

**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**  
**MACHAKOS COUNTY ASSEMBLY**

**OFFICIAL REPORT**

**Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2017**

The House met at 10.04 a.m.

*[The Speaker (Hon. Mung'ata) in the Chair]*

**PRAYERS**

**MOTION**

**ASSEMBLY BROADCASTING POLICY REPORT**

*(Hon. R. Mutuku on 07.06.2017)*

*(Resumption of Debate on the Motion tabled on 07.06.2017)*

**Hon. Speaker:** Hon. Raphael.

**Hon. R. Mutuku:** Mr. Speaker, last week on Wednesday, I laid on the table of the House, the report of the Broadcasting and Library Committee on the County Assembly broadcasting policy. Mr. Speaker, members sought for more time to go through the policy as they prepare for a healthy debate. Mr. Speaker with your permission, I just want to quote a few issues as per the County Assembly Broadcasting Policy.

Mr. Speaker, this policy was under the spirit of Article 35 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 which recognizes that every citizen has the right to access information which is held by the state or another person. Mr. Speaker, again, this is in further effect to Access to Information Act Number 31 of 2016. Mr. Speaker, if I take members to page six of the County Assembly broadcasting policy which is an annexure to the report, we have the objective of the report which we are saying that this policy is to promote the delivery of quality and efficient broadcasting of County Assembly of Machakos proceedings, committee work, video documentation and archiving of generated content.

Mr. Speaker, just with that content and with the spirit of the public to access information which is held by any state office, if we have this policy in place, it will guide on how information will go to the public and how information that is within the precincts of the Assembly, whether in committee or whether in the plenary, will now go to the community and avoid a scenario where untrue information is delivered to the community by maybe media or even us as Hon. Members.

Mr. Speaker, again if you look at the rationale for the policy and more so (b) which talks of facilitation of fair and accurate reporting by the media of the assembly proceedings, Mr. Speaker we had instances previously where media would report untrue proceedings of the House and Mr. Speaker with this policy in place, we will guide, because the Clerk of the County Assembly with the assistance of the Serjeant-At-Arms' office will be the custodian of the policy, will be able to assess information that is supposed to go to the public and ensure that the true proceedings of the Assembly is what is laid to the public.

Mr. Speaker, this policy is just a guide of how the media is supposed to treat information from the Assembly and also committees and just one key issue which is contained in the policy is the treatment of members or even of the actions in the Assembly during the disorder.

Mr. Speaker, we had instances previously where members of this Hon. House would behave in a disorderly manner during maybe debates on crucial issues and I can quote one during one of the budget reading where we had members behaving in a disorderly manner and Mr. Speaker, if I may take members through that clause that talks of 'televising may continue during instances of grave disorder or un-parliamentary behavior for as long as the sitting continues, but only subject to the following guidelines---

Mr. Speaker, the key issue here is the guidelines that will be followed to avoid situations whereby we invite members of public to ridicule Hon. Members because of the behaviors that have occurred and (a) talks of, 'in case of gross disorderly conduct, the Director should normally focus on the Presiding Officer. Occasional, wide angle shots of the Chamber are acceptable.' Mr. Speaker, when we talk of the presiding officer, this is the Speaker who always will protect the dignity of the House.

Mr. Speaker, (b) talks of 'on occasions of grave disorder, the Director should normally focus on the Presiding Officer for as long as proceeding continue, or until order has been restored.' If order has been restored, this one will not invite ridicule from the public of the members of this Hon. House and (c) talks of 'the Director can discontinue the live broadcasting of the proceedings, in consultation with the Clerk, if the disorder continues over time but the recording of the proceedings should continue.'

Mr. Speaker, the Clerk of the County Assembly is the adviser of the Presiding Officer and if the Clerk feels that broadcasting of the proceedings may lower the dignity of the House, he may advice the relevant unit to discontinue that, and that one will protect the dignity of the House.

Mr. Speaker, with that I would urge members to support this policy. This is a policy that will guide broadcasting of the House activities whether in plenary or even the committee sittings. Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you very much. Let me take any other contributions. Yes, Hon. Kimata, say something about this policy.

**Hon. Kimata:** Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me this chance to contribute. The policy is good and I urge the Members of this County Assembly to adopt it the way it is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you. Hon. Nzoka

**Hon. Nzoka:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support this policy as it is because it will bring discipline to any branch, either media or members. Where there is no discipline, we do not have success in the end, so I support the chairman. Thank you.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you very much. Yes, Hon. Charles.

**Hon. Mutisya:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I stand to support this policy. I went through it and it is good for the Assembly so I request Mr. Speaker, Sir, we pass this policy without wasting time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you Hon. Charles. Yes, Hon. Mueni.

**Hon. (Ms.) Mueni:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the report because it is having the discipline for the members because sometimes they have no discipline and also everybody will be knowing what is happening in the Assembly. It can be taught when we are outside and the people will know what is happening in the Assembly. Thank you.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Mueni. In the absence of any other, we can then hear the mover.

**Hon. R. Mutuku:** Mr. Speaker, may I take this opportunity to thank Hon. Members for the support in adoption of this policy. This is a policy that will guide how media will behave during the broadcasting of what is happening in the House and also in the committee. Mr. Speaker I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Assembly Broadcasting Unit which played a very crucial role in coming up with this policy, among them Louisa Kamau, Paul Keli, Emma Nthenya and Nora Mwendwa and also thank the Office of the Clerk for facilitating the committee in coming up with such a report.

I would also not forget to thank your office as the Speaker and also as the chair of the committee for work well done and the members for their time that they offered in coming up with such a report. Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. I am very sure this policy will assist in achieving Article 35 of the Constitution and also the Access to Information Act No. 31 of 2016. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Hon. Speaker:** That is the business of the morning. Thank you and the House adjourns.

The House rose at 10.16 a.m.