(351)



COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KITUI

THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THIRD ASSEMBLY - (FOURTH SESSION)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER, 2025 AT 2.30 P.M.

- 1. The House convened at a half past Two O'clock.
- 2. The proceedings were opened with a prayer.
- 3. **PRESIDING** Hon. Speaker on the Chair.
- 4. COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR;

The Honourable Speaker made the following Communication;

COMMUNICATION AS RELATES TO GENDER PARITY AND COMPLIANCE WITH THE TWO-THIRDS GENDER RULE IN ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES.

Honourable Members,

I wish to draw the attention of the House to the constitutional and statutory requirements relating to gender parity, particularly the principle commonly known as the *two-thirds gender rule*.

Article 27 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, guarantees equality and freedom from discrimination, while Article 27(8) specifically requires that the

State shall take legislative and other measures to ensure that no more than two-thirds of the members of elective or appointive bodies shall be of the same gender.

Honourable Members,

Our Standing Orders are not silent on this matter. Standing Order 153(1) and (2) obligates the Committee on Selection, in consultation with County Assembly Parties, in nominating Members to serve in committees, to give consideration to the need for gender balance and to ensure, so far as practicable, that no more than two-thirds of the Members of a Committee are of the same gender. Similar provisions are reiterated under Standing Order 192A(4) with respect to ad-hoc committees.

Honourable Members,

Despite repeated calls for political parties and House leadership to comply with these provisions, the current composition of County Assembly Committees continues to flaunt the constitutional imperative and our own Standing Orders regarding gender balance. This is unlawful and undermines our collective responsibility to uphold the Constitution, which, under Article 2(1), is the supreme law of the Republic.

Courts have pronounced themselves on this matter, including in *National Gender and Equality Commission v County Assembly of Nakuru* [2019] and *Centre for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW) & Others v Attorney General & Another [2015]*, affirming that committees and public bodies that contravene the two-thirds gender rule act unconstitutionally.

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Accordingly, and pursuant to Standing Order 153, I hereby direct the Committee on Selection to urgently review and reconstitute the Membership of Assembly Committees to bring them into full compliance with the Constitution, the Standing Orders and other enabling legislation.

The Committee is required to table its report and resolutions on the reconstitution of committees within thirty (30) days from today's date.

Honourable Members,

This House cannot purport to make laws and demand compliance from others while itself remaining in contravention of express constitutional dictates. I therefore urge all political parties represented in this Assembly to take cognizance of this directive and cooperate fully with the Committee on Selection to ensure timely compliance.

I so direct.

Thank you!

5. STATEMENTS.

The following statements were given pursuant to Kitui County Assembly Standing Order No. 41(2)(a);

i. Schedule of plenary business for week ending on 3rd October ,2025. (Designated member of the county business committee)

MOTION ON ADOPTION OF THE REPORT BY THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION, TRAINING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT (Chairperson, Committee on Basic Education, Training and Skills Development)

(354)

Motion made, Question proposed

THAT, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 179(6) and 190 (5), this Assembly hereby adopts the report by the Committee on Basic Education, Training and Skills Development on Inspection of ECDE Centres and Vocational Training Centres in Kitui County, laid on the table of the County Assembly on Tuesday 23rd September, 2025.

(Hon. Priscilla Martha Makumi- M.C.A.)

Debate arising

Question Put and AGREED TO

7. MOTION ON ADOPTION OF THE REPORT BY THE COMMITTEE ON LANDS, INFRASTRUCTURE AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

(Chairperson, Committee on Lands, Infrastructure and Urban Development)

Motion made, Question proposed

THAT, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 179(6) and 190 (5), this Assembly hereby adopts the report by the Committee on Lands, Infrastructure and Urban Development on the County inspection tour of the projects financed by the County government of Kitui during the financial year 2024/2025 conducted from 1st to 5th July, 2025, laid on the table of the County Assembly on Tuesday 23rd September, 2025.

(Hon. Sammy Musili Munyithya- M.C.A.)

Debate arising

Question Put and AGREED TO

8. <u>ADJOURNMENT-</u> And the time being sixteen Minutes past Five O'clock, the Hon. Speaker adjourned the house.

9. ASSEMBLY ROSE - Sixteen Minutes past Five O'clock

MEMORANDUM

The Honorable Speaker will take the chair on Tuesday, 30th September, 2025 at 9.00 a.m.