

**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**  
**KITUI COUNTY ASSEMBLY**  
**THIRD ASSEMBLY- FIRST SESSION**  
**OFFICIAL REPORT**  
**(THE HANSARD)**

Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022

*The House met in the County Assembly Chambers at 9:36 a.m.*

*[The Speaker (Hon. Kevin K. Katisya)] in the Chair*

**PRAYERS**

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR**

COMMUNICATION AS RELATES TO THE ADDITIONAL MEMBERSHIP TO THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE AMENDED MOTION ON THE INSECURITY CAUSED BY THE CAMEL HERDERS IN THE SOUTH KITUI GAME RESERVE TO THE RESIDENTS OF MUTHA WARD IN KITUI SOUTH CONSTITUENCY.

**The Speaker:** Honourable Members, in lieu of the communication I made yesterday during the afternoon sitting on the Membership of the Ad hoc committee, I wish to inform the House on the additional Membership to the aforesaid Committee as follows;

1. Hon. Zacchaeus Syengo
2. Hon. Cornelius Kiteme
3. Hon. Ciambutra Karigi
4. Hon. Mary Ndumbu

Honourable Members, the Ad-hoc Committee is required under Standing Order No. 192A (6) to elect a chairperson, I there direct the Committee Members to undertake the exercise within two days so that they can immediately deliberate on the task before them.

Next order.

**MOTIONS**

MOTION ON APPROVAL OF THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY  
ANNUAL CALENDAR FOR THE FIRST SESSION 2022  
*(Leader of the Majority Party, Hon.Harrison Maluki Mawia)*

**The Speaker:** Is there anyone representing the Majority Leader?

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*(Hon. (Ms.) Kalenga rose in her place)*

Yes Hon. Kalenga. I hope you are a member of the House Business Committee.

*(Hon (Ms.) Kalenga answered in the affirmative)*

Okay. Please proceed.

**Hon. (Ms.) Kalenga:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I beg to move the Motion on approval of the County Assembly annual calendar for the first session, 2022;

THAT, pursuant to the provisions of County Assembly Standing Orders 25 (1) and 151 (5a), this County Assembly do hereby approves the County Assembly annual calendar for the first session, 2022 as attached to the motion.

Hon. Members when you check the documents that you were issued with this morning, there is a House calendar attached. I request that we move together as I take you through.

*(Hon. (Ms.) Kalenga took Members through the attached calendar)*

Hon. Members, this calendar was prepared and approved by the County Assembly House Business Committee and I am urging each and every member present to approve this calendar so that you may give us time to work within the set timeframes.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to move and call upon Hon. Member for Kauwi, Hon. Gabriel Munyao to second the motion. Thank you.

**Hon. Munyao:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I rise to second the motion on approval of the County Assembly annual calendar that we did approve as a committee last week.

Mr. Speaker Sir, we have prepared a calendar that a schedule of all our plenary sittings and therefore each and every sitting has been factored in the calendar. We have also indicated the weeks where the Assembly will not be action. We have also ensured that there is timely and orderly consideration of legislative matters. However, Mr. Speaker Sir, this calendar can be amended when a need arises. So, this document is not cast on stone since we may at times encounter unavoidable circumstances/events which may call for modifications to the calendar.

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

*(Question Proposed)*

**The Speaker:** Hon. Members, I will allow for deliberations from you, utmost two minutes for any member who wants to contribute before I put the question.

Yes Hon. Paul Maluki, member for Kithumula/Kwa Mutonga.

**Hon. Maluki:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I rise to support the motion on approval of the calendar as it has been moved. I do request members to approve the calendar so that we can go on with the normal business of the House. I know it may not be detailed but it captures all areas that need to be captured either by majority or the minority or even from individual members. We took our time as a team, the House Business Committee to prepare the calendar and I know it means well to everyone.

Mr. Speaker Sir, in the 68 days that we will be in recess, I know we will be having Committee sittings, a time which members will be able to attend the sittings and possibly be trained

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on committee work. This means that the members will be engaged in various activities and we will as well have time to mingle with our voters.

With those few remarks Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to support the motion. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Thank you Mheshimiwa. You seem to be concerned about the 68 days recess but you have elaborated well and your colleagues must be satisfied. I can see Hon. Mwamisi Dominic and then Hon. Bernard Sila.

**Hon. Mwamisi:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I stand to support this calendar as drawn by the House Business Committee. I wish to congratulate them for doing it in a perfect way and in a very short time. I know as you did it, you knew what we wanted to discuss especially the matters that are affecting us. I can see it has provided us with 68 good days for us to interact with the electorates who are our employers. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Thank you Mheshimiwa for your input. I can see the 68 days recess is a point of interest but remember that a special sitting can be called under any circumstance. Hon. Sila.

**Hon. Sila:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I rise to support and request members to approve this calendar. As my friend, Hon. Maluki has articulated, that we were members of this Committee and we did very broad considerations before coming up with the calendar. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Thank you Mheshimiwa. Any other member? I would like to hear comments from members who are not part of the House Business Committee. I can see Hon. (Ms.) Rose Kathoka and Hon. Waziri.

**Hon. (Ms.) Kathoka:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I stand to support the motion and I request my fellow Hon. Members to support it. The calendar is well planned and organised. Thank you.

**Hon. Waziri:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. It is long overdue as members of this House, we have been wondering how we are going to work since we have had no business. Members have been complaining that we only come here to hear next order, next order. I think now that House Business Committee which is the mother of all Committees has done a good job. For the members who thought that the 68 days recess is a period of us hanging around our electorates and family members, they now know that it is not. We should take this as a training period. We need to do a lot because most of us are new in most of the committees and a lot has to be done. I therefore request that all the members approve the motion and be ready to learn whenever the office of the Speaker or that of the Clerk calls upon us to go and do the necessary. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Thank you Mheshimiwa Waziri. Any other member who wants to contribute?

*(Question put and agreed to)*

Next order

**MOTION ON GOVERNOR’S ADDRESS**  
*(Deputy Leader of Majority Party, Hon.Mbuno)*

**Hon. Mbuno:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I beg to move the motion on Governor’s Address;

THAT, Pursuant to the provisions of Standing order number 20 (5), “The Thanks of the County Assembly be recorded for the exposition of public policy contained in the Address of the Governor”.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I wish to state that the Governor addressed this very House and, in his Address, he mentioned something called transforming the current ECDE teachers....

**The Speaker:** Hon. Mbuno, you have no option but to read the entire address. You are now the acting Governor, read the entire Address.

**Hon. Mbuno:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. Much obliged. This is the Address by the Governor;

**H.E, DR. JULIUS MAKAU MALOMBE’S INAUGURAL SPEECH DURING  
THE OPENING OF THE THIRD KITUI COUNTY ASSEMBLY ON 11<sup>TH</sup>  
OCTOBER 2022.**

H.E. Deputy Governor, Hon. Speaker, Hon. Members of Parliament, Hon. Senator, Hon. Members of County Assembly, Members of the Press, Fellow Kitui Citizens, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to join you today during this auspicious occasion of the opening of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Kitui County Assembly. Please accept my warm congratulations on your much deserved victory - a victory that has now propelled you to a position of leadership at a time when the public expectation is high. I also extend my congratulations to Special Elected Members, commonly referred to as “Nominated Members” for their nominations by their respective political parties to serve the people of Kitui.

Similarly, I sincerely wish to congratulate Hon. Members of this Assembly for electing Hon. Kevin Kinengo as the second Speaker of the County Assembly and Hon. Christopher Nzilu as the Deputy Speaker.

From the very onset, Mr. Speaker and Hon. Members of the County Assembly, allow me to wish all the members good health and success as we jointly embark on our new responsibilities. I look forward to a harmonious and productive working relationship between the County Executive and the County Assembly that will deliver development and prosperity to our people. Working together, we have the ability and capacity to unlock the unexploited huge potential of our great County.

Indeed, most of you in this Chamber have, just like me, walked this political journey to get to where we are today. The Kitui electorate have trusted us with leadership and are looking upon us to plan and implement development projects that address their desires, hopes and aspirations.

I am particularly thrilled by the composition of the County Assembly, where we have a mixture of both youthful and older and experienced members, some of whom have served this Assembly and the people of Kitui in the past, and earned the confidence of the electorate .....

*(Hon. Maluki stood in his place)*

**The Speaker:** Yes Hon. Maluki, what is your point of concern?

**Hon. Maluki:** Mr. Speaker, I am just concerned about this speech which is being read to this House by the Deputy Majority Leader. This speech was delivered to this House by the Governor himself, it is recorded in the Hansard and when the motion was first tabled to this Assembly yesterday, members were served with copies of the speech. I wanted to know whether the deputy leader of the majority party can just table the motion because we have the document....

**The Speaker:** Thank you we have heard you Mheshimiwa. You may have your seat. Mheshimiwa Mbuno continue.

**Hon. Mbuno:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, I wish to continue from where I had stopped, page two of twenty-eight, paragraph three.

Indeed, most of you in this Chamber have, just like me, walked this political journey to get to where we are today. The Kitui electorate have trusted us with leadership and are looking upon us to plan and implement development projects that address their desires, hopes and aspirations.

I am particularly thrilled by the composition of the County Assembly, where we have a mixture of both youthful and older and experienced members, some of whom have served this Assembly and the people of Kitui in the past, and earned the confidence of the electorate and have been voted to serve for another five years.

Even those who are in the youth age bracket of 18-35 years are also bringing their valued individual leadership experiences including as student and community leaders that will be beneficial in the discharge of the County Assembly's and Ward representative responsibilities.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, we all appreciate that the election is now behind us. Ahead of us now is the critical responsibility to reclaim our County's lost glory. In the last five years, no tangible and visible development has been undertaken to meaningfully uplift our people's livelihoods. We have inherited a sad state of affairs. Hospitals had no drugs. Pending bills including legal liabilities had been allowed to accumulate to unsustainable levels. Staff salaries delayed, sometimes in excess of a month or beyond. Skewed and inequitable development where some County Wards never had any meaningful projects undertaken for the last five years, including denial of graders and other machinery for road works, agricultural and water works.

Machinery, vehicles including ambulances, were not maintained as required. County roads got dilapidated owing to lack of maintenance. Street and security lights were vandalized in our major towns and market centres. Market cleaners and community health volunteers were laid off without corresponding measures being undertaken for delivery of the services they were rendering.

The wage bill has exceeded the 35% legal requirement specified under the Public and Finance Management Act 2012. Corruption allegations have been publicly levelled against County staff, including the County Public Service Board thus diminishing the County's credibility, image and bankability. Lack of genuine public participation on crucial issues such as initiation and management of County public entities.

Apparent misguided investments, coupled with poor and inept management for County entities such as the ballast crusher at Kwa Kilui in Yatta/Kwa Vonza Ward, the Kitui County

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Textile Centre (KICOTEC), Kitui Food Industry (*reportedly for making tomato paste, tomato sauce, kaluvu etc*), the Kitui Pharma Industry (*launched supposedly to make sanitizers, antiseptics, hand washing soap, formalin, and methylated spirits, etc*), Kitui Youth Industry in Manyenyoni (*purportedly launched to produce cabros, interlocking bricks, culverts etc*) and Livestock Transportation Trucks, among others.

Mr. Speaker and Hon. Members, in a nutshell, we are inheriting a County that is in dire straits and whose public reputation and financial status is at an all-time low. As they say, the ball is right in our court as leaders. We have to devise ways of addressing the inherent challenges and turn around the fortunes of our County and her people. I shall, in my Speech to this August House, suggest some of the strategies that we can adopt to salvage the situation and improve the functionality, standing and reliability of our county in providing an enabling and sustainable socio-economic environment and the delivery of basic services to our citizens.

These will include, but not limited to, accountable revenue generation, responsible planning, budgeting and expenditure, equitable development across the County, rationalization of casuals and contracted staff with a view to reducing the unsustainably huge wage bill, staff welfare and motivation through timely payment of salaries, allowances and remission of pensions, NHIF, NSSF and other statutory deductions, recruitment of qualified and competent staff, training and capacity building, inculcating a culture of efficiency, integrity and zero-tolerance to corruption in service delivery, prompt and non-discriminative payment to suppliers and contractors, pre-public investments viability assessments, strategic partnerships with the national government, development partners, private sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society, academia, as well as structured and meaningful public participation.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, the County Executive has reorganized the FY 2022/2023 budget approved by the previous County Assembly in order to accommodate new developmental priorities following the change of Government and high post - election expectations of our people. The County's overall resource envelope stands at Kshs 12.379 Billion. This comprises of Development budget amounting to Kshs 3.981 Billion (*Which represents thirty two per cent –32% of the total resource envelope*) and Recurrent Budget of Kshs 8.398 Billion (*Which represents sixty eight percent – 68% of the total resource envelope*). Further, the recurrent budget contains Personnel Emoluments of Kshs 4.890 Billion (*which represents forty per cent 40% of the total resource envelope*) and Operations & Maintenance budget of Kshs 3.508 Billion (*Which represents twenty eight per cent -28% of the total resource envelope*).

In addition, the total revenue budget contains equitable share amounting to Kshs 10.394 Billion, Grants totaling to Kshs. 467 Million, Own Source Revenue adding to Kshs 400 Million and a revote of Kshs 1.118 Billion (*This is broken down into County Executive Revote of Ksh 973 Million and Kshs 144 Million for the County Assembly*).

With respect to the status of county Human Resources, Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, the County Government of Kitui has a workforce comprising 4,061 Permanent and pensionable staff and 1,839 casuals. This excludes ECDE teachers, County Entities as well as County Assembly staff. The proportion of County Casuals to Permanent Staff stands at 45%. This proportion of casuals to permanent staff is relatively too high and unsustainable. My administration has put in place measures to control the rising percentage of the casuals 'vis a vis' the permanent staff. Failure to do this will lead the County into ballooning wage bill which will deplete the budgetary allocation for development.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, the total number of Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) teachers is 2,401 and we are programming to place them on Permanent and Pensionable terms soon after Supplementary Budget I is approved by the County Assembly and the necessary human resource processes are completed.

Mr. Speaker Sir, on the amounts paid as salaries commonly referred to as the wage bill - this currently stands at Kshs 4.890 Billion - *which translates to forty per cent - 40% of the total county revenue of Kshs 12.379 Billion.* Mr. Speaker, it is noteworthy the Public Finance Management (County Governments) Regulation, 25(1) (b), sets a limit of the county government's expenditure on wages and benefits at thirty-five per cent – 35% of the County's total revenue. Hence, the high percentage of the wage bill eats into the proportion of the development budget and in the long run it will be unsustainable leading to non-compliance with Section 107(2) (b) of the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act, 2012. The Public Finance Management (PFM) Act, 2012 provides that over the medium term, a minimum of thirty per cent – 30% of the County Government's budget shall be spent on development programmes.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, the county assets include land and offices, motor vehicles, plant and equipment, furniture and fittings, ICT equipment, computers and computer accessories, intangibles (software), heritage and cultural assets.

To mention but a few, Kitui County owns the following asset categories, which will later be submitted to the County Assembly in due course as required by Assumption of the Office of the Governor Act, 2019 on Land and Offices, the County Government of Kitui owns a total land size of 21,961 Hectares occupied by offices, markets, vocational training centres, water parcels, agricultural parcels, ranches, stadia and playgrounds. The largest parcels of this total Hectares is Kanyonyoo Yatta B2 which has 9,351.88 Hectares and Katoteni with 12,221.5 Hectares. Further, Mwingi Leasehold has 4,812 Plots and Kitui Leasehold 17,378 Plots.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, the public land in Manyenyoni in Kitui Township ward was placed under caveat by the former Kitui Municipal Council sometime in 2009 due to unprocedural and massive double allocations. The caveat that no development should continue other than government offices still stands. However, the land has been encroached by the initial allottees who were allocated parcels by the defunct County Council of Kitui. Details of the same were captured in Land Taskforce Report in 2014.

On Motor Vehicles, the County owns a total of 140 vehicles and 233 motorcycles. Out of the 140 vehicles, only 76 are operational. Of the 233 motor cycles, 127 are functional while 106 are grounded. Concerning Agricultural Machinery, the County has 41 Farm Tractors, 1 Low loader, 3 Excavators, 1 Wheel Loader, 1 Cat Crawler, 2 Tippers, 2 Backhoe Loaders 40 Disk Ploughs, 11 CMC Trailers, 5 Planters and 4 Disc Harrows.

On Roads Machinery, the county owns 1 Bull Dozer, 9 Graders, 2 backhoes, 1 Single Roller Vibrator, 1 Wheel Loader and 4 Tippers for purposes of road construction. Water Equipment comprises 2 drilling rig sets, while Livestock Trucks are 5 in total.

Mr. Speaker, I intent to constitute a Team to rationalize the status of machinery in the county, to assess and recommend those that can be repaired for use and the obsolete to be disposed in line with the Public Procurement and Assets Disposal Act, 2015.

On Health, the County owns 46 ambulances where only 22 are functional. In addition, there are 3 Mobile Clinic Trucks and 37 Utility Vehicles, of which only 12 are operational. The County has a total of 306 Health facilities, of which 14 are Level IV Hospitals, 56 are health centres and 236 are dispensaries.

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We have 48 Vocational Training Centres/Village Polytechnics. Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members currently, the County does not have any existing loans and/or overdrafts. However, the County has pending bills amounting to Kshs 2.445 Billion. Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, this amount has been budgeted for in the Supplementary Budget (I) that we will be submitting to the County Assembly soon. These pending bills shall form the first charge of the County budget FY 2022/2023 as stipulated under Regulation 41 of the PFMA, 2015 (Counties). Details of the said pending bills have been captured in the Assumption of the Office of the Governor Committee Report that will also be submitted to the County Assembly by the Chairman of the Committee.

Besides the pending bills mentioned above, the county has Legal Liabilities amounting to Kshs.448.952M being court and arbitration awards made in favour of various parties. Mr. Speaker, there is an additional Contingent Liabilities amounting to Kshs.275.898M comprising mainly of unremitted KRA taxes and interests. Details have also been captured in the Assumption of the Office of the Governor Committee Report.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, based on the above factors, the County Executive has prepared and will be submitting FY 2022/2023 Supplementary Budget I, with key focus on settlement of pending bills, initiating completion of abandoned and stalled projects as part of the first 100-days interventions as outlined in my Inaugural Speech.

To address the upsurge of pending bills due to unrealized own source revenue, the County Executive has revised approved projected own-source revenue for the current financial year, FY 2022/2023 from Kshs 600 million to Kshs 400 million based on the actual average county revenue collection for the last 5 years.

#### PROPOSED 5-YEAR TRANSFORMATION AGENDA 2022-2027

Having said all that, Hon. Members, now allow me to quickly run you through my 100-days interventions and my 16-Sector priorities in my Manifesto.

My administration has prioritized key developmental initiatives in the next 100 days which are a necessary and essential dose in the revival of our economy and the rekindling of our hopes and aspirations. These include:

1. A County Stock taking/mapping exercise: This exercise is intended to facilitate an in-depth and clear appreciation of the county financial status including bank balances, human resource status including outstanding staff salaries, inventory of county asset and pending bills and other contractual commitments, review and ascertainment of the report of the Assumption of Office of Governor as per committee report.
2. Completion of abandoned projects: We will prioritize and complete abandoned projects, including but not limited to the following:
  - a. Kangu Kangu water project that was to benefit over 100,000 people in Kitui South.
  - b. Incomplete ECDE classrooms such as at Ciokereke in Tseikuru Ward as well others in other Wards, whose completion was ignored by the outgoing administration.
  - c. Outpatient hospitals facilities in various Sub-Counties like Mutomo, Zombe etc.
  - d. Grading and culverting of neglected County access roads including the rehabilitation of farm and road construction machinery
  - e. Leveling of schools' playing fields
  - f. Operationalization and equipping of maternity hospitals in various Sub-Counties.

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- money circulation and stimulation of the otherwise dormant rural and urban economies across the entire Kitui County.
15. Reinstatement of cleaners in Towns and Market Centres: Cleaners in county towns and market centers that were sacked by the outgoing regime will be reinstated and the number be increased to cater for new markets.
  16. Rehabilitation of Streets and Security Lighting: Systematic rehabilitation of street lighting and security lighting including *Mulika Mwizi* in our principal and medium-level towns, as well as in our market centers.
  17. Dumpsites and Slaughter Houses' Siting and Relocation: Initiate a participatory and consultative framework on the:
    - a. Sighting and relocation of dumpsites in our towns
    - b. Siting and relocation of county slaughter houses located in major towns.
  18. Provision of decent working environment for hawkers and pavement traders: Consultative framework to initiate a participatory and consultative dialogue framework aimed at the provision of decent working environments and structures for the protection of hawkers and pavement street vendors from vagaries of weather, such as rainfall and scorching sun. This will be achieved without their displacement and adverse compromising of the livelihoods of operators in this sector.
  19. Recovery of MSMEs taxation grace period: To allow micro and small businesses to recover from the adverse business effects occasioned by Covid-19 pandemic and the 2022 August post-election economic slowdown: Kitui County levies and fees will be waived for six months for traders and businesses falling under this category. The impact of the loss of revenue to the County Government arising from this measure is more than outweighed by the employment and multiplier economic effects accruing to the broader County economy. Initiate the process of land adjudication, survey and titling at Mwakini Settlement Scheme.
  20. Initiate the process for acquisition of land, planning, design and construction of the Nzamba Kitonga Memorial Hospital in Mutito/Kaliku
  21. Initiate construction of Modern market shed - Katothya Market
  22. Initiate construction of a polytechnic at Katothya Market
  23. Tarmacking of 1.2 kilometers of Kitui Showground access road, including exit section adjoining main road from the Showground.
  24. Acquisition of land outside Kitui Town to relocate slaughter house
  25. Initiate Thitani Dispensary Electrification and installation of two coolers at the Morgue
  26. Initiate process for land acquisition and development of stadia at Kyoani in Kitui South and Kivou/Waita in Mwingi Central.
  27. Initiate the construction of market sheds, public toilets and solar lighting at Katothya Market.
- Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, some of the key programmes captured in the Supplementary Budget I that will address high post-election expectations include:
1. Community Level Infrastructure Development Programme (CLIDP): Kshs.400M (Kshs.10M per Ward plus 3% - 12.3M Admin Cost)
  2. Pro-Poor Support Programme - Kshs.120M; (72% - Kshs.86.4M bursaries, 25% - Kshs.30M infrastructure, 3% - Kshs.3.6M admin. cost)
  3. County Assembly Car Loan and Mortgage Scheme - Kshs.235M; (Revote Kshs.144M; Kshs.91M in the County Assembly Car Loan and Mortgage Fund Account).

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members I wish to bring to your attention that Kitui County Assembly Car Loans and Mortgage Scheme Fund was allocated Kshs 140 million in FY 2013/2014. Further, the County Treasury has considered a revote to County Assembly amounting to Kshs.144 million from unspent budgets for the concluded FY 2021/2022 as per County Allocation on Revenue Act, 2021 Section 11. The revote of Kshs.144 million, plus County Assembly's car loans and mortgage fund account balances of KSh.91 million should be sufficient to cater for the Members car loans and mortgages.

It is worth to note that due to the financial constraints, the county executive will not be able to provide for car loans and mortgages for its staff in this financial year 2022/2023 but it will endeavour to provide the same in FY 2023/2024 and in subsequent financial years.

4. County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2023 -2027 – The plan will provide an overall framework for development and be the basis for sub-plans and policies that will inform the 16 sector priorities outlined in our Vision and Agenda for The Development and Transformation of Kitui County. This will be achieved through a consultative public participation approach.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, the people of Kitui elected us into office based on the Manifestos and the promises we shared with them during the electioneering period. Realization of the promises made requires careful constitution and re-organization of government.

In this regard, I have decided on the structure of my government that I believe shall serve us satisfactorily in the fulfilment of the said promises. I will later in my Speech give highlights of the ministerial portfolios and departments that I have settled on.

At this juncture, Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, allow me to outline key sectors for the actualization of our developmental vision. Choice of the priority sectors took cognizance of the functions assigned to County governments by the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 and our 2022 – 2027 Manifesto. In crafting the Manifesto, we took account of the expressed developmental desires of our people across the entire County. They for example indicated to us their desire for a functional and accessible health sector manned by courteous staff and with availability of drugs. They also indicated their desire to have a vibrant and robust public health system with promotive and preventive health services that are provided by trained community health workers.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members the people also indicated their desire to have clean and safe drinking water for domestic purposes and sufficient water for their livestock. They underscored the need for food security and nutrition for their families. They also indicated their desire for a well-functioning basic education sector, including ECDE, village polytechnics, vocational centres with adequate classrooms, teaching materials for learners, as well as the timely payment of teachers' salaries and improvement of their terms of service.

They wanted paved roads and dustless towns and market centres, street and security lighting, market sheds, public toilets in market centres and boda-boda sheds. They expressed their desire for support to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), including facilitation to access finance and markets, moderate taxation and conducive business environments that are clean and offer protection from extreme hot and rainy weather conditions. The people also indicated their desire for opening and maintenance of access roads, drifts, culverts, storm drains, etc.

Mr. Speaker, in a nutshell, it is these desires expressed by our people, to me as Governor, Deputy Governor and Members of County Assembly that have inspired the County Development Priorities outlined in the following 16-Sector Agenda:

*1. Agriculture:* We intent to roll out a robust programme on agricultural extension services to the grassroots. We are going to have two well-maintained and managed farm tractors for each

ward. Regular training of farmers on modern farming and agribusiness and establishment of viable livestock trade centres in each ward.

2. *Water Provision:* Cognizant of the fact that our county is water insecure and is among the counties being ravaged by severe drought and famine, my administration is keen to alleviate this problem. Towards this, we are going to put up one mega dam in each sub county, two large dams in each ward, one medium dam in each village and Boreholes in strategic points in each ward/Village.

We also plan to construct 60 sand dams in every ward, that means 2,400 sand dams across the entire county. These interventions are going to address the biting water problem in our county. Consequently, when all this is achieved, we are going to have enough water for domestic use, livestock and even for small scale irrigation at household level.

3. *Health:* – To ensure that our people access quality healthcare, we intent to establish teaching and referral hospital in Kitui town and Mwingi Town. Towards this endeavour also we shall establish Level (iv) hospitals in each sub county, Level (iii) hospitals in each ward, Level (ii) hospitals in each village and modern maternity in each level (ii) and (iii) hospitals. Likewise, there will be an ambulance in every ward

4. *Education:* We plan to construct modern ECDE classrooms in every public primary school. This will afford our children a conducive learning environment during their formative stages. My administration will also collaborate with the national government to improve primary and secondary schools' infrastructure and to install WI-FI in every youth polytechnic.

5. *Urban Development:* Re-installation and maintenance of street lights in urban centres; Installation of solar security lights in each ward headquarters, small and upcoming trading centres, Establishment of refuse collection and re-cycling centres and improving water and sanitation services in each sub-county headquarter and municipalities (solid waste management, water connectivity.)

6. *Roads and Construction:*

We plan to tarmac and grade prioritized county roads and the main streets in ward headquarters and key towns. Key among these is the tarmacking of Kitui Town- Museve- Miambani –Ndithini-Kiviu-Kamandio- Ikoo -Mwanzilu-Nzeluni- Mumbuni- Kalisasi to Mwingi town road;

7. *Trade and Investments:* Operationalization and marketing of the county's six Economic and Investment Zones (EIZs), Organize one Investor Conference within the first 18 months, Reinstate and organize an agricultural and trade fair every year, ensuring safe and environmentally friendly operations at the crusher; establishing annual livestock auction markets in each sub county and Construction of a storage facility in each modern market.

8. *Micro Small and Medium Enterprises:* Installation and maintenance of infrastructure to facilitate 24 hour economic activities (e.g access roads, water and sanitation facilities, street lighting, enhance security, merchandise storage facilities, well-lit merchandise loading and offloading bays, convenient *boda-boda*, taxi and vehicle parking facilities, etc); Facilitation and support in the acquisition of modern working equipment (e.g fabricated kiosks, computerized wheel alignment, hair dressing machines, shavers, carpentry and masonry tools, concrete mixers) and Capacity building on entrepreneurial and business skills (innovation, production, marketing, packaging, branding, distribution, human resource and financial management, Information Communication Technologies, customer relations etc)

9. *Cooperative Societies:* Facilitate registration of cooperatives per sector (honey producers, tailoring and garment making, hide and skins, charcoal producers etc.); Training and

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strengthening of cooperative societies through enforcing self-regulations in the internal operations, administrative guidelines and application of information technology (internal audits and automation of the operations) and Support for and revival of dormant cooperatives through partnerships and capacity building in management, access to finance, production and marketing (honey processing, fruit processing etc.)

*10. Tourism and Hospitality:* Refinement and marketing of a robust and sustainable tourism circuit connecting Kitui county with coastal region and Mount Kenya region; Protection, conservation and erection of entry gates for the South Kitui Game Reserve, Mwingi North game Reserve and the Mutomo Reptile Park and Provide incentives for private sector investors/businesses in the entire hotel and hospitality value chain (through moderate taxation, licensing fees, land rates)

*11. Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities:* Scouting and nurturing of local talents in various fields (athletics, football, acting, music, modelling, drawing and painting among others); Support and facilitate at least one self-help group in each sub-county in the formation of cooperatives in key economic sectors including: *boda-boda*, taxi/pro-box, tailoring, livestock trading, weaving, fruit farmers, poultry farmers, food vendors, hire of events tents, chairs, tables, public address system, bee keepers and honey processors, vegetable vendors, salonists, hawkers, car wash, shoe shiners, mechanics, hotels and restaurants, bar owners, social welfare association.

*PLWD Support of Persons Living with Disabilities (PWDs)* to register with the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD) and with the National Treasury to enable their 5% Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) and Reservation of 30% of the County's budgeted annual procurement opportunities for AGPO women, youth and PWDs. Consideration of youth – both men and women - for county senior level and other employment opportunities. Participation of all youth, women and people living with disabilities in public participation forums.

*12. Boda-Boda Sector:* Establishment of division within the ministry responsible for transport headed and staffed by officers who appreciate the sector and are passionate in the promotion, empowerment and development of the persons operating within the sector.

*13. Environment:* Tree planting in county schools, river banks and county forests; Supporting planting at least 5 trees in each homestead; Training and sensitization on environmental conservation in collaboration with other stakeholders; Implement sustainable charcoal management policy; Sustainable sand harvesting management policy; Formulate and implement a sustainable mineral management policy.

*14. Energy:* Enhance household electricity connection in collaboration with REA, Provision of solar power to off-grid social facilities (schools, hospitals and youth polytechnics), community solar access in partnership with private sector and NGOs, Support community access to green energy (Biogas, Solar, Wind) in partnership with National government, private sector, NGOs, CBOs and Faith Based Organizations.

*15. Information and Communications:* Installation of mobile telephony masts in underserved areas of county in collaboration with mobile service providers; Installation of boosters and modern technologies for improved network coverage and Facilitate access to fibre optic infrastructure and use of digital technology in government offices and private sector entities within Kitui, Mwingi, Kwa-Vonza and other key county urban centres.

*16. Security:* Security and street lighting in the county's towns, market centres and public facilities including hospitals, village polytechnics, administration offices, day care centres ,

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Collaboration with the national government in security enhancement within the location/villages, divisions/ wards, Sub-Counties and in border areas susceptible along the county borders, Operationalization of the County Policing Authority in partnership with the National Government and Installation of CCTV monitors in the county's two municipalities of Kitui and Mwingi in partnership with private sector/business.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, the actualization of the development envisaged under the above sectors will require the County Executive and the County Assembly to work together in the formulation of relevant sectoral policies and enactment of related legislations and regulations.

The County Executive has, in this respect, prioritized formulation of thirty-one (31) sectoral policies, the drafting of eleven (11) Bills, including one (1) Regulation, which we intend to submit to the County Assembly for consideration in the next five years. These will be shared with the County Assembly as soon as each of the policies and legislations are refined.

#### CONSTITUTION AND RE-ORGANIZATION OF GOVERNMENT

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, in order for us to actualize the outlined development agenda, we need to constitute a government which is aligned to the 16 identified sectors and recruit qualified and competent men and women. Our work and execution of our mandate will also be guided by certain values and guiding principles. These guiding principles will include:

- a. *Efficient service delivery and an enabling socio-economic environment;*
- b. *Motivated, qualified, and competent staff;*
- c. *Capacity building, staff welfare including timely payment of salaries;*
- d. *Accountable revenue generation and responsible budgeting;*
- e. *Equitable development across the county;*
- f. *Courtesy, respect, and fairness to the people of Kitui;*
- g. *Respect to the rule of law and non-tolerance to corruption;*
- h. *Prompt and non-discriminatory payment to suppliers and contractors; and*
- i. *Affirmative action for Persons with Disabilities, minorities, youth and women and older persons.*

These principles should be embraced by all of us – including the County Executive, the County Assembly, the County Public Service Board, County entities/Corporations.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members as indicated earlier, I have decided to structure my government in a manner that resonates with both our county *mission* and *vision*.

Mr. Speaker, as a reminder, our *mission* is 'to provide effective services and an enabling environment for inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development and improved livelihoods for all' whilst our county *vision* is 'to be a prosperous county with vibrant rural and urban economies whose people enjoy a high quality of life'.

The structure is organized into 12 ministerial portfolios and departments, including portfolios to be performed under the Office of the Governor, the Deputy Governor and 10 County ministries as provided in the Constitution of Kenya 2010, as follows:

1. Office of the Governor
  - a) Public Service Management & General Administration
  - b) Governor's Service Delivery Unit & Public Communication

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- c) Decentralized Units Service Delivery Coordination
  - 2. Deputy Governor
    - a) Tourism, Hospitality & Game Reserves.
    - b) Performance Contracting, Disaster & Emergency Services
  - 3. Health & Sanitation
    - a) Medical Services
    - b) Drugs and Medical Supplies Management
  - c) Public Health & Sanitation
    - 4. Education, Training & Skills Development
      - a) Basic Education, ECDE & Childcare Facilities
      - b) Polytechnics, Vocational Centres and Homecraft Centres
    - 5. Culture, Gender, Youth, ICT, Sports & Social Services
      - a) Culture, Gender & Social services
      - b) Youth, Sports, ICT and Innovation
    - 6. Trade, Industry, MSMEs, Innovation & Cooperatives
      - a) Trade, Industry, MSMEs & County EIZs
      - b) Cooperatives and Citizen Group Economic Empowerment Initiatives
    - 7. Roads, Public Works & Transport
      - a) Roads & Public Works
      - b) Transport and Boda Boda Sector
    - 8. Lands, Housing & Urban Development
      - a) Lands & Housing
      - b) Urban Development
    - 9. Agriculture & Livestock
      - a) Agriculture and Fisheries
      - b) Livestock Development and Apiculture
    - 10. Water & Irrigation
      - a) Water
      - b) Irrigation
    - 11. Energy, Environment, Forestry, Natural & Mineral Resources
      - a) Environment & Forestry
      - b) Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources
    - 12. Finance, Economic Planning & Revenue Management
      - a) Finance, Revenue Management and Accounting
      - b) Economic Planning & Budgeting

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, I am in the process of identifying for nomination and appointment suitable persons that can serve our people diligently and effectively as County Ministers, once they are successfully vetted by the County Assembly.

For effective service delivery, each department will be headed by a Chief Officer. The posts for Chief Officers have been submitted to the County Public Service Board (CPSB) for advertisement and competitive recruitment of suitable persons. The CPSB has advertised 16 of the portfolios last week and the remaining 10 will appear in the papers this week.

I will, in due course, submit the names to the Assembly for vetting approval. I trust the Assembly will consider the nominees objectively, ethically, fairly and justly. In the meantime, the

County Assembly can utilize the County ministries and departments I have outlined in the formation of County Assembly committees.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members in conclusion, I wish to passionately appeal for unity, cooperation and consultation between the County Executive and the County Assembly in order for us to deliver on the mandate bestowed upon us by the people of Kitui.

Jointly, we should also ensure responsible planning, budgeting, implementation of development projects and programmes, as well as absorption of our budgeted development funds. We will be submitting the FY2022-2023 Supplementary Budget 1 that re-organizes the Budget approved by the outgoing County Executive and County Assembly. This has been done in order for the same to accord with our stated development priorities and the clearance of pending bills as a first charge to our budget as provided for under Regulation 41 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, the County risks non-approval of its budgetary requisitions by the Controller of Budget owing to the non-compliance with the requirement for budgeting and payment of pending bills, resulting in the stalling of County operations and non-payment of staff salaries. I wish, therefore, to appeal to the County Assembly to consider and expedite the approval of the re-organized budget once it is submitted to the Assembly.

We will endeavour to set realistic own-revenue targets and automate the bulk of our revenue streams in order to maximize collections and to meet our set annual revenue targets in our budgets.

Mr. Speaker Sir, we should take the bold and inevitable step of rationalizing and substantially reducing the huge and unsustainable casual complement that has been introduced into the County payroll in the last 5 years effective from 2017, so as to release more funds for development. The Casuals – 1,839 (45%), permanent – 4,061. Proposed reduction to 5%. Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, our county must move away from the counterproductive practice of ignoring promotive and preventive health care. Undue emphasis and disproportionately high allocation of financial resources representing 88.7% of the County health budget have been directed to curative health care, to the detriment of public health services, which receives an allocation of mere 6.2%.

*(Power supply interruption)*

**The Speaker:** Hold on *Mheshimiwa* so that we can organise on the Hansard equipment.

*(Hansard recording resumed)*

You can continue Hon. Mbuno.

**Hon. Mbuno:** Thank you. Mr. Speaker and Hon. Members. We were on page 36 of 38, the last paragraph.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, our county must move away from the counterproductive practice of ignoring promotive and preventive health care. Undue emphasis and disproportionately high allocation of financial resources representing 88.7% of the County health budget have been directed to curative health care, to the detriment of public health services, which receives an allocation of mere 6.2%.

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Prioritization and adequate budgeting for promotive and preventive health care with an allocation of about 35% of the health ministry budget will help decongest health facilities and eventually reduce expenditure on curative health services, including acquisition of pharmaceuticals and non-pharmaceuticals.

In our Supplementary Budget 1, which we will be submitting to the County Assembly soon, we have therefore provided for the reinstatement and utilization of community health volunteers (CHVs) to enable the County to address this need in line with the overwhelming desire of our electorate.

Finally, Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, we have been entrusted by the people of this County to pull it out of the quagmire and hopelessness inflicted by the immediate past regime. Hence, we must unite. And we must work diligently to meet our peoples' developmental needs, hopes and aspirations.

In doing so, we need to continuously consult, cooperate and stay focused on our agenda. Above all, we should always be on the guard and avoid allowing detractors harbouring ulterior personal and even political motives to divide us and divert our attention to irrelevant issues, unnecessary conflicts, fights and squabbles. Allowing diversionary agendas to be thrust in our midst will only serve to undermine our mission to deliver development to our people.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, united, We Shall Triumph! Divided, We Shall All Fall *and* Inevitably, We Shall be Mercilessly Punished by the Electorate in 2027 – and the People Who We May Have Allowed to Mislead Us Into this Political Mess Will Be Nowhere to be Found!

God Bless You All, God Bless Kitui County, God Bless Kenya.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I have highlighted at least two issues from this Address from the Governor and having gone through it, it would wish this Hon. House through your intelligence to consider this Address as one of the best speeches I have ever read in history. This is because the speech not only enumerates problems but it also highlights the solutions to the problems facing our electorates.

I wish to point out on one of the key issues; Health. If this Hon. House works in conjunction with the executive to implement what they have just brought to us in terms of upgrading our health care facilities from level II to teaching institutions, then our people will get the best of medical services. I am just imagining having a modern facility where maternity health care is available. We have a serious challenge down there where our women deliver on their way for lack of maternity wards.

The other issue is about CHVs. We know that there is a shortage of health workers in the Country. The use of these CHVs is very important since these are the people who interact with others on a daily basis and having them in those very local areas, they will transfer knowledge to the locals in terms of sanitation, nutrition and may on seeking medical care because some of our people get pregnant and don't see the need of attending clinics.

In terms of education, I would wish to say that this Address has really helped us to picture out. From the records that I have, 62% of our Kitui people are either illiterate or semi-illiterate. That tells us that investing in education will be a good thing. The Governor has pointed out that his government will invest in ECDE to foster basic education to our children. As a believer in education, I know if we join hands with the Governor on this, we will record a great success and we will be able to proudly and confidently face our electorates in 2027 and win. Again, putting our ECDE teachers on permanent and pensionable terms will boost the morale of our teachers and they will not feel lesser than their counterparts employed by TSC.

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Finally, I will talk about water. Most of us used this as a campaign tool and we promised our people that we will deal address the issue of water scarcity. Looking at the strategies that the Governor has highlighted to arrest this issue water scarcity in the County, then water scarcity is likely to be a thing of the past.

Then finally on the wage bill; I have looked at this and I believe through the Committee on Labour and Social Services, we should have a work audit and investigate on the employments to see if there are unprocedural and unlawful recruitments in the County. And if we find any, then they can be expelled from the system. I therefore urge the Labour Committee to look into the matter and do the necessary.

Thank you so much Hon. Members for listening to me. I also thank you so Mr. Speaker Sir, for what you did in guiding the Hon. Member to pass the security Bill which a believe it is going to help the people along the border and especially those who have suffered bandit attacks.

With those comments, I beg to request Hon. Zack to second the motion.

**Hon. Syengo:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I rise to second the motion as moved by the Deputy Majority Leader on the Governor's Address and also give my input.

Mr. Speaker Sir, upon listening to the Address, we note that we have had five years of slowed infrastructural development, reduced access to water and we can agree that we had less access to advancing water services to our people. This Address gives an opportunity and insights into what Dr. Julius Malombe would like to do in the next five years; to plan for food security, advancing infrastructure development and good plans for our people to access water and better health services.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I rise here to request Hon. Members to join our hands together and join this call for unity in delivering our mandate.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I would personally like to draw our attention to some of the things I found worth noting because yesterday I was allowed to serve in the next five years as the Chairperson of Budget and Appropriations Committee. I want to draw the attention of members to page 19 of the speech.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the plan to have the Community Level Infrastructure Development Program allocated 400 million, we would like to appreciate that and since yesterday, I have listened to feedback from Hon. Members and I would like to register the feedback here in this House that the Hon. Members would like the amount allocated per Ward be increased from 10 million to 30 million so that we can be able to serve our people better. Also on the pro-poor support program, the feedback I am getting from the Hon. Members is that this amount needs to be increased to 240 million so that we may have more people covered in terms of school fees and access to education and we all know what is happening following the challenges which have been occasioned by the fact that CDF is no longer working. It is the voice of the members that the amount allocated to the pro-poor program should be 240 million.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I would also like to bring to the attention of this House concerning the County Assembly Car loan and Mortgages scheme. From the information I have, and I would like to collaborate this with the Hon. Mary Mutune whom we have been working closely, we would require a total of 456 million for the Car re-imburement and the Car loan and Mortgages scheme. Therefore, I think there was a coincidence of numbers, I know numbers can be quite confusing at times and the amount that is required to cover every member of the County Assembly plus the speaker is 456 million. I note from the Governor's Address that we already have 91 million in the accounts and another 130 million which has been budgeted for. So, I would like to register also on

the floor of this House that we would want 235 million allocated in the Supplementary Budget to be able to cover completely the County Assembly Car loan and Mortgages scheme as well as the car re-imburement amount. Mr. Speaker Sir, this is feedback from the members of the County Assembly who have been engaging me and since I was given the responsibility, I would like to make it very clear.

Finally, Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to mention that as a Committee for Budget and Appropriations, we are fully prepared and we are actually waiting for the Budget to be brought to the House. We have been waiting and we are ready prepared to take our mandate and deliver exactly what has been given to us.

Therefore Mr. Speaker Sir, it is my great honour to support the speech by the Governor with those views I have shared. Thank you.

*(Question Proposed)*

**The Speaker:** Hon. Members, at this juncture allow me to direct as follows; that this Address by the Governor just like any other motion, members will have a chance to give their input and debate exhaustively. I thank the members of the House Business Committee because I understand they have allocated four sessions for this particular debate. That is enough time and if there will be need for more time to debate the Address, we will engage the House Business Committee to make a provision to add more time but I think within those four sessions, we will be able to exhaustively debate and give our input to the Address.

Allow me to further say that the Governor's Address is basically a summary of the agenda which the Governor has for the people of Kitui County. As you have read in the Address and allow me to also apologise to the member for Kithumula/Kwa Mutonga who wanted us to take a short cut but I think it was wise for us to read the entire speech again so that we appreciate the Address because in my opinion, we should even read it as many times as possible so that we can debate it from a point of knowledge. I will therefore allow members about five minutes before they debate to make their maiden speech. Remember you have just been elected and you may want to address the members of your Ward. Hon. Musyoka may want to address the people of Nzambani and thank them for electing him, Hon. Waziri may want to address his electorates and may be thank the wiper party for nominating him. I am sure Hon. Mulandi may want to address the people of Mutonguni. I will therefore give the members about five minutes for those who may want to make their maiden speech and then there will be ten minutes utmost for members to give their input on this Address by the Governor.

Allow me to guide and say that you may not give your input on the entire Address, I will advice you to pick a particular portion of the Address just like the way the chairman for budget has done, and research on it. Try to see if it can be aligned to your manifesto because I believe you had your manifesto when you were campaigning. I am sure in your social forums, you can agree on which member addresses which issue and if that is not possible, in case a member gives their input on a particular issue, instead of you repeating it, you may pick another issue or may be add more on what the member has already said so that we avoid repetitions.

From my observation, this address is quite comprehensive and it will require us to research more. As you have heard, the governor will give us his supplementary budget 1 based on this Address and I believe the better we debate it, it will enable us to advise the Committee on budget accordingly. As the member for Endau has said, in the Address, the Governor was highlighting a

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problem and a solution. Perhaps there are areas where we can propose better or more solutions. So, I think in your debate you will make those considerations.

Having said that Hon. Members, I will appreciate full engagement of Members in this debate because it will actually shape our five years in office. You have seen CIDP has been mentioned in the Address and I am sure we are all aware that tomorrow there will be a public participation on the CIDP and I again encourage members to participate in those forums. If you are not able to participate, you can send a representative and for the nominated members you can choose a ward where you can go and participate. It is important for us as an assembly to work with the executive but that does not mean that we be compromised. Let us do our job of representation, oversight and legislation. I have seen the Governor has proposed around 31 policies, seven bills and a regulation which will come. So I think this Address in a nut shell is giving us direction and setting the agenda. So let us take this Address very seriously and I believe the more we debate on it, the more we enhance our work as an Assembly.

Having said that, I will suggest that we adjourn the House at this level and when we resume in the afternoon session, members who will be ready to give their input will do so. But before we adjourn, I can see Hon. Member for Mui has something to say. You can pass the gadget (*Recorder*) to him.

**Hon. Kiteme:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. Before we adjourn the House, I have a point of concern and I thank you for the opportunity to air that concern. We apparently have one supplier of power in this Country and that is Kenya Power and Lighting Company. But we however have institutions and individuals adopting other means of mitigating where Kenya power fails. This Hon. House cannot and will not be held hostage because we have no power. There may be a notice from the supplier but we don't seem to be prepared enough. If I look at my records well, this is probably the second or the third time we are conducting House business without the necessary equipment.

So, Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to humbly request that we adopt other means to mitigate ourselves from situations like these. This may not be the last time that we are finding ourselves in this situation and I request your office to look into this because we may be losing very vital information because of power which in my view is not well addressed. If we were to tell other assemblies in the Country that we have missed some information because we didn't have power, they may not take us seriously. If we tell our electorates that we don't have some records because of lack of power, they may not agree with what we are saying. So Mr. Speaker Sir, I want to put a request that this be addressed and treated with the seriousness that it deserves and the sooner the better. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Thank you Hon. Cornelius Kiteme for that very good and valid concern. Allow me to apologise on behalf of the Board allow me to apologise to the entire House for this particular challenge. I think this is the second time we are facing a similar challenge and it is indeed unfortunate that we are forced to now go the manual way in this 21<sup>st</sup> Century. I will pick up the matter with the board, I will consult with the secretary of the Board, the Clerk of the Assembly on this issue and I believe we will have a long-lasting solution. The House should not be forced to adjourn because of such issues. Sometimes we may be forced to even sit at night. For now, we can appreciate that we are using the sunlight at least to sit, imagine if we were to sit at night and there is no light, will we be using torches to see each other? Or moonlight? You can see Hon. Waziri is using his phone torch. I assure you the board will do what is necessary to ensure you are empowered to undertake your duties.

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At that point let us now be upstanding so that we can adjourn the House.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**The Speaker:** Hon. Members, the House now stands adjourned until this afternoon at 2.30 p.m.

**The County Assembly rose at 11.40 a.m.**