We are just after recess; a lot has happened and I am aware that the County Executive is trying to implement some of the projects that were in pipeline before we passed the first supplementary budget.

Mr. Speaker, today we are in February and the Executive is trying to absorb the budget before the close of the financial year 2024/2025. And there are some projects that are on-going.

Just recently Mr. Speaker, in my ward there was a launching of a project of installation of twenty security lights.

I have also been informed that because my ward didn't benefit with boda-boda sheds. They will be launching to do one, either on Monday or Tuesday. That means there are some projects that are on-going and primary role of an MCA in this house is to do oversight. We will also have an opportunity to move across the entire County and see what has happened while we were on recess. What is happening after recess and what the County Executive is planning to do going forward.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am seconding this motion because it is giving Hon. Members an opportunity to work. And I know working as per the labor laws also draws some stipends to improve MCAs welfare. At the end of the two activities, the MCAs will have an opportunity to improve their welfare. Mr. Speaker, I second the motion.

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): Hon. Ngwele wants to inform you, though you have seconded, would you like to be informed by your neighbour?

Hon. Jeremiah Mutua: Mr. Speaker, you know, Hon. Ngwele is my good friend. He is also my neighbour. In fact, if you look at the borderline of Nguni and Ngomeni, it is too strong and longer that sometimes he should be respecting me sometimes, and also do some panel beating. You know, sometimes he does a bit of beating especially on social media. I want to give him an opportunity to inform me. He may have accrued some information that I am not aware of.

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): Thank you very much. You know neighbours are usually very friendly to each other. Hon. Ngwele, please proceed.

Hon. Nzungi Ngwele: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wish to kindly inform the Honourable Jeremiah, my neighbour and younger brother, actually my brother-in-law is married to my cousin. That we are joining for only two weeks and those two weeks have activities that are planned for. Therefore, I was informing him not to be too ambitious in terms of what he wants to do after we adjourn. Otherwise, he had a whole two-month recess period. I don't know what he did with it now that he wants to run around during only two weeks over there. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): Thank you very much, Honourable Ngwele, have you been properly informed, Honourable Jeremiah?

Hon. Jeremiah Mutua: Mr. Speaker, you have just heard what Ngwele has said. It's a very strong, I don't want to call it a critique, but again, a very strong panel beating. But the information is well taken, maybe for future reference. I will take up the matter when we are outside the chamber.

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): Okay, thank you. Members, allow me now to propose this motion.

(Question Proposed)

Now, members, this being a procedural motion, there will be no question put, but I will open debate before we adjourn. Thank you very much.

Hon. Godfrey Muthengi Ndagara let your boss go first. Hon. Boniface Mukwate Katula, The majority chief whip and a member of the ruling party. Please proceed. I hope you are taking your powers very well.

Hon. Boniface Mukwate: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): Are you in the ruling party?

Hon. Boniface Mukwate: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): Okay, please proceed.

Hon. Boniface Mukwate: Mr. Speaker, I'm sorry because there are some pronunciations which were made when I was outside. I know that is the reason why you are asking me whether I am from the ruling party. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the motion and say that it is good for the people who sat down and saw it of importance for us to go and fight for our rights, because as you know, last month, this Assembly received an advisory from CARA slashing Assembly budgets by around Ksh. 116 million at the middle of the year. Mr. Speaker, that was very unfair and we need to go as all the assemblies to fight for our rights and, Mr. Speaker, also to show some solidarity so that those people can see the force that is coming from all the MCAs, the last defense, Mr. Speaker. So, Mr. Speaker, I support the motion and though I am not allowed to read the mood of the House, because you are the one who is allowed, but if you allow me, put the question so that we can go. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): Thank you Hon. Mukwate. Yes, you can share your thoughts on what you have read from the members. But I am the only person who can properly read the mood, but you can try to read it, on a light note.

Hon. Ndagara and then Hon. Ngwele. I believe those are the only comments that were joined kindly. I know members are supposed to go for Valentine's Day if there are any arrangements.

Hon. Godfrey Ndagara: Naam, asante sana Bw. Spika. Nataka nichukue fursa hii kuunga mkono pendekezo la hoja ambayo imeletwa mbele yetu na Kiongozi wa Waliowengi katika Bunge. Nataka ieleweke hivyo kwa sababu ni vizuri watu wajue yeye ndio kiongozi wa harakati zote za serikali katika Bunge hili.

Bw. Spika wakati mmoja ulipokuwa mtoto mdogo, ungepata msichana mzuri kwa njia na useme, “mimi ndiye bwana wa yule msichana.” Na sio kwamba ilikuwa imekuwa hivyo. Ama wakati mwengine baba akitoka kwa nyumba unachukua viatu vyake na kuvaa na unasema, “mimi ndiye baba mwemye nyumba.” Lakini kitoto kiengeenge hakijui majukumu ambayo yanatokana na kuwa baba wa nyumba, na kutamka kwamba yeye ndiye baba wa nyumba si kumaanisha yeye amekuwa baba wa nyumba. Kwa hivyo tunaruhusu wale ambao ni waigizaji waweze kuigiza, na wale wenye kufanya kazi wafanye kazi. Kwa hivyo maneneo mengine yasije yakaleta taswishi.

Kwa kuunga mkono hoja ilio mbele yetu, Bw. Spika naomba niseme imekuwa wiki ambayo kwa kweli tujmekuwa hapa tukupigana na kuweza kujaribu kupeana mwelekeo ni kwa nini sisi tulikuja katika bunge hili. Hapo mwanzoni kukawa kuna tetezi hapa na pale na naamini kwamba hawa wenzangu ambao wako hapa, tumevipiga vita vizuri na ukweli tumeshinda. Kwa wale ambao wana zile nyendo za kuweza kuteka nyara bunge letu lisiweze kutekeleza majukumu yake jinsi inavyofaa. Tulifanya hata kuendeleza bunge liendeleo siku za Alhamisi na leo Ijumaa. Kwa hivyo nataka nishukuru wenzangu kwa vile wameweza kufanya ili inaitwa kwa kizungu “*selflessness*”. Vilevile naunga mkono pendekezo la kuahirisha kidogo vikao vyetu ndio kwa namna moja au nyengine, wiki ijayo tuweze kuungana na mabunge yote pale katika jumba la kitaifa la KICC, Nairobi.

Kama ambaye nimechaguliwa kama msemaji na mwakilishi wa bunge hili kutetea masuala ya bunge hili katika Almashauri ya Wawakilishi Wadi almaarufu CAF, kama vile Mhesh. Jeremiah amesema, huo ni mkutano muhimu Zaidi wa kuweza, sote kama wawakilishi wadi nchini Kenya, tuweze kukutana pale na sauti ya wawakilishi iweze kusikika. Na iweze kuanikiza kote katika nchi kwamba, sisi kama wawakilishi na watu tuliochaguliwa kupitia mvumo wa kura kama viongozi wengine tumeweza kutelekezwa ikilinganishwa na hao viongozi wengine.

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Bw. Spika ukiangalia hata yale matatizo tulionayo hapa ni kwa sababu ya utepetevu wa serikali kwa wawakilishi wa wadi. Kwa hivyo lazima tuwahurumie wenzetu ambao kwa namna moja au nyengine, wakiona mahali kuna chembe kidogo ya pesa, wanakimbia kama vikuku vimetupiwa mahindi. Ni kwa sababu gani? Kiti cha mwakilishi wadi kimedhalilishwa. Hakina kitu chochote. Kwa mfano tuliweza kusema kwamba lazima kuwe na ile inaitwa “*Ward Development Fund*” ndio tusije tukaenda kupiga magoti pale kwa Gavana kumuomba kila siku kama tunavyoona wenzetu tunavyoona kila asubuhi wanakwenda pale. Sasa bunge limetoka hapa limekwenda *Marie Gardens* kwa sababu ya ule utepetevu na umasikini mkubwa manake mwakilishi wadi hawezi kujisimamia. Kwa hivyo ili tuzuie kwenda *Marie Gardens* badala ya kuja hapa ni vizuri kwamba sauti zetuziweze kusikika wiki ijayo tuweze kuwa na Bunge kubwa pale ambayo sauti wa Wawakilishi Wadi wa nchi ya Kenya itasikika na tuweze kupewa mgao wa maendeleo kama vile Mbunge na Seneti wanavyofanya ili tuweze kuwa na nguvu ya kujisimamia. Sauti ya Mabunge yote iweze kusikika ili kuwe na “*autonomy*”, isiwe kwamba lazima Waziri wa Hazina ya Kaunti aweze kutia saini fedha za kulipa wawakilishi wadi na fedha za shughuli zingine hapa bungeni. Hayo ni baadhi ya mambo tunayosema kati ya mengine yatakayozungumziwa pale na ni jambo muhali niseme kwamba kwa wenzetu kupitisha hoja hii ili tuweze kwenda pale na kuungana na wenzetu. Kwa hivyo naunga mkono na ni asante kwa kunipa nafasi.

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): Thank you. Thank you, Honorable Ndagara, for being articulate on that matter and indeed I agree with you that the welfare of our members is wanting. Sometimes it makes some of us become very desperate. But God will help us. Honorable Ngwele, please one minute so that we adjourn. You know Honorable Ngwele is a human rights defender. He will defend the rights of the MCAs when we go for that CAF meeting. Honorable Ngwele, please proceed. I am also being reminded that the correct name for autonomy is “*uhuru wa kujisimamia*”. So next time instead of saying autonomy you say, “*uhuru wa kujisimamia*”.

Thank you very much. Honorable Ngwele, please proceed.

Hon. Nzungi Ngwele: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to contribute to the motion on adjournment and also for recognizing my very proud credentials as a human rights defender. I want to support the sentiments that have been shared by those who spoke before me on the importance of this adjournment and the business ahead of us. Mr. Speaker, I was very happy when I saw in the motion that we adjourn to go and attend a national forum on the County Assemblies Forum.

Mr. Speaker, you may not be aware that the Honorable members of this House have been extremely unhappy about the performance of the County Assemblies Forum. In our private conversations and also in our social media, members have been up in arms about how the County Assemblies Forum has failed us as members on a number of things. Previously on the issue of CAR grants and consistently on the issue of salaries, we feel that CAF has not been robust enough in pushing for the salaries and remunerations of members of the County Assemblies to be improved.

Mr. Speaker, you know there is still a sticky issue of the reimbursement of our tax money that was deducted illegally by the Kenya Revenue Authority. We feel that CAF should have been more forceful in claiming that money back. Mr. Speaker, I'm a very strong believer in devolution, and the foundation of devolution in this country is the County Assemblies.

Mr. Speaker, if this country is serious about devolution, it must be serious about County Assemblies, and it must be serious about facilitating County Assemblies members and staff to be

able to check on management of resources at the county level, and to represent the needs and interests of our people at the lowest levels in our village. Mr. Speaker, it is a very big shame how honourable members are being treated in this country, including very open acts of discrimination like what the Honourable Jeremiah Mutua alluded to. Mr. Speaker, we want to give notice to CAF either to improve on the way they represent us, or we will seek the dissolution of CAF so that we can put in its place something that is better, stronger, and that can represent us more efficiently.

Mr. Speaker, I was happy to see the Majority Whip Walk back as I was rising to speak, because there is something I wanted to comment about, something that you said in your communication from the Chair, about the complaints that have been coming from members about allocation of committees. Mr. Speaker, you made a very correct observation that the heat that is in this House about committees is actually within political parties, and it's specifically because there are leaders in some of the political parties that have taken liberties and taken powers that are not given to them anywhere in our laws and in our Standing Orders to remove members from committees who have nothing to do with their parties. Mr. Speaker, I was a victim. You will know that I was once removed from...

(Hon. Boniface Mukwate stood on a point of order)

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): There is a point of point of order from Hon. Katula. What is your point of order Majority Chief Whip?

Hon. Boniface Mukwate: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is it in order for a member to say that I indulged in a business whereby I touch members who does not belong to my party, of which, Mr. Speaker, you know very well that we have a majority coalition, and the position that those members are sitting on belongs to the Wiper Party. Is it in order for the member to allude that I touched where I should not have touched as the Majority Whip?

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): Thank you. Actually, both of you are out of order, because that agenda, Hon. Ngwele, I stopped Hon. Sylvester from indulging in that agenda, so I will not entertain it kindly. That's why I issued a very straightforward communication that; don't bring that issue here, go either to the parties or to the selection committee. Those are the only bodies who can hear complaints about committees, not before the floor of this House.

Hon. Ngwele, I respect you because you raise your issues in a very sober manner, unlike some people who like shouting. I must commend you for that.

So please, I request that these issues of committees, this is not the right forum to discuss them. With a lot of respect, you know, I respect you, though I have already heard you. I have heard you kindly, Hon. Joseph Ngwele please proceed with your contribution.

Hon. Nzungi Ngwele: I stand guided, Honorable Speaker.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I wish to wish all the Honorable Members and the Speaker and all our Members of the Service a happy Valentine's Day. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): Thank you very much Hon. Ngwele. Hon. Majority Leader.

Hon. Harrison Maluki: Honorable Speaker, I just wanted to pass some information to Honorable Ngwele, but I think you have ruled on that matter. I just wanted to inform him to bring a substantive motion if he wants that discussion in the House.

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): Thank you, that is indeed the correct position. Thank you, Members. I think, Honorable Judith, you want to give the last one? Okay. Be

the last one, Honourable Judith, Honorable Mulandi remember the Speaker's rules have been adopted and they have commenced immediately. The Speaker's rules are now effective, Hon. Mulandi. You may be the first casualty. Chair for Culture. Honourable Judith, oh, you are seated to your predecessor. Okay.

Hon. Judith Wanza: Honorable Speaker...

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): Maybe he wants to borrow notes.

Hon. Judith Wanza: Yeah, I'm teaching him.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not standing to debate, only that I'm saying I think it is time for us to adjourn and the other Honorable Members, I'm just saying, like the late Saitoti once said; it will come a time when the country will be more important than an individual. And I think in Kitui, a time is coming where the people of Kitui will be more important than an individual. If those people who are complaining or they are claiming to support that government, and yet they cannot even stay here for one hour or 30 minutes, which government are they defending? Because when you defend someone or you are supporting, you must be there when you are starting until you finish. I think you can lie to people, but not all the time. A time is coming to liberate this Assembly. And I'm saying, I wish every one of you a happy Valentine until we meet. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya): Thank you very much. Honorable Members, allow me to thank you for your patience. You know, these are extra sittings. We were supposed to finish our sitting on Wednesday, but this House resolved to extend its calendar until today. And actually, one of the most important businesses to be transacted was the report by the Appointments Committee on the Selection Panel. But Honorable Katula, as you said, I read the mood of the House, and those who are saying they support the government, they left. And I said, let's defer that agenda. Because if they are saying they are defending the government, and they have left, so which government are they defending? So, I politely told the majority to wait, and maybe there is no urgency in that particular motion. May be that's why they are all leaving in one accord. Maybe they are going to issue press conferences. But that's a story for another day. I want to congratulate all of you for being very cooperative and very focused on these extra sittings.

We have composed our committees, which is actually our obligation. New Chairs and vice Chairs have been elected in some committees. There are some committees yet to elect their Chairs. But there is never a vacuum in any leadership. So, we shall ensure that every committee does its work. I want to thank the Majority Leader and the Deputy Majority Leader for bringing this adjournment motion, which is very important because we need to participate in that national event for all MCAs. We need to participate and hear out our issues. Honorable Ngwele, I agree with you. Indeed, CAF has not performed very well. I'm a member of CAF, General Assembly, and I can say that we have not performed very well. I agree with you, my brother, Honorable Ngwele. When we go there in that meeting, which is very important, let's air out our issues.

I know at CAF we have Ndagara and Deborah representing us alongside myself. But when we go there in person, in fact, Honorable Ngwele, as you are saying, you are right. Imagine, since we joined the Third Assembly, we have never had a CAF General Assembly for all MCAs to meet. That's the number one failure by CAF. It's supposed to happen annually. Actually, we were supposed to have the first one when we get sworn in, then the next year, like that. If I'm not wrong, this is the first. Just imagine, that's the first failure.

The Chairperson for CAF who was elected, he resigned the other day as the Speaker of Elgeyo Marakwet, so, he automatically exited as the Chair for CAF. We are yet to get a substantive Chair. The Speaker for Machakos is the Acting Chair because she is the Vice-Chair for CAF. We

shall ask them tough questions. In fact, sometimes in the CAF Governing Council, sometimes they call me the Opposition Leader because I put them on their toes. Because I am very passionate about the welfare of MCAs. Hon. Jeremiah, I agree with you. The security of MCAs is wanting. The MCA for Wajir has been missing for almost, how many months? More than six. Nobody is telling us where he is. Automatically, he may be forced to lose his seat. I think it is unfortunate. So, members, I want to thank you. There is a lot of business ahead of us. There are so many reports in my office which I have approved. There are documents from the County Executive. Audit reports, which are so many and it is so unfortunate that the committee on PAC, many members refused to attend their sitting today to elect Chair and Vice-Chair and there are more than ten reports to be looked into. And we are behind. So, unfortunate. Maybe the government does not want to be oversighted. Maybe. Nobody wants to be oversighted. The committee on budget is so unfortunate that members just disappeared. They don't want to sit. And they are saying they are supporting the government. How can a government operate without a budget committee? They just disappeared. So, unfortunate. And they are lying to the governor. I think the people advising our governor are failing him. Our governor needs to be properly advised. Because I know there were external influences by the executive. I know. I live in Kitui County and I know. But it is okay. Maybe our governor has chosen that route. It is okay.

When the supplementary budget comes here, how will I commit it to a leaderless committee? I will not! I have financial statements in my office which I need to commit to the budget committee, which is leaderless. It is okay if that is what we want. Hon. Judith I agree with you. We should know that we are honorable members. Nobody should think for you because maybe they are giving you little coins. Honorable Ngwele has said it correctly. One day we shall all become former. One day, you will look for that coin which you have been receiving there at Marie Gardens as Hon. Ndagara is saying, you will not see it. You will be judged by your actions right now. I am happy that most of you have refused to be manipulated to avoid doing what you are supposed to do as an MCA. Even if we are poor, Hon. Ndagara Yes, it is true. We are poor. We have nothing. The County Executive, they have a lot of resources which they control. We are poor. It is okay but we are rich in spirit. We are rich because we are doing the right thing. Honorable Deputy Speaker, don't worry. I know you always fought. But I have seen your people are defending you. It is God who is doing that through your people. God will defend us.

Let us stand with the right thing. As your speaker, I will stand with the right thing. I said I will not fear anybody or anything so long as I do the right thing. Let them do all those plans which they are doing. I know what they are planning. Let them continue planning. Our God who is in heaven will scatter them. Our God will defend us. I was brought here by God, not by anybody. So, members, I want to tell you, continue with that spirit. Let us defend this House. By defending this House, we are defending our people. You go there and get a few tenders and a few coins. You will eat them for how long? So, members, let us take heart. Let us defend this Assembly and do the right thing.

The Office of the Clerk, I want to direct that the committees which we have constituted, they immediately begin their work. As we have correctly said, next week all of us will be in Nairobi and the other week, we shall do oversight. I hope those who are in government will participate actively in that oversight activity. I hope so. So, Cyrus and your team prepare that program for “*tangatanga*” so that we do it the other week. Prepare the program for my approval and may be after that we can sit and prepare reports. We need to prepare reports and bring to this House.

So, thank you, members. May God bless you. Let me join Hon. Judith in wishing you a happy Valentine's Day though the day is already gone. Just make sure that you rush home and be with your loved ones. And I apologize for having you at work on the Valentine's Day. This is a service to our people because we love them. We love our people of Kitui County. That is why we are here. There's a team going to Addis over the weekend, the Chair Culture, not you, Judith, we have another Chair for culture. The Chair for Culture and Chair for Delegated legislation and a few others, I wish you a safe trip. Represent us well. When Hon. Jeremiah was there, he told me he was taught how to say Warsha. Yes, Warsha, Warsha. And Deputy Speaker and Ndagara. And you guys, when you go there, you say hi to Baba. I think you may meet him. Actually, the elections will be held tomorrow. You will be celebrating with him. We wish the Right Honorable Raila Amolo Odinga all the best in the AUC elections, which are tomorrow. A win for him is a win for Kenya. And a win for Kenya is a win for Kitui. So we wish Honorable Raila Amolo Odinga the very best. I know the government of the day has really been supporting him. Honorable Frida, thank you very much. When you talk to your party leader, because I know you always talk with him, tell him that we appreciate him for supporting our candidate. I know many people are wishing him bad things, but I think it's good to love our country. It's good to be patriotic.

With those very many remarks, Hon. members, let's now be upstanding so that we adjourn the House.

ADJOURNMENT

Honorable Members, this House stands adjourned and resumes its sittings on 4th March, 2025 at 9:00 am.

The County Assembly rose at 5.07 p.m.