



COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KITUI
THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY
THIRD ASSEMBLY - (FOURTH SESSION)
VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS
WEDNESDAY 7TH MAY, 2025 AT 2.30 A.M

1. The Assembly convened at Nine 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 from the Chair were issued;

i. **COMMUNICATION AS RELATES TO RESUMPTION FROM APRIL RECESS, 2025.**

I take this opportunity to welcome you all back to the Assembly as we resume our official business following the conclusion of April 2025 recess. As I welcome you back today, I trust that the short recess offered you valuable time to engage with your constituents and reflect on the priorities we must now collectively address as a House.

As we reconvene today, I urge each and every one of you to renew your commitment to our constitutional mandate. Article 185 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 gives this House the mandate to legislate, to provide oversight, to represent our electorates, and to ensure the responsible use of public resources. These are not just duties, but the reason this Assembly exists and the core to our service as elected

WEDNESDAY 7TH MAY, 2025

(117)

(028)

leaders and stewards of public trust. The people of this County are counting on us for effective and responsive governance.

Honourable Members,

During the recess period which began on 9th April, 2025, we were involved in notable activities which are worth commending: Allow me to acknowledge some of the activities we carried out during this recess period; -

a. House Leadership Retreat:

Honourable Members, the House Leadership retreated to Nairobi from 14th to 18th April, 2025 to review the previous session and to plan and schedule Assembly activities to be carried out during the April 2025 recess, with the aim of enhancing the oversight role of this House.

b. Oversight/Inspection Exercise:

As part of our constitutional mandate, the whole House conducted an inspection exercise of key development projects implemented by the County Executive across the forty wards from 22nd to 25th and 28th to 30th April 2025, in a bid to assess the status of project implementation - particularly in sectors including health, infrastructure, education, water, and trade, among others. This oversight exercise was necessary in strengthening democratic governance by providing a platform through which citizens' concerns are represented and addressed by this House.

c. Training for Women Members of the County Assembly on breaking barriers:

The Women Members of the County Assembly had a training for women in leadership on breaking barriers in Nairobi as from 14th to

(028)

(118)

18th April, 2025. This training was crucial in empowering women leaders to overcome systemic challenges, enhance their participation in governance and champion gender-responsive legislation.

However, Honourable Members,

As we acknowledge these achievements, we must also confront a challenge that continues to hamper the full functioning of this Assembly, specifically the matter of committee reconstitution, which is currently before the court. As you are aware, this legal stalemate has led to a total standstill of committee operations. To date, no committee activities have taken place, thereby impeding oversight, legislative processing, and general Assembly business.

This impasse is not only affecting service delivery to the public but also diminishing the institutional effectiveness of this House. It is a serious concern and I call upon all parties involved to seek an amicable and speedy resolution to the matter, within the confines of the law and the Standing Orders, so that normalcy can return to the House, and enable us carry out our constitutional duties without further interference.

Honourable Members,

Committees are the engine of this House. They drive oversight activities, guide legislative work, and support budget implementation. Their absence is affecting service delivery to our people, delaying the processing of business, and weakening this institution's effectiveness. A case in point being County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP) for FY 2025/2026 which we were not able to review as a House.

WEDNESDAY 7TH MAY, 2025

(119)

(028)

Consequently, without the County Budget and Appropriations Committee which is a cornerstone of fiscal governance within the County Assembly, tasked with the crucial responsibility of reviewing and analyzing the County annual budget estimates, our County risks significance governance breakdowns such as unvetted budgets, misallocation of resources, weak oversight and increased risk of corruption and wastage.

With this in our minds, I hereby call upon all parties involved to seek an urgent, lawful, and amicable solution on the issue of Assembly committees. The Assembly must move forward. The people of this County are watching, and they expect us to act with maturity, integrity, and unity.

Let us remember that the people did not elect us to engage in internal battles but to serve with integrity, accountability, and unity of purpose. It is time to put the interests of the County above individual or partisan considerations. Let us not allow internal conflicts to derail our mandate.

Honourable Members,

For us to restore the full functionality of this House, get back to work, and to deliver on the promises we made to the people, I hereby urge all us to rise above the current impasse and recommit to the noble calling of public service.

I once again reiterate that as elected leaders, we have a duty greater than ourselves. Our people have trust in our leadership, rely on us to drive development, and look to us for practical solutions to the challenges they face. Therefore, we cannot afford to let internal disputes and legal uncertainties derail the mandate given to us. Let us commit ourselves to serve our electorates with determination.

(028)

(120)

Honourable Members,

As part of this renewed commitment, I wish to share with you the vision to prioritize the drafting and consideration of key legislative proposals aimed at addressing critical socio-economic issues and strengthening governance structures in our County. In this regard, the following Bills have been identified for immediate development and consideration:

- Persons Living with Disabilities Bill
- Facility Improvement Fund Bill
- Public Participation Bill
- Civic Education Bill
- Women Empowerment Bill
- Youth Empowerment Bill
- Sports Bill

These proposed legislations are not only reflective of the needs of our constituents but also aligned with our collective vision for a more inclusive, participatory, and empowered county.

Honourable Members, as of today, we have **826 days**, just **2 years, 3 months, and 2 days**, remaining before the next general election. This limited time frame underscores the urgency with which we must act to deliver meaningful results and a legislative legacy that our people can feel and remember.

Beyond the highlighted proposals, I wish to challenge each one of us to take a more proactive role in legislative development. I urge you to reflect deeply on the specific needs and aspirations of the people in your wards and translate those into well-reasoned legislative proposals. Let us also fully leverage the capacities of our committees

WEDNESDAY 7TH MAY, 2025

(121)

(028)

to originate additional bills, motions, and policy interventions that promote equity, service delivery, and good governance.

The clock is ticking, and the people of this county are watching. Let us rise to the occasion and make every day count.

Honourable Members,

I wish to take this opportunity to commend on the Ward Forums. These forums are important avenues that enable you to interact directly with your electorates and to gather their views and concerns, particularly on matters related to development interventions.

In this regard, it is imperative that we administer and manage these platforms in a manner that is efficient, effective, and sustainable. To this end, the Kitui County Assembly Service Board is in the process of developing a mechanism to cluster the Ward Forums by sub-county for ease of management and coordination. This approach is also expected to significantly reduce fuel expenses currently incurred by the Assembly. Further communication will be issued in due course once this mechanism is finalized, with implementation scheduled to commence in July 2025.

Consequently, I wish to direct that, effective immediately, Ward Forums shall only be held on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Tuesdays and Wednesdays shall remain dedicated to Plenary sittings, which are a core component of our legislative mandate. Your full presence and participation in the plenary is essential to ensure the effective discharge of the Assembly's business and the advancement of our legislative agenda.

WEDNESDAY 7TH MAY, 2025

(028)

(122)

Honourable Members,

Lastly, in my Communication No. 13 of 2025 issued on 9th April, 2025, as we proceeded for the April recess, I urged all team captains to mobilize their teams in readiness for training once the game disciplines/categories are received from the County Assemblies Sports Association (CASA). I wish to reiterate that call and challenge you, Honourable Members and Staff, to remain committed to your training and physical preparedness.

I assure you that I will make the necessary arrangements to support your efforts, including availing training facilities in due course, as we prepare.

**ii. COMMUNICATION AS RELATES TO THE COUNTY BUDGET
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/2026**

Honourable Members,

Good afternoon.

I wish to draw your attention to the County Budget preparation for the financial year 2025/2026, its consideration process and approval by the Assembly.

Article 224 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 provides that;

"On the basis of the Division of Revenue Bill passed by Parliament under Article 218, each county government shall prepare and adopt its own annual budget and appropriation Bill in the form, and according to the procedure, prescribed in an Act of Parliament".

Honourable Members,

Borrowing from the above provisions, the Supreme law envisages a situation where an enforceable County Budget is a product of the legislative organ of the County Government; this being the County

WEDNESDAY 7TH MAY, 2025

(123)

(028)

Assembly that is given the legislative authority under Article 185 of the Constitution. It therefore goes without doubt that the participation of the County Assembly Committees and the House play a mandatory and critical role in budget consideration and approval.

Honourable Members,

One of the key statutory documents for the budget preparation is the County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP). You can all recall that the CFSP for the financial year 2025/2026 was submitted to the Assembly on 28th February, 2025 vide a letter referenced CGKTI/CT/FIN/35/VI/1 dated 27th February, 2025 for consideration and approval by the Assembly.

At the point in time, the term of the County Budget and Appropriations Committee had expired at close of the Third Session and the new Committee formed had been suspended by the Court. With the stalemate, the alternative available was to return the CFSP to the County Executive Committee Member for Finance, Economic Planning and Revenue Management without the County Assembly input as contained vide our letter referenced CAK/FIN/5/1A/VOL.I (7) dated 17th March, 2025.

Honourable Members,

It is critical noting further that the County supplementary budget II for the financial year 2024/2025 was submitted on 11th April, 2025 vide a letter referenced CGKTI/CT/FIN/1/II/(46) and dated 10th April, 2025 for consideration and approval by the Assembly. Consequently, the County Assembly was not able to undertake her mandatory role owing to the same reasons as directed under court orders served to

the Assembly on 4th March, 2025 suspending the County Budget and Appropriations Committee among others. The County Assembly thus responded to the County Executive on the matter vide a letter

WEDNESDAY 7TH MAY, 2025

(028)

(124)

addressed to the CECM for Finance, Economic Planning and Revenue Management referenced CAK/FIN/5/1/Vol.X-L(5) and dated 14th April, 2025.

Honourable Members,

The County Budget for the financial 2025/2026 was submitted to the County Assembly on 30th April, 2025 in adherence to the provisions of Section 129 (2)(a) of the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act, 2012.

Section 131(1) & (2) of the PFM Act, 2012 provides that;

(1)The county assembly shall consider the county government budget estimates with a view to approving them, with or without amendments, in time for the relevant appropriation law and any other laws required to implement the budget to be passed by the 30th June in each year.

(2)Before the county assembly considers the estimates of revenue and expenditure, the relevant committee of the county assembly shall discuss and review the estimates and make recommendations to the county assembly, and in finalizing the recommendations to county assembly, the committee shall take into account the views of the County Executive Committee Member for finance and the public on the proposed recommendations.

Honourable Members,

As stipulated above in law and the practice, the County Budget approval process begins by its Committal to the County Budget and

Appropriations Committee and the Sectoral Committees. This is a process that takes place prior to the budget approval by the

WEDNESDAY 7TH MAY, 2025

(125)

(028)

Assembly. It is unfortunate that the situation of the County Assembly Committees has not yet changed since the orders served suspending their operations is still in force. This condition thus brings a set back that the County budget cannot be committed to the relevant Committee to jump start its consideration process as the same shall amount to a contempt of court. My office is however committed to do the necessary once a reprieve is obtained from the court regarding the same.

**iii. COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR AS RELATES TO
ADHERANCE TO THE SPEAKER'S RULES.**

Honourable Members,

You will recall that during the last session on 14th February, 2025 the Assembly approved the Speaker's rules. The rules are meant to bring order and regulate the conduct of Honourable Members and members of the service, admission and conduct of media representatives and visitors within the precincts of the Assembly.

Honourable Members

During the recent meeting of the Assembly Leadership, it was observed that there has not been keen adherence to the rules as approved. Specifically, Speaker's Rule No. 9 on dress code for Honourable members, members of service and public/visitors while in the precincts of the Assembly and the Plenary.

Honourable Members,

Now therefore, I wish to direct the Sergeant At Arms to fully ensure compliance with the Speakers rules as approved.

Further, during the Assembly plenary meetings NO Honourable member will be allowed to sign the plenary attendance register unless they fully comply to Speaker's Rule No. 9 (1) & (2). In addition, during

WEDNESDAY 7TH MAY, 2025

(028)

(126)

County Assembly committee meetings and whole house activities individual members of Assembly and service should ensure compliance to rule No. 9 (2) and (4).

ADJOURNMENT - And the time being Twenty-Five minutes past Nine O'clock, The Temporary Speaker adjourned the Assembly.

ASSEMBLY ROSE - At twenty- Five minutes past Nine O'clock.

MEMORANDUM

*The Honourable Speaker will take the chair on
Tuesday, 13th May, 2025 at 9.00 A.M.*

--X--

