COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KITUI



COUNTY ASSEMBLY SECOND ASSEMBLY – (FIFTH SESSION)

COMMITTEEE ON PROCEDURE AND RULES

REPORT ON THE STUDY VISIT TO DUBAI ON ETHICS, GOVERNANCE,
INTEGRITY AND COMPLIANCE FOR PUBLIC SECTOR OVERSIGHT
LEADERS AND MANAGERS

CLERK'S CHAMBERS,
SEPTEMBER, 2021
COUNTY ASSEMBLY BUILDINGS,

KITUI, KENYA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Hon. Speaker,

On behalf of the members of the Committee on Procedure and Rules, and pursuant to the provisions of standing order no.179 (6) and 187, I beg to present before the house, the committee's report on the study visit to Dubai on the symposium on Ethics, Governance, Integrity and Compliance for Public Sector Oversight Leaders and Managers.

The objective of the study visit was Oto assist both individuals and organisations in building and sustaining an adaptive, innovative, ethics compliance and integrity driven institutional culture. The committee sent a delegation of six members (6) to represent them. The delegation consisted of:

1.	Hon. George Ndotto	Chairperson
2.	Hon. Munira Mohammed	Vice Chairperson
3.	Hon. Antonney John	Member
4.	Hon. Fredrick Nthuri	Member
5.	Hon. Musee Mati	Member
6.	Hon. Jehoshaphat Nzamba	Member

Hon. Speaker,

The study visit exercise was undertaken in line with the objectives of the Procedure and Rules committee which inter alia is to establish rules of conduct and procedure that guide the way the plenary/chamber and county assemblies committees operate each day.

Hon. Speaker,

As you are aware, the procedure and rules committee establishes rules of conduct and procedure for the Assembly. The committee was able to be trained on the intricacies of the concept of leadership and governance, knowledge that will come in handy in the development of the county assembly's standing orders.

Hon. Speaker,

The members were also privileged to attend the 10th Session of the World Urban Forum in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

Organized and convened by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the World Urban Forum has become the premier international gathering for exchanging views and experiences on urban challenges.

Hon. Speaker,

The members appreciate the opportunity given to undertake the study visit as they were able to build their capacity in handling their roles and mandates. Specifically, the study visit impacted the members in the following ways;

- i. It gave them an integrated framework to enhance the performance of both the individual and the organization,
- ii. It helped them discover new innovative strategies for promoting the adoption of an ethics and integrity based culture in the Assembly and in their respective wards,
- iii. It gave them an opportunity to connect with high quality panelists who are involved in formulation and implementation of Ethics and Integrity Programs throughout public financed establishments.

MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE

The County Assembly Committee on Procedure and Rules is a select committee established under the County Assembly Standing Order No. 187(1) whose mandate is to undertake the following;

- i. To consider and report on all matters relating to the County Assembly standing orders;
- ii. To review and propose amendments to the County Assembly Standing orders;
- iii. To propose rules for the orderly and effective conduct of committee business. Such rules, once approved by the Assembly have the same effect as the Standing Orders.

* ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Hon. Speaker,

I wish to sincerely thank the Members of the Committee for their dedication, tireless effort and undivided commitment to see this committee deliver up to its mandate. The members of the Procedure and Rules Committee demonstrated their commitment to facilitate the Assembly and its Committees to fulfil their mandates by working tirelessly to expedite the submission of this Report.

We also wish to thank the Office of the Clerk for facilitating the Committee to undertake this assignment.

Finally, we thank all members who have journeyed with the committee this far.

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DATED:

HON. GEORGE M. NDOTTO

SPEAKER OF THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY AND CHAIRPERSON, PROCEDURE AND RULES COMMITTEE

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KITUI.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

The following Members were present during the meeting to unanimously adopt this Report: -

1. The Hon. George Ndotto - Chairperson (Speaker of Assembly)

2. Hon. Munira Mohammed- Vice Chairperson

3. Hon. Antonney John – Member

4. Hon. Jehoshapat Nzamba – Member

5. Hon. Musee Mati – Member

6. Hon. Fredrick Nthuri – Member

REPORT PREPARED BY;

Esther Mwele - Clerk Assistant (Serving the committee on Procedure and Rules)

LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

The term Leadership according to the Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary means person or people in charge of an organisation. Leadership also refers to a body of people who lead and direct the activities of a group towards a shared goal.

Governance on the other hand refers to the ways in which institutions function. It is how power and resources are distributed and managed within institutional structures. Good governance is the exercise of this authority with the participation, interest and livelihoods of the governed as the driving force.

The United Nations Economic and Social for Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP) defines governance as having 8 (eight) major characteristics. These are, participatory, consensus oriented, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, equitable and inclusive, and follows the rule of law. Good governance assures that corruption is minimised, the views of the minorities are taken into account and that the voices of the most vulnerable in society are heard in decision making.

Hon. Speaker,

The honourable members, while in Dubai, attended a conference on Leadership and Governance where they learnt the importance of conducting regular leadership education that highlights service delivery, quality and accountability.

The concept of leadership and governance are intertwined. It has over time been stated that country/ state can develop beyond the level of its leadership. Leadership and good governance is hinged on the capacity to

exercise power and to make sound decisions over a period of time in economic, social and environmental areas.

Lack of good leadership and Governance is a major impediment to development and the achievements of the sustainable development goals.

Good governance and leadership is fundamental if development and progress is to be attained in any country. It is the responsibility of all to ensure and demand for good leadership and effective governance. We need to ensure that we elect leaders who are focussed, selfless, incorruptible, and with high integrity.

In addition, the citizens should also ensure that leaders are made accountable by publicly declaring what they have been able to achieve in terms of performance as well as how much was consumed in every sector over a given period of time. This will in turn lessen the level of corruption, misappropriation and embezzlement of funds and subsequently enhance the leadership roles of our leaders.

Both the national and local governments should strive to create an enabling environment for creative entrepreneurship and support the needs and contributions of different stakeholders. The county assembly should create laws and policies that encourage public participation of its residents. This will in turn ensure that the county governments implements programs and projects that are customised to the locals prioritised needs.

ETHICS AND LEADERSHIP

Government representatives are entrusted with public resources which the public expects will be managed in an ethical and responsible manner. Leaders are expected to maintain ethical standards in the implementation of Government functions.

Ethics can be defined as a system of moral principles and a branch of philosophy which defines what is good for individuals and society.

Ethics is based on well-founded standards of right and wrong that prescribe what humans ought to do or avoid, usually in terms of rights, obligations, benefits to society, fairness, or specific virtues.

The Webster dictionary also defines ethics as the discipline that deals with what is good and bad and with moral duty and obligation or a set of moral principles, it is a theory or system of moral values.

Ethics is a key component of good governance. Ethical leadership is leadership that is centered on respect for ethics and values as well as the rights and dignity for others. Ethical leadership entails leadership that demonstrates respect for ethics and values.

Ethical leadership is critical to the success of any government. Ethical leaders demonstrate ethical values such as honesty, integrity and altruism. Such leaders conduct themselves in an ethical manner even in the midst of adversity or pressure.

Over the years, there have been concerns about conduct and declining trust in government representatives and public institutions.

One way that governments can regulate conduct for its leaders and officers is to draw up an ethics code to specify what is expected of them and what appropriate conduct is.

Governments can adopt a code of conduct to regulate the behaviour of the elected representatives, it can also establish a register of members' interest in a bid to promote high standards of conduct.

It is important to note that ethical leadership is more than simply complying with rules such as the code of conduct, personal moral values

are also important in setting a tone and adding authority to regulatory action. Good leaders should models of ethical behaviour at all times and hold themselves to even higher standards.

Good leaders should promote the interests of the public and put service to the public above service to oneself. They should provide accurate, honest and timely information and advice to the people they represent.

Ethical leaders have the ability to create a safe environment where the people feel comfortable discussing ethical issues and reporting ethical problems without fear of retaliation.

By learning how to avoid ethical issues and how to manage them whenever they arise, state officers can prepare themselves to handle any eventuality with confidence and success.

GRASSROOTS ASSEMBLIES

Hon. Speaker,

The Grassroots Assembly is a platform designed to give voice to communities, including those that are living in informal settlements, to provide input into the implementation of the sustainable development goals. The Grassroots assembly provides a platform for grassroots organisations and community leaders, to reflect on the needs and opportunities to ensure that local knowledge, innovations, and diversity are taken into consideration in the development agenda.

In Kenya, we can equate such a platform to the public *barazas* and *bunge mashinani* where local members of the communities are given a platform to contribute their visions and plans for the realisation of the sustainable development goals.

Hon. Speaker,

As you are aware, Kitui county Assembly is in the forefront of advocating for grassroots assemblies through the enactment of the Kitui County Ward Public Forums Act, 2019. The Act seeks to provide a framework for the effective involvement of the public on matters relating to governance, legislation, policy formulation and implementation; and to create a linkage between the members and the public and for all connected purposes.

One of the objects of devolution as contained under Article 174 of the Constitution is to enhance the participation of the people in the exercise of the powers of the State and in making decisions affecting them in addition to recognising the right of communities to manage their own affairs and to further their development.

Hon. Speaker,

We need to appreciate that governance is not just about governments but all stakeholders in society. Engaging the community as a key stakeholder in urban development will contribute to inclusive economic growth in addition to mobilisation of local knowledge and innovations.

Therefore, there is need to create an enabling environment or platform for the communities to participate in policy formulation and decision making. Citizen participation can be greatly enhanced through the establishment and promotion of grassroots assemblies locally therefore the county government needs to hasten the implementation of the ward public forums Act. Transparency is needed at all levels of Government in order to promote public awareness of the policies and priorities of Governments.

The citizens should be given a platform to speak out so that they can be able to hold the government and its leaders accountable.

CONCLUSION

Good governance and leadership is fundamental if development and progress is to be attained in any country. Leadership commitment and good governance is fundamental to the survival and progress of a country and it is the responsibility of all to ensure and demand for good leadership and effective governance.

Both the leaders and the people need to work together in order to achieve the concept of good governance.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee recommends the following;

- The County Government should formulate a framework or code of ethics and governance aimed at improving governance and ethical practice. This code of governance will provide guidelines and reduce fraudulent and unethical behaviour within the county government. This code once formulated should be regularly reviewed and periodically updated.
- 2. County governments should fast track the establishment of audit committees which would be tasked in ensuring that government decisions are transparent and that the respective decision makers are held to account.
- 3. In order to promote public awareness of the tasks, policies and priorities of government, transparency is needed at all levels of government. The programmes of government at all levels as well as their expected outcomes should be made clear.
- 4. Accountability and transparency should be given its proper place in the county. The public should ensure that leaders are made accountable by publicly declaring what they have been able to

achieve in terms of performance Vis a Vis what was allocated to them in the county budget.

CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT BY THE COMMITTEE

We, the honourable members of the committee on Procedure and Rules, do hereby affix our signatures to this report to affirm its accuracy, validity and authenticity;-

1. Hon. George M. Ndotto	Chairperson	(Shoped 1)
2. Hon. Munira Mohammed	Vice Chairperson	Mefen
3. Hon. Antonney John	Member	
4. Hon. Fredrick Nthuri	"	
5. Hon. Musee Mati	22	
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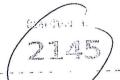
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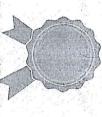
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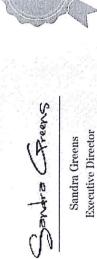
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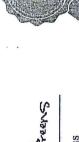
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Sandra Greens Executive Director





