

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
FIRST SITTING OF MACHAKOS COUNTY ASSEMBLY
OFFICIAL REPORT

Second Assembly - First Session

(Special Sitting of the County Assembly convened vide Kenya Gazette Notice

No. 8984 of 15th September, 2017

Monday, 18th September, 2017

*The County Assembly met at twenty six minutes past ten o'clock in
the County Assembly Chamber at County Hall Buildings*

ARRIVAL OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

*[His Excellency the Governor (Dr. Alfred Mutua) escorted by the
Speaker of the County Assembly (Hon. (Ms.) Mwangangi)*

*entered the Chamber at twenty six minutes past ten o'clock accompanied by the Mace of the
Assembly]*

[His Excellency the Governor (Dr. Mutua) took the Chair of the County]

(The Mace was placed on the Table)

The Speaker of the County Assembly (Hon. (Ms. Mwangangi): Let us pray.

(Prayers were said by the Hon. Speaker)

CONVOCATION

CONVENING OF FIRST SITTING OF THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY FOR THE
GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 17 OF MACHAKOS
COUNTY ASSEMBLY STANDING ORDERS

The Speaker of the County Assembly (Hon. (Ms. Mwangangi): Your Excellency the Governor, Hon. Dr. Alfred Mutua, Hon. Members of the County Assembly, ladies and gentlemen; good morning.

I am delighted to welcome Your Excellency the Governor and Honourable Members of the second Assembly of the Machakos County to this special sitting of the first session of the Assembly.

I congratulate your Excellency and Hon. Members on your election. Today's special sitting is informed by the County Assembly of Machakos Standing Order 1(1) which states that 'where a matter is not expressly provided for by these Standing Orders or other Orders of the House, any procedural question shall be decided by the Speaker.'

His Excellency the Governor had expressed his desire to address the opening of the newly elected second Assembly pursuant to Standing Order 17(1) but due to other engagements on his part, he could not do so during the Hours of Meeting of the Assembly stipulated in Standing Order 27.

Consequently, in consultation with the Governor, a special sitting was called vide Kenya Gazette Notice No. 8984 dated 15th September, 2017 for today Monday, the 18th day of September, 2017 at 10.00 a.m. for the purpose of the Governor's address on opening of the newly elected Assembly.

Hon. Members, Standing Order 20(3) provides that 'when delivering an address to the Assembly, the Governor shall be heard in silence and the address shall not be followed by any comment or question.'

Your Excellency, it is an honour to have you in this House to address the House on the development agenda that the County Government of Machakos has for the County. The people of Machakos County are eagerly waiting to hear your speech which will highlight the economic strategy for the County.

However, before I invite you to talk to us, allow me to make some brief remarks. Hon. Members, under Article 1(1) of the Constitution all sovereign power belongs to the people of Kenya. The people of Machakos County expressed their sovereign power as provided for under Article 1(2) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 by electing you to represent them.

That demonstrates the honour and trust the electorate have in you. In return they are full of expectation that that you will deliver on your promises to them. They have many pressing needs that call for your urgent and undivided attention.

Hon. Members, to that end, I call upon you Hon. Members of this august Assembly to unite as one family of the County Assembly of Machakos irrespective of your political backgrounds, with a common goal of ensuring that the objects of devolution as set out in Article 174 of the Constitution are achieved for the improvement of the lives of the people of Machakos County.

(Applause)

This County Assembly must effectively discharge its mandate of legislation and purposeful oversight over the County Executive under Article 185 of the Constitution. Equally, the County Executive must perform its functions under Article 183 of the Constitution, including the

constitutional requirement of providing the County Assembly with full and regular reports on matters relating to the County as set out in Article 183(3) of the Constitution.

(Applause)

The Executive is obligated to ensure accountability and public participation in financial matters, equitable development of the County, prudent and responsible utilization of County resources as required under Chapter 12 of the Constitution and the provisions of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012.

Observation of the principle of separation of powers shall ensure harmony between the County Assembly and the County Executive for the good of the people. Both institutions are meant to work towards one goal of serving the people of Machakos County and should not be seen to compete but rather to complement one another.

(Applause)

Remember, Hon. Members, as a County united we stand but divided we shall fall.

(Applause)

Hon. Members, it is now my pleasure, privilege and honour to invite His Excellency the Governor to address the House. Thank you.

(Applause)

His Excellency the Governor (Dr. Mutua): Madam Speaker, Hon. Members of this second Machakos County Assembly, I salute you at this important point in the history of our county Machakos and indeed of our beautiful country of Kenya. Today, I am pleased to open this important House so that we can continue with the business of making Machakos the best county to live in and the place to be.

(Applause)

Madam Speaker, let me begin by congratulating you for your election as the Speaker of this House. You are a person who is admired and held in the highest esteem in our country Kenya. My government, this assembly and the country of Kenya have very high hopes that you will be a pillar in unifying and accelerating the development of our county Machakos.

(Applause)

You are able and I really look forward to working with you to achieve the many dreams that our people have. Hon. Members and my people of Machakos, during my first term in office,

Machakos was able to achieve great economic strides. We are currently the leading county in number of roads built, water provided, *Mulika mwizis* (floodlights) installed, health facilities upgraded and even free seeds given to farmers. Research after research by both local and international organizations have shown that Machakos under my leadership, has become the fastest growing region in Kenya.

(Applause)

Where else in Kenya or even in East and Central Africa or even West Africa, do you find an ambulance in every location? Only in Machakos. Where else do you find a free People's Park with the only amphitheater in Kenya and in Africa? Only in Machakos. Where else do you find the fastest built stadium in the world? Only in Machakos. Where else do you find the fastest constructed highway not only in Kenya but in Africa? Only in Machakos. Where else do you find a Hollywood-style setup to harness the talent of our youth in Kenya? Only in Machakos. Where else do you find a yearly cycling competition called *tour de Machakos* featuring athletes riding black mamba bicycles to professional bicycles? Only in Machakos.

(Applause)

As a result of the economic initiative we have undertaken, the price of land in Machakos has risen. Our electricity expansion programme in our various enabling activities have enabled us to be spotted from space. Madam Speaker, Hon. Members, these achievements that have seen us ranked the number one County in Kenya are far from enough. We still have many challenges and we are still a Third World county. However, we have started the journey.

I wish at this time to thank the people of Machakos for overwhelmingly electing me as their Governor again. The people decided that Machakos is special and we need to move forward to greater heights of development and respect from all. I wish to assure my people of Machakos that the promises I made will be fulfilled. My motto from the very beginning has always been, *Kuweta na kwika*, to promise and to fulfill the promise through actions.

I wish to point out a few promises that I gave and are top of my action plan;

1. Enhancing the water project to ensure connectivity of clean tapped water in every household by 2020.
2. Construction of tarmac roads in all sub-counties and improvement of the roads in our towns.
3. Improvement of our marketplaces including construction of clean and free toilets in all towns.
4. Higher education programmes which will enable and provide free fees for all Machakos students to enable them undertake certificate, diploma and university studies.

(Applause)

5. Nearly new 1000 generators in this financial year to expand the electricity coverage with plans to have power in every household by 2022.
6. Creation of 100,000 jobs for unemployed youth in the next two years through attracting investors. This will involve creation of a new city as a bait, so as to have factories in every ward and to have vibrant towns.
7. Reduction of taxes and as I promised you in the campaigns, I will not increase or bring back or introduce new taxes targeting our *mama mbogas* or even our bodaboda riders.

(Applause)

They are very many Madam Speaker, and these are just a few of the many initiatives that with your support in this House, I plan to undertake so as to propel Machakos from the Third World to the First World. It is possible, as I used to say during the campaign period, inawezekana na itawezekana.

(Applause)

Madam Speaker, to enable my government achieve our plans, I will be bringing into this house many Bills for debate and passing. I encourage Hon. Members to also come up with Bills that will help in making Machakos the richest county in Kenya. My government has already prepared over 40 Bills which will be brought to this Hon. House very soon.

Some of these, I want to highlight one very important one is a law of having private-partnership that will allow us to partner with investors to accelerate infrastructure and other developments. That way, we can create employment for many of our young people languishing in poverty.

(Applause)

Madam Speaker and Hon. Members, for my government to achieve its ambitious targets, it will mean making critical changes. I am in the process of vetting my staff and undertaking radical surgery so as to weed out lazy and corrupt officials while at the same time promoting and rewarding good officers.

(Applause)

I request your support in this initiative so that we can continue to utilize the little monies we have to achieve great strides.

(Applause)

I will soon be presenting to you nominees of this various ministerial portfolios for your vetting and approval and later, more officers for various government offices as required by the constitution and the law.

Talking of the constitution and law, Madam Speaker and Hon. Members, Machakos government is made up of the Executive and the Assembly. These are part of one unit but with different roles. I encourage this House to play its role of oversight which you very well put in your speech, of what we in Executive do.

Oversight does not mean political witch hunt or derailing programmes for personal or political benefit.

(Applause)

We need to deal with facts and not propaganda. A lot of lies have been spread by people who were campaigning and who did not want to see me re-elected. But you know God had other plans.

Studies have shown that Machakos, despite its many challenges of corruption, is one of the least corrupt counties in Kenya. However, listening to the political rhetoric, you would think we are the worst. The reason Machakos has been ranked number one for four times in a row, is because monies are protected and shillings squeezed to bear more fruits. We are number one in development in the country because more of our money is used for development and is not stolen.

However, no amount of corruption should be tolerated. As part of the debating systems, lifestyle audits will be done and officers who have acquired wealth not in keeping with their unknown source of income will be assumed to have stolen from the people of Machakos or engaged in taking bribes. We will confiscate those illegally acquired properties and ensure the officers are prosecuted.

(Applause)

Madam Speaker, you said we need to move our country and our county and we cannot do this when people are stealing monies that we have. I urge this House to exercise ethical behavior and integrity. As you know, majority of members who were in this House last session did not survive the political axe.

One of the reasons is because the Machakos County Assembly had also become a House of corrupt activities. Motions and impeachments were brought to this House as shake downs so as business people and government officials could fork out bribes. Vetting exercises became extortion exercises and even the passing of budget was an operation of satisfying greed where money had to be given for members to show up to pass the budget.

Wananchi were not blind and they saw all these and they decided enough is enough. They were also unhappy with what was seemingly extravagant lifestyle of county assembly members of flying to all the corners of this country and the world at the expense of tax payers. I urge the Hon. Members to help me grow the economy of Machakos and provide jobs in our cities by spending money in Machakos instead of spending it and rushing it to the people of Mombasa and Naivasha for retreats.

I urge you to consider spending the money here in Machakos and holding the meetings in Machakos. This will not only improve the standards of our hotels and meeting places but will also create jobs and expand the economies of places like Masii, Tala and Matuu.

For example, Members, if you really want to go to a place where there is a body of water, a place that is hot and where you can look at a big mass of water, please head to Masinga and make it to be a destination.

(Applause)

You do not need to go to Mombasa. Madam Speaker, as I conclude I wish to speak a little about politics. Hon. Members, congratulations to all of us again and again to all of us for winning our seats. You are here as a choice of Wananchi; you won and others were nominated because others won so this is the choice of Wananchi.

You were not chosen because you are from this or that party; indeed you were competing with other people in your parties and you won, you were chosen because Wananchi believed you were the right choice. The last elections were tough and today in this House, I stand here because only two of us survived, myself and Hon. Alex Kamitu of Tala ward.

We are the only survivors in this House. I am the party leader of a growing national party called Maendeleo Chap Chap. However, here in Machakos it will not be about my party or any other party but about the people of Machakos.

(Applause)

I respect all of you regardless of the party you were elected in and in the same token, I expect that together we serve the people of Machakos regardless of which party you come from and not fall in the trap of being used by leaders sitting comfortably in Karen or in other parts of Nairobi so as to slow development in Machakos.

Some of your friends and colleagues were used to fight me, to fight my government and to fight the people of Machakos and today they are jobless. They were used and dumped and they are suffering. Let us take that as a lesson; we are here not to serve interests out of this House but to serve the people of Machakos. We should not be dictated upon by people from other places but we should be dictated upon by our conscience and what we believe is good for Machakos.

We are able because after all we are the choice of the people. Madam Speaker, Hon. Members, leadership is not about making noise or demonstrations or fighting in the chambers; leadership is about spending sleepless nights planning and worrying on how to improve the lives of our people so that our youth can get jobs and our mothers can get water. Leadership is not being the kingpin of suffering people but working through tangible action and a scorecard to change lives.

As I wind up Madam Speaker, Hon. Members, it is important to note that our country Kenya is at crossroads; the political temperatures are rising and this is not healthy. Our people of Machakos and Kenya want peace harmony and stability; we do not want tension. I have had the advantage of serving this country in many capacities for some years now.

I was involved in the clamour for a new constitutional change during the difficult years of the 1990s. I witnessed the referendum when our people were divided in the years 2003 to 2005 and the subsequent 2007 and 2008 post-election violence. The year 2013 was also one where

hatred was preached and people divided along tribal lines. Now here in 2017, the same players from the 1990s are still engaged in political maneuvers; the same players.

Like many Kenyans and many people of Machakos I interact with, I am tired with endless politics and want to end this election period and to move on as a country. We cannot go on forever. I am ready and Kenyans are ready to go to the ballot even next week so as to finish our duty and to move on. We need stability in our country so that we can be able to move on.

Hon. Members, you are not seated here and I am not standing here because of our goodness or our own choice; we are here because the Almighty God decided that we are the leaders---

(Applause)

And we are the ones to push Hos will. It is God who decides who to be a leader and who not to be a leader; let us not forget that. Let me repeat that; we are not here because of our own choices or volition. We are here because God has decided for us to be here and God has decided that we are leaders. It is God who decides who is going to be a leader and who is not.

Therefore, I wish to send a message to all the leaders that it does not matter how much you agitate, it does not matter how many demonstrations you called for, it does not matter how many people you attack or vilify or scare or call for their sacking or whatever; if God has decided you will never be a leader of a particular, position you will never be because leadership from that of the MCA, MP, Senator, Woman representative, Governor to President comes from God. Mungu akiamua, ameamua. So we should let the will of God to be done in peace.

(Applause)

Finally, to this House, Madam Speaker and to the people of Machakos in Ukambani and the entire nation, I wish to officially submit in this House that this is my last term as the Governor of Machakos. With all the experience that I have gathered over the years, with the energy that I have and the ideas I usually come up with and the goodwill I have seen from the people of Kenya, I announce again that in 2022 after serving as Governor for five years I will want to become the President of the Republic of Kenya.

(Applause)

I request for your support. If it is God's will and let me repeat this, if it be God's will I am confident that just after five years from today, I will stand to address this House as an invited guest and not as Governor but as the President of a great nation of Kenya. Thank you and God bless you.

(Applause)

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker of the County Assembly (Hon. (Ms. Mwangangi): Hon. Members, the House adjourns to tomorrow, the 19th day September, 2017 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 10.53 a.m.