

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KITUI



THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY

SECOND ASSEMBLY - FOURTH SESSION

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

COMMUNICATION ON THE WELCOME FROM RECESS FOLLOWING THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC

Honorable Members,

I take this opportunity to welcome you back to the Assembly today the 28th of July, 2020 as we officially resume plenary sittings after the recent recess necessitated by the entry of the novel corona virus pandemic in our country and the ensuing Ministry of Health protocols on public health. The recess has undoubtedly taught you several new things. As we continue to adopt to the new ways of doing things, it is my hope that we shall remain innovative as we dispense our legislative mandate to the people of Kitui.

As you are aware, **Honorable Members**, that over the recess period, the Assembly had three gazetted special plenary sittings for the House to deliberate on important matters, some of which includes the following;

1. Report by the Committee on Appointments on the Vetting and Consideration of Nominees to the Kitui County Public Service Board.
2. Report by the Committee on Land, Infrastructure and Urban Development on the Consideration of the Mwingi Municipal Charter.
3. Report by the Committee on Budget and Appropriations on the Kitui County Supplementary Budget Estimates II for the Financial Year 2019/2020.

4. Report by the Committee on Budget and Appropriations on Consideration of the Kitui County Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2020/2021.
5. Motion on formation of the County Assembly Special Committee for the Prevention and Management of COVID-19.
6. Motion on the removal of the Chairperson of Committees.
7. Motion on the Status of Security in Kitui County.

Honorable Members,

During these sittings, the precincts of the Assembly strictly observed the Ministry of Health guidelines on COVID-19. Our health and wellbeing is paramount in undertaking any legislative work amidst the pandemic. I wish to assure you that these public health protocols shall continue to be observed as we resume plenary sittings. It is in the public domain that there has been a spike in the numbers of infected cases in our country and Kitui County has not been spared. It is therefore very important that necessary precautions be taken to control chances of infection among MCAs, staff and essential visitors from infection. Honorable Members and staff are encouraged to undergo voluntary testing, and to self-isolate in case they come into contact with a positive case or a suspected positive case in accordance with the Ministry's guidelines. The Cabinet Secretary for Health is on record saying that our health is a personal responsibility.

Honorable Members,

On 20th July, the Head of Public Service, did through a circular Ref No: OP/CAB.26/1/3A titled; **Compliance with Work Place Guidelines on Covid-19 Pandemic**, enumerate measures that should strictly be adhered to by all public offices. He noted with a lot of concern that there has been lack of strict observance to of the public health measures meant to enhance the efficacy of the management of the disease and protect all Kenyans from its effects. The circular was addressed to among others, all Clerks of County Assemblies. It has been posted to the Assembly website for your reference. Kindly familiarize yourself with its contents. I urge all of us to strictly adhere to the set government protocols. The Clerk of the Assembly shall ensure strict adherence on the same in respect to administrative services required.

As we resume our sitting, **Honorable Members**, you are all aware that Assembly work is dispensed within committees. We shall proceed with virtual committee meetings

which have been ongoing unless otherwise stated with my express authorization. I urge you to ensure that we take this opportunity to best serve the people of Kitui whom we are ultimately accountable to in matters oversight, legislation and representation during the online meetings.

Honorable Members,

You are aware of stalemate in the Senate in respect to the passage of the County Allocation of Revenue Bill due to the proposed method of sharing revenue among counties. Before this Bill is passed and signed into law by the President, counties cannot get monies and this will greatly affect operations within our county. The Assembly has not been left out as well. Our hope is that the Senate will be able to resolve this matter the soonest possible.

Honorable Members,

In conclusion, I once again re-affirm my assurance to serving this House candidly and to the best of my ability as your Speaker so that you are able to deliver on your mandate and advance your individual and collective responsibility to the people of Kitui County.

I thank you.



THE HON. GEORGE M. NDOTTO, E.G.H., MCA
SPEAKER OF THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KITUI

Tuesday, July 28, 2020