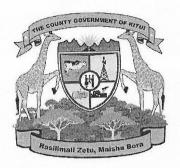
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COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KITUI THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THIRD ASSEMBLY - (FOURTH SESSION)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

TUESDAY 12TH FEBRUARY, 2025 AT 2.30 P.M.

- 1. The House convened at Two Thirty O'clock.
- 2. The proceedings were opened with a prayer.
- 3. **PRESIDING** Hon. Speaker on the Chair.
- 4. COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

The following communications were made:

COMMUNICATION AS RELATES TO RESUMPTION FROM DECEMBER RECESS, 2024.

Honourable Members,

I am delighted to welcome you all back to the Assembly following the conclusion of the December 2024 recess. It is my believe that we all had a restful and rejuvenating break and we are now prepared to continue with the critical mandate entrusted to us by the great people of Kitui County. I also trust that the break gave you an opportunity to interact with your electorates.

Honourable Members,

As we officially embark on our Fourth Session, it is important for us to take a moment to reflect on collective achievements we made consignit with the cities is easidate entrusted to us beginning a people granded to the property of the breek grand and of the street and o

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during the Third Session that ended on 17th December 2024, which will guide us to set the Assembly agenda for this new session.

Honourable Members,

The past session was marked by significant strides in our tripartite role of legislation, oversight, and representation, as enshrined in Article 185 of the Constitution of Kenya (2010). Indeed, we achieved significant milestones as a House that underscore our collective dedication to advancing the interests of our people. Allow me to share our accomplishments made during the last session as I express my gratitude to all who contributed to this success. Some of our notable achievements made during the period under review includes; -

A. Key Legislative Achievements

a) Bills

Honourable Members,

During the Third Session, this Assembly successfully debated and enacted Seven (7) pieces of legislation aimed at strengthening governance and service delivery. They include; -

- i. The Kitui County River Basins Sand Utilization and Conservation Bill, 2023
- ii. The Kitui County Supplementary Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2024
- iii. The Kitui County Appropriation Bill, 2024
- iv. The Kitui County Alcoholic Drinks Control (Amendment) Bill, 2024
- v. The Kitui County Finance Bill, 2024
- vi. The Kitui County Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2024

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vii. Governor's Memorandum on The Kitui County Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2024.

These laws reflect our commitment to transformative policies that address both immediate and long-term challenges.

b) Guidelines

Honourable Members, this House also approved the Kitui County Public Forums Implementation (Amendment) Guidelines, 2024.

c) Motions

Honourable Members,

During the period under review, this Assembly was able to debate and approve over 80 motions, key among them being; -

- 1. Motion on approval of membership to the County Assembly Business Committee.
- 2. Motion on approval of the County Assembly Annual Calendar, Third Session (From February 2024 to December 2024).
- 3. Motion on Approval of the Model Intergovernmental Conditional Allocation Transfer Agreement.
- 4. Motion on adoption of the report by the Committee on the County Delegated Legislation on Kitui County River Basins Sand Utilization and Conservation Policy, 2023.
- 5. Motion on adoption of the report by the joint Committee on Agriculture, Water and Irrigation and Labour and Social Welfare on inspection of water projects in Kanyangi Ward and spot checks at Thwake Mega Dam on labour issues.
- 6. Motion on adoption of the report by the Committee on Lands, Infrastructure and Urban Development on training on advanced

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7. parliamentary theory and practice for County Assembly of Kitui in Turkey-Istanbul.

- 8. Motion on adoption of the report by the Committee on Environment, Energy and Minerals Investments Development on study visit to Kajiado and Makueni Counties on sustainable sand harvesting.
- 9. Motion on adoption of the report by the Committee on Environment, Energy and Minerals Investments Development on sand harvesting sites in Kitui County.
- 10. Motion on adjournment of the County Assembly to allow County Assembly Sectoral Committees time to consider the Kitui County Fiscal Strategy Paper FY2024/2025 and further allow Committees to undertake oversight activities and resume its sitting on Tuesday 12th March 2024 at 9.00 a.m.
- 11. Motion on adoption of the report by the Committee on Lands, Infrastructure and Urban Development on inspection exercise of roads projects undertaken in the Financial Year 2021/2022 in Kitui County.
- 12. Motion on Governor's address on the State of the County.
- 13. Motion on adoption of the report by a delegation of the Committee on Labour and Social Welfare and Committee on Appointments on the role of legislature in labour practices and vetting of nominees to public office held in Singapore from 12th to 16th February 2024.
- 14. Motion on adoption of the report by the County Budget and Appropriations Committee on consideration of the Kitui County Fiscal Strategy Paper for the Financial Year 2024/2025.

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15. Motion on adjournment of the County Assembly to allow the Committee on County Budget and Appropriations time to consider the Kitui County Supplementary Budget Estimates II for the FY 2023/2024 and other County Assembly Committees time to undertake oversight activities and resume its sitting on Tuesday 26th March 2024 at 9.00 a.m.

- 16. Motion on adoption of the report by the Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs on the training on the role of legislature in justice and legal affairs matters, held in Singapore from 4th to 8th March, 2024.
- 17. Motion on adoption of the report by the Committee on Trade, Industry, ICT, and Co-operatives on the role of the legislature in trade promotion held in Singapore from 5th to 11th March 2024.
- 18. Motion on adoption of the report by the County Budget and Appropriations Committee on consideration of the Kitui County Supplementary Budget II Estimates for the Financial Year 2023/2024.
- 19. Motion on the Kitui County Supplementary Appropriations II Bill, 2024 (C/Assembly Bill No. 1 of 2024).
- 20. Motion on the Kitui County Supplementary Appropriation II Bill, 2024 (C/Assembly Bill No.1 of 2024) with Amendments.
- 21. Motion on adoption of the report by the Committee on Implementation on the implementation of House resolutions.
- 22. Motion on adoption of the report by the Committee on Health and Sanitation on the status of health facilities within Kitui County.

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23. Motion on adoption of the report by the Committee on Lands, Infrastructure and Urban Development on the oversight exercise to inspect projects undertaken by the Ministry of Roads, Public Works and Transport from May, 2023 - February 2024 across the County.

- 24. Motion on adoption of the report by the Committee on Powers and Privileges on inquiry on its own motion into the conduct of Hon. Munyoki Mwinzi, Hon. Daniel Ngoima Kimanzi, Hon. Priscilla Martha Makumi and Hon. Mary Ndumbu and to establish whether their conduct constitutes a breach of privilege.
- 25. Motion on adjournment of the County Assembly to allow Honourable Members to participate in public participation on budget estimates for the Financial Year 2024/2025 from 15th 17th May 2024 and thereafter, undertake Sectoral consideration of the same from 20th -24th May 2024 and resume its sitting on Tuesday 28th May 2024 at 9:00 am
- 26. Motion on adoption of the report by the Committee on Appointments on vetting of nominees to Mwingi Municipality Board.
- 27. Motion on adoption of the report by the Committee on Environment, Energy and Mineral investments development on the inspection of solar flood lights and street lighting in Kitui County.
- 28. Motion on adoption of the report by the Committee on Agriculture, Water and Irrigation on inspection exercise of sand

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29. dams constructed across Kitui County in the FY 2023/2024 carried out on 4th to 8th March, 2024.

- 30. Motion on adoption of the report by the Committee on Finance and Economic Planning on the inspection exercise on the status of revenue collection in Kitui County.
- 31. Motion on adoption of the report by the Committee on Trade, Industry, ICT & Cooperatives on inspection of market sheds, slaughter houses & stock yards across the county carried out on 7th -11th August 2023.
- 32. Motion on adoption of the report by the Committee on Labour and Social Welfare on the oversight exercise carried to access the welfare of workers in the county corporations carried out from 15th 19th May, 2023.
- 33. Motion on adoption of the report by the Committee on Labour and Social Welfare on the oversight exercise carried to access the welfare of workers in the County Vocational Training Centres carried out from 2nd -6th April, 2024.
- 34. Motion on adoption of the report by the Committee on Tourism and Natural Resources on the inspection exercise of tourism projects funded by the County Government of Kitui for the period 2013-2023 conducted from 24th -28th July 2023.
- 35. Motion on adoption of the report by the Committee on Culture, Sports, Youth, Gender and Social Services on the site inspection visit on the status of Lower Eastern Heritage Centre, resources centres and social halls projects funded by the County Government of Kitui, carried out from 8th 12th May 2023.

36. Motion on adoption of the report by the Committee on Culture, Sports, Youth, Gender and Social Services on the inspection of playgrounds funded by the County Government of Kitui in FY 2022/2023 carried out from 18th to 22nd March, 2024.

- 37. Motion on adoption of the report by the Committee on Basic Education, Training and Skills Development on inspection of County Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) in Kitui County.
- 38. Motion on adoption of the report by the County Budget and Appropriations Committee on consideration of the Kitui County Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2024/2025.
- 39. Motion on adoption of the report by the Committee on Basic Education, Training and Skills Development on inspection of Early Childhood Development Centres (ECDE) in Kitui County.
- 40. Motion on adoption of the report by the Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs on assessment of the implementation status of South Eastern Kenya Economic Bloc (SEKEB) Act, 2022.
- 41. Motion on adoption of the report by the Committee on Administration and Coordination of County Affairs and Committee on powers and privileges on training on county governance and oversight: Integrating Administration, Power and Privilege held from 11th 18th May 2024 in United Arab Emirates- Dubai.

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42. Motion on adoption of the report by a delegation of members from the Committee on Trade, ICT, Industry and Cooperatives and the Committee on Basic Education, Training and Skills Development on training on strategic leadership held from 2nd to 9th June, 2024 in United Arab Emirates-Dubai.

- 43. Motion on adjournment of the County Assembly to allow Honourable Members to participate in public participation on the Kitui County Alcoholic Drinks Control (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (County Assembly Bill No.3 of 2024) from 9th -12th July 2024 and resume its sitting on Tuesday 16th July 2024 at 9:00 am
- 44. Motion on adjournment of the County Assembly to allow Honourable Members to conduct a County Oversight tour as well as attend the Kitui Agricultural Show and Trade Fair, 2024 from 22nd -26th July 2024 and resume its sitting on Tuesday 30th July 2024 at 9:00 am
- 45. Motion on adoption of the report by a delegation of Joint Committees on Tourism and Natural Resources and the Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs on training on disaster preparedness, response and mitigation and transformational leadership held from 17th to 22nd June, 2024 in United Arab Emirates-Dubai.
- 46. Motion on adoption of the report by the joint Committee on Delegated County Legislation and Sectoral Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs on the Kitui County Public Forum (Implementation) (Amendments) Guidelines, 2024.

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47. Motion on adoption of the report by the Committee on Appointments on vetting of nominees for appointment as members of the Kitui Municipality Board.

- 48. Motion on adoption of the report by the Committee on County Public Investments and Accounts on the examination of the reports of the Auditor General on the financial statements for the Kitui Water and Sanitation Company Limited (KITWASCO) and Kiambere Mwingi Water and Sanitation Company Limited (KIMWASCO) for the Financial Year Ended 30th June 2019.
- 49. Motion on adjournment of the County Assembly to allow Honourable Members of County Assembly to participate in public participation on Annual Development Plan for the Financial Year 2025/2026 and thereafter undertake Sectoral Committees consideration of the same and resume its sittings on Tuesday 24th September, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.
- 50. Motion of County importance on insecurity in Kitui County specifically along the areas Bordering Tana River and Garissa Counties.
- 51. Motion on adoption of the report by the Committee on Finance and Economic Planning on consideration of the Kitui County Annual Development Plan for the Financial Year 2025/2026.
- 52. Motion on adjournment of the County Assembly to allow Honourable Members of County Assembly undertake consultative meeting with the Executive and resume its sittings on Tuesday 8th October 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

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53. Motion on adoption of the report by the Committee on County Public Investments and Accounts on the Examination of the Reports of the Auditor-General on the Financial Statements for the County Executive of Kitui and County Assembly of Kitui for the Financial Year Ended 30th June 2020.

- 54. Motion on adoption of the report by the Committee on Agriculture Water and Irrigation on training workshop and study visit to Addis Ababa -Ethiopia on advancing entrepreneurship and agribusiness development.
- 55. Motion on adoption of the report by the Committee on County Budget and Appropriations on consideration of the Kitui County Supplementary Budget I Estimates for the Financial Year 2024/2025.
- 56. Motion on adoption of the report by the Joint Committee on Administration and Coordination of County affairs & Justice and Legal Affairs on the Review of Community Level Infrastructure Development Programme Framework (CLIDP).
- 57. Motion on adoption of the report by the Committee on Agriculture, Water and irrigation on the inspection exercise on boreholes drilled across Kitui County in the Financial Year 2023/2024, KITWASCO and KIMWASCO pipelines, their main water sources and treatment zones conducted from 12th 16th August 2024.
- 58. Motion for enhanced representation, employment opportunities, cultural recognition, and development affirmative action for marginalized/minority communities in Kitui County.

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59. Motion of county importance on the completion of Kwa Siku-Mbondoni Road brought under urgent notice pursuant to Standing Order No. 30(1).

- 60. Motion on adoption of the report by the Committee on Administration and Coordination of County Affairs on a training workshop on governance and public sector management for improved service delivery masterclass held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- 61. Motion on adoption of the report by the Committee on Health and Sanitation on a training workshop on strategies for strengthening county health systems to expand access to high quality health Services held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 11th 15th November 2024.
- 62. Motion on alteration of the County Assembly Calendar, 2024.
- 63. Motion on adoption of membership to the Special Committee on the proposed removal from Office of the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Finance, Economic Planning and Revenue Management Mr. Peter Mwikya Kilonzo.
- 64. Motion on H.E the Governor's Memorandum on the Kitui County Supplementary Appropriations Bill, 2024 (C/Assembly Bill No.5 of 2024).
- 65. Motion on adoption of the report by a special committee on the removal from office of the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Finance, Economic Planning and Revenue Management Mr. Peter Mwikya Kilonzo.

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d) Statements

Honourable Members,

The following statements were requested during the period under review; -

- i. Statement request by Hon. Christopher Nzilu on Status update of grading works at Kavou- Ndumoni road in Kyangwithya West ward and inquiry into program Feasibility.
- ii. Statement request by Hon. Bernard Mwangangi Munyasya on the Water shortage in Mwingi town, its environs, and Kiosks along KIMWASCO water pipeline
- iii. Statement request by Hon. Cornelius Ngumbau Muthami on the water shortage in Kitui town and surrounding areas.
- iv. Statement request by Hon. Cyrus Musyoka Kisavi on the recent lay off of some community health promoters in Ikanga/ Kyatune Ward.
- v. Statement request by Hon. Benjamin Mulandi on the status of Roads in Kitui County
- vi. Statement request by Hon. Benjamin Mulandi on the proposed drilling of boreholes across the County in the Financial Year 2023/2024 and the Status of Kyangulu Nzinia -Mbuini-Kakeani- Iiani water pipeline project in Mutonguni Ward on the proposed drilling of boreholes across the County in the Financial Year 2023/2024 and the Status of Kyangulu Nzinia -Mbuini- Kakeani- Iiani water pipeline project in Mutonguni Ward

vii. Statement request by Hon. Muthengi Ndagara on Noninclusivity of Minority/Marginalized communities withing Kitui County

- viii. Statement request by Hon. Hussein Mwandia on Mining activities in Ikutha Ward.
- ix. Statement request by Hon. Joseph Kasungi Kavula on deforestation activities at Ndithi/Endui Hills in Waita Ward.
- x. Statement request by Hon. Hussein Mwandia on the concluded Youth International Day held in Kauwi, Kitui west Sub County.
- xi. Statement request by Hon. Boniface Maundu Katumbi on animals loitering in Mwingi and Kitui towns.
- xii. Statement request by Hon. Jeremiah Musee Mutua on transfer of health workers and creation of a new position of a health coordinator and the status of Nguni Health centre and Ivuusya dispensary.
- xiii. Statement request by Hon. Munyoki Mwinzi on non-payment of casuals working in the county dispensaries and health centres.
- xiv. Statement request by Hon. Dominic Isumail Mwamisi on the deplorable state of Mutha Health centre and other health facilities in Mutha ward.

B. Oversight

Honourable Members,

Through robust County Assembly Committee oversight activities, the Assembly diligently provided oversight to ensure transparency, accountability, and efficiency in the expenditure of public funds. As a result of these committee inspection exercises, we produced detailed reports with recommended actionable solutions that, if properly

implemented, will strengthen governance and accountability in key county departments. The following committees undertook various inspection exercise as outlined below; -

- i. The Committee on Agriculture, Water and irrigation inspection exercise on boreholes drilled across Kitui County in the Financial Year 2023/2024, KITWASCO and KIMWASCO pipelines, their main water sources and treatment zones conducted from 12th 16th August 2024.
- ii. The Committee on Culture, Sports, Youth, Gender and Social Services inspection exercise on Playgrounds funded by the County Government of Kitui in FY 2022/2023 carried out from 18th to 22nd March, 2024.
- iii. The Committee on Basic Education, Training and Skills
 Development inspection exercise of the Early Childhood
 Development Centres (ECDE) in Kitui County from 2nd to 6th
 April, 2024
- iv. The Committee on Labour and Social Welfare oversight exercise carried to access the welfare of workers in the County Vocational Training Centres carried out from 2nd -6th April, 2024.
- v. County oversight tour carried out by the whole House from 22nd to 26th July, 2024.
- vi. The Committee on Trade, Industry, ICT and Cooperatives inspection of County Corporations -KICOTEC Kitui, KICOTEC Mwingi, KICOTEC Mutomo and Ballast Crusher at Kwa-Kilui.

As we acknowledge the achievements made during the third session, allow me to remind this House that we closed the session with

pending committee reports and responses to statement requests that require the attention of this Assembly. These pending reports and responses encompass critical areas awaiting our consideration and action.

Below are the highlights of some pending committee work that requires the attention of this House;

1. Reports

Honourable Members,

Some of the pending committee reports include;

- i. Report by the whole County Assembly on the oversight tour carried out from 22nd to 26th July, 2024.
- ii. Report by the Committee on Trade, Industry, ICT and Cooperatives on the inspection of County Corporations KICOTEC Kitui, KICOTEC Mwingi, KICOTEC Mutomo and Ballast Crusher at Kwa-Kilui.
- iii. Report by Public Investments and Accounts Committee on audited accounts of the Kitui County Executive for the Financial Year 2022/2023.
- iv. Report by Public Investments and Accounts Committee on audited accounts of the Kitui County Assembly for the Financial Year 2022/2023.
- v. Report by Public Investments and Accounts Committee on audited accounts of the Kitui Water & Sanitation Company (KITWASCO) for the Financial Year 2022/2023.
- vi. Report by Public Investments and Accounts Committee on audited accounts of the Kiambere Mwingi Water & Sanitation Company (KIMWASCO) for the Financial Year 2022/2023.

vii. Report by Public Investments and Accounts Committee on audited accounts of the Kitui County Textile Centre (KICOTEC) for the Financial Year 2022/2023.

- viii. Report by Public Investments and Accounts Committee on audited accounts of Receiver of Revenue -Revenue statements for the financial year 2022/2023.
- ix. Report by Public Investments and Accounts Committee on audited accounts of Kitui County Empowerment Fund for the financial year 2022/2023.
- x. Report by Public Investments and Accounts Committee on audited accounts of the Kitui County Assembly Car and Mortgage (Members) Scheme Fund for the financial year 2022/2023.
- xi. Report by Public Investments and Accounts Committee on audited accounts of the Kitui County Assembly Service Board Employees' Car and Mortgage Fund for the financial year 2022/2023.
- xii. Report by the Committee on Basic Education, Training and Skill Development on a study visit and a training workshop on administration of integrated multi-sector early childhood education and capacity to improve the well-being of children held in Addis Ababa- Ethiopia from 25th to 29th November, 2025.
- xiii. Report by the Kitui County Assembly Leadership on a study visit to Istanbul, Turkey on leadership and excellence from 25th to 29th November, 2024.

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- xiv. Report by Public Investments and Accounts Committee on audited accounts of the Kitui County Revenue Fund for the financial year 2022/2023.
- xv. Report by Public Investments and Accounts Committee on audited accounts of the Kitui County Executive for the Financial Years 2020/2021 and 2021/2022.
- xvi. Report by Public Investments and Accounts Committee on audited accounts of the Kitui County Assembly for the Financial Years 2020/2021 and 2021/2022.
- xvii. Report by Public Investments and Accounts Committee on audited accounts of the Kitui Water & Sanitation Company (KITWASCO) for the Financial Years 2019/2020; 2020/2021 and 2021/2022.
- xviii. Report by Public Investments and Accounts Committee on audited accounts of the Kiambere Mwingi Water & Sanitation Company (KIMWASCO) for the Financial Years 2019/2020; 2020/2021 and 2021/2022.
 - xix. Report by Public Investments and Accounts Committee on audited accounts of the Kitui County Textile Centre (KICOTEC) for the Financial Years 2019/2020; 2020/2021 and 2021/2022.

2. Statements

Honourable Members,

Responses to the following statements requests are also pending, key among them being;

i. Statement request by Hon. Jeremiah Mutua on various County Staff appointed on Acting capacities, addition about the cities of the County Agreembly the the

- ii. Statement request by Cornelius Kiteme Muthami on operationalization of the Office of the County Attorney,
- iii. Statement request by Hon. Jeremiah Mutua on the Status of Nzouni Primary School Stadium, Nguni Ward – Mwingi Central Sub County
- iv. Statement request by Hon. Rose Kasyoka Kathoka on unjustified dismissal and unfair labour practices by the County Public Service Board and the Office of the County Secretary on Chief Officers and other County Staff
- v. Statement request by Hon. Benjamin Mulandi on the status of Non-operational Health facilities in Mutonguni
- vi. Statement request by Hon. Harrison Maluki Mawia on Solar lights (Mlika Mwizi) repair and maintenance across Kitui County
- vii. Statement request by Hon. Anthony Musyimi Musyoka on the Kitui County Youth Engagement forum, 2024
- viii. Statement request by Hon. Charity Kathathi Musyoka on the distribution of assistive devices in Kitui county
 - ix. Statement request by Hon. Boniface Maundu Katumbi on cleaning and garbage collection in all markets in Kyangwithya East Ward
 - x. Statement request by Hon. Alphonse Musyimi Mukwayu on the proposed Thaana Nzau scheme in Kyome Thaana Nzau.
- xi. Statement request by Hon. Alphonse Musyimi Mukwayu on the proposed extension of Songea Thitani Water Pipeline in Kyome Thaana Nzau.

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xii. Statement request by Hon. Harrison Maluki Mawia on nonpayment of market guards across the County

- xiii. Statement request by Hon. Harrison Maluki Mawia on the state of Migwani Level 4 Hospital in Migwani Ward
- xiv. Statement request by Hon. Anthony Musyoka Musyimi on Health Infrastructure and Staffing shortages in Kiomo/Kyethani
- xv. Statement request by Hon. Alphonse Musyimi Mukwayu on the operationalization of Thitani Mortuary in Kyome / Thaana Ward
- xvi. Statement request by Hon. Mary Mwende Mutune on the alleged theft/vandalism of Kitui County Textile Centre
- xvii. Statement request by Hon. Hussein Mwandia on Land ownership and titling in Kitui County
- xviii. Statement request by Hon. Godfrey Muthengi Ndagara on the status of Water projects in Tharaka Ward
 - xix. Statement request by Hon. Boniface Maundu Katumbi on the status of the proposed construction of 100M³ Masonry tank at Misewani village in Kyangwithya East Ward and other water projects.

C. Enhanced Public Participation Forums

During the period under review, as an Assembly we enhanced citizen engagement by holding various public participation forums to ensure that legislative processes were inclusive and reflective of the will of the people pursuant to Article 196(b) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010. These forums have fostered stronger connections between the Assembly and the people we serve. Some of the public engagements we held during Third session includes; -

- i. Public participation on the Kitui County Finance Bill, 2024
- ii. Public participation on the Kitui County Alcoholic Drinks Control (Amendment) Bill, 2024
- iii. Public participation on the Kitui County Budget Estimates for FY 2024/2025.
- iv. Public participation on the Kitui County Annual Development Plan (ADP) 2025/2026.

Honourable Members,

The Assembly enhanced these forums to ensure that more people have the opportunity to share their views on various legislation and statutory documents by organizing virtual public participation exercises through the Google Meet platform. This approach has proven to be the most interactive and effective way to reach Kitui residents living outside the county and allow them to voice their concerns.

Virtual public participation has many benefits, including increasing accessibility for individuals who may have otherwise been unable to attend in-person meetings due to distance, time constraints, or mobility challenges. It also promotes greater inclusivity by allowing a wider range of voices to be heard, fostering a more diverse and representative dialogue.

Additionally, virtual platforms offer convenience, enabling participants to engage from the comfort of their homes, thereby encouraging more people to take part in the decision-making process. Going forward, I assure you that the Assembly will continue to advance this initiative to reach even more people, ensuring that all

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residents have a platform to contribute to the development of our county.

Honourable Members,

As the saying goes, 'All play and no work makes Jack a dull boy,' our Assembly participated in the 5th Edition of CASA games held in Bungoma County from 18th to 27th October 2024. Both Members of the County Assembly and staff exhibited remarkable performance across various disciplines. All teams demonstrated exceptional skill, with our Scrabble team securing first place for the third consecutive year. As your Speaker, I was deeply impressed by the overall performance of all the teams, which reflects the Assembly's diverse talents and capabilities.

Honourable Members,

During the just concluded recess, different committees took time to execute their respective mandates by engaging in various activities ranging from report writing and capacity building exercises. Notable activities which were undertaken during the recess period include; -

- 1. Team building / capacity building exercise conducted to enhance the capacity of Honourable Members and Assembly staff, at Utalii College, Nairobi, from 13th to 18th January, 2025.
- 2. Approval hearing for the persons nominated for appointment as members of the Selection Panel for selecting suitable candidates for appointment as County Secretary, County Attorney, and Secretary to the County Public Service Board, by the Committee on Appointments.
- 3. Committee on Culture, Youth, Sports and Social Services training on gender mainstreaming in policy formulation and

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4. implementation held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 3rd to 7th February, 2025.

- 5. County Assembly Leadership training on leadership and governance for County Assemblies held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 3rd to 7th February, 2025.
- 6. Report writing exercise by the Committee on Appointments on the vetting of nominees to the Selection Panel for selecting suitable candidates for appointment as County Secretary, County Attorney, and Secretary to the County Public Service Board.

Honourable Members,

As we commence our Fourth Session today, I implore each of you to approach our upcoming tasks with diligence, dedication, and unwavering integrity. Let the guiding principles of transparency, accountability, and inclusivity be our compass in all our undertakings.

To sustain the spirit of collaboration and unity within this esteemed House, let us commit to engaging in constructive dialogue, respectful debate, and principled decision-making. Together, we possess the collective strength to surmount challenges, attain significant milestones, and contribute meaningfully to the development of our County.

Honourable Members,

The Canadian-American actress Mary Pickford once said, "The past cannot be changed, but the future is yet in your power." With that in mind, I urge you Honourable Members, to remain steadfast in fulfilling our constitutional mandate throughout this Fourth Session.

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Moreover, let us prioritize drafting of crucial Bills and Motions that address critical areas such as economic growth, social welfare, and service delivery improvement in our County. It is through such initiatives that we can bring positive transformation in the lives of our electorates. I therefore challenge every one of you to endeavor to come up with a Bill before the end of this Fourth Session. I must applaud Hon. Zacchaeus Syengo for his effort in drafting the *County Sports Management Bill*, 2024 and also Hon. Charity Kathathi for coming up with the *Kitui County People with Disabilities Draft Bill*, 2023. I assure you that my office will provide guidance and support in executing these two critical Bills.

On the same breath, I challenge this House to prioritise drafting the following Bills which are very key in dveloping this County;

- 1. Civic Education Bill,
- 2. Public Participation Bill and,
- 3. Youth Empowerment Bill.

As we strive to draft more Bills and Motions, I also challenge respective Assembly Committees to intensify its oversight role to ensure that county resources are managed effectively and that service delivery remains a top priority.

Honourable Members,

It is also imperative that we take time to review and, where necessary, amend our County Assembly Standing Orders at the earliest practicable time. Our Standing Orders which serve as the backbone of our legislative processes, guiding our debates, decision-making, and overall parliamentary procedures were lastly reviewed during the Second Assembly. As the county governance landscape evolves,

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certain provisions may require refinement to enhance efficiency, inclusivity, and accountability in our proceedings.

Honourable Members,

This session presents an opportunity for us to build on our past successes and address emerging challenges with renewed commitment and diligence. The people we represent are looking up to us to lead with integrity, purpose, and unwavering dedication. Therefore, let us work together to make impactful decisions that will transform the lives of our people and foster the development of our great county.

As your Speaker, I reaffirm my unwavering support and dedication to fostering a conducive and productive environment for deliberations and discourse within this esteemed House. My Office is always open to your ideas, concerns, and suggestions as we work together to advance our legislative agenda.

Once again, welcome back! I look forward to a productive and fulfilling session ahead.

Thank you!

COMMUNICATION AS RELATES TO FOLLOW UP ON LAND FOR CONSTRUCTION OF MCAs WARD OFFICES AND DESIGNS FOR THE SAME.

Honourable Members,

As you are all aware, the County Assembly recognized the need to establish Ward Offices for Members of the County Assembly (MCAs) to enhance accessibility and service delivery to the residents of Kitui

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County and thus resolved to identify and secure suitable land for the construction of these offices.

Honourable Members,

Informed by this shared vision, the Kitui County Assembly Service Board (KCASB) has been following up on the implementation of the MCAs Ward Offices by ensuring budgetary allocations for undertaking the same in the County budgets. Currently, under the Assembly budget, there is an allocation of Kshs. 33,042,008 to start the construction of these Ward offices. Further, the Assembly ensured an allocation of Kshs. 7.4 million under the budget for the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development for the purchase of land in Wards where public land is not readily available.

Honourable Members,

The KCASB has been in constant touch with the relevant Ministries to hasten the process of land allocation and availing of the office designs, and I wish to update you as follows:

- i. The Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development wrote the Assembly vide a letter referenced CG/KTI/CECM/MUN/31(A)/61 dated 3rd December, 2024, indicating availability of land in thirty-seven (37) Wards save for Kivou, Mulango, and Kyangwithya East Wards, where public land is not readily available.
- ii. The Office of the Clerk wrote to the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development through a letter referenced CAK/4/II/VOL.IV (40) dated 18th December, 2024, requesting for initiation in preparation of Part Development Plans (PDPs) and surveying (installation of beacons and preparation of survey

iii. plans) necessary to enable the National Land Commission (NLC) to proceed with the titling process, and a follow-up letter on the same was done on 21st January, 2025.

- iv. Further, the Office of the Clerk wrote to the Ministry of Roads, Public Works and Transport requesting for Bill of Quantities (BoQs) and designs for the Ward Offices to occupy an area of 0.5 hectares, in line with the specifications outlined in the approved Annual Development Plan (ADP) for the Financial Year 2024/2025. The proposed designs should include the following amenities:
 - (a) A complete office block with: -
 - i. MCA's main office (with a wardrobe and a washroom)
 - ii. A boardroom
 - iii. Secretary's office.
 - iv. Ward assistant office
 - v. Personal assistant office
 - vi. Messenger room
 - vii. Store and kitchenette.
 - (b) A waiting lobby(gazebo)
 - (c) Outside washrooms.
 - (d) Cabro-paved compound measuring 100 by 100 feet for parking
 - (e) A chain-link perimeter fence
 - (f) A gate and a signboard.

Honourable Members,

Since then, the Assembly has not received any update from the two aforementioned Ministries. Informed by the series of events as

indicated and the need for constant follow-up and engagement with the line Ministries, the KCASB resolved that the matter should be referred to the County Assembly Committee on Lands, Infrastructure and Urban Development.

Honourable Members,

Therefore, pursuant to the Board's resolution and informed by the need to expedite the matter, I hereby commit the project on construction of MCAs Ward offices to the County Assembly Committee on Lands, Infrastructure and Urban Development in line with their mandate as envisaged under Standing Order No. 190(5) and the Second Schedule of the County Assembly of Kitui Standing Orders. Specifically, the Committee is directed to:

- 1. Engage the Ministry of Lands and Urban Development to facilitate the identification and acquisition of land for the construction of MCAs' Ward Offices across all wards. The Committee should follow up with the Ministry to ensure that the Part Development Plans (PDPs) are prepared and surveying (installation of beacons and preparation of survey plans) is undertaken.
- 2. Engage the Ministry of Lands and Urban Development to initiate the purchase of land in Kivou, Mulango, and Kyangwithya East Wards, where public land is not readily available.
- 3. Follow up with the County Department of Roads and Public Works to ensure that the architectural and structural designs for the Ward Offices are availed with their corresponding Bill of Quantities (BoQs) for necessary planning and implementation.

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4. Provide periodic updates to the Assembly on the progress made in addressing these matters. The Committee should treat this matter with the urgency it deserves to ensure the timely realization of this important initiative.

Thank you.

COMMUNICATION AS RELATES TO FUNDING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY OFFICE BLOCK AND MCAs' WARD OFFICES.

Honourable Members,

As you are all aware, extensive consultations and deliberations have undertaken regarding the construction of administration block that will serve as a dedicated workspace for both Members of the County Assembly (MCAs) and the Assembly Service. The vision behind this project is to provide a state-of-the-art facility that will not only enhance operational efficiency but also create a dignified and professional working environment for all stakeholders. The proposed office block is estimated to cost Kshs. 250 million, a significant investment towards the long-term growth and sustainability of our legislative institution. This project is not just a construction initiative - it is a strategic commitment to strengthening the institutional framework of the County Assembly, improving service delivery, and upholding the principles of good governance.

Honourable Members,

In the approved budget for the 2023/2024 Financial Year, a total allocation of Kshs. 190,558,553 was earmarked for this critical project. Out of this Kshs. 26.2 million was spent to partly pay for the

designs leaving unpaid balance of Kshs. 8,972,950.58 for the designs. In the first supplementary budget of 2024/2025 FY, the Assembly was expected to revote Kshs. 164,358,553 for the construction of Office Block. However, as you may be aware, Kshs. 100 million out of this revoted amount was subsequently reallocated from the Assembly budget during the Kitui County Assembly Supplementary I Budget for the FY 2024/2025. This reallocation followed H.E. the Governor's memorandum on the Kitui County Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2025. This implies that there is an approved allocation of Kshs. 64, 358, 553 in the approved budget for FY 2024/2025 and there is a pending payment of Kshs. 8,972,950.58 for the designs. This means the only available amount for the office block is Kshs. 55,385,602.42

This notwithstanding, the modern Assembly Office Block remains our top priority, and we must redouble our efforts to ensure its successful implementation. Securing adequate funding, fostering political goodwill, and maintaining unity of purpose will be essential in advancing this landmark project.

Honourable Members,

The importance of this project cannot be overstated. Article 41(2)(b) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, guarantees every worker the right to reasonable working conditions. In addition, Section 6(2) of the same Constitution mandates the employer to provide and maintain a safe working environment - one that is free from health risks and equipped with adequate facilities for employee welfare.

Currently, Members of the County Assembly, Assembly Service staff, and Ward staff operate in inadequate and congested workspaces that

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do not meet these constitutional and legal standards. The existing conditions hinder productivity, compromise service delivery, and undermine the dignity of those entrusted with serving the people of Kitui. Section 48 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, 2007, further underscores the necessity of providing proper working conditions, making it imperative that we prioritize this development agenda.

Honourable Members,

Beyond the Assembly Office Block, the need to construct proper and fully equipped MCAs' Ward Offices across the county is equally pressing. These offices will serve as vital centers for public engagement, where constituents interact with their elected representatives. Ensuring their construction will go a long way in promoting accessibility, transparency, and efficient service delivery at the grassroots level.

Honourable Members,

In light of these considerations, and pursuant to the resolution of the Kitui County Assembly Service Board (KCASB), I hereby commit the funding/ budgetary aspect for these critical Assembly projects to the County Budget and Appropriations Committee. The Committee is therefore directed to:

1. Prioritize the inclusion of adequate funding in subsequent County budgets to facilitate the timely completion of the Assembly Office Block and commencement of MCAs' Ward Offices; and

2. Engage relevant stakeholders to explore possible funding mechanisms, including phased implementation strategies, to ensure financial sustainability.

Honourable Members,

As an Assembly, we have the collective responsibility to ensure that this legacy project is not only realized but also executed in a manner that upholds fiscal discipline and delivers lasting value to the people of Kitui. The journey ahead requires dedication, collaboration, and strategic decision-making, but with our collective resolve, I am confident that we will see this vision materialize.

Let us remain steadfast in our commitment to advancing the development of this institution, fostering a conducive working environment, and ultimately enhancing the quality of representation and service delivery to the people we serve.

Thank you.

COMMUNICATION AS RELATES TO THE EXPIRY OF TENURES OF COMMITTEES

Honourable Members,

I wish to formally bring to your attention that the tenure of the following committees, established under the Kitui County Assembly Standing Orders, has now expired:

1. County Assembly Business Committee – Pursuant to Standing Order 151(1)(d), this committee is constituted and approved by the County Assembly at the commencement of each session.

Given its critical role in scheduling, monitoring, and overseeing the implementation of Assembly business, it is imperative that it be reconstituted urgently.

- 2. **Committee on Appointments** Standing Order 184(2) stipulates that this committee shall be constituted within seven days of the Assembly convening following a general election and shall serve for a period of three calendar years. The reconstitution shall serve for the remainder of the County Assembly term.
- 3. **Public Investments and Accounts Committee** As provided under Standing Order 185(4), this committee, when constituted immediately following a general election, serves for a period of three calendar years, with the subsequent committee serving for the remainder of the County Assembly term.
- 4. County Budget and Appropriations Committee Standing Order 186(4) mandates that this committee, when constituted immediately after a general election, serves for a period of three calendar years, with the subsequent committee thereafter serving for the remainder of the County Assembly term.

Honourable Members,

Since the Committees on Appointments, Public Investments and Accounts, and County Budget and Appropriations were constituted on 26th October 2022, their three-year tenure has now elapsed. In light of these developments, it is essential to initiate the process of reconstituting the aforementioned committees to ensure continuity in

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their respective mandates. I therefore urge the responsible County Assembly entities to expedite this process to facilitate the smooth functioning of the County Assembly.

Honourable members,

As you are aware, the Assembly was unable to transact business yesterday due to a lack of quorum. In order to finalise on the scheduled business of the week, the business that was to take place yesterday stands deferred to this sitting.

Thank You.

5. PAPERS

The following papers were deferred to a later date as will be scheduled by the House business once it is constituted.

- i. Report by the Committee on Appointments on vetting of nominees to the selection panel for selecting suitable candidates for appointments as County Secretary, County Attorney and Secretary to the County Public Service Board. (Designated Member, Committee on Appointments)
- ii. Report by Selection Committee on Review of Membership to the County Assembly Select and Sectoral Committees. (Chairperson, Selection Committee)

6. NOTICES OF MOTION

The following notices of motion were deferred to a later date as will be scheduled by the House Business Committee once it is constituted:

Motion on adoption of the report by the Committee on
 Appointments on vetting of nominees to the selection panel for

WEDNESDAY 12TH FEBRUARY, 2025

(004)

selecting suitable candidates for appointments as County Secretary, County Attorney and Secretary to the County Public Service Board (Designated Member, Committee on Appointments)

ii. Motion on adoption of the report by the Selection Committee on Review of Membership to the County Assembly Select and Sectoral Committees. (Chairperson, Selection Committee)

The following notice of motion was given:

iii. Motion on approval of Membership to County Assembly Business Committee (Leader of the Majority Party)

7. MOTION ON ADDITIONAL COUNTY ASSEMBLY SITTINGS (Leader of the Majority Party)

Motion made and Question Proposed

THAT, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 27 (3) (c), this Assembly hereby resolves to hold additional sittings on Thursday 13th February and Friday 14th February, 2025 at 9.00 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. This is to allow the Assembly more time to prosecute the scheduled business of the week.

(Hon. Harrison Maluki Mawia - M.C.A)

Debate arising;

Question put and AGREED TO

- **8.** <u>ADJOURNMENT</u> and the time being six minutes to five O'clock, the Hon. Temporary Speaker adjourned the House.
- 9. ASSEMBLY ROSE At six minutes to five O'clock.

MEMORANDUM

The Honorable Speaker will take the chair on Thursday, February 13th 2025 at 9.00 a.m.

Median an adoption of the report by the Schecker Correct