

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KITUI

OFFICIAL REPORT

THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 21ST September, 2022

Third County Assembly- First Session-First Day

(Convened vide Gazette Notice No. 11013 of 14th September 2022)

(The County Assembly met at 9.19 a.m. at the Kitui County Assembly Chamber, it being the first sitting of the county assembly)

(The proceedings were opened with a prayer read by the Clerk of the County Assembly-Mr. Elijah Mutambuki)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK

WELCOME TO HON. MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY AND NOTIFICATION OF PLACE AND TIME OF FIRST SITTING OF THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY

Clerk of the County Assembly (Mr. E.M.A Mutambuki): Hon. Members-elect, good morning. It is with utmost pleasure that I welcome you to the first sitting of the County Assembly and at the same time congratulate you for being elected as members of this august House.

Hon. Members-elect several activities preceded this sitting, some of which involved you and aimed at making this occasion a success.

Hon. Members-elect, Section 7(b) of the County Governments Act provides that whenever a new County Assembly is duly constituted, the Governor, by notice in the Gazette, shall appoint the place and date of the first sitting of the new County Assembly, which shall not be later than Thirty (30) days from the date when the County Assembly is fully constituted.

Hon. Members-elect, in line with the above referenced legal provisions therefore, His Excellency the Governor of Kitui County through the Kenya Gazette No.11013 dated 14th September, 2022, appointed today as the date for this first sitting of the third County Assembly of Kitui. We shall thus proceed with the business of the day as provided in today's order paper.

Hon. Members-elect, before we proceed; allow me to recognise and salute our invited guest at the Speaker's gallery. I would like to recognise and salute our guests at the Speaker's gallery;

Disclaimer: *The electronic version of the Official Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor, through the Clerk, County Assembly of Kitui.*

1. Father Joseph Kongo-representing the Right Reverend Joseph Mwongela (Bishop) Kitui Catholic diocese.
2. Madam Asha- representing the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC).
3. Mr. Shadrack Ndoi –Member of the County Assembly Audit Committee
4. Mr. Gideon Ojeku– representing Kitui Central sub County Critical Infrastructure Protection Unit (CIPU) Commander

On behalf of the County Assembly and in our spirit of receiving guests in the County Assembly, feel much welcome. Likewise, allow me to appreciate the presence of spouses, parents, sons, daughters and relatives of the MCAs- elect present in the Chambers.

PAPER(S).

- 1) Kenya Gazette No. 11013 dated 14th September, 2022, gazettelement of the First County Assembly Sitting,
- 2) Kenya Gazette No. 9956 dated 24th August, 2022, list of the names persons elected as Members of the County Assembly; and
- 3) Kenya Gazette No.10712 dated 9th September, 2022, list of persons nominated as Members of the County Assembly of Kitui.

Clerk of the County Assembly (Mr. E.M.A Mutambuki): Hon. Members-elect, Kitui County Assembly Standing Order 3(2) (a) provides that on the first sitting of a new County Assembly after a general election, the Clerk shall- read the notification of convening the County Assembly as published in the gazette.

Hon. Members-elect, I will now proceed to read the gazette notice convening the first sitting. Kenya Gazette No. 11013, the Constitution of Kenya, the County Government Act No. 17 of 2012, County Assembly of Kitui Standing Orders, the first sitting of the County Assembly of Kitui.

Paraphrase:-

“In exercise of powers conferred by section 7(b) of the Count Government Act as read together with the relevant provisions of the Kitui County Assembly Standing Orders. I Julius Makau Malombe, Governor, Kitui County, appoints that the first sitting of the Kitui County Assembly shall be held on Wednesday, 21st September, 2022 at 9: 00 AM, in the County Assembly chambers, situated along Kitui-Kibwenzi road opposite Kitui Huduma centre. Dated 14th September, 2022 by Dr. Julius Makau Malombe, Governor, Kitui County”.

Hon- Members- elect, Standing Order 3(2) (b) provides that on the first sitting of a new County Assembly after a general election, the Clerk shall-

“Lay a list of the names of the persons elected as Members on the Table of the County Assembly.”

Hon. Members- elect. I will now direct the Deputy Clerk (Madam Waema) to lay the following papers on the Table of House;

1. Kenya Gazette No. 11013 dated 14th September, 2022, convening the First Sitting,
2. Kenya Gazette No. 9956 dated 24th August, 2022, containing the list of persons elected as Members of the County Assembly; and

Disclaimer: *The electronic version of the Official Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor, through the Clerk, County Assembly of Kitui.*

3. Kenya Gazette No.10712 dated 9th September, 2022 containing the list of persons specially elected as Members of the County Assembly.

(The Papers were laid on the Table)

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH

Clerk of the County Assembly (Mr. E.M.A Mutambuki): Hon. Members-elect, the Constitution of Kenya under Article 74 provides that;-
“Before assuming a state office, acting in a state office, or performing any functions of a state office, a person shall take and subscribe the oath or affirmation of office, in the manner and form prescribed by the Third Schedule or under an Act of Parliament.”

Hon. Members- elect, the Office of a Member of County Assembly is among those defined as a state office under Article 260 of the Constitution and it is therefore important that you take oath of office to allow you to perform any duties related to that office.

Hon. Members- elect, the said Oath or Affirmation of office that you will subscribe to is prescribed under the First Schedule to the County Governments Act, 2012 and we urge you to read it the way it is and do not add or omit any words thereto.

Further, Hon. Members- elect,, Standing Order 3 (2) (c) requires that on the first sitting of a new County Assembly after a general election, pursuant to the Governor’s notification under Standing Order 3 (1) of the County Assembly of Kitui Standing Orders, the Clerk shall administer the Oath or Affirmation of office provided for in the First Schedule of the County Government Acts, 2012 to all Members present in the County Assembly in the order set out in Standing Order No. 3 (3)...

*(Upon entering the Chamber, the Member
for Mutomo-Hon.Masaku,ward stood at the Bar)*

Clerk of the County Assembly (Mr. E.M.A Mutambuki): Kindly, Hon. Masaku get seated.

(Hon. Masaku sat down)

PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED IN ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OR AFFIRMATION OF OFFICE

Hon. Members-elect, Standing Order No. 3 (3), Specifically, Standing Order No. 3 (3) provides that;-

“The Clerk shall administer the Oath or Affirmation of office to Members of the County Assembly in alphabetical order using the following order of precedence-

- a) Members with the longest cumulative period of service in the County Assembly;
- b) Members with the longest cumulative period of service in the County Assembly and any local authority existing prior to the final announcement of all the results of parliament as contemplated under Section 2 of the sixth Schedule to the Constitution;

- c) Members with the longest cumulative period of service in any local authority existing prior to the final announcement of all the results of parliament as contemplated under Section 2 of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution;

Last and not least all other Members.”

We shall follow the above order in administering the oath and we urge you to look at the order of precedence that has been issued to you so that you can get ready to take your oath when the name is about to be called. Further, Hon. Members- elect, Standing Order 3(5) provides that;- *“When the Clerk is administering the Oath or Affirmation of office to Members and before the Clerk has administered the Oath or Affirmation of office to the Speaker, any question arising in the County Assembly shall be determined by the Clerk who shall, during that period, exercise the powers of the Speaker.”*

Hon. Members- elect, I wish to inform you that as the person presiding over the House before the election of the speaker, you are at liberty to direct all your concerns to me and I will address them to the best of my knowledge. I wish to however, kindly and respectfully remind you to ensure that the concerns are related to the issue(s) before the house at the time.

(Some Hon. Members-elect entered the Chamber and stood at the Bar)

Clerk of the County Assembly (Mr. E.M.A Mutambuki): Hon. Members-elect, please, come in and take your seats.

(Several Hon. Members walked into the Chamber)

Hon. Members- elect, unless a person elected to this Assembly takes and subscribes to the Oath or Affirmation prescribed by the First Schedule of the County Governments Act, 2012, he or she shall not assume or perform any functions associated with the office of a Member of the County Assembly including the exercise of electing the Speaker of the County Assembly.....

(Hon. Ngwele entered the Chamber)

Hon. Ngwele, kindly take your seat.

Hon. Members- elect, the swearing-in shall proceed in line with the provisions of Standing Order No. 3 (3), that I highlighted earlier. More particularly, these are the steps that we shall follow in the swearing in process;-

(Hon. Ngwele sat down)

The Clerk-At-The-Table shall call the names of Members for purposes of swearing-in, in the order outlined.

- 1) The Member so called shall walk to the bar, bow and proceed to the podium to my right and subscribe to the Oath or Affirmation of Office, from where I am.

Disclaimer: *The electronic version of the Official Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor, through the Clerk, County Assembly of Kitui.*

- 2) Once sworn-in, a Member shall then pass to the table on my left, sign the Oath book and Code of Integrity and through the walkway to my left, proceed to the bar, bow and then resume his/her seat.

Hon. Members, this process shall be repeated until the last member has taken oath. With that allow me to say something to this assembled House that with me are members of the staff who are tagged, some standing others seated. So you are free to consult any member of the service and he/she will be able to address your concerns. And if need be he/she knows how to escalate that concern to me and from there we will be able to address the concerns as they come. Again, honourably and respectfully let us rise issues on what we are doing today. Other issues we will address them after we are done with today's session.

Hon. Members- elect, having laid out the procedure to be followed in this exercise, I will now order the Deputy Clerk to read out the names of Members for swearing-in. and before that is done, allow me to recognise the presence of one of our invited guests. He has just arrived and at the Speaker's gallery- Mr. Simon Mundu- Member of the County Assembly Service Board.

Madam Waema, proceed.

You will appear as called!

The Oath of Allegiance was administered to the following Members who appeared as called;

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Ndumbu Mary Mbithi. | 17. John Immaculate Wanza |
| 2. Mwandia Hussein | 18. Kalenga Jacquelyne Cate |
| 3. Kasinga Titus Munyoki | 19. Kasele Aron Kilonzi |
| 4. Katana Stephen Ileve | 20. Kasyoka Judith Wanza |
| 5. Katumbi Boniface Maundu | 21. Katula Boniface Mukwate |
| 6. Kimanzi Daniel Ngoima | 22. Katungwa Deborah Mutuku |
| 7. Mohammed Munira | 23. Kavula Joseph Kasungi |
| 8. Munyasya Benard Mwangangi | 24. Kimuli Kyalo |
| 9. Munyao David Masaku | 25. Kitonyo Peter Mwanza |
| 10. Mwangangi Charity | 26. Makumi Priscilla Martha |
| 11. Mwinzi Munyoki | 27. Maluki Paul |
| 12. Ngwele Joseph Nzungi | 28. Maua Mutinda Frida |
| 13. Peter Elizabeth Ndunge | 29. Mawia Harrison Maluki |
| 14. Kieti Muthama Musyoka | 30. Mbiti Joseph Musyoka |
| 15. Ciambutra Karigi | 31. Mbuno Erastus Musyoka |
| 16. Isumail Dominic Mwamisi | 32. Muange Daniel Kimanzi. |

Clerk of the County Assembly (Mr. E.M.A Mutambuki): As the Member makes his way to the podium, allow me to recognize our more invited guests who have just joined us:

1. John Muasya- Kitui Central Traffic Commander;
2. Chrispin Ogutu - Sub-County Police Commander - Kitui Central
3. Solomon Jesang- Kitui County Critical Infrastructure Protection Unit (CIPU);
4. Ibrahim Hassan- Kitui County Prisons Commander;

Disclaimer: *The electronic version of the Official Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor, through the Clerk, County Assembly of Kitui.*

5. Okoth Aggrey- Kitui County Criminal investigations Officer.

Administration of oath resumed;

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 33. Muema Mercy Muliwa | 45. Muthami Cornelius Ngumbau |
| 34. Mulandi Benjamin Ndambu | 46. Mutua Jeremiah Musee |
| 35. Mulandi Grace Syoindo | 47. Mutune Mary Mwendu |
| 36. Munyao Gabriel Mutunga | 48. Mwanzia Nzavu |
| 37. Munyao Malinga. | 49. Mwoni Jacinta Mary |
| 38. Munyithya Sammy Musili | 50. Ndagara Godfrey Muthengi |
| 39. Musau Kalamba | 51. Nding'o Mark Kitute |
| 40. Musili Mary Mbithi | 52. Nzioka Christopher Nzilu |
| 41. Musyoka Anthony Musyimi | 53. Solomon Fastina Mwendu |
| 42. Musyoka Charity Kathathi | 54. Syengo Zacchaeus Ivutha |
| 43. Musyoka Cyrus Kisavi | 55. Vuthi Mathew Ngovi. |
| 44. Mutemi Nicholas Muema | |

Hon. Members, it is parliamentary tradition that Hon. Members are never late but they can delay consulting the electorates. Therefore allow me to request the Deputy Clerk to call upon those Hon. Members, who slightly delayed consulting their electorates.

Administration of oath resumed;

- 56. Mutambu Alex Nganga
- 57. Munyalo Sylvester Kitheka

Hon. Members, allow me to report that we are through with the exercise of administration of Oath. However, I want to ask, if there is any member who for any reason may have not taken oath to come forward and do so.

(Silence)

Then, it appears to me that all members present have taken and subscribed to the oath of office. Hon. Members, the next order is the election of the Speaker but before then we will have the bell rung for ten minutes. So as to allow the Hon. Members who may have walked out to enter the Chamber for the exercise.

Hon. Members, I wish to remind you that this is a sitting of the County Assembly and therefore members are expected to conduct themselves orderly and follow the rules and the procedures as per the Standing Orders.

However, Hon. Members are allowed to consult members of staff within the Chamber for any clarification, concern or for any assistance that a particular Hon. Member may require as we enter to a very important session for this Assembly. Sergeant –At- Arms ring the bell.

(The Bells were rung for ten minutes)

Disclaimer: *The electronic version of the Official Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor, through the Clerk, County Assembly of Kitui.*

(Laud consultations)

Hon. Members, we are preparing ourselves. So you can consult but not loudly. Hon. Members sitting to my immediate right, we did agree yesterday that area will be preserved for the agents and in case you are not an agent you can kindly and quietly vacate those seats.

As we continue with consultations, kindly allow me to call the following Hon. Members seated to my immediate right to step forward. Again it is optional, if I call your name and you don't feel like coming just stay where you are:

1. Hon. Peter Kitonyo Mwanza
2. Hon. Daniel Ngoima Kimanzi
3. Hon. Stephen Ilevi Katana
4. Hon. Joseph Kasungi Kavula.
5. Hon. Mathew Vuthi
6. Hon. Sylvester Munyalo

I want to believe that, these are the agents of the candidates. Hon. Members, I did say we had invited guests to grace the occasion. We did that as members of Transition Committee. In that regard, I acknowledge the presence of Dr. Florence M. Makindi - (Chairperson, Kitui County Public Service Board).

(Applause)

Hon. Members, with the bells having gone silent, we have no reason to hold on but to proceed with the election of the Speaker. Hon. Members, it will be unfortunate for those who move out of the Chamber for they will not be allowed to come back. However, you are free to move within the Chamber. You free go to the washrooms and elsewhere within the Chamber.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK

PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED IN ELECTING THE SPEAKER

The Clerk of Assembly (Mr. E.M.A. Mutambuki): Hon. Members, allow me to congratulate you once more and welcome you to this first sitting of the Third County Assembly.

Hon. Members, the Constitution of Kenya under Article 178 provides that each County Assembly shall have a Speaker elected by the County Assembly from amongst persons who are not members of the County Assembly.

Hon. Members, by operation of law and particularly the provisions of Section 11 of the County Governments (Amendment) Act No. 11 of 2020 as read with Section 21 of the Elections Act and Standing Orders 4 of the Kitui County Assembly Standing Orders provides that the office of the speaker shall fall vacant upon the County Assembly's first sitting.

Hon. Members, particularly, let me draw your attention to the provisions of Standing order 4(1) which inter alia provides that, "A Speaker shall be elected when the County Assembly first meets after a General Election and before the County Assembly proceeds with the dispatch of any other business, except the administration of the Oath or Affirmation of Office to Members present."

Hon. Members, in compliance with the above provisions of the law, please allow me to take you through the sequence of events that have led us to this auspicious occasion.

(i) Upon notifying of the first sitting of the County Assembly of Kitui by H.E. the Governor, Kitui County, we notified this fact through gazette notice number 11013 of September,

Disclaimer: *The electronic version of the Official Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor, through the Clerk, County Assembly of Kitui.*

14th 2022 and invited interested parties to collect from the Office of the Clerk and resubmit their nomination papers for election to the office of the Speaker of County Assembly of Kitui. The notification for vacancy was also published in two newspapers with national circulation these being the Star Daily and Nation newspapers dated 15th September, 2022. It is important to note that the office of the Speaker in line with the above referenced legal provision fell vacant today.

(ii) That a total number of twelve (12) nomination papers were returned to the office of the Clerk of Assembly duly completed by respective candidates.

(iii) That we maintained a register of the applications which register was closed 48 hours to the date of election of the Speaker pursuant to the provisions of standing order 5(2).

(iv) That we went through the nomination papers after which we prepared a list of the qualified candidates and put together their curriculum vitae. The qualifications for a person to be elected to the office of the Speaker are provided for under Article 193 of the Constitution of Kenya.

(v) That the list of the qualified candidates together with their credentials were distributed to all the members and publicized through the County Assembly website.

Hon. Members, the following are the candidates who met the qualifications in this case: -

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Hon. George Mutua Ndotto. | 6. Hon. Boniface Kilaa Kasina. |
| 2. Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya. | 7. Hon. Paul Ngula Kitungu. |
| 3. Hon. Andrew Ndisya Lusa. | 8. Hon. Victor Kyalo Mutua. |
| 4. Hon. Benjamin Mwikya Musyoki. | 9. Hon. Samson Nyamai Masila. |
| 5. Hon. Augustus Kyalo Muli. | |

Hon. Members, Standing Order No. 6 provides that the election of the Speaker shall be by secret ballot.

Further, Standing Order Nos. 6 through to 11 lay down the procedure for election of the Speaker which I hereby highlight:

(i) That the Clerk shall at the commencement of each ballot: -cause the ballot box, empty and unlocked, to be displayed to the County Assembly and in the presence of the candidates' agents; and in the presence of the County Assembly and the candidates' agents, lock the box, which shall thereafter be kept in the full view of the County Assembly until the conclusion of the ballot.

(ii) That the Clerk shall issue not more than one ballot paper to each Member who wishes to vote.

(iii) The member shall proceed to a booth or designated area provided by the Clerk for that purpose and while there, mark the ballot paper by placing a mark in the space opposite the name of the candidate for whom the Member wishes to vote.

I am sure you are very good at that. Just being fresh from the General Elections, I am reminding you.

(iv) The member shall fold the marked ballot paper before leaving the booth or area and place the folded ballot paper in the ballot box.

(v) A Member who, before the conclusion of a ballot has marked a paper in error may, by returning it to the Clerk, obtain another in its place and the Clerk shall immediately cancel and destroy the paper so returned.

(vi) At the close of the voting process, the Clerk shall unlock the box, examine the ballot papers and, having rejected those unmarked or spoilt, report the results of the ballot; and no Member who has not already recorded his or her vote shall be entitled to do so after the Clerk has unlocked the ballot box.

Mark that one!

vii) A ballot paper is spoilt, if in the Clerk's opinion, it does not identify the candidate purported to be selected by the Member voting. The Clerk shall declare a ballot paper to be invalid in the presence of and after inspection by the Members representing each of the candidates in the election.

Hon. Members, a person shall not be elected as Speaker, in the first ballot, unless that person is supported in a ballot by two-thirds of all Members, which in our case is 38 Members.

Hon. Members, if no candidate is supported by two-thirds of all Members, the candidate or candidates who received the highest number of votes in the first ballot and the candidate or candidates who received the second highest number of votes shall stand for election in a further ballot until one candidate obtains more votes than the others. The candidate who receives the highest numbers of votes in the further ballot shall be elected Speaker.

Hon. Members, at the conclusion of the ballot, the Clerk together with the agents of the respective candidates shall sign the Vote Confirmation Form after which the Clerk shall proceed and announce the winner. If the threshold shall not have been achieved, the Assembly shall proceed for a further ballot and that process shall be repeated until a Speaker is elected.

So we may have many circles to go.

Hon. Members, as I conclude, I wish to remind you that this is a legal process and it is important that you adhere to the procedures spelt out. In the event that any of you requires any clarification, do not hesitate to consult me or any staff of the County Assembly within the chamber.

Hon. Members, on that note, I wish all the candidates best of luck.

(Loud applause)

Let us have the ballot box for illustration and the presiding officers. Hon. Members we are now starting the election exercise. Do we need to breathe in and out? *Si tuko sawa?*

Hon. Members: Yes.

The Clerk of Assembly (Mr. E.M.A. Mutambuki): *Asanteni.*

Hon. Members I am duty-bound to give further explanation on how the election will proceed which is important to ensure the process is seamless. Several staff have been assigned specific responsibilities relating to the election process. Jacob Kimanzi will be the presiding officer, Josephat Kwanda the Deputy Presiding Officer, while I will be the Returning Officer – Chebukati.

(Laughter)

There are two polling clerks Benjamin Muimi and Ruth Mulumba seated at this end. The former is manning the voter register for which the Members are required to sign it against their names while the latter will oversee stamping of the ballot papers and guiding Members to the polling booth.

There is no cause for alarm as our servers are open. Thus there will be no hacking. Our ICT officers are up to the task. The agents will reach BOMAS safely as police officers are here with us.

Hon. Members, when you go to the polling booth, mark the ballot paper in the space provided and once you vote, walk along this passageway to the ballot box and drop your ballot there.

After voting has ended, I will confirm if all the Members present and willing vote have done so. You can be present and not willing to vote, nobody will force to do that. I will notify the House of the same and proceed to open the ballot box for verification and tallying of the ballot papers.

For transparency, let me confirm the presence of agents for each candidate. They shall sit at a convenient place in order to witness the entire election process as we start and conclude the exercise.

The Hon. Members seated at the front row to my immediate right are agents of the candidates. The agents will not be labelled with the names of the candidates. Just know they are agents but to whom they identify with, is a story for another day. I am sure that is a relief to you.

Hon. Members: Yes.

The Clerk of the County Assembly (Mr. E.M.A. Mutambuki): And also one... Kindly Hon. Kasungi *kaa pande hii mwisho kabisa*. Let there be an empty seat between the agents and the other members. He is also an agent of a candidate that I don't want to name.

For transparency, let's have the ten members representing the candidates stand along that row where the Sergeant- At- Arms are standing. This is to ensure and confirm that every vote cast is counted. This will allay fears of malpractices. Remember, when we hear of elections as Kenyans, we get suspicions.

Once counting of the votes get underway, when we call the name of the candidate voted for, assigned staff will be holding the ballot for that candidate so that there is no mix up. One of the staff will be in charge of the spoilt votes. That is why we have 9 candidates but 10 staff for the name of the candidate they represent to be called and collect the votes for that specific candidate.

Hon. Members I think we are ready to go. Madam Deputy Clerk, next Order!

Allow me to repeat what I said earlier, that the ballot box will be caused empty and locked and display the same.

*(The Presiding Officer opened and displayed
the empty ballot box to Hon. Members)*

In your presence and the presence candidates' agents let us have the box locked.

(The Presiding Officer sealed the ballot box)

(A Clerk at the Table consulted the Clerk)

The Clerk of Assembly (Mr. E.M.A. Mutambuki): Hon. Members, an issue has come up but a positive one. There is no cause for alarm. The agents are supposed to have signed the oath of secrecy. Remember, this election is a product of the Elections Act. That will not take us a lot of

Disclaimer: *The electronic version of the Official Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor, through the Clerk, County Assembly of Kitui.*

time. I am happy we are proceeding well through your cooperation and we might even conclude the exercise earlier than expected. The agents can continue signing the oath of secrecy as we proceed with the election process. There is no arm with that because their work will come much later. We don't have the luxury of time and for those who will not have signed, the legal counsel will avail the oath later for their signature as we proceed.

At this juncture, I call upon the Deputy Clerk to call out the names of the Hon. Members. Thank you.

(Members were issued with ballot papers and proceeded to vote)

The Clerk of Assembly (Mr. E.M.A. Mutambuki): Hon. Members, *tuko sawa, wacha tuendelee*. The agents will quietly continue to take the Oath of Secrecy as we proceed. *Ni kama mmesahau*. You can no longer be referred as Members-elect, after being sworn-in. The way you used to bow to the Chair has changed because you now don't need to go to the Bar to bow to chair as you were doing before been sworn-in. You can bow as you crisscross the Mace. Okay?

Hon. Members, allow me to recognize the presence of another of our invited guest Ms. Catherine Mwendwa who is at the Speaker's gallery. She is a member of the Kitui County Public Service Board.

Hon. Members, *tunaendelea vizuri tuko karibu kumaliza*. No hiccups so far and we are almost concluding the casting of the ballot.

Hon. Members, I just want to request or enquire if there is any Hon. Member present who is willing to vote and his or her name has not been called out to come forward vote. Hon. Member present and willing to vote. I said it is optional.

Hon. Members it appears to me that Hon. Members present and willing to vote have done so. My voter register reads 57. However, allow me to give the last chance to any Hon. Member who is present and willing to vote whose name may have be skipped.

Hon. Members, at the close of the voting process, the Clerk shall unlock the box, examine the ballot papers and, having rejected those unmarked or spoilt, report the results of the ballot; and no Member who has not already recorded his or her vote shall be entitled to do so after the Clerk has unlocked the ballot box.

On that note allow me to direct the presiding officer to unlock the box. The voting process has closed.

(The Presiding officer unlocked the ballot boxes and proceeded to verify the ballot papers)

The next step will be verification exercise by the presiding officers together (if need be) with the agents. The agents willingly can volunteer to be around there so that they can confirm what the presiding officers will have seen. So, those agents willing and able to however, kindly Hon. Members will go through this desk. You will not be allowed there until you sign the oath of secrecy. Counsel kindly *wapee*. Kindly sign from there. It is just an oath and I am sure you are used to that.

Disclaimer: *The electronic version of the Official Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor, through the Clerk, County Assembly of Kitui.*

Hon. Members we are good to go? And the Members of the staff standing in for candidates are supposed to be ready to assemble. Seamless exercise. Hon. Members I am sure you can see how prepared we were for the great day.

As they sign the oath align yourselves in this Order; Hon. George, next will be Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katsiya, Hon. Andrew Ndisya Lusa, Hon. Benjamin Mwikya Musyoki, Hon. Augustus Kyalo Muli, Hon. Boniface Kilaa Kasina, Hon. Paul Ngula Kitungu, Hon. Victor Kyalo Mutua and the last but not the least is Hon. Samson Nyamai Masila. The remaining one will be in charge of the spoilt.

That said and done, I wish that because of space, those standing for candidates' *turudi nyuma kidogo tu, tuwapatie nafasi* for the agents to come this way. After verification we just come and... *Hapo ni sawa tu...* assemble to your respective place. Agents you can just go round *karibu na* ballot box. *Imeanza kuwa moto?* Is either now or never. We are blessed to employ our boss which is very unique in whatever employment circles.

Presiding officers proceed to conduct verification. If there is any doubt, kindly show it to the agents then we pick it from there. No counting you continue with the verification only.

*(Verification of ballot papers
got underway)*

Agents if there is an issue, kindly rise it with the presiding officers so that we solve it as it comes. Hon. Member's *tunaendelea vizuri*. You confirm that the box is empty.

*(The Members' confirmed that the
ballot box was empty)*

(Applause)

It seems to me that all the votes are valid? Perfect. Agents you can resume your seats. Thank you very much Hon. Members. It would have been very interesting to have a spoilt vote from an elected member. Because I believe they are masters of the votes.

Hon. Members, counting of the votes will now start. This is akin to what happens at BOMAS of Kenya. The best of our election all Hon. Members, polling clerks, presiding officers, returning officers and everything because it is done from here. You don't have any space or time to hack the process. ICT, Presiding officers proceed.

(Verification of the votes started)

Agents, if there is any issue of concern, raise it so that we sort it out. All of us will be involved in tallying of the votes. So, don't worry Hon. Members.

(Applause)

(Loud consultations)

Clerk of the County Assembly (Mr. E.M.A. Mutambuki): Hon. Members at conclusion of the exercise, the Clerk agents of the candidates shall sign the vote confirmation form after which the clerk shall announce the results. Agents...

*(The Clerk and the candidates' agents
signed the vote Confirmation form)*

(Results of the first ballot announced)

Clerk of the County Assembly (Mr. E.M.A. Mutambuki): Hon. Members these are the results of the first ballot. Spoilt votes zero. Total Valid votes are 57 and total votes cast are 57.

RESULTS

NAME	VOTES
1. Hon. George Mutua Ndotto.	9
2. Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya.	25
3. Hon. Andrew Ndisya Lusa.	0
4. Hon. Benjamin Mwikya Musyoki.	8
5. Hon. Augustus Kyalo Muli.	7
6. Hon. Boniface Kilaa Kasina.	6
7. Hon. Paul Ngula Kitungu.	1
8. Hon. Victor Kyalo Mutua.	0
9. Hon. Samson Nyamai Masila.	1
10. Spoilt ballots	0

Hon. Members, a person shall not be elected as the Speaker in the first ballot unless that person is supported in a ballot by two thirds of all members which in our case is 38 Members. If the threshold shall not have been achieved in the first ballot, the Assembly shall proceed for further ballot and that process shall be repeated until the Speaker is elected. In the subsequent ballot we will be looking at simple majority.

Hon. Members allow me to instruct the presiding officers to first seal the ballot papers of the first ballot.

Hon. Members once that is done, we will proceed with another ballot. The Standing Orders, as I stated earlier provides that the subsequent ballot will be between two candidates-the one who got the highest votes and the one followed him/her. In that regard, subsequent ballot will be between Kevin Kinengo Katisya who managed 25 votes and Hon. George Mutua Ndotto who managed 9 votes. We want to start that process and I am sure the ballot papers are ready.

(Applause)

We go back to square one. Cause the ballot box open, and show it to the Assembled Members.

*(The Presiding Officer opened and displayed
the empty ballot box to Hon. Members)*

And Hon. Members because we don't tag any agent with any candidate's name allow me to request those agents, just two of them so that we can process the remaining business together with them. Hon. Member for Mulango and who else? Hon. Ngoima? Let them be on the farthest end, please Hon. Member for Mui *kuja pande hii*. Those are the agents for the candidates of the further ballot.

(The Presiding Officer sealed the ballot box)

Polling Clerks are we ready? Tuko sawa. Is the ballot sealed?

(The polling clerks answered in the affirmative)

Hon. Members the exercise remains the same, although I am seeing a lot of movements. *Itakuwa shida tukiitana tukukose*. Now I instruct the Clerk to proceed with the Second ballot

(The second voting started)

(Loud consultations)

Hon. Members let's consult quietly. Let us not interrupt those who are seated. Kindly. Allow me to know if there is any Member whose name has not been called out and is willing to vote to kindly come forward and vote. Remember if we get a tie we will repeat the exercise until we are done. That is what the law requires. From my register it seems like all members present have voted. So allow me to instruct the presiding officers to unlock the box. Once the box is unlocked, the two agents will walk to the dispatch table for vote verification exercise.

(The Presiding officer unlocked the ballot boxes and proceeded to verify the ballot papers)

Hon. Members, we start counting of the votes. I request the staff representing the two candidates to be at standby.

(Verification of ballot papers started)

Hon. Members, I am sure you see the ballot box is empty. Now, the counting will start. At this point we are looking for is a simple majority. Proceed. The agents stick around. Just confirm.

(Prolonged laughter)

Clerk of the County Assembly (Mr. E.M.A. Mutambuki): Agents kindly go sign the confirmation form. Hon. Members, the House has spoken in one voice on who should be the Speaker of this August House. Spoilt votes zero, total valid votes are 57 and the total votes cast are 57. The results are as follows:

RESULTS

Disclaimer: *The electronic version of the Official Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor, through the Clerk, County Assembly of Kitui.*

NAME	VOTES
1. Hon. George Mutua Ndotto.	6
2. Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya.	51

(Applause)

Clerk of the County Assembly (Mr. E.M.A. Mutambuki): Hon. Members, I therefore, declare one Hon. Kevin Kinengo Katisya as the Speaker-Elect of the County Assembly Kitui.

(Applause)

I now order the Senior Sergeant- at Arms to go search, find, and present to this assembled House the Speaker- Elect one Hon. Kinengo Katisya for swearing-in ceremony

(Applause)

As that happens the presiding officer the votes and the proposer and seconder of the Speaker-Elect to go with the Sergeant-at Arms to search, find and present the Speaker-Elect for swearing-in.

(Loud consultations)

(Laughter)

SWEARING- IN OF THE SPEAKER ELECT.

(On arrival of hon. Katisya in the Chamber, he was escorted to the Chair by the Senior Sergeant-at-Arms (Mr. Lawrence Kirigwi)

(On arrival at the Chair, the Clerk thereupon administered the Oath of Allegiance to the Speaker-elect, hon. Katisya)

(The Speaker, hon. Katisya, then took the Chair, and the Mace, - which before lay under the Table, was placed upon the Table)

(Applause)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK

SUBMISSION OF THE SPEAKER TO THE WILL OF THE HOUSE

The Speaker (Hon. Katisya): Honourable Members, Members of the Kitui County Assembly Service Board, The Clerk of the County Assembly, Members of the Service present, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon?

First and foremost, allow me to thank the Almighty God for this moment and say that I am truly honoured and privileged to stand before you and address you as the newly elected Speaker of the County Assembly of Kitui. I thank you all for making this possible through the just concluded electoral process.

I wish to also take this opportunity to most sincerely congratulate all of you for being elected and being sworn-in as members of this August House to represent your respective Wards.

Disclaimer: *The electronic version of the Official Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor, through the Clerk, County Assembly of Kitui.*

Hon. Members, I am sincerely grateful to you for believing in me and entrusting this very important duty to me, I promise and undertake to uphold the dignity of this honourable House at all times.

Hon. Members, I must also take this opportunity to most sincerely thank my family without whose support, I would not have had the courage to go through the just concluded gruesome process. My family prayers kept me focused and grounded and I am very elated to stand before you this beautiful afternoon after emerging victorious.

Hon. Members, allow me to also most sincerely and humbly thank Hon. George M. Ndotto, EGH, and my immediate predecessor, for his immense contribution to the County Assembly throughout his tenure. Most notably, I acknowledge that it was through his remarkable leadership that the County Assembly of Kitui was able to take off successfully after the coming into force of our Constitution, 2010. His tenure was also marked by outstanding projects that put Kitui County as a whole on the national map, for instance, this beautiful County Assembly chamber.

Hon. Members, I would also like to recognize the Hon. Members who have been re-elected after a 5 years' hiatus. Welcome back Members;

1. Hon. Mwandia Hussein
2. Hon. Kasinga Titus Munyoki
3. Hon. Munyasya Bernard Mwangangi
4. Hon. Ngwele Joseph Nzungi
5. Hon. Katumbi Boniface Maundu
6. Hon. Kimanzi Daniel Ngoima

I am convinced that this County Assembly will benefit immensely from your experience. Hon. Members, we also have;

1. Hon. Mutambu Alex Nganga
2. Hon. Katana Stephen Ileve
3. Hon. Mohammed Munira
4. Hon. Ndumbu Mary Mbithi
5. Hon. Munyalo Sylvester Kitheka
6. Hon. Munyau David Masaku
7. Hon. Mwangangi Charity
8. Hon. Mwinzi Munyoki
9. Hon. Peter Elizabeth Ndunge

These were Members of the 2nd Assembly and who have yet again been given the mandate to continue serving the people of Kitui. Notably to observe is that the Hon. Mwinzi Munyoki who was a nominated member in the 2nd Assembly is now an elected member. Congratulations.

Hon. Members, I also wish to recognize Hon. Kasyoka Judith Wanza being the only female member of this County Assembly who was elected through universal suffrage on the 9th August, 2022, I believe her election speaks volumes to the society that we should all endeavor to have, and that is, a society that sees capacity in all persons regardless of gender.

Disclaimer: *The electronic version of the Official Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor, through the Clerk, County Assembly of Kitui.*

Hon. Members, I am reminded that in life, the only thing that is as good as rest is change, I want to recognize Hon. Mwoni Jacinta Mary, a Hon. Member who was until recently a member of the County Assembly of Kitui Service. This promotion is a manifestation that we should never be afraid to dream and by all means like Dr. Ben Carson once wrote, ‘DREAM BIG’.

Hon. Members, looking at the membership of this County Assembly, I am in awe that finally the capability of the young people in Kitui County is being seen, recognized and given an opportunity. I wish to recognize all the young elected and nominated members of this House, I am confident that the future continues to be justly shaped as young people make their voices heard through active leadership roles. I wish to assure all members in this House, young in age and young at heart, that this County Assembly is a House of equals and we shall endeavour to support every member in the fulfilment of their constitutional mandate, collectively and severally.

Hon. Members, as I assume the responsibilities of the office of the Speaker of this County Assembly, I promise to serve with utmost integrity and offer transparent, unbiased and firm leadership to the members of this August House noting to always be guided by the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, Kitui County Assembly Standing Orders and the rule of law.

Hon. Members, in fulfilment of my promise to serve, I also undertake to work in collaboration with the Executive Arm of our County Government, the National Government, government agencies and all our partners to ensure that the mandate of this House is achieved.

Hon. Members, the mandate of this County Assembly is spelt out in the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 as well as Statutes and more specifically, Article 185 as read with Section 8 of the County Governments Act, 2012, vests the legislative authority of a County Government in its County Assembly. This House therefore has the responsibility of ensuring that it enacts laws that will assist in the management of the affairs of the County Government of Kitui.

Hon. Members, I am also reminded that this County Assembly is the check that assures that any excesses by the County Executive and its agencies are dealt with. I promise to remain steadfast and assist this House in keeping vigilance to ensure that the County Executive remains administratively sound and balanced in the manner in which it operates.

Hon. Members, I am alive and fully aware that the responsibilities ahead of us are enormous but not in any way insurmountable and as I stand before you today, I have faith and trust that we are all up to the task and that we shall deliver our mandate to the people of Kitui.

Hon. Members, I am a servant of this House, and as a servant, my voice, my action and my authority shall only be exercised with authority from this House and only to the extent permitted by this House and I shall fully and without question or condition submit to the will of this August House.

As I conclude, Hon. Members, I also wish to thank the County Assembly Service under the leadership of the Clerk of the County Assembly, Mr. Elijah Mutambuki, for a job well done and for making this day a success. It is my sincere hope that greatness lies ahead and that we shall endeavour to always and in unison reach for it.

God bless you. God bless Kitui County Assembly. God Bless Kitui County.

Thank you!

(Applause)

Hon. Members, allow me to recognize the presence of our Governor, His Excellency Dr. Julius Makau Malombe who is in the Speaker’s gallery. Bwana Governor *Karibu sana*. I also

Disclaimer: *The electronic version of the Official Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor, through the Clerk, County Assembly of Kitui.*

recognize the presence of our Deputy Governor, H.E, Augustin Wambua Kanani. Thank you, Deputy Governor. Next Order.

ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Now Hon. Members, we are proceeding to the next order of business being the election of the Deputy Speaker. In this process, the Clerk of the Assembly shall be the Returning Officer and shall oversee the election and once concluded, he shall announce the results upon which he shall declare the Deputy Speaker elect. I now direct the Clerk to give guidance on how the election of the Deputy Speaker shall be conducted.

I also want to remind the candidates to the office of the Deputy Speaker that they are allowed to take part in the election and vote just like any Member of the County Assembly.

Clerk of the County Assembly (Mr. E.M.A Mutambuki): Hon. Members, allow me to guide you through our next business which is the election of the Deputy Speaker.

Hon. Members, the County Governments Act under Section 9(a) provides that each County Assembly shall have a deputy Speaker elected by the County Assembly from amongst persons who are members of the County Assembly in accordance with the respective County Assembly's Standing Orders.

Hon. Members, pursuant to the provisions of Article 194 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, as read with Section 11A of the County Governments Act, the office of the Deputy Speaker falls vacant by operation of law.

Hon. Members, Standing Order 14(1) and 14(4) in guiding the process of the election of the Deputy Speaker provide the following:

Standing order 14(1) provides that; *“As soon as practicable after the election of the Speaker following a General Election, a deputy Speaker shall be elected.”*

And Standing Order 14(4) on the other hand provides that; *“The procedure for electing a deputy Speaker shall, with necessary modifications, be the same as that prescribed for the election of the Speaker.”*

Hon. Members, in compliance with the above provisions of the law, please allow me to take you through the sequence of events that have led us to today's event.

i. Upon notifying of the first sitting of the County Assembly of Kitui by H.E. the Governor, Kitui County, we notified this fact through newspapers and invited interested parties to collect from the office of the Clerk and resubmit their nomination papers for election to the office of the deputy Speaker of County Assembly of Kitui.

ii. That a total number of two (2) nomination papers were returned to the office of the Clerk of Assembly duly completed by respective candidates.

iii. That we maintained a register of the applications which register was closed 48 hours to the date of election of the deputy Speaker pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 5(2).

iv. That we went through the nomination papers after which we prepared a list of the qualified candidates and put together their *Curriculum Vitae*. The threshold for shortlisting candidates was based on the filling and completing of the nomination papers.

v. That the list of the qualified candidates together with their credentials were distributed to all the Members of the County Assembly and publicized through the County Assembly website.

Hon. Members, the following are the candidates who met the qualifications in this case: -

Disclaimer: *The electronic version of the Official Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor, through the Clerk, County Assembly of Kitui.*

- 1) Hon. Nzioka Christopher Nzilu
- 2) Hon. Mulandi Benjamin Ndambu

Hon. Members, Standing Order No. 6 provides that the election of the Deputy Speaker shall be by secret ballot. Further, Standing Order Nos. 6 through 11 lays down the procedure for election of the deputy Speaker which I hereby highlight:

i. That the Clerk shall at the commencement of each ballot: - Cause the ballot box, empty and unlocked, to be displayed to the County Assembly and in the presence of the candidates' agents; and in the presence of the County Assembly and the candidates' agents, lock the box, which shall thereafter be kept in the full view of the County Assembly until the conclusion of the ballot.

ii. That the Clerk shall issue not more than one ballot paper to each Member who wishes to vote.

iii. The Member shall proceed to the booth on the Speaker's right for that purpose and while there, mark the ballot paper by placing a mark in the space opposite the name of the candidate for whom the Member wishes to vote.

iv. The member shall fold the marked ballot paper before leaving the booth or area and place the folded ballot paper in the ballot box.

v. A Member who, before the conclusion of a ballot has marked a paper in error may, by returning it to the Clerk, obtain another in its place and the Clerk shall immediately cancel and destroy the paper so returned.

vi. At the close of the voting process, the Clerk shall unlock the box, examine the ballot papers and, having rejected those unmarked or spoilt, report the results of the ballot; and no Member who has not already recorded his or her vote shall be entitled to do so after the Clerk has unlocked the ballot box.

vii. A ballot paper is spoilt, if in the Clerk's opinion, it does not identify the candidate purported to be selected by the Member voting. The Clerk shall declare a ballot paper to be invalid in the presence of and after inspection by the Members representing each of the candidates in the election.

Hon. Members, a person shall not be elected as Deputy Speaker, in the first ballot, unless that person is supported in a ballot by two-thirds of all Members, which in our case is 38 Members.

Hon. Members, if no candidate is supported by two-thirds of all Members, the candidate or candidates who received the highest number of votes in the first ballot and the candidate or candidates who received the second highest number of votes shall stand for election in a further ballot until one candidate obtains more votes than the others.

The candidate who receives the highest numbers of votes in the further ballot shall be declared the elected deputy Speaker.

Hon. Members, at the conclusion of the ballot, the Clerk together with the agents of the respective candidates shall sign the vote confirmation form after which the Clerk shall proceed and announce the winner. If the threshold shall not have been achieved, the Assembly shall proceed for a further ballot and that process shall be repeated until a deputy Speaker is elected.

Hon. Members, in the event that any of you requires any clarification, do not hesitate to consult me or any staff of the County Assembly within the chamber.

(Consultations)

Disclaimer: *The electronic version of the Official Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor, through the Clerk, County Assembly of Kitui.*

Hon. Members, I request agents for the two candidates, that is Hon. Mwende Solomon, and Hon. Kasungi to occupy the seats on my right. I remind you that there are no changes to the election of the Deputy Speaker. We will follow the same process as that for the election of the Speaker. The winner must get two thirds of the votes at the first ballot failure to which we will repeat the process until one of the candidates gets more votes than the other.

Hon. Members, I confirm that everything is ready for the process of electing the Deputy Speaker. Madam Deputy Clerk proceed please.

(The Members were issued with ballot papers and started voting)

Clerk of the County Assembly (Mr. E.M.A Mutambuki): Hon. Speaker, Hon. Members we are inching close to conclusion of the exercise. I earlier said that the Standing Orders allows those present and willing to vote to do so and also those present and not willing not to vote. Voting is optional. I am now calling upon Hon. Members present and willing to vote but have not been accorded a chance to vote to please come forward and vote.

(Silence)

It seems that all Hon. Members present and willing to vote have done so. We can now proceed to the next stage which is counting of the votes. My register indicates that the total registered voters are 57 but those who have voted are 56. One member has not voted and I will just assume that, that member is present but not willing to vote. The law allows him/her to do so. Hon. Members, I now call upon the presiding officers to unlock the ballot box for verification and counting of the votes. Agents you can move nearer to witness the process.

(The Clerks-at-the-Table opened the ballot box and proceeded to verify and count the votes)

Hon. Members allow me to announce the results of the just concluded elections of the Deputy Speaker;

Spoilt votes-	0
Total valid votes –	56
Total votes cast –	56

This is the performance of the candidates;

- 1) Hon. Benjamin Ndambu Mulandi – 11 Votes
- 2) Hon. Christopher Nzilu Nzioka – 45 Votes

I do hereby call upon the Hon. Speaker to declare and swear in the new Deputy Speaker of the County Assembly of Kitui.

*(The Speaker accordingly declared Mr. Hon. Christopher Nzilu Nzioka **elected** Deputy Speaker of the County Assembly)*

The Speaker (Hon. Katisya): Thank you Mr. Clerk. I Kevin Kinengo Katisya, Speaker of Kitui County Assembly, do declare that Hon. Christopher Nzilu Nzioka is the newly elected Deputy Speaker of the County Assembly of Kitui. I request the proposer and the seconder of the deputy Speaker-elect to present him for administration of oath.

(Hon. Christopher Nzilu Nzioka was escorted to the podium and presented to the Speaker)

(On arrival, the Speaker thereupon administered the Oath of Allegiance to the Deputy Speaker -elect, Hon. Christopher Nzilu Nzioka)

(Applause)

Thank you and congratulations *Mheshimiwa*. I think I can give you two minutes to address the House after you have signed the Oath book.

Clerk of the County Assembly (Mr. E.M.A Mutambuki): Hon. Members as the deputy Speaker signs the Oath book, allow me to direct that the ballot papers be collected and sealed for safe custody.

(The ballot papers were collected and sealed)

The Speaker (Hon. Katisya): Hon. Deputy Speaker you can now address the House from where you are for two minutes, please.

Hon. Nzioka (Deputy Speaker): Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir for giving me an opportunity to address the House. Thank you, Hon. Members, for being the representatives of the people of Kitui County and trusting me to serve in this House as the Deputy Speaker.

I will assist the Speaker in fulfilling and delivering his mandate to this House. The Members' in their wisdom saw it wise that the position of the deputy Speaker be occupied by one of the elected Members who will effectively represent their interests in the speakers' panel. I promise to discharge my duties with equality and without fear or favour to ensure that justice is served to all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you very much Hon. Members.

The Speaker (Hon. Katisya): Thank you Hon. Deputy Speaker. Hon. Members, please allow me to graciously invite you to a speaker's luncheon to be held in the dome tent within the County Assembly precincts immediately after this session. But before that, please join me for a short photo session outside the chamber.

(There being no further business)

Hon. Members please now be upstanding for us to adjourn the House.

(The Members stood up in their places)

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Members, the House now stands adjourned to reconvene at this County Assembly chamber on Tuesday 11th October 2022 at 9.00 a.m.

The County Assembly rose at 4:11 p.m.