

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KITUI



THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KITUI
THIRD ASSEMBLY – (THIRD SESSION)



COMMITTEE ON TRADE, INDUSTRY, ICT, AND COOPERATIVES.

REPORT ON

TRAINING ON THE ROLE OF THE LEGISLATURE IN TRADE PROMOTION
HELD IN SINGAPORE FROM 11TH TO 15TH MARCH, 2024.

CLERK'S CHAMBERS,
COUNTY ASSEMBLY BUILDINGS,
KITUI, KENYA.

*Clear
Approved.*
[Signature]
20/3/2024.

MARCH, 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS	5
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	6
CHAPTER ONE	9
1.0 PREFACE	9
1.1 Committee Mandate	9
1.2 Composition of Delegation	10
1.3 Justification for the study visit to Singapore.	10
1.4. Objectives of the Study visit	13
1.5. Acknowledgement.	14
CHAPTER TWO	16
2.0. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW OF THE SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT AND TRADE.	16
2.1 Corruption.	17
2.2. Water resources.	17
2.3 Gross National Product.	18
2.4. The Parliament of Singapore	19
2.5. Trade Promotion in Singapore.	20
2.5.1 Singapore's Trade Promotion Strategy.	20
2.5.2 Key Institutions.	20
2.5.3 Outcomes of Trade Promotion	21
2.6. Trade in Kitui County.	21
2.6.1 Kitui's agricultural potential.	22
2.6.2 Government initiatives for trade promotion.	22
CHAPTER THREE	24
3.0. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PRESENTATIONS DURING THE TRAINING WORKSHOP.	24
Mr. Speaker sir,	24
3.1.0 INTRODUCTION TO TRADE AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE.	24
3.1.1 Trade Agreements.	25
3.1.2 Benefits of Trade Agreement	25
3.1.3 Types of Trade Agreements	26
3.1.4 Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs)	26
3.1.5 OVERVIEW OF GLOBAL TRADE AGREEMENTS.	27
3.1.5.1 World Trade Organization. (WTO)	27
3.1.5.2 Functions of Kenya's International Trade Agreements.	27
3.1.5.3 Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)	28
3.1.5.4 East Africa Community (EAC)	28
3.1.5.5 The Role of International Trade on Exponential Economic Growth and Development of Singapore (1965-2024.)	29
3.2. UNDERSTANDING THE LEGISLATIVE ROLE IN TRADE PROMOTION.	30

Mr. Speaker sir,	30
3.2.1 Approval of Trade Agreements.	31
3.2.2 Trade Promotion Authority (TPA)	31
3.2.3 Trade-Related Legislation.	31
3.2.4 Oversight of Trade Policy.	32
3.2.5 Goals of Parliamentary/Legislative Oversight.	32
3.2.6 Objectives of Parliamentary Oversight.	33
3.2.7. Trade Responsibilities.	33
3.3.0 TRADE POLICY DEVELOPMENT	34
Mr. Speaker sir,	34
3.3.1 Assessment and Prioritization.	35
3.3.2 Stakeholder Engagement.	35
3.3.3 Policy Formulation.	35
3.3.4 Policy Approval and Implementation.	36
3.3.5 Monitoring and Evaluation.	36
3.4.0 PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT IN TRADE POLICIES.	37
Mr. Speaker sir,	37
3.4.1 Who is responsible for Public Participation within the County Government?	37
3.4.2 Public announcements.	37
3.4.3 Website and online forums.	38
3.4.4 Stakeholder Identification.	38
3.4.5 Interactive Activities.	38
3.4.6 Utilizing Feedback.	39
3.4.7 Additional Considerations.	39
3.5.0 TRADE DISPUTE RESOLUTION	40
Mr. Speaker sir,	40
3.5.1 Arbitration	40
3.5.2 Mediation.	40
3.5.3 Negotiation.	41
3.5.4 Litigation.	41
3.6.0 RESOURCE ALLOCATION AND LEGISLATIVE ROLE.	41
3.6.1 County Government's Allocation.	42
3.6.2 County Assembly's Role.	42
3.6.3 Challenges.	42
CHAPTER FOUR	44
4.0 LESSONS LEARNT BY THE COMMITTEE FROM SINGAPORE.	44
CHAPTER FIVE.	46
5.0 COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS	46
6.0. CONCLUSION	49

ANNEXTURES

- i. **Members Adoption List.**
- ii. **Pictorial**
- iii. **Program**
- iv. **Approval to travel to Singapore**
- v. **Member's Passports and Boarding passes**

ABBREVIATIONS

COMESA	Common Market for East and Southern Africa.
CPIB	Corrupt Practice Investigation Bureau.
EAC	East African Community.
ESAMI	Eastern and Southern African Management Institute.
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FTA	Free Trade Agreement
GDP	Gross Domestic Product.
GNP	Gross National Product
GRC	Group Representation Constituency.
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IES	International Enterprise Singapore.
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation.
MCA	Member of County Assembly
MP	Member of Parliament.
MSMEs	Micro Small and Medium Enterprises.
NCMP	Non -Constituency Member of Parliament.
NMP	Nominated Member Parliament.
RTAs	Regional Trade Agreements.
SMC	Single Member Constituency.
TPA	Trade Promotion Authorities
WSB	Water Service Boards.
WSP	Water Service Providers.
WTO	World Trade Organization.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mr. Speaker sir,

This report on a Training workshop held in Singapore by the Committee on Trade, Industry, ICT and Cooperative conveys the niceties of the delegation interactions and learning experiences during the study visit.

It presents a concise account of lectures, briefings, visits and meetings that the delegation participated in on the Singapore constitutional arrangements. The report has particular regard for the role of the legislature in promoting trade in a government.

Mr. Speaker sir,

The report also shows briefs on how the County government and the National government are interdependent though independent as governments. All policies that are formulated by the County government must be aligned with those in the national government to avoid contradictions in their implementation.

The report further entails details of lessons learned by the delegation in their interaction with the contents of the lectures as well as the places visited that form the basis for the recommendations in this report.

Towards the end, the report reviews the program of the training in terms of lessons learned by the delegation as well as ideas acquired and they may be useful in improving the member's role that the delegates had put forward.

The training was split across ten (10) sessions. Members of the delegation had a humble opportunity to discuss challenges as well as share possible mitigation measures that could be applied to promote trade in Kitui County as representatives of the people.

Most noteworthy, the aspect of the workshop was to impart a culture of trust, transparency, and openness among delegates which allowed them to share challenges and opportunities.

The overall objective of the study visit was to share experiences in the work of the Committee on Trade, Industry, ICT, and Cooperative to adopt best practices and ultimately enhance Trade activities in the County.

Fruitful training was offered to the delegation by a facilitator from ESAMI; Mr. Dennis.

Mr. Speaker sir,

Chapter four of this report discusses the lessons that the delegation learned from the study visit and from the pieces of training that were carefully undertaken by the facilitator. The lessons learned contributed tremendously to the recommendations here in chapter five of this report, some of which are highlighted below: -

1. That the County government of Kitui should develop a comprehensive County Trade Strategy that identifies trade priorities, sets achievable goals, and outlines specific actions for the promotion of trade within the County.
2. That the County Assembly as the legislative arm of the County government assists in coming up with draft legislation and enact by-laws that regulate trade activities within the county.
3. That the County Government Streamlines Business Regulations. This could be done by reviewing and simplifying business licensing procedures to reduce bureaucratic burdens on entrepreneurs and traders within the County.

4. That the County Government Invests in Market Research by conducting regular research to understand county-specific trade opportunities, including potential markets, competitor analysis, and consumer preferences.
5. That the County government of Kitui should focus on specific sectors with high growth potential based on local resources and skills, and develop targeted policies to support them.
6. That the County government of Kitui should Invest in Transport and Logistics.
7. That the County government upgrades and expands existing markets, including the construction of modern market facilities with proper sanitation and security measures (installation of proper security lights).
8. That The County government establishes Business Support Services. This could be done by creating or partnering with organizations that provide training programs, mentorship initiatives, and access to financing for local entrepreneurs.
9. That The County government organizes Trade Fairs and Exhibitions.
10. That the County government of Kitui works with National Government through national government agencies to ensure county-level trade policies align with national strategies and benefit from existing trade agreements.
11. That the county government promote Inter-County Trade through facilitating trade linkages with neighbouring counties, creating a larger regional market for local products.

CHAPTER ONE

1.0 PREFACE

Mr. Speaker Sir,

On behalf of the delegation of the Committee on Trade, Investments, ICT, and Cooperatives under the provision of Standing Order 190(5) it is my pleasant duty to present to this honourable House, the report by the Committee on Trade, Investments, ICT, and Cooperatives on a study tour on her Legislative role in Trade Promotion Training conducted by ESAMI in Singapore.

The workshop was undertaken from 5th to 11th March 2024.

ESAMI is a Pan African Regional Management Development Centre owned by ten Member Governments from the Eastern and Southern African regions. These members include; Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

The assembly chose this centre because it is a service and market-oriented institution offering high-level specialized management training, consultancy, education programmes and action-oriented management research services.

1.1 Committee Mandate

Mr. Speaker sir,

The Sectoral Committee on Trade, Investments, ICT and Cooperatives derives its mandate from the provisions of Standing Order No. 190(5) and the second schedule to the Standing Orders which defines the functions of the committee as to inter-alia; -

- i. Investigate, inquire into and report on all matters relating to the mandate, management, activities, administration, operation and estimates of the assigned department.
- ii. Make reports and recommendations to the County Assembly as often as possible, including recommendations of proposed legislation.
- iii. Study the programme and policy objectives of departments and the effectiveness of the implementation.

1.2 Composition of Delegation

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The delegation comprised the following Members who had a successful opportunity to learn, explore, and benchmark the sector responsibilities: -

S/No	Name	Designation
1	Hon. Nzavu Mwanzia	Leader of Delegation
2	Hon. Aron Kilonzi Kasele	Member
3	Hon. Charity Mwangangi	Member
4	Hon. Joseph Musyoka Mbite	Member
5	Hon. Immaculate Wanza John	Member
6	Hon. Frida Maua Mutinda	Member
7	Ms. Lynn Nzambi Kyalo	Communications Officer.

1.3 Justification for the study visit to Singapore.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The concept of devolution which means taking services closer to citizens has gained momentum since the promulgation of the current constitution of Kenya in the year 2010. The Constitution of Kenya 2010 upon promulgation and enactment changed the Governance structure from a centralized unit to

devolved subunits known as the County Governments. It was expected that the onset of these devolved governments after the 2013 elections and the enactment of subsidiary laws would address the development challenges of the centralized governance that Kenya had faced since independence.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Devolution in Kenya is based on the supremacy of the Constitution, the sovereignty of the people, and the principle of public participation. The characteristic of devolution in the Kenyan context is reflected in the principles and objectives of devolution as stated in the Constitution. Key among these includes the presence of local units that have autonomy and independence from the Centre, with clear and legally recognized geographical boundaries over which to exercise authority and perform public functions.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Article 6 (1) of the Constitution provides that the territory of Kenya is divided into forty-seven (47) counties. The Constitution in Article 6(2) recognizes that these National and County governments are distinct and interdependent and requires them to conduct their mutual relations based on consultation and cooperation.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The World Bank (2012) Survey further argued that management of the state through the central and local authorities in Kenya over the past fifty years of independence had experienced a series of challenges. Kenyans have witnessed a dismal performance by successive governments due to weak governance. Consequently, the County Governments have limited effective governance systems necessary for strategic and independent management.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Considering the importance of the roles and responsibilities of the MCAs to the County, it is expected that they effectively deliver on their mandate as representatives of the people. As such, it is important to continuously train and capacity-build them to equip them with the necessary skills to facilitate them in executing their mandate.

Frequent training programs will equip MCAs with sharp analytical, interrogative, reporting, and legislating skills to strengthen their understanding of governance issues. They are consequently well-equipped to address the embryonic needs of their electorates.

Mr. Speaker sir,

This study tour was critical to the members as it helped them compare their experiences against those of Singapore in terms of making competent decisions on trade matters while observing the provision of other essential services like health care, and education among others in the County.

Mr. Speaker sir,

The main purpose of the visit was to develop practical lessons that the committee would apply to enhance their performance at work and execution of the mandate given by the County Assembly Standing Orders and the Constitution of Kenya 2010

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The Committee believes that for maximum service provision to the citizens, there is a need to continuously engage, interact, exchange and in cooperate best skills and practices locally, nationally and internationally.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

It is for this reason that the Committee Trade, Investments, ICT and Cooperatives in consultation with the honourable Speaker of the County Assembly deemed it wise and necessary for the committee to undertake this training to expose and enable honourable members to get acquainted with the requisite knowledge and skills pertaining scrutiny of public expenditure.

1.4. Objectives of the Study visit

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The study visit was in furtherance of the committee's mandate and its work plan. The training was conducted from the 5th to 11th of March 2024, at M Hotel in Singapore. This was a five-day program, intended to enhance the capacity of the committee members on their role in trade promotion in the County.

The training was seamlessly facilitated by the Eastern and Southern African Management Institute (ESAMI). The training was tailored to achieve the following objectives: -

- a) To Understand the function of good governance in the public sector and how to act in the public interest.
- b) To develop a strong commitment to integrity, ethical values and the rule of the law.
- c) To learn openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement.
- d) To define outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits.
- e) To implement good practices in transparency and reporting to deliver effective accountability.

- f) To learn how to Identify areas of inefficiency and recommend measures to optimize resource utilization.
- g) To develop practical lessons that the committee and the Assembly as a whole could apply to improve the performance of their work, in terms of oversight, legislation, and representation.

1.5. Acknowledgement.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The committee is obliged to various institutions and individuals for the support and cooperation they accorded which made the training successful. They include the Ministries of Devolution and Immigration for approving funds for the training and timely processing of travel documents respectively.

The Committee is grateful to the Offices of the Speaker for the precious opportunity accorded to it to participate in the training by approving this study tour to Singapore. Further, we appreciate the office of the Clerk to the County Assembly for impeccably administering the logistics and obligatory groundwork desired to facilitate this training.

Gratefully acknowledged is ESAMI for organizing the training and availing Mr. Dennis Mutua to facilitate the study sessions. The expertise shared during the training has fortified honourable members with valuable ideologies and hands-on skills necessary to draft, interrogate and approve any trade-related laws.

Lastly, many thanks go to all the participants for their zeal, punctuality, partaking and commitment during the training sessions. I further applaud them for the reverence and backing they conferred me as the leader of the delegation and for their precious input during the preparation of this report.

Mr. Speaker sir,

It is now my pleasant duty and privilege, on behalf of the delegation of the Committee on Trade, Industry, ICT, and Cooperative and pursuant to provisions of County Assembly Standing Order No. 190(5), to table this report and recommend it to the House for adoption and thereafter implementation of the recommendations made in it.

Thank you

Sign: Nzavu

Hon. Nzavu Mwanzia (MCA)

V/Chairperson; Committee on Trade, Industry, ICT and Cooperatives.

County Assembly of Kitui.

Date: 25/03/2024

Report Compiled by Lynn Kyalo- Communications officer.

CHAPTER TWO

2.0. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW OF THE SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT AND TRADE.

Mr. Speaker sir,

The modern Singapore was instituted in the 19th century, thanks to politics, trade and a man recognized as Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles. During this time, the British Empire was eyeing a port of call in that area to base its merchant fleet, and to forestall any advance made by the Dutch Singapore. Raffles, then the Lieutenant-Governor of Bencoolen) in Sumatra, landed in Singapore on 29th January 1819. He identified the enormous potential of the swamp-covered island and then facilitated to negotiate a treaty with the local rulers to establish Singapore as a trading station.

The city rapidly grew as an entrepot trade hub, hence attracting immigrants from China, India, the Malay Archipelago and beyond. In 1822, Raffles executed his Town Plan, also known as the “Jackson Plan”, to address the subject of increasing disorderliness in the region. Ethnic residential areas were segregated into four areas.

Mr. Speaker sir,

In 1959, the growth of patriotism led to self-government and the country's first general election. The People's Action Party (PAP) won a majority of 43 seats and Lee Kuan Yew became the first prime minister of Singapore. Lee oversaw Singapore's transformation into a developed country with a high-income economy within his tenure. In the process, he premiered a highly effective, anti-corrupt government and a structured civil service. He

avoided populist policies in favour of long-term social and economic planning, championing civic nationalism through meritocracy.

Mr. Speaker sir,

Singapore government's most urgent priority after independence was to address high rate of unemployment. Lee set up factories and initially focused on the manufacturing industry. Later, the cabinet approved the establishment of Singapore as an international financial center. Foreign bankers were assured of the reliability of Singapore's social conditions, with top-class infrastructure and skilled professionals. The investors were assured that the government would pursue sound macroeconomic policies, with budget surpluses, leading to a stable valued Singapore dollar. The government focused on addressing system challenges as discussed here below: -

2.1 Corruption.

Mr. Speaker sir,

To address corruption, Singapore introduced legislation giving the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau (CPIB) greater power to conduct arrests, search, call up witnesses, and investigate bank accounts and income-tax returns of suspected persons and their families. The ministers were also well-remunerated to maintain a clean and honest government

2.2. Water resources.

Mr. Speaker sir,

Under water resources, Singapore traditionally relied on water from Malaysia. However, this reliance made Singapore subject to the possibility of price increases and allowed Malaysian officials to use the water reliance as political

leverage by threatening to cut off supply. To reduce this problem, the government decided to experiment with water recycling. As a result of such efforts, Singapore has achieved self-sufficiency with its water supply since the year 2010.

2.3 Gross National Product.

Mr. Speaker sir,

Singapore's amazing tale, tells of once a sleeping fishing village that rebelled against the odds to transform itself into a first-world metropolis.

Singapore revolved from an island nation with a high illiteracy rate and without natural resources into a developed country, a transformation denoted as 'From the third world to the first world'.

Singapore's gross national product per capita (GNP) rose from \$1,240 in 1959 to \$82,808 in 2022. The unemployment rate in Singapore dropped from 13.5% in 1959 to 2.50% in May 2023. Singapore's exports of goods and services as a percentage of GDP is 184.30% and imports of goods and services as a percentage of GDP is 149.04%.

In other areas, the life expectancy at birth for Singaporeans rose from 65 years in 1960 to 83 years in 2022. The population of Singapore increased from 1.6 million in 1959 to 5.64 million in 2022. The homeownership rate among residents in Singapore increased to 89.3 per cent in 2022. The Singaporean literacy rate increased from 52% in 1957 to 97.13% in 2023. International visitor arrivals are expected to reach around 12 to 14 million visitors being approximately \$18 billion in tourism receipts. Internet penetration was 92% in 2022 and with other multiple options to get online. This tells it all of the tremendous development witnessed in Singapore to date.

2.4. The Parliament of Singapore

Mr. Speaker sir,

The Parliament of Singapore is a unicameral chamber. There are eighty-four (84) elected Members of Parliament (MPs). A Parliament sits for a maximum of five years. MPs are elected into Parliament representing either single member constituencies (SMCs) or group representation constituencies (GRCs). At present, there are nine SMCs, nine five-member GRCs and five six-member GRCs. Both types of SMCs and GRCs operate on a first-past-the-post basis, i.e. the party winning a majority of the votes in a constituency will receive all of the MPs. It is not a proportional representation system.

The Constitution also provides for the appointment of other MPs not voted in at a general election: non-constituency Members of Parliament (NCMPs) and nominated Members of Parliament (NMPs). Up to three NCMPs representing opposition political parties may be appointed from opposition candidates who lost in constituencies with the highest percentage of losing votes. This is to ensure that there will be a minimum number of opposition representatives so that views other than the government can be expressed in Parliament. At present, there is one such MP, bringing the total number of opposition MPs to three. Up to nine NMPs representing “community views” may be appointed. They generally represent respected grass-roots societies in the community and are not to be connected to any political party. They are appointed for a term of two and a half years on the recommendation of a special select committee of Parliament. The unelected Members of Parliament – the NCMPs and NMPs – do not have the same rights as elected Members of Parliament. For example, they cannot participate in the vote on the budget, although they can debate on the merits of the proposed budget.

2.5. Trade Promotion in Singapore.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Singapore is a prime example of a country that thrives on international trade. Here's a breakdown of its strong focus on trade promotion:

2.5.1 Singapore's Trade Promotion Strategy.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Singapore has overtime embraced these strategies to place itself in a better position in the world market: -

1. **Open Economy:** Singapore has a highly open economy with minimal trade barriers. This makes it an attractive destination for foreign businesses and facilitates the flow of goods and services.
2. **Free Trade Agreements:** Singapore has an extensive network of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with over 30 countries and regions. These agreements eliminate or reduce tariffs and trade barriers, giving Singaporean businesses a competitive edge in the global market.
3. **Trade Facilitation:** The Singapore government has made trade facilitation a priority. They've streamlined customs procedures, invested in efficient port infrastructure, and implemented digital trade solutions to expedite the movement of goods.

2.5.2 Key Institutions.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Two key institutions have played a crucial role in the promotion of trade in Singapore. These are: -

1. **International Enterprise Singapore (IE Singapore):** This government agency is the lead body for promoting Singapore's trade. They offer a range of

services to help businesses expand overseas, including market research, trade missions, and business matching services.

2. **Singapore Trade Promotion Agencies:** Singapore has a global network of trade promotion agencies that provide support to Singaporean businesses venturing into new markets.

2.5.3 Outcomes of Trade Promotion

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Due to the serious involvement of the government of Singapore in trade promotion, she has been able to benefit as follows: -

1. **Economic Growth:** Singapore's trade promotion strategy has been a major driver of its economic growth. The country is a global hub for trade, finance, and shipping.
2. **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI):** Singapore's open economy and trade promotion efforts have attracted significant FDI, which has created jobs and boosted the economy.
3. **Innovation and Competitiveness:** The focus on trade has fostered a culture of innovation and competitiveness among Singaporean businesses.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

In conclusion, Singapore's commitment to trade promotion has been a key factor in its success as a global trading nation. By creating an open and business-friendly environment, and actively supporting its businesses, Singapore has positioned itself as a major player in the global economy.

2.6. Trade in Kitui County.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Kitui County has a vibrant trade scene, with a strong agricultural sector at its core. Here's a breakdown of trade in Kitui:

2.6.1 Kitui's agricultural potential.

The County is blessed with fertile land that produces a variety of potential exports like mangoes, avocados, cashew nuts, beans, sorghum, and honey. You can also find livestock like cattle and goats being traded.

2.6.2 Government initiatives for trade promotion.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Ministry of Trade: The county government has a dedicated department, the Ministry of Trade, Industry, MSMEs, Innovation and Co-operatives, that focuses on promoting trade. Their goals include:

1. **Enhancing fair trade:** They work to create a fair-trading environment for producers and consumers.
2. **Investment climate:** They aim to improve the business environment to attract more investment.
3. **Supporting MSMEs:** The ministry actively supports Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) which are the backbone of the county's economy.
4. **Value addition:** They encourage businesses to add value to local products before selling them, increasing their overall return.
5. **Market development:** The ministry works to develop both traditional markets and e-commerce platforms to expand the market reach for Kitui's products.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Kitui County has faced several challenges in its endeavour to promote trade which this training seeks to undress in this report. These include: -

1. **Infrastructure:** Improvements to roads and market infrastructure would benefit trade by providing smoother transportation and efficient trading spaces.
2. **Value addition:** Encouraging more processing and value addition to agricultural products could increase their value and shelf life.
3. **Market access:** Expanding access to domestic and international markets for Kitui's products would create more opportunities for producers.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Overall, Kitui County has a promising trade sector with a strong focus from the local government on promoting it further. By addressing infrastructural challenges and focusing on value addition, Kitui's trade can flourish even more.

CHAPTER THREE

3.0. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PRESENTATIONS DURING THE TRAINING WORKSHOP.

Mr. Speaker sir,

Members of the delegation were keenly and carefully taken through various topics during the interactive workshop sessions.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The Kenyan Constitution of 2010 devolved significant power and resources to county governments. This included a role in promoting trade at the county level. County assemblies, the legislative arm of county governments, play a crucial role in this process. Below are some of the highlights of the said topics which form the basis of this important report.

3.1.0 INTRODUCTION TO TRADE AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE.

Mr. Speaker sir,

International trade is essential since no country can produce everything it needs at reasonable prices within its borders. Instead, a country will be richer if it makes what it is best at and imports what it is not as efficient at producing.

International trade, which has surged more than sixfold in the past thirty years, has been a major driver behind economic and social development. It has created millions of jobs, lifted over a billion people out of poverty, and strengthened international connections, leading to global stability.

3.1.1 Trade Agreements.

Mr. Speaker sir,

Countries use trade to generate economic growth, which provides the resources societies need to function. However, governments can also leverage trade as a direct foreign policy tool to advance other national interests.

Therefore, a trade agreement is a negotiation between two or more countries regarding the terms of trade between them—tariffs, quotas, restrictions on imports and exports, and provisions, such as trade facilitation, intellectual property rights, and investment protection.

Mr. Speaker sir,

For cross-border e-commerce retailers, trade agreements can provide greater access to markets in partner countries, allowing them to expand their customer base and increase their sales. It is important to be aware of trade agreements and the advantages they offer to the countries involved, namely, retailers and consumers exporting and importing goods.

3.1.2 Benefits of Trade Agreement

Mr. Speaker sir,

These include but are not limited to: -

- i. Mitigating geopolitical and trading barriers;
- ii. Encouraging investments;
- iii. Improving economies;
- iv. Creating jobs;
- v. Expanding the variety of goods available; and
- vi. Enhancing the standard of living of people.

3.1.3 Types of Trade Agreements

Mr. Speaker sir,

As discussed during the training, these types include: -

- a) Unilateral - one-sided, non-reciprocal trade preferences granted by developed countries to developing countries to help improve and expand exports and facilitate economic development for developing nations
- b) Bilateral - a symbiotic partnership promoting the exchange of goods and services between two countries, which encourages economic cooperation and benefits both countries.
- c) Multilateral - a trade agreement between multiple countries that simplifies and lowers the cost of trade among three or more countries.

3.1.4 Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs)

Mr. Speaker sir,

A regional trade agreement (RTA) is a treaty signed by two or more regions that agree on certain commitments and responsibilities that affect the trading of goods and services among the regions.

Mr. Speaker sir,

While RTAs vary from agreement to agreement, they generally reduce trade barriers and create more advantageous trading investments and environments.

They include the following: -

- 1) Preferential Trade Areas;
- 2) Free Trade Area;
- 3) Customs Union;
- 4) Common Market;

5) Economic Union; and

6) Full Integration.

3.1.5 OVERVIEW OF GLOBAL TRADE AGREEMENTS.

3.1.5.1 World Trade Organization. (WTO)

Mr. Speaker sir,

The overall objective of the WTO is to help its members use trade as a means to raise living standards, create jobs, and improve people's lives.

The WTO operates the global system of trade rules and helps developing countries build their trade capacity.

It also provides a forum for its members to negotiate trade agreements and resolve the trade problems they face with each other. Functions of WTO include; Improving people's lives, negotiating trade rules, overseeing WTO agreements, maintaining open trade, and Settling disputes

3.1.5.2 Functions of Kenya's International Trade Agreements.

Mr. Speaker sir,

Kenya is also involved in international trade agreements like any other country.

Below are some of the reasons for being involved: -

- a) contribute to economic growth and development through the establishment of a strengthened and strategic trade and development partnership consistent with the objective of sustainable development;
- b) promote regional integration, economic cooperation and good governance in the EAC Partner State(s);

- c) promote the gradual integration of the EAC Partner State(s) into the world economy, in conformity with their political choices and development priorities;
- d) foster the structural transformation of the economies of the EAC Partner State(s), and their diversification and competitiveness by enhancing their production, supply and trading capacity;
- e) improve the capacity of the EAC Partner State(s) in trade policy and trade-related issues;

3.1.5.3 Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)

Mr. Speaker sir,

This is a regional economic community in Africa with **twenty-one member states stretching from Tunisia to Eswatini**. COMESA was formed in December 1994, replacing a **Preferential Trade Area** whose goals include: -

1. A wider, harmonized and more competitive market;
2. Greater industrial productivity and competitiveness;
3. Increased agricultural production and food security;
4. A more rational exploitation of natural resources;
5. More harmonized monetary, banking and financial policies; and
6. More reliable transport and communications infrastructure

3.1.5.4 East Africa Community (EAC)

Mr. Speaker sir,

The East African Community (EAC) is a regional intergovernmental organization of eight (8) Partner States, comprising the Republic of Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of Kenya, the Republic of

Rwanda, the Federal Republic of Somalia, the Republic of South Sudan, Republic of Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania, with its headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania.

Mr. Speaker sir,

The Federal Republic of Somalia was admitted into the EAC bloc on 24th November 2023 and became a full member on 4th March 2024.

The EAC is structured into seven main Organs:-

1. The Summit;
2. The Council of Ministers;
3. The Co-ordinating Committee;
4. Sectoral Committees;
5. The East African Court of Justice;
6. The East African Legislative Assembly; and
7. The Secretariat.

3.1.5.5 The Role of International Trade on Exponential Economic Growth and Development of Singapore (1965-2024.)

Mr. Speaker sir,

Singapore's exponential economic growth from 1965 to 2024 is heavily attributed to its strategic focus on international trade. International trade played a crucial role as follows:

1. **Trade Hub:** Singapore's geographical location made it a natural trade intermediary between Southeast Asia and the rest of the world. It invested heavily in port infrastructure and developed a reputation for efficient customs clearance, becoming a major shipping and logistics hub.

2. **Export-Oriented Industrialization:** The government actively promoted export-oriented industries, attracting foreign investment with tax incentives and a skilled workforce. This led to a boom in manufacturing, particularly in electronics, shipbuilding, and petrochemicals.
3. **Openness to Foreign Trade:** Singapore pursued free trade agreements and actively participated in global trade organizations like the World Trade Organization (WTO). This ensured open markets for its exports and access to raw materials and technology for its industries.
4. **Diversification:** Singapore didn't limit itself to just goods. It developed its service sectors like finance, tourism, and shipping, further strengthening its position as a global trade and commerce centre.

Mr. Speaker,

Overall, international trade was the cornerstone of Singapore's economic miracle. By embracing open trade policies, fostering a trade-friendly environment, and strategically leveraging its location, Singapore transformed itself from a developing nation into a global economic powerhouse.

3.2. UNDERSTANDING THE LEGISLATIVE ROLE IN TRADE PROMOTION.

Mr. Speaker sir,

It is important to note that members of the delegation were taken through this important topic of discussion and here are some of the highlights of the topic. Legislatures play a crucial role in promoting trade by wielding several key powers:

3.2.1 Approval of Trade Agreements.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The Constitution of Kenya 2010 typically grants legislatures the authority to approve international trade agreements negotiated by the executive branch. This ensures that the deals reflect the priorities and concerns of the people. Without legislative approval, trade agreements cannot go into effect. This also applies in the County government where all approvals are done by the County Assembly for them to go into effect.

3.2.2 Trade Promotion Authority (TPA)

In some countries, legislatures delegate limited-time negotiating authority to the executive branch through the Trade Promotion Authority (TPA). TPA allows the executive to negotiate trade deals with the assurance that Congress will consider them under an expedited process, often with an up-or-down vote on the final agreement. This strengthens the negotiating hand of the executive by presenting a more unified front to foreign counterparts.

3.2.3 Trade-Related Legislation.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Legislatures can pass laws that directly or indirectly affect trade. For instance:

1. **Tariffs and quotas:** Legislatures can set tariffs (taxes on imports) and quotas (limits on import quantities) to protect domestic industries or generate revenue.
2. **Subsidies:** Legislatures can authorize subsidies for domestic industries to make them more competitive in the global market.

3. Trade regulations: Legislatures can establish regulations on areas like product safety, intellectual property, and labour standards to ensure fair trade practices.

3.2.4 Oversight of Trade Policy.

Mr. Speaker Sir

Legislatures can hold hearings, investigate trade practices, and summon government officials to scrutinize the implementation of trade agreements and policies. This oversight ensures that trade policies are beneficial to the country and align with legislative priorities.

3.2.5 Goals of Parliamentary/Legislative Oversight.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The goals were discussed as follows: -

1. Upholding the rule of law: parliaments aim to protect the rights and freedoms of citizens by investigating and addressing abuse of power, arbitrary behaviour, or illegal and unconstitutional conduct by the government and public agencies;
2. Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the government's financial activities: parliaments aim to hold the government to account concerning how taxpayers' money is raised, managed and spent, and such oversight is also essential to confronting corruption within the apparatus of government and public agencies;
3. Monitoring the government's achievement of outcomes set by legislation and its programmes: parliaments ensure that laws by parliament and programmes initiated by the government are implemented and delivered to the benefit of citizens, to improve the performance of public services; and

4. Increasing transparency of government operations and enhancing public trust in the government: parliaments provide a transparent and public platform where the policies and actions of government are debated, scrutinized, clarified and subjected to public opinion.

3.2.6 Objectives of Parliamentary Oversight.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Some of the objectives of the legislative arm of government include but are not limited to: -

1. Ensure transparency and openness of executive activities. Parliaments/Assemblies shed light on the operations of government by providing a public arena in which the policies and actions of government are debated, scrutinized, and subjected to public opinion;
2. Hold the executive branch accountable. Parliamentary/Assembly oversight scrutinizes whether the government's policies have been implemented and whether they are having the desired impact;
3. Provide financial accountability. Parliaments approve and scrutinize government spending by highlighting waste within publicly funded services. They aim to improve the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of government expenditure; and,
4. Uphold the rule of law. Parliament should protect the rights of citizens by monitoring policies and examining potential abuses of power, arbitrary behaviour and illegal or unconstitutional conduct by the government.

3.2.7. Trade Responsibilities.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

It is the responsibility of the Department of Trade to ensure that it achieves certain responsibilities. These include but not limited to: -

- a. Implement the national Trade policy.
- b. Promote investments.
- c. Trade licensing and regulations.
- d. Provision of business development support services.
- e. Coordination and development of micro, small, and medium businesses engaged in trade.
- f. Collection of business information and management of county business information centres.
- g. Promotion of export business and domesticating bilateral and regional agreements.
- h. Advocacy for the provision of market infrastructure.
- i. Promotion and facilitation of the intra, inter-county trade, and cross-border trade.
- j. Management of county physical markets and regulation of hawking activities.
- k. Promotion of e-commerce.
- l. Conduct of trade fairs/exhibitions and facilitate trade missions in the county.

3.3.0 TRADE POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Speaker sir,

Under this topic, the delegation was taken through numerous aspects. It is important to note that Kenya's trade policy framework is structured with a two-tier system: national and county levels. While the national government sets the overarching trade policy direction, county governments have some autonomy in developing trade policies that complement the national strategy.

Below is a breakdown of the steps a county government in Kenya might take to develop a trade policy:

3.3.1 Assessment and Prioritization.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The county government would begin by conducting a thorough assessment of the county's trade landscape. This involves identifying key industries, existing trade patterns, local resources, and potential markets.

Based on the assessment, the government would then prioritise trade sectors that hold the most promise for growth and job creation. This could involve agriculture, manufacturing, tourism, or other sectors relevant to the county's strengths.

3.3.2 Stakeholder Engagement.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

To ensure the trade policy reflects the needs of all stakeholders, the county government would engage in consultations with various groups. This could include local businesses, farmers' cooperatives, trade associations, consumer groups, and representatives from the national government.

Through workshops, meetings, and surveys, the government would gather input on trade challenges, opportunities, and priorities.

3.3.3 Policy Formulation.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Taking into account the assessment, stakeholder input, and the national trade policy framework, the county government would draft the trade policy document.

This document would outline the county's trade vision, objectives, and specific strategies to promote trade development.

The strategies could address areas like:

- a) **Improving market access:** This could involve facilitating participation in trade fairs, establishing trade information centres, or forging partnerships with other counties or regions.

Members may utilize various media channels like newspapers, radio, TV, and social media to announce the policy development process and encourage public participation.

3.4.3 Website and online forums.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The creation of a dedicated webpage with clear information about the trade policy, opportunities for submitting comments and feedback, and online forums for discussions is an important aspect of involving the interested parties.

3.4.4 Stakeholder Identification.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

In identifying different stakeholders, the following steps could be used:

- a. **Mapping relevant groups:** Identify key stakeholders impacted by trade policies, such as businesses (large and small), industry associations, labour unions, consumer groups, environmental organizations, and academic institutions.
- b. **Targeted outreach:** Reach out to these stakeholders directly through invitations to workshops, meetings, or surveys specific to their interests.

3.4.5 Interactive Activities.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

These can be done through the following:

1. **Public hearings:** Organize open hearings where the public can voice their concerns and recommendations directly to policymakers.
2. **Workshops and focus groups:** Conduct facilitated workshops or focus groups to delve deeper into specific trade policy issues with smaller, representative groups.

3. **Surveys and online polls:** Develop online surveys or polls to gather public opinion on various aspects of the trade policy in a convenient and accessible format.

3.4.6 Utilizing Feedback.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

To gain optimally from the already conducted stakeholder engagement exercise, the below aspects must be put into consideration: -

1. **Analysis of submissions:** Carefully analyse all public comments, and feedback from hearings and surveys, and identify recurring themes and concerns.
2. **Transparency and communication:** Provide clear explanations on how public input is being considered and incorporated into the policy development process.
3. **Post-engagement follow-up:** After the policy is finalized, share a summary of the public engagement process and how it influenced the final policy document.

3.4.7 Additional Considerations.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

It is important to consider these two aspects so that the activity is free from predispositions: -

1. **Accessibility:** Ensure outreach materials and participation opportunities are accessible to diverse audiences, considering factors like language, literacy levels, and technological limitations.
2. **Balanced representation:** Strive for a balanced representation of different viewpoints in the public engagement process.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

By following these steps, policymakers can create a more inclusive and informed trade policy that reflects the concerns and aspirations of the public.

3.5.0 TRADE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Mr. Speaker sir,

It is important to note that whenever two or three parties are involved or engaged in a similar endeavour, a dispute is one thing you can not overlook. Therefore, there those mechanisms that could be used to settle misunderstandings that may arise. These include: -

3.5.1 Arbitration

Mr. Speaker Sir,

This is a method for resolving disputes arising from trade activities that parties agree upon and are carried out in accordance with the order and procedures. Currently, there are several types of arbitration, including permanent arbitration and ad hoc arbitration.

3.5.2 Mediation.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

This is a process in which a neutral third party helps the disputing parties reach an agreement. There are two methods for mediating: One is that the parties are in agreement regarding mediation, that the mediator will be chosen, and that the mediation will be conducted without following any mediation rules.

The subsequent way is that the gatherings consent to direct the intervention under the rules of an expert association or one explicit discretion establishment, for example, intercession rules of the Worldwide Office of Trade (ICC).

3.5.3 Negotiation.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

In international dispute resolution, negotiation is typically used as a method of resolution. Particularly, the parties talk together, fight, come to an agreement, and settle the dispute.

The dispute may or may not be resolved as a result of the negotiation. There are two methods used in negotiations: The two parties meet in person to discuss and negotiate, or one party submits a complaint to the other and the other responds

3.5.4 Litigation.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The three above methods of dispute resolution are voluntary. They are distinct from dispute resolution in accordance with court procedures. Disputes should be resolved through the efforts of state tribunals, not by court settlement.

As a result, litigants in the dispute are frequently viewed as the ultimate means of safeguarding their legitimate interests. In particular, parties will choose trade negotiation or mediation over commercial arbitration or court when there is a conflict.

3.6.0 RESOURCE ALLOCATION AND LEGISLATIVE ROLE.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

County governments in Kenya walk a tightrope when allocating resources. They need to balance promoting trade, a driver of economic growth, with funding essential services like healthcare and education. Discussed below is how the allocation of resources is done and the County Assembly's role in the process:

3.6.1 County Government's Allocation.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The County government through various departments prioritizes needs based on development plans and public input. Trade promotion initiatives compete with other crucial services for funding.

The countries are given guidelines where they consider national trade policies and resource allocation from the national government, which can influence trade-related projects, and by so doing they allocate resources accordingly

3.6.2 County Assembly's Role.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The County Assembly is involved in this process in the following ways: -

1. **Legislative Framework:** The County Assembly sets the stage by enacting trade laws specific to the county's needs. These laws guide how resources are used for trade promotion.
2. **Budget Approval:** The Assembly holds the purse strings. They approve the county budget, deciding how much gets allocated for trade initiatives. This allows them to prioritize trade development based on local needs.
3. **Oversight:** They don't just approve, they oversee. The Assembly monitors how the Executive branch implements the budget, ensuring trade promotion funds are used effectively.

3.6.3 Challenges.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

It is imperative to note that in the process of resource allocation, there are several challenges faced. These include: -

1. **Limited Resources:** Striking a balance between trade promotion and essential services can be difficult with limited county budgets.

2. **Transparency:** The Assembly needs to ensure transparency in resource allocation to avoid misuse of funds.

Mr. Speaker Sir

In essence, the County government allocates resources based on priorities and national guidelines, while the County Assembly shapes the framework through legislation, approves the budget, and ensures accountability. Together, they strive to create an environment where trade flourishes within the county.

CHAPTER FOUR

4.0 LESSONS LEARNT BY THE COMMITTEE FROM SINGAPORE.

Mr. Speaker sir,

It is worth noting that the committee benefited immensely from the study visit to Singapore and thus here are the lessons learned: -

1. Singapore has invested in Openness and Connectivity; where her major focus is on: -

- i. **Free Trade Advocacy:** Singapore has championed free trade and established itself as a global trade hub. This openness attracts foreign investment and facilitates the movement of goods and services.
- ii. **Strategic Location:** Leveraging its geographical position, Singapore has developed world-class port infrastructure and transportation networks, facilitating efficient trade flows.

2. Investment in Human Capital: Singapore as a government has invested in:

- i. **Education and Skills Development:** Singapore prioritizes a strong education system that equips its workforce with the skills needed to thrive in a globalized economy.
- ii. **Focus on Innovation:** The country actively promotes research and development, fostering a culture of innovation that generates new products and services for global markets.

3. Singapore has ensured an Efficient Regulatory Environment by:

- i. **Streamlining bureaucracy.** Singapore has a reputation for a transparent and efficient regulatory system that minimizes administrative burdens for businesses.

- ii. **Strong Rule of Law.** Singapore has a robust legal system that protects property rights and enforces contracts, fostering trust and confidence among domestic and foreign investors.

4. The government of Singapore has acted as a facilitator in the following ways: -

- i. **Strategic Planning:** The Singaporean government plays a proactive role in guiding economic development, focusing on attracting high-value industries and fostering an entrepreneurial ecosystem.
- ii. **Infrastructure Investment:** Continuous investment in infrastructure, from physical transportation networks to digital connectivity, strengthens Singapore's position as a trade and business centre.

5. Adaptability and Innovation. The Singaporean government has created a conducive environment for the following: -

- i. **Embracing Change:** Singapore recognizes the need to adapt to evolving global economic trends. It constantly seeks new trade opportunities and diversifies its economy to mitigate risks.
- ii. **Knowledge-Based Economy:** The country is transitioning towards a knowledge-based economy, focusing on high-tech industries and research to maintain its competitive edge.

CHAPTER FIVE.

5.0 COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Having undergone this workshop successfully and learned many lessons from the presentation made, the Committee makes the following recommendations:

1. That the County government of Kitui develops a comprehensive County Trade Strategy that identifies trade priorities, sets achievable goals, and outlines specific actions for the promotion of trade within the County. This will ensure that all sectors and priorities are captured in the plan to maximize the County's potential.
2. That the County Assembly as the legislative arm of the County government assists in coming up with draft legislation and enact by-laws that regulate trade activities within the county. These by-laws could be addressing issues like: -
 - a. Market licensing and operation standards.
 - b. Product quality control and labelling requirements.
 - c. Consumer protection measures, including fair trade practices and dispute resolution mechanisms.
 - d. Local content requirements, where relevant, to encourage the use of local resources in production processes.
3. That the County government Streamlines Business Regulations. This could be done by reviewing and simplifying business licensing procedures to reduce bureaucratic burdens on entrepreneurs and traders within the County. This will go a long way in ensuring that those who intend to

engage in trading activities can acquire all the requirements with ease and ensure that the government does not lose revenue.

4. That the County government Invests in Market Research by conducting regular research to understand county-specific trade opportunities, including potential markets, competitor analysis, and consumer preferences. By so doing there will be an understanding of the County's potential and traders could get advice on the best investment opportunities from the county database on trade.
5. That the County government of Kitui focuses on specific sectors with high growth potential based on local resources and skills, and develops targeted policies to support them e.g. agricultural processing, and tourism infrastructure. The policies should be geared towards formulating a framework that will encourage competitive engagement in the identified fields and encourage many traders to invest their resources in the said field thus promoting employment opportunities for our youth.
6. That the County government of Kitui Invests in Transport and Logistics. This means Improving county-level roads, bridges, and storage facilities to facilitate efficient movement of goods. Many of the County trade centres are not connected despite having the potential for trading activities. Therefore, it would be prudent for the County to invest handsomely in the roads by opening up these markets and ensuring that the county roads are well maintained to facilitate continuous trading activities.
7. That the County government upgrades and expands existing markets, including the construction of modern market facilities with proper sanitation and security measures (installation of proper security lights). This will ensure

that traders in the County are assured of the security of their businesses as well as a healthy working environment.

8. That The County government Establishes Business Support Services. This could be done by creating or partnering with organizations that provide training programs, mentorship initiatives, and access to financing for local entrepreneurs. If traders in the County are trained, mentored and financed the County is assured of an expanded revenue base and improved livelihood of her citizens.
9. That The County government organizes Trade Fairs and Exhibitions. This is where the County hosts events that showcase local products and services, connecting county businesses with potential buyers and investors. These engagements will go a long way in exposing the County traders to a wide market base and potential business opportunities.
10. That the County government of Kitui works with the National Government through national government agencies to ensure county-level trade policies align with national strategies and benefit from existing trade agreements. This will ensure that the County government benefits equally from the already existing agreements by ensuring these alignments are adhered to during the formulation of the County policies.
11. That the county government promotes Inter-County Trade by facilitating trade linkages with neighbouring counties, creating a larger regional market for local products. This will ensure that the county products do not go to waste because of the presence of ready markets for our products.

6.0. CONCLUSION

Mr. Speaker sir,

The committee believes that once the above recommendations on the wake call to promote trade are implemented, they will enhance trade and all related activities in all the related sectors that contribute directly and indirectly to the promotion of trade. It will further enhance accountability, effectiveness, transparency, efficiency, and prudent management of resources and yield better service delivery in the county, today and in the immediate future.

Mr. Speaker sir,

It is important to note that the devolved units in Kenya have an enormous duty as provided for in the Constitution of Kenya to ensure that their development goals and objectives marry those in the Vision 2030, sustainable development as well as sustainable development goals to match what the other world is doing.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

In so doing the County government should involve all stakeholders from all levels by contacting public participation on all the development projects and programs before they are implemented. This will go a long way in ensuring that the priority needs of the citizenry are taken into consideration during the preparation of the County Planning documents and thus ensure that the County cake does not leave any department out.


Mr. Speaker Sir,

If visible development is to be realized in Kitui County, we must avoid divisive politics as leaders, ensure equitable resource distribution across the forty wards,

and encourage transparency, accountability, efficiency, and responsiveness to the needs of Kitui residents.

This assembly should set a clear path in ensuring that before approving budgetary allocations for projects and programs, there are policies and regulations in place. This will ensure that public funds are not misappropriated and that there is value for funds spent in implementing these projects.

Annexure i: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT BY THE COMMITTEE

s/no	NAME	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
1.	Hon. Nzavu Mwanzia	Leader of delegation	
2.	Hon. Aron Kilonzi Kasele	member	
3.	Hon. Charity Mwangangi	member	
4.	Hon. Joseph Musyoka Mbite	member	
5.	Hon. Immaculate Wanza John	member	
6.	Hon. Frida Maua Mutinda	member	