
REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 20th September 2022

(The Assembly met at 10:53 a.m.)

(Convened by notification vide legal notice on Kenya Gazette)

(Prayer was read by Mr. Kuria Thuita, Clerk of the Assembly)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY

WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE CLERK

The Clerk (Mr. Kuria Thuita): Hon. Members, I have the following Communication to make. On behalf of the entire County Assembly establishment and, on my own behalf, it is my pleasure to welcome you to this occasion of the first sitting of the Third Assembly of Murang'a County. In a special way, I wish to congratulate and welcome back Members who have served in the first and second Assembly and have been re-elected to serve in this third Assembly. I also congratulate and welcome Members who have been elected or nominated to the Assembly for the very first time.

Hon. Members, considering the number of Members- elect present in this Assembly today, I confirm that we have the requisite number of members, required to transact business before the Assembly this morning. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 7 (b) of the County Governments (amendment) Act 2020, that stipulates that, 'whenever a new County Assembly is elected, the Governor, by notice, in the gazette shall appoint the date of the first sitting of the new County Assembly, which shall not be more than 30 days from the date on which the County Assembly shall be fully constituted as provided for under Section 7 (a). I hereby confirm that vide gazette notice no. 10989 dated September 14, 2022, the Governor Murang'a County, issued a notice appointing today Tuesday 20th September 2022 at 9:00 a.m. as the day of the first sitting of this third Assembly. The legal notice is dated 14th September 2022 and is signed by His Excellency Dr. Irungu Kang'ata Governor Murang'a County.

Hon. Members, the County Assembly Standing Order No.4 (2) (a) provides that on the first sitting of a new Assembly after a general election, the Clerk shall read the notification of the convening the Assembly as published in the gazette. Pursuant to this provision of the Standing Orders, I will proceed to read the notification as published in the Kenya gazette legal notice no. 10989; notice is given to the general public and all elected and nominated Members of the County Assembly of Murang'a that, pursuant to Section 7 (b) of the County Governments Act and Standing Order 4 (1) of the Murang'a County Assembly Standing Orders, I, Dr. Irungu Kang'ata, the Governor of Murang'a, appoint that the first sitting of the Murang'a County Assembly shall be held at the Murang'a County Assembly Chambers, Murang'a, on 20th September 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

Hon. Members, Standing Order 4 (2) (b) on the first sitting of a newly elected Assembly, pursuant to the Governor's notification, provides that the Clerk shall, "lay a list of the names of the persons elected and nominated as Members of the County Assembly on the Table of the Assembly." I confirm that vide gazette notices no. 9956 dated 24th August 2022 and 10712 dated 9th September 2022, the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) gazetted the elected and nominated Members of this Assembly. I, however, wish to note that, gazette notice no. 10712 dated 9th September 2022 that gazetted nominated Members of this Assembly, excluded the name of the female nominated Member representing persons with disabilities. The IEBC indicated that the position was not allocated since certification of the disability was not provided. This notwithstanding, I am guided by the provisions of Section 7 (a) (1) and (2) of the County Government Act (CGA) that provides that:

1. A County Assembly shall not be fully constituted for the first sitting after a general election unless all the Members provided for under paragraph (b) and (c) of Article 177 (1) of the Constitution have been dully nominated and their names published in the gazette.
2. Sub-section (1) shall not apply where the nomination of Members of the County Assembly under paragraph (b) and (c) of Article 177 (1) of the Constitution is subject of a court order stopping or otherwise pending the nomination of the Member.

Hon. Members, Section 14 (2) of the same Act provides that the County Assembly proceedings are valid despite, (a) there being a vacancy in its membership at the particular time. In view of the aforementioned, Hon. Members, I am guided by this provisions that the Assembly

is fully constituted. I, therefore, beg to lay on the Table of the Assembly lists of the persons gazetted by the IEBC as elected and nominated Members of the County Assembly of Murang'a.

(The Clerk (Mr. Kuria Thuita) laid the list of Members on the Table)

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH

PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED IN ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OR AFFIRMATION OF OFFICE

The Clerk (Mr. Kuria Thuita): Hon. Members, I will now guide the Assembly on the procedure to be used in the administration of oath or affirmation of office. Standing Order 4(2) (c) provides that on the first sitting of a new Assembly after a general election, "The Clerk shall administer the oath or affirmation of office to Members of the Assembly in alphabetical order but shall make such arrangements as may be necessary to enable any Member with disability to enjoy precedence." The following order of precedence shall be used during the administration of oath or affirmation of office:

- a. Members who have served in the first and second Assemblies as Leader of Majority Party, Majority Party Whip, Deputy Speaker and Members of the Speakers Panel.
- b. Members with the longest cumulative period of service in the Assembly and in former local authorities.
- c. All other Members of the County Assembly in alphabetical order.

Hon. Members, it is important to note that Standing Order 4 (4) provides that, "Pursuant to Article 74 of the Constitution, no person shall assume or perform any functions of the office before taking and subscribing to the oath or affirmation of office provided for under paragraph (3). In order to comply with the provisions of Article 74 of the Constitution of Kenya and Standing Order 4 (2) (c), I shall now proceed to administer oath or affirmation of office to all Members here present in the order of precedence set out in Standing Order 4 (3).

In order to facilitate a flawless process, the name of each Member shall be called out and the Member shall proceed to the podium on my right next to the Table, and thereupon, shall have the option to take oath or affirmation of office as they may choose and in accordance with their respective religious persuasion. After taking oath or affirmation of office, the Member shall proceed to subscribe to the oath or affirmation of office by signing the oath or affirmation of office

at the designated table in front of the podium. Pursuant to Section 37 of the Leadership and Integrity Act No. 19 of 2012, each Member is also required to subscribe to the code of conduct for state officers and the specific code for Members of the County Assembly. I now ask the Deputy Clerk to call out the names of Members as per the precedence list.

(Order of administration of oath/affirmation of office by Hon. Members)

1. Hon. Moses Gachui Mungai
2. Hon. Simon Mwaura Wamwea *(The Member affirmed)*
3. Hon. Morris Thuku
4. Hon. Alex Ndunda Makau
5. Hon. Caroline Wairimu Njoroge
6. Hon. Peter Ngugi Murigi
7. Hon. Elizabeth Wambui Mwangi
8. Hon. James Karanja Kabera
9. Hon. Charles Karina
10. Hon. Gerald Wambugu
11. Hon. Francis Kibe
12. Hon. Hannah Wairimu
13. Hon. Jane Mukami
14. Hon. Priscilla Njeri
15. Hon. Julian Njiiri
16. Hon. Margaret Wanjiku
17. Hon. Dinah Muthoni
18. Hon. John Mwangi
19. Hon. Stephen Muigai
20. Hon. Loise Muthoni
21. Hon. Sherlyn Wambui
22. Hon. Moses Muchiri
23. Hon. Naomi Nyambura

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| 24. Hon. Antony | Marubu |
| 25. Hon. Jeremiah | Mbogo |
| 26. Hon. Boniface | Mbau |
| 27. Hon. Liz | Muthoni |
| 28. Hon. Moses | Macharia |
| 29. Hon. Pauline | Muchiri |
| 30. Hon. Hillary | Muigai |
| 31. Hon. John | Kamau |
| 32. Hon. John | Kamwaga |
| 33. Hon. Kenneth | Kamau |
| 34. Hon. Thomas | Mwatete |
| 35. Hon. Samson | Mukora |
| 36. Hon. John | Githaiga |
| 37. Hon. Laban | Njaramba |
| 38. Hon. Bernard | Ruiru |
| 39. Hon. Gatheo | Njeri |
| 40. Hon. Isaac | Njoroge |
| 41. Hon. Peter | Munga |
| 42. Hon. Gladys | Wambui |
| 43. Hon. Mark | Gicheru |
| 44. Hon. Grace | Nduta |
| 45. Hon. Alex | Wanyoike |

The Clerk (Mr. Kuria Thuita): Hon. Members, I confirm that all the Members present have taken and subscribed---

(One Hon. Member rose in his place)

(Consultations)

Okay. We have one Member.

(The name of Hon. Edwin Mugo was read)

The Hon. Member: Not Mugo, it is Wairagu.

(Consultations)

(Administration of oath)

46. Hon. Edwin Wairagu

(Hon. Edwin Wairagu too his oath)

(Applause)

The Clerk (Mr. Kuria Thuita): Honourable members, I now confirm that all members present have taken and subscribed to the oath or affirmation of office because the next business will require that every member that has not been sworn in does not participate in the election of the Speaker. If there is any Member of the County Assembly that has not been sworn in, we will now proceed to swear them. Honourable members, it has been confirmed that every member present has been sworn in, allow me to take this opportunity to congratulate you all on your assumptions of office of Member of County Assembly of Murang'a in accordance with the provisions of Article 74 of the Constitution.

Honourable members I wish to communicate that there is a letter reference UDA 1/MCA 01/ 2022 dated 19th September 2022. The United Democratic Alliance (UDA) party has communicated to the County Assembly as follows: Honourable Francis Kibe Kamau has been designated as the Majority Leader, Hon. Liz Gathoni Mbugua Deputy Majority Leader, Hon. Morris Thuku Gathoni Chief Whip and Hon. Stephen Muigai Kimani as the Deputy Chief Whip. We are in possession of that letter.

(ELECTION OF THE SPEAKER OF THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY)

Now, procedures to be followed when electing the Speaker; Honourable members Standing Order 61 provides that a Speaker shall be elected when the County Assembly first meets after the general elections and before the County Assembly proceeds with the dispatch of any other business

except the administration of oath or affirmation of office to members present. We have just undertaken this process.

Pursuant to the Standing Orders, a number of activities were required for the election of the Speaker before this first sitting, I will proceed to detail each such activity and the manner in which we have complied to the Standing Orders. Standing Order 7(1) requires that upon the Governor notifying the place and date for the first sitting of a new Assembly, pursuant to Standing Order 4 proceedings of Assembly of a new Assembly, the Clerk shall by notice in the gazette, notify that fact and invite interested persons to submit their nominations papers for elections to the office of Speaker. Honourable members find gazette number 11027 dated 14th September 2022. The Clerk of the Assembly invited persons to submit their nomination papers for election of the office of Speaker. Standing Order 7 (2) and (3) provides that the names of candidates for the election of the office of the Speaker shall be entered upon nomination papers obtained from the Clerk and handed back to the Clerk at least 48 hours before the time appointed at which the Assembly is to meet and elect the Speaker.

The nomination papers of the candidates shall be accompanied by names and signatures of two members who support the candidate and a declaration by them that the candidate is qualified to be elected as a Member of the County Assembly under Article 193 of the Constitution and is willing to serve as Speaker of County Assembly.

I hereby confirm that nomination papers were issued to seven candidates and by close of the nomination period on Sunday, 18th September 2022, at 9:30 a.m. only four candidates had submitted their nomination forms to the office of the Clerk. Upon scrutiny of the nomination forms received, it was noted that pursuant to the provisions of the Elections Act, two of the candidates did not qualify for nominations of the Speaker since they had no proposer or seconder which was one of the requirements. I therefore confirm that only two candidates qualified for the election of the position of the Speaker of the County Assembly.

Honourable members, Standing Order 7(5) provides that the Clerk shall maintain a register in which shall be shown the date and time when each candidate's nominations papers were received and shall ascertain that every such candidate for election of the office of Speaker qualifies to be elected as such under article 183 of the Constitution. I wish to confirm that a register was maintained in accordance to the requirements of this Standing Order. Honourable members,

Standing Order 7(6) requires that immediately upon the close of the nomination period provided for in paragraph 2, the clerk shall:

- a) Publicize and make available to all members a list showing all qualified candidates and
- b) Make available to all members, copies of the curriculum vitae of the qualified candidates

I wish to confirm that on Sunday, 18th September 2022 between 2:40 p.m. to 3:46 p.m, I circulated to the Members of the County Assembly a list showing all qualified candidates and also made available to all members copies of the curriculum vitae for the two candidates. Honourable members, pursuant to Standing Order 7 (3) and (6) at of the close of the nomination period, the following persons were qualified for the election to the position of the Speaker of the County Assembly.

1. Stephen Macharia Mwangi, proposer Samson Mukora Ngige MCA Kagundu-ini ward, seconder, Elizabeth Wambui Mwangi MCA Kimorori ward
2. Johnson Walter Mukuha Mwangi, proposer Moses Macharia Mirara MCA Kangari ward, seconder, Chefman Isaac Njoroge Gitau, MCA Kahumbu ward

Pursuant to Standing Order 10, a candidate may by written notice to the Clerk, withdraw his/her candidature after the close of the nomination period and before a ballot is started. I wish to confirm that none of the candidates I have mentioned above have withdrawn their candidature.

Honourable members, Standing Order 8 (1) and (2) provides that the election of the Speaker shall be by secret ballot. We shall now proceed with the election of the Speaker. The Clerk shall at the commencement of each ballot call the ballot box as empty and unlocked to be displayed to the Assembly and shall in the presence of the Assembly lock the box which shall thereafter kept in the full view of the Assembly until the conclusion of the ballot.

Honourable members I therefore direct that the ballot box to be brought empty and unlocked to be displayed to the Assembly by Serjeant- At- Arms.

Hon. Morris Thuku: Thank you Mr Clerk I do not know whether in your desk you have received any communication from UDA party in regard to the preference of the Speaker. Number two, before we go on with the voting, I request we have a health break and maybe later we can move on with the voting. Number three, now that we have two candidates. I do not know whether the two third majority will apply or just a simple majority I seek your point of information thank you.

The Clerk (Mr. Wilson Kuria Thuita): I am going to guide on the election. It is provided for in the laws but as for the health break we can have if you are tired, we can have a health break before we come for the election. I have not received any letter from the UDA, what I am doing is following the law as stipulated under the Standing Orders and the Elections Act, so we can have a health break for ten minutes then we come back.

(Members left the Chamber)

(The Bell was rung)

(Members resumed the House)

The Clerk (Mr. Kuria Thuita): ---order members. We can now proceed and I will direct that the ballot box, empty and unlocked, be displayed to the Assembly by the Serjeant-At-Arms.

(Serjeant-At-Arms displayed the ballot box)

Standing Order 8 (3) requires that “The Clerk shall issue not more than one ballot paper to each member who comes to the Table to obtain it and each Member who wishes to vote shall proceed to a booth or designated area provided by the Clerk for that purpose and located next to and within reasonable distance of the ballot box and shall, while there, mark the ballot paper by placing a mark in the space opposite the name of the candidate for whom the Member wishes to vote, fold the marked ballot paper before leaving the booth or area and place the folded ballot paper in the ballot box”.

The polling booth is on my left-hand side at the back. Hon. Members, I wish to draw your attention to Standing Order 8 (4) and (5) which provides as follows;

4. For the purpose of paragraph 3 on issuance of ballot papers to each member who comes to the Table to obtain it, members who have appended their signature pursuant to Standing Order 7 (3) shall be deemed to have elected the candidate and shall be excluded from balloting but his vote shall be added to the votes of the said candidate

5. A member, who before the conclusion of a ballot has marked a paper in error, may by returning it to the Clerk, obtain another in its place and the Clerk shall immediately cancel and destroy the paper so returned.

Pursuant to Standing Order 8, I now direct that a ballot paper be issued to each member who comes to the Table to obtain it.

To facilitate a flawless process, the name of each member shall be called out, following which the member shall proceed to the Clerks Table on my left as illustrated in the schedule attached to the Order Paper, and obtain a ballot paper.

Each member shall then proceed to the clearly marked polling booth on my left at the back and while there, mark the ballot paper and fold it. The member will then place the marked ballot paper in the ballot box.

Finally, Hon. Members, I wish to notify this Assembly that, Standing Order 9 on election threshold provides that;

1. A person shall not be elected as Speaker, unless supported in a ballot by the votes of two-thirds of all Members.
2. If no candidate is supported by the votes of two-thirds of all Members, a fresh election shall be held and, in that election, the only candidate shall be –
 - (a) the candidate or candidates who received the highest number of votes in the ballot referred to in paragraph (1); and
 - (b) the candidate or candidates who in that ballot received the second highest number of votes.
3. If more than one candidate receives the highest number of votes, paragraph 2(b) shall not apply and the only candidates in the fresh election shall be those contemplated in paragraph 2(a).
4. The candidate who receives the highest number of votes in the fresh election shall be declared the Speaker.

Hon. Members, we are now ready and shall commence the voting process.

At this point, I would like to remind you that the two members who nominated each of the candidates are deemed to have voted for them, hence their votes will be added at the end during tallying.

I now direct the Deputy Clerk to call out the names of the members as per the precedence list.

(The ballot papers were issued to the Hon. Members)

(The following Hon. Members proceeded to vote)

1. Hon. Moses Gachui
2. Hon. Simon Wamwea *(The Member affirmed)*
3. Hon. Morris Thuku
4. Hon. Alex Ndunda
5. Hon. Caroline Njoroge
6. Hon. Peter Murigi
7. Hon. Elizabeth Mwangi
8. Hon. James Karanja
9. Hon. Charles Karina
10. Hon. Gerald Wambugu
11. Hon. Francis Kibe
12. Hon. Hannah Wairimu
13. Hon. Jane Mukami
14. Hon. Priscilla Njeri
15. Hon. Julian Njiiri
16. Hon. Margaret Wanjiku
17. Hon. Dinah Muthoni
18. Hon. John Mwangi
19. Hon. Stephen Muigai
20. Hon. Loise Muthoni
21. Hon. Sherlyn Wambui
22. Hon. Moses Muchiri
23. Hon. Naomi Nyambura
24. Hon. Antony Marubu

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| 25. Hon. Jeremiah | Mbogo |
| 26. Hon. Boniface | Mbau |
| 27. Hon. Liz | Muthoni |
| 28. Hon. Moses | Macharia |
| 29. Hon. Pauline | Muchiri |
| 30. Hon. Hillary | Muigai |
| 31. Hon. John | Kamau |
| 32. Hon. John | Kamwaga |
| 33. Hon. Kenneth | Kamau |
| 34. Hon. Thomas | Mwatete |
| 35. Hon. Samson | Mukora |
| 36. Hon. John | Githaiga |
| 37. Hon. Laban | Njaramba |
| 38. Hon. Bernard | Ruiru |
| 39. Hon. Gathee | Njeri |
| 40. Hon. Isaac | Njoroge |
| 41. Hon. Peter | Munga |
| 42. Hon. Gladys | Wambui |
| 43. Hon. Mark | Gicheru |
| 44. Hon. Grace | Nduta |
| 45. Hon. Alex | Wanyoike |
| 46. Hon. Edwin | Wairagu |

The Clerk (Mr. Kuria Thuita): Hon. Members, from our records, every member present has collected a ballot paper and voted. However, I still avail the opportunity for any member present who has not been called or who has not come down to collect a ballot paper and vote.

There being none, Hon. Members, Standing Order 8 (7) provides that, “When it appears to the Clerk that all members who are present and who wish to vote have placed their ballot papers in the ballot box, the Clerk shall unlock the box, examine the ballot papers and, having rejected

those unmarked or spoilt, report the result of the ballot; and no Member who has not already recorded his or her vote shall be entitled to do so after the Clerk has unlocked the ballot box”.

Hon. Members, pursuant to this Standing Order, it now appears to me that all Members who are present and who wish to vote have done so.

At this point I now call upon one member who nominated each of the candidates and who wishes to be the candidates agent, to approach the Table where we shall proceed to examine and count the votes.

Pursuant to Standing Order 8 (7), I will now direct that the ballot box be unlocked, the contents will then be emptied and the Clerks at the Table shall each take the votes for each of the candidates. The Deputy Clerk will call out and display each ballot paper prominently and say aloud the person for whom the ballot paper is marked.

(Counting and tallying of the votes commenced)

(Vote counting started)

(Vote counting completed)

The Clerk (Mr. Kuria Thuita): Having finalized vote counting and tallying I now proceed to announce the result of the first ballot as follows. 1. Name of the candidate Mr. Steven Macharia Mwangi valid votes cast 46, rejected votes 0, nominees vote 2, votes garnered 4, total votes 6.

Mr. Johnstone Walter Mukuha Mwangi valid votes cast 46, rejected votes 0, nominee vote 2, votes garnered 38 total votes 40, rank number 1 and Macharia number two.

Honorable following the results of the ballot and pursuant to Standing Order 94, I now declare Mr. Johnstone Walter Mukuha Mwangi as the duly elected Speaker of the County Assembly of Murang'a. I now direct the Serjeant –At –Arms to search for the said Hon. Johnstone Walter Mukuha Mwangi to bring him to the Chamber. I will further ask his nominees to wait for him at the door and escort him for Administration, Affirmation of Oath as he arrives.

(Candidate's nominees stepped outside)

(Loud consultations)

(Hon. Johnstone Walter Mukuha Mwangi was presented to the Clerk of the County Assembly by the Serjeant-at-arms)

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF THE SPEAKER OF THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY

The Clerk (Mr. Kuria Thuita): Congratulations Hon. Speaker.

THE Speaker Elect (Hon. Johnstone Walter Mukuha Mwangi): Thank you.

The Clerk (Mr. Kuria Thuita): Hon. Members pursuant to the Standing Orders no. 14 which states that; “immediately following the election of the Speaker, the Clerk shall administer the Oath or Affirmation of Office to the Speaker in the presence of the assembled Assembly’.

In the presence of this assembled Assembly, we shall now proceed to administer oath or affirmation of office to Hon. Johnstone Walter Mukuha Mwangi the County Assembly of Murang’a Speaker- elect.

(The Clerk administered the Oath of Office to the Speaker- Elect)

(Applause)

(ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE BY THE SPEAKER)

(Hon. Speaker Hon. Mukuha Mwangi was escorted out of the Chamber)

(Loud consultations)

(The Speaker was escorted back into the Chamber)

(The Speaker (Hon. Johnstone Walter Mukuha Mwangi) in the Chair)

(The Mace was placed on the Table)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

SUBMISSION TO THE WILL OF THE HOUSE

The Speaker (Hon. Johnstone Walter Mukuha Mwangi): Order! You may be seated.

Your Excellency, Dr. Irungu Kangata, Honorable members of the third County Assembly, the Clerk of this County Assembly, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. First, I thank God Almighty, to whom not even the greatest rivers are big enough for Him to wash His hands in and in whose eyes we are like ants, for anointing and granting me this favour; Ultimately, I owe this position to his continuous grace and blessings.

Honourable Members, I am honoured and greatly privileged by your resolution to nominate and elect me to be the Speaker of the third County Assembly of Murang'a. With utmost humility, I hereby submit to the will of this Honourable House. Most certainly, I am extremely humbled by the conviction and trust you have reposed in me. I hasten to acknowledge, that I, fully comprehend the enormous responsibilities that our Standing Orders delegate to the Office of the Speaker. I also acknowledge that, as elected and nominated representatives of the people, not only are we products but also custodians of the values enshrined in our Constitution. To my worthy opponents, thank you for upholding a high degree of democracy.

I have to thank the Clerk of this Assembly, Mr. Kuria Thuita, for professionally guiding this House during the on-going transition period. His priceless and unconditional counsel will further be valued in future. There is no doubt, whatsoever, that a lot of effort has been put towards making this historic day a success. Unquestionably, we cannot ignore the reflection of the hard work put in by all the stakeholders, especially the Members of staff of this County Assembly. Allow me to also recognize and applaud the First and Second Assemblies under the leadership of the First Speaker of this House, Honourable Nduati Kariuki, for their respective roles in the past ten years of representation, oversight, and legislation, amidst very difficult circumstances, including but not limited to the teething challenges of devolution. We wish the former MCAs and the former Speaker well in their future endeavours.

Hon. Members, the past few months have witnessed a highly competitive electioneering period in our nation. Campaigning is not a walk in the park; marketing a vision is costly and exhaustive. Consequently, allow me to convey my sincere best wishes to the entire membership of this House for your successful election or nomination. On that election, the people of Murang'a entrusted you, Honourable MCAs, to be their representatives in this County Assembly for the next five years. Congratulations for winning your seats. Looking at your faces, and having, there before,

listened to the manifesto of His Excellency the Governor of this County, Honourable Dr. Irungu Kang'ata, I, am deeply optimistic that a great destiny beckons for the origin of *Gikuyu* and Mumbi.

Allow me to also recognize Members of the first and second Assemblies who clinched back their seats. For some, it will be their second term, while it shall be a third term for others. We have Hon. Murigi, Hon. Gachui, Hon. Caroline, Hon. Karina, Hon. Kibe, Hon. Morris, Hon. Elizabeth, Hon. Ndunda, Hon. Karanja and Hon. Muthoni. I direct these experienced ones to mentor the up-coming MCAs.

I also recognize two Honorable Members who were in the first Assembly and are now representing their people in the Parliament of Kenya. These are Hon. Mary Waihera Wamaua and Hon. Peter Kihungi. These two legislators are a clear illustration that the people of Murang'a recognize hard work and reward merit. Hon. Kihungi's leadership skills and humility earned him the first Leader of the Majority Party in this County. On the other hand, Hon. Wamaua is a true reflection of the audacious women who are successful in the high strata of the male dominated political arena. This County Assembly prides in having created a platform that shaped the excellent debating competences, strong oversight and legislative skills of the two legislators. I hope that they will have a session with our Members, in due course.

Hon. Members, this is a House of Rules and Procedure. I need to caution the new entrants that the highly procedural nature of County Assemblies calls for an equally high level of discipline and commitment to the rules and procedures. Nevertheless, for us all, it is a unique opportunity to serve our dear County.

In exercise of the powers conferred by Article 124 of the Constitution of the Republic of Kenya, and Section 14 of the County Governments Act No. 17 of 2012, the first Assembly of Murang'a County, by resolution, adopted the Standing Orders of this Assembly. I encourage all of us to internalize the Standing Orders and make a personal commitment to always abide by them. Prepare and present issues of interest as guided by those rules. Apply the debating time well; your brilliant visibility will affect your re-election. I look forward to, not a vociferous House; but a serene, composed and a House of robust and healthy debates.

Hon. Members, I will meet with various leadership of Murang'a and seek support of the experienced lawmakers to help you deliver. I mandate the Office of the Clerk, to come up with a schedule of trainings to empower my Hon, MCAs. Scholars opine that a comprehensive mentoring

and induction process is vital for improved performance. I second that serious learning will therefore have to be undertaken to sharpen your debating competencies in order to function optimally.

Every one of you is in this Honourable House as provided for by Article 177 of the Constitution of Kenya. All of you, irrespective of gender, religion, party affiliation, age or tribe, must be guided by the mandate given to the new government; to establish a vibrant society anchored on the principles of fairness and equality of opportunities. As the legislative arm of this County Government, we will be expected to also offer oversight to the County Executive. Therefore, it is our duty to conduct ourselves with decorum, consistently observe the due processes and uphold the rule of law, legality and the culture of constitutionalism.

I look forward to maximizing the opportunities of every Honourable Member to contribute. I must have been placed on this platform so that every MCA can catch my eye. I, therefore, pledge to be impartial and seek your support for every ruling that the Chair will make, as provided for by the Standing Orders of this House.

Going forward, I believe that, together with the County Assemblies Forum (CAF), the Council of Governors (COG), and the Society of Clerks at The Table (SOCATT), we will unite in seeking the needed assistance for MCAs to, especially, improve their working conditions and welfare. It is very important to improve the welfare of MCAs; we should seriously better the lot of our legislators. In addition, we will, with the guidance of the Clerk of this County Assembly, who is also the Secretary to the County Assembly Service Board, come up with more strategies of motivating our staff and improving on their welfare.

Hon. Members, of late there have been debate on the role of Members of Parliament and the Members of County Assembly. A question worth asking is: what do the people expect from the MCAs? There is growing evidence that, public opinion is divided as to the role of MCAs in Kenya. A significant majority of Kenyans are of the view that MCAs should undertake development projects within their Wards. To others, MCAs exist to pay school fees, give funeral donations, - I am sure we have seen all these, and attend weddings and other social events. Of concern is that debating, passing legislations and holding the County Executive Arm of Government to account rank low in the public perception of the role of MCAs. This accounts for the high attrition rate of MCAs across the Country. To counter this, I welcome the media to help

in documenting and airing issues debated on the Floor of this House and in the Committees to create awareness, especially of the agendas before the House at any given sitting. On that note, Hon. Members, and as you assemble here today, it is important to have a discourse on the re-establishment of the County Assembly with a sense of history.

The First Assembly existed after promulgation of the new Constitution of Kenya, 2010, and inception of devolution. There are 47 Counties in Kenya; hence we have 47 County Assemblies. Each County Government has two Arms of governance; the Executive arm that is responsible for implementation of projects and the legislative arm to which you belong. The independence of the County Assemblies was conceived with the intent to accomplish the following roles; oversight, representation, legislation and budget making. That is your core mandate as provided for by the Constitution of Kenya. Under Article 185 of the Constitution, the legislative authority of a County is vested in and exercised by its County Assembly.

In addition, a County Assembly, while respecting the principle of separation of powers, exercises oversight for the County Executive Committee and any other Executive organ. I hasten to urge you to exercise high levels of integrity as you play your oversight role. Further, I look forward to a House that will enact laws that will stand the test of time. Undoubtedly, promotion of good governance will require an Assembly that will effectively perform the three cardinal functions of representation, oversight regarding the executive, and law making. As for budget making process, your ability to oversight public expenditure, within the Regulations of the Public Finance Management Act (PFM), will be good service to our people.

Hon. Members allow me to conclude by telling you a short story as narrated by our fore fathers. There was once a big meeting in the animal kingdom to address the problem of drought. Speaker after speaker rose to give their views on how the problem could be solved. By the time the last speaker, the wise elephant, took to the podium, the animals were extremely tired, they could hardly remember what the first speaker had said. Some like the proverbial hyena had begun to forget what the meeting was all about. Others like the cunning hare, were plotting how to dupe the gullible tortoise on their way from the meeting. Clearly, they just wanted to go home. But their wise King, the elephant, pleaded with them saying, 'Ladies and gentlemen, lend me your ears. If you gazed skywards, you would see that the clouds are gathering. If you sniffed the air, you would sense the unmistakable smell of an approaching torrent. And if only you could relax and allow

your skin to perspire, you would be calmed by the cool humidity that precedes a much longed for downpour.'

My able legislators, your attitude towards your roles will reflect your end results. Sometimes, all we need to do is relax and reflect on the reality. If you have listened keenly to your people, if you have read it in their faces, you have no option but deliver. While devolution is taking Kenya places, the fruits of the devolved system of governance are yet to be reaped by all the people of Murang'a. In that regard, through your respective sectoral Committees, I welcome all the Members to act proactively, responsively and with appropriate capacity on all the devolved functions, namely, issues relating to health, Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) and polytechnic education, agriculture, roads, garbage collection, tourism, revenue collection, cooperatives, forestry, trade, climate change among others. Let this Third Assembly resolve to enact laws in those sectors to transform the lives of our people. Our commitment and attendance to the Committees will inform our debates in the Plenary. It is bestowed on us to conduct ourselves with integrity, decorum, consistently observe the due processes and uphold the rule of law.

My friends, as I said earlier, the culture of constitutionalism should guide every resolution you make. We are reminded by philosophers that the legislature is the most important institution of governance in a democratic state as it mediates those governing and those being governed. Indeed, political power is found in the State with its constitution which is supreme over all the other laws.

I salute you Honourable MCAs. God bless you. God bless Murang'a County.

NOTIFICATION OF THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY

Hon. Members, Standing Order No. 22 on Governors address on opening of a new County Assembly provides that; "The Governor shall address the opening of each newly elected Assembly"

In view of the above provision of the Standing Orders, I wish to notify this Assembled Assembly, that the Special sitting on the Official opening of the Third Assembly shall be held on Tuesday, 27th September 2022 at 9:30 a.m.

Hon. Members, I further wish to communicate that with effect from tomorrow, Wednesday 21st September 2022, the Assembly shall commence orientation and induction of members at venues to be communicated in due course.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business today, this House now stands adjourned until Tuesday, 27th September 2022 at 9:30 a.m. Thank you.

The House rose at 2:33 p.m.