



KAKAMEGA COUNTY ASSEMBLY

MARKING



SINCE PROMULGATION OF THE CONSTITUTION



Rt. Hon. Morris Indakwa Buluma, MBS, E.G.J.

Celebrating a decade of Devolution with the people of Kakamega

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY SPEAKER

In 2010, a new constitutional order came into effect in Kenya, a significant feature being the devolution of governance from a centralised system to creation of 47 county governments.

As a result, since its inception in 2013, Kakamega County Assembly, which is the legislative arm of the County Govern-

ment, has continued to effectively deliver on its constitutional mandates.

We have diligently discharged our duties to ensure we enact sound Legislations and Regulations, and adopt House Resolutions and Reports that go a long way in strengthening devolved units at the grassroots level.

The Assembly's operations are anchored on the 2010 constitution and oth-

er laws created by the National Assembly and the Senate to entrench devolution.

With 21 Committees as established by our Standing Orders, the Honourable Members (MCAs) remain on course in executing their key mandates of Oversight, Representation and Legislation, while recognising separation of power between the Executive and the County Assembly.

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The Legislative Progress in Kakamega County Assembly

The promulgation of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 ushered in a new era of governance – one that has today given room for effective people's participation in county development plans.

Kakamega County is one of the 47 that were created with self-governance over specific mandates.

As the legislative arm of the Kakamega County Government, Kakamega County Assembly, in line with its mandate, has passed more than 70 pieces of legislations and innumerable policies. The Assembly has further adopted several House reports and approved many regulations that are providing clear framework for all-inclusive development and effective public service delivery.

Some of the county laws that have been passed by the Assembly to entrench devolved functions include: The Kakamega County Maternal Health and Family Planning Act, 2017; The Kakamega County Polytechnics Act, 2017; The Kakamega County Early Childhood and Development Education Act, 2014; and The Kakamega County Abattoirs Act, 2014, among others.

Establishing devolved units at the grassroots level

To implement the objects and principles of the devolution governance, Kakamega County Assembly enacted a law – The Kakamega County Administrative Units and Boundaries (Amendment), Act 2016 – to operationalise the devolved units at the grassroots level, including the establishment of Ward Administrators and Community Area Councils membership across the 60 wards.

The Public Service and County Administration Committee vetted 2,000 nominees drawn from the 400 community council areas, with each council having five members charged with the responsibility of catering for the following devolved sectors: Water, Health, Environment, Roads and Education (ECDE and county polytechnics).

Some of the functions of community area councils include to ensure and coordinate the participation of the community area unit governance, monitor the implementation of policies at the community level unit, advising the Community Administrator on matters pertaining to the community area, and assisting the community area unit to develop the administrative capacity for effective exercise of the functions and powers and participation of governance at the local level.

This will ensure increased public engagement in the county government affairs and that citizens are able to realise the fruits of devolution.



CPA Laban Maloba Atomba, Clerk of the Kakamega County Assembly.

Promotion of Affirmative Action and PWDs

Kakamega County Assembly has strived to promote provisions in the 2010 Constitution that seek to mainstream gender and people with disabilities by ensuring historically marginalised groups, such as women, are free to participate in mainstream society, including leadership in politics and reservation of certain positions in the public sector.

In approving the county appointments by the county executive, the Assembly has remained steadfast in ensuring gender balance in all the appointments.

With 31 female membership in the Assembly, seven women Members of County Assembly (MCAs) are at the helm of leadership. They were elected to the positions of Vice-Chairpersons of key different committees.

For instance, Hon Godliver Omondi, the MCA for Kholera Ward, is the Vice-Chairperson of the committee on ICT, e-Government, Library and Communication, while Hon Roselyne Katibi, who was nominated to represent people with disabilities, is the vice-chairperson Implementation and Monitoring Committee.

The Assembly's leadership has facilitated the formation of a Women Caucus comprising all the 27 nominated female MCAs and their four elected colleagues, to champion the interests of women in leadership.

This has increased awareness and participation on county gender matters, understanding of approaches and strategies of gender mainstreaming and integration in the County Assembly.

Female MCAs are able to respond to the needs and interests of both men and women and have full participation to offer a positive change in line with the provisions of the Constitution requiring County Assemblies to have gender balance and diversity.

The Assembly has 27 nominated female MCAs to represent gender-top up, one nominated female MCA to represent the youth, a female MCA nominated to represent people with disability, and one nomi-



Nominees to Community Area Councils vetted by the Committee on Public Service and County Administration.



Hon. Gladys Omukongolo (MCA Idakho North Ward), Chairperson, Kakamega County Assembly Women Caucus.



Hon. Ann Mulwale, nominated MCA and Vice-Chairperson, Public Accounts and Investments Committee.



Hon. Roselyne Katibi, nominated MCA to represent People With Disabilities (PWDs). She is also the Vice-Chairperson of Implementation and Monitoring Committee.

nated male MCA to represent the marginalised communities.

Our strengthening of the role of women, people with disability and other marginalised groups in governance has ensured they are adequately represented in the government and their participation in the planning and budgeting processes, and getting their needs included.

Out of the 60 elected MCAs, four (4) are female and 29 nominated by various political parties, making the County Legislature to have a total membership of 89 MCAs.

Enhanced Public Participation

Public participation is a constitutional requirement in governance, especially in making key decisions affecting the public.

At the Kakamega County Assembly, we have put in place a robust mechanism to ensure the public is fully engaged in all matters of legislation, with a clear feedback channel as provided for in law.

Through public participation, we have empowered, enabled and created a platform for citizens to access information and demand accountability from the county government.

We have continued to promote princi-

ples of public hearings, making the county assembly open to the public who would wish to attend chamber proceedings and committee sittings.

In public participation, we have also ensured that MCAs get to interact and engage with their electorates during submission and collecting of public views on key county development documents such as County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP), County Annual Development Plan (ADP), and County Fiscal Strategy Paper



Public Participation.

(CFSP), among others.

As one of the largest County Assemblies in Kenya serving approximately two million citizens, we will continue to deliver our constitutional mandates to ensure that the 2010 Constitution is fully implemented, particularly on the devolved system of governance.

We join all Kenyans in marking 10 years of the promulgation of the Constitution 2010 with a call to all Kenyans to remain resolute in protecting and upholding it for sustainability, unity and justice, inclusion and good governance.

However, County Assemblies are faced with challenges that should be addressed by legislation and political class to make the legislatures stable for effective public service delivery.

County Assemblies must be made autonomous to end county political patronage. The Commission on Revenue allocation should review budgetary ceilings set for County Assemblies in conformity with the needs. In addition, there is delayed disbursements of funds from The National Treasury which hampers the execution of MCAs' mandates and general operations in Assemblies. These challenges should be addressed as we implement the 2010 constitution.