

**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**



**COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KITUI ADDRESS BY:**

**HON. ENOCH KIIO WAMBUA, CBS, MP  
SENATOR, KITUI COUNTY  
SENATE DEPUTY MINORITY LEADER**

**ON WEDNESDAY 1, MARCH 2023.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Enoch Kii Wambua', is located in the bottom right corner of the page.



the maturing of our democracy. It is now your duty to prove to the electorate that you are fit for purpose and that young age is indeed a blessing to leadership.

**Mr. Speaker Sir,**

Several women have also been nominated by various political parties to this honourable house. This is a manifestation of the growing confidence in the contribution of women leadership in decision-making in our governance and political institutions. I am certain that this positive trend will continue into the future as you continue discharging your core mandate of legislation, representation and oversight.

To all of you members - the young, the young at heart, and those privileged and blessed with old age like me - I take this special opportunity to congratulate all of you honourable members on your election in the last General Election and the subsequent nominations.

**Mr. Speaker Sir,**

It is also my singular honour to congratulate you, the Honourable Kevin Kinengo Katisya, for the overwhelming confidence bestowed on you by members of this Assembly to preside over this honourable house. To all the members who have been elected to various house leadership positions including chairpersons of the various committees, I congratulate you. I wish you individually and collectively, God's wisdom, strength and courage as you steer the legislative agenda of our great county in this Assembly.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kevin Kinengo Katisya', with a stylized circular mark to the left.

**Mr. Speaker Sir and Honourable Members,**

As a county, we are currently battling several challenges (drought, insecurity, charcoal trade, the proposed grand falls dam construction and resettlement of residents, climate change effects, massive deforestation and illegal sand harvesting in our rivers, mineral exploitation, etc.). All these challenges require a truly bipartisan approach to enact relevant legislations at the county level to mitigate any imminent and resultant negative effects. I will take the lead as your Senator at the national level for any appropriate legislation affecting counties and follow up to conclusion on any issues affecting our county.

There is evidence in the Senate records that your Senator, Enoch Kiiio Wambua, CBS, is hands-on and does not compromise on any matter affecting our people. It shall be well.

**Mr. Speaker Sir,**

Article 176(1) of the Constitution of Kenya establishes 47 county governments as defined in the first Schedule. The Constitution recognizes the two arms of county governments as the Executive (headed by the Governor) and the Assembly (headed by the Speaker). In the discharge of their constitutional mandates, the two arms are inter-dependent.

I call upon the Executive and the Assembly of the County Government of Kitui, to find reason in the suffering of our people to work together to deliver the much needed services and development projects to the electorate. If and when the two



arms of government encounter turbulence in the course of duty, there must be sound mechanisms to resolve whatever conflicts, always guided by what is in the best interest of the great people of Kitui County.

As your Senator, I am always ready to come in whenever I am needed to help us all pursue win-win solutions to the challenges you may face on the way.

**Mr. Speaker Sir and Honourable Members,**

It can't be gain-said that Members of County Assemblies are very central to the success of devolution. On a daily basis, you engage with the masses at the base of the pyramid and respond to challenges of school fees, dowry payments, visits to parents and in-laws (in our local situation and language referred to as ndwae ngoone mwaitu), hospital bills and such other basic but legitimate challenges.

**Mr. Speaker Sir,**

These honourable members, as is the case with other members in other Assemblies across the country, are often, and unfortunately so, given the short end of the stick especially by the national Exchequer.

To start with, time is now ripe after ten years of devolved governments, for county Assemblies to be granted full financial autonomy in the management of their

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized name, possibly 'M. M. M.', with a large circular flourish on the left and a long horizontal stroke on the right.






assure you that I am ready, willing and able to deliver on this and other mandates of my office as captured in Article 96 of the Constitution of Kenya (2010) with precision. But I do all this with great humility knowing that it is God who enables me to perform my duties to His children and that one day I will be accountable to Him.

**Mr. Speaker Sir and Honourable Members,**

Open theft of public resources perpetrated by the Executive arms of county governments across the country is the biggest shame of leadership in our time. It is the one vice that threatens to kill devolution. A few hours ago, the current Governor of Kitui County H.E. Dr. Julius Makau Malombe received a damning Human Resource Audit Report which exposed more than 900 ghost workers in the payroll of our county government. This extent of corruption is intolerable. It must be fought by every well-meaning resident of Kitui County. Those responsible for this blatant theft must face the full force of the law.

**Mr. Speaker Sir,**

The money I fight so hard, with the help of my colleagues through the annual County Allocation of Revenue Bill in the Senate to be allocated to Kitui County can't

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Malombe', with a large circular scribble to the left of the name.



just disappear into people's pockets and the intended beneficiaries are left to live in absolute poverty.

We must call out everyone responsible for this mess. I will support the Governor and this Assembly to get to the bottom of this matter.

And the Kitui County Service Board has a long story to tell about this. How did we get here? Was the Board an accomplice in this scandal? And what does the former Governor Charity Kaluki Ngilu have to say about this mess?

**Mr. Speaker Sir and Honourable Members,**

As part of my oversight responsibility, I have written to the Auditor General requesting forensic audit on a number of projects carried out in our county by the previous administration between August 2017 and August 2022. Once those reports are out, I shall share the same with this Assembly.

**Mr. Speaker Sir and Honourable Members,**

I appeal for unity of purpose to make life a lot more bearable for our people.

The passionate call I make for unity of purpose is not limited to leaders in the County Government of Kitui. No. This call is also relevant to all spheres of leadership in our county transcending politics, religion, business and the rich diversity of our

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mumuni', with a large, stylized circular scribble to its left.


social structures. When leaders deliberately pursue the path of conflict for personal gain, our people become the automatic net losers. We are in leadership to seek and deliver benefits to the people we lead.

**Mr. Speaker Sir,**

County boundaries are not imaginary lines drawn by busy bodies to be violated with abandon. Defending and protecting natural resources within our boundaries must find passionate and robust expression in this Assembly. The desire to secure what belongs to us must inform robust debates in this chamber. I am happy to note that our Assembly set up an ad hoc committee to look into the blatant killings of our people by bandits masquerading as Camel herders. This county, and indeed this country, is awaiting the full implementation of the recommendations of the committee.

**Mr. Speaker Sir,**

I am here in my official capacity as the Senator elected to represent the great people of Kitui County in the Senate. I am here with the full backing of the Speaker of the Senate and all my colleagues. Mr. Speaker, the Standing Orders of this Assembly, and indeed the Standing Orders of the Senate of the Republic of Kenya,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized name, possibly 'M. M. M.', with a large circular flourish on the left and a horizontal line at the bottom.

prohibit me from discussing the character of any person if there is no substantive Motion to that effect. I will act responsibly.

**Mr. Speaker Sir and Honourable Members,**

I urge the Majority Leader with the backing of all the honourable members of this Assembly to consider bringing a substantive Motion to discuss the character of persons known to disrupt our peace by causing their agents to forcefully graze on our land and visit terror on innocent peasant farmers who resist their invasion.

Mr. Speaker sir, I charge this Assembly to rise up in one accord and act to restore the dignity of the Kamba nation.

**Mr. Speaker Sir,**

We must all resist the attempt from any quarter, either deliberate or informed by ignorance, to broadly and recklessly define the acts by the bandits as a conflict between the Somali and Kamba communities. It is not. It has never been. And we have a duty to ensure that it will never be.

The peoples of Kamba and Somali extraction have a rich history of coexistence spanning decades and sealed by trade mainly in livestock and garments. We have huge populations of the Somali people doing very successful businesses in Kitui town, Mwingi town and other towns in Kitui County. They are part of our

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Mwangi', written in a cursive style.

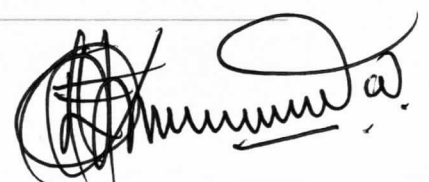
community in more than one respect. On the other hand, we have big populations of Kamba people doing businesses and working in Garissa, in Wajir and in Mandera counties. The gun-wielding bandits and their Lords hiding behind camels must never be allowed to strain this relationship. They must be dealt with as the criminals that they are. On this matter, I have engaged at the highest level of political leadership in this country and climbed down to the top most security office in the land to get this matter resolved. I will not relent. We must not relent.

**Mr. Speaker Sir and Honourable Members,**

Our forefathers protected the territorial integrity of our county and firmly repulsed invaders. That is why we enjoy the resources we do in our county. We have a duty of care upon our children and future generations to ensure that we protect their inheritance. We did not inherit our land from our forefathers to lose it to bandits.

May the sun soon set upon the workers of iniquity; the vampires within and without our county who conspire to inflict pain and suffering and death on the innocents.

And may the sun continue to shine ever so bright on sons and daughters of virtue; the men and women who decline constant invitations to be compromised and choose to walk the narrow and often lonely path of honesty in pursuit of a just society.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mumuniwa', written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.



**Mr. Speaker Sir and Honourable Members,**

In your legislative role, think about legislation that would positively impact the life of the most vulnerable member of your ward. In your representation role, provide a voice for that member of your ward who has no platform to speak for himself or herself. In your oversight role, be guided by that which is in the best interest of our county; avoid the temptation to carry out your roles guided by malice, ill-will or any other parochial consideration. You are not rehearsing leadership. You are right in it. Do it as if your entire life and the lives of all the people in Kitui County depend on your leadership.

Beyond the constitutional mandate of elected leaders to legislate, represent and oversight, our people expect us to defend and protect their interests against ill-willed persons acting individually or collectively to create difficult environments for our people to pursue and achieve their full potential.

As leaders in this county, we shall compete for positions and opportunities, but when the interests of our people are under threat, we immediately, by default, must forget our internal competitions and rally together to resist and defeat the threat.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mumma', written in a cursive style with a large circular flourish at the beginning.

Even if and when that threat comes in the form of a seemingly untouchable and politically correct State actor pursuing personal interests on our land, we must tell him or her and those who think and act like him or her that the Kamba nation deserves respect.

**Mr. Speaker Sir and Honourable Members,**

As you embark on this new session, I implore you to carry out your duties fully aware that the drought situation in our county is worse today than it was when you went on the long Christmas break. And the situation isn't getting any better tomorrow.

On the matter of seeking relief for our people so badly hit by the drought, let us be deliberate about putting aside partisan interests as leaders in this county and build broad consensus on how to lessen the suffering of our people.

Establish networks and pursue partnerships with individuals and institutions that would come to the aid of our people for immediate remedies. Most importantly and for posterity, debate and pass county laws to entrench irrigation agriculture to stop the overreliance on rain fed agriculture because rainfalls in our region have become dangerously erratic. County laws that would prioritise a well-structured harvesting of rain water would be most welcome.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mumunda', written in a cursive style with a large circular flourish on the left side.

On my part with colleagues in the Senate, I have republished the Mung Beans Bill (Senate Bills no. 13 of 2022) that stalled in the National Assembly of the 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament to ensure that our farmers get support from both the National Government and the County Government of Kitui to grow and market the cereal both locally and internationally.

The Senate Standing Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries is already working on modalities of visiting selected wards in our county to carry out public participation on the Bill before it can progress for debate in the second reading in the Senate chamber.

**Mr. Speaker Sir and Honourable Members,**

Once the dates for the public participation are settled on, the counterpart committee of this Assembly will be notified and invited to join the Senate committee in the exercise. The same notification and invitation will be extended to the Executive arm of the County Government of Kitui so that all of us move in the same direction for the benefit of our people.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Munira a.', located at the bottom right of the page.



**Mr. Speaker Sir and Honourable Members,**

I thank you once again for according me and my colleagues the opportunity to visit and address this honourable house. God bless the County Assembly of Kitui. God bless the great people of Kitui County. God bless Kenya.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a circular scribble on the left and a series of connected loops on the right, ending in a small 'a'.