

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



BOMET COUNTY ASSEMBLY

ASSEMBLY DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

DAILY HANSARD

Thursday 28th October, 2021

PLENARY

**BOMET COUNTY ASSEMBLY
OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

Thursday 28th, October, 2021

The Assembly met at the Chamber,

Main Assembly Buildings at 11:00 a. m.

[Hon. Deputy Speaker (Hon. Wesley Kiprotich) in the Chair]

(Hon. Members rose in their places while Governor of Bomet (H. E. (Dr.) Hillary Barchok and Senator (Dr.) Christopher Langat took their seats in the Speaker's podium)

[Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly (Rt. Hon. Justin Muturi) escorted by the Speaker of the County Assembly and accompanied by the Mace of the County Assembly entered the Chamber at 10:26am]

(The Mace of the County Assembly was placed on the Table)

(National Anthem)

(East African Community Anthem)

PRAYER

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

Welcoming Remarks by the Hon. Speaker of the County Assembly on the Inauguration of Dr. Joyce Laboso Centre

Hon. Speaker (Hon. N. Mutai): Our Chief Guest, Speaker of the National Assembly, Rt. Hon Justin Muturi, The Governor Bomet County H.E Dr. Hillary Barchok, Deputy Governor H.E David Shadrack Rotich, Senator Bomet County Hon. Dr. Christopher Langat, Members of Parliament present, Other dignitaries present, Honourable Members of the County Assembly, ladies and gentlemen;

Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you for being here with us today. We are very pleased as the County

Assembly of Bomet to host you here today for this occasion that we have waited for a long time now. Indeed, when the first County Assembly under the 2010 Constitution was inaugurated in March of 2013, it held the first of many plenary sittings in the old Dining Hall that hosted the St. Michael’s High School which was built in 1953.

At outset of however, plans had been initiated under the auspices of the now defunct Transitional Authority to construct a temporary chamber for the Bomet County Assembly. It was then that the idea of temporary chamber that would later serve as Mini Chamber was mooted. Unfortunately, we encountered challenges and consequently construction of the mini chamber was halted until after the 2017 General Elections.

It is during the term of the Second County Assembly and the supportive administration of the late Governor Dr. Joyce Laboso, (may her soul rest in peace) that project for a mini chamber began in earnest. It is a good story that we now witness today.

I would also wish to note, that Construction of the County Assembly’s Main Chamber is at an advanced stage and we are on course to complete the project on April 2022. We hold the highest trust that we shall have an opportunity as the 2nd Assembly to hold deliberations in the new chambers within this term.

Mr. Speaker, it is therefore with great pride and much enthusiasm that the 2nd Assembly inaugurate this first of two mega structures for the people of the great County of Bomet. It is our hope and belief that these new structures will become a citadel of open governance and deliberative democracy where public participation is held sacred.

Indeed, to state it succinctly and in the words of the learned judges and in *paragraph 202*

“that at the time of constitution making, the de-concentration of powers would open up the scope of political fulfilment through an enlarged scheme of actual participation in governance mechanism by the people thus giving the concept of democracy.”

Mr. Speaker, the creation of the office of the Members of County Assembly serves two purposes. Firstly, it entrenches enhanced service delivery to the people as it creates another level of governance that is closer to the people. Secondly, it was created to open up democracy through the enlargement of participation in governance. It is with this in mind that I wish to report that the two limbs required under the above criteria have been aptly promoted

by the County Assembly of Bomet.

There was need by parliament to have an elaborate and comprehensive public participation and stakeholder's engagement before coming up with a law that limits the participation of members in political affairs of the county without attaining a degree as a minimum criterion.

Representatives to a County Assembly must be reflective and representative of the diversity of its electorate. The people of Bomet as represented in this County Assembly come from diverse political, religious and educational backgrounds and with different levels of academic qualifications.

As I close, I remain mostly grateful for accepting to grace this auspicious occasion. You are truly a great Kenyan whose legacy as the Speaker of the National Assembly will remain embedded in our minds as people of Bomet. Thank you.

I wish to acknowledge the dignitaries present here, Edwin Abonyo, Ted Abonyo, Hon. Alice Milgo, Hon. Joyce Korir, Hon Speaker Baringo County Assembly Dr. Kiplangat, and Hon Speaker for Nyamira County Assembly Mr. Moffat. I also recognise our County Executive Committee Members and Chief Officers present here. I also recognize the former Speakers of this Assembly Hon David Shadrack Rotich, Hon. Geoffrey Kipngetch Korir and Hon. John Mark Langat, the members of the press and members of the Clergy Bishop Turgut and Fr. Moses. Our Senator is also present and His Excellency the Governor. It is now my pleasure and honour to introduce the Chief Quest of this occasion the Rt. Hon. Justin Bedan Muturi, the Speaker of the National Assembly and invite him to make his remarks.

RT. HON. JUSTIN B. N. MUTURI, E.G.H, M.P.: Thank you so much Hon. Speaker for County Assembly of Bomet.

Your Excellency Dr. Hillary Barchok, Governor of Bomet County; Deputy Governor, H.E David Shadrack Rotich, Sen. Christopher Langat, Senator of Bomet County; Speakers of the County Assembly, Hon. Dr. Kiplangat and Hon. Moffat, Honourable Members of Parliament Present; Honourable Nelson Mutai, Speaker of the County Assembly of Bomet; Honourable Members of Bomet County Assembly; the Clerk of the County Assembly; distinguished guests; Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a great pleasure and honour for me to be here to address the people of the County of Bomet through their elected representatives on this historical occasion. The County of Bomet

plays an important role as a convergence position surrounded by a number of metropolitan counties including Kericho, Nyamira, Nakuru and Narok. I am particularly delighted to be part of this important milestone that gives credence to gains that have been made in this County, and which has seen it record admirable growth in a myriad of sectors. I also laud the immense contributions that have been made by the Members of the County Assembly and most importantly, the citizenry of Bomet County.

Hon. Speaker, I must commend you for your diligent and meticulous leadership approach, that has made this County and its members undertake their constitutional mandates with passion and keenness to ensure that the County grows to an enviable level that it is at now. I am particularly pleased with the strides that have been made in terms of County legislation and the positive trickle effect that this has had on the people of this County. I therefore wish to strongly urge you to remain committed to cause of improving the welfare of those that you are privileged to represent. Indeed, as one Brian Tracy; a Canadian-American Public Speaker once said, *“The best leaders have a high consideration factor. They really care about their people.”*

Hon. Speaker, as the Members of this House may be aware, Article 95 of the Constitution spells out the legislative, representative and oversight roles of the National Assembly. Article 109 of the Constitution defines the legislative authority of Parliament conferring upon the National Assembly the legislative role of originating and passing any Bill.

This broad jurisdiction means the National Assembly considers all laws including legislation which concerns county governments. Whereas ordinarily the Senate has been perceived as the only House that considers legislation affecting county governments, the Constitution is clear that both Houses can consider such Bills. This therefore calls for us at the National Legislature and yourselves at the County level to find avenues for collaboration so as to ensure that we enact progressive laws that transform the lives of the people we are elected to represent.

Hon. Speaker, having said that, let me assure you that at the National Assembly, we are open to working with you. We would like to see more requests on matters that you would wish us to address. Indeed, the Constitution provides that we listen to you and address issues of concern to you. We are all therefore intertwined whether in the National Assembly or in the County Assembly. We have to co-exist on the basis of consultation and cooperation as envisaged under Article 6 of the Constitution which deals with matters of devolution. Hon.

Speaker, the Parliament of Kenya has continued to offer opportunities for Members of the County Assemblies to enhance capacity on Parliamentary procedures and practices and to attain the recommended benchmarks for democratic legislatures.

You are therefore welcome to benchmark with us on a number of functional areas including legislative, oversight and representative functions.

Parliamentary Practice and Procedure

Hon. Speaker, having been in the political space for a number of decades, I am privileged to have gathered diverse experiences and in many levels. Some of these areas include participating in the constitutional review process and serving as a Member of Parliament for Siakago Constituency. I also served as the opposition Chief Whip and as chair of the Public Investment Committee during the 9th Parliament, and most recently, I have had the honour to serve as the Speaker of the National Assembly both in the 11th and the current 12th Parliament.

The most outstanding experience must be the unique opportunity to serve as the ninth Speaker of the National Assembly since the establishment of the Legislative Council, (LEGCO) before our independence and the seventh Speaker of the National Assembly since independence.

I remain humbled by the trust that fellow lawmakers have bestowed on me to lead them in the August House having first won the National Assembly Speaker's election during the second round against my predecessor, Hon. Kenneth Marende and again in 2017.

Hon. Speaker, there exists a lot of similarity between my role and yours by virtue of my office as Speaker of the National Assembly, and you as the Speaker of the County Assembly. I preside over the proceedings of the House; I am the High Priest in terms of interpreting parliamentary procedures; I chair the House Business Committee, the Procedure and House Rules Committee, the Committee of Privileges, and the Parliamentary Service Commission. I am the Official Spokesman for the House. I also enhance parliamentary relations through parliamentary diplomacy.

Further, I have had the honour to serve as the Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), a position I will be relinquishing when my term comes to an end, at the forthcoming CPA regional meeting to be held in Abuja, Nigeria next month.

Hon. Speaker, of all these experiences, the most venerable has been to ensure that the Honourable Members follow the prescribed rules of the House.

As such, in executing your duties as required by this House, I urge you to remain firm and be a friend of the rules and you will just be fine. Parliamentary practice gurus simply say be a friend of the rules.

Hon. Speaker, our guidance in the House is also critical towards ensuring that Members execute their duties effectively. Impartiality is key between members and between parties. I am aware that the rendering of a technically correct decision is usually not difficult.

Much harder is knowing the mood of the House and when to allow a member to bend the rules and when to be firm. However, we must be authoritative without being overbearing; dignified but not lacking in wit or humour and capable of maintaining a distance from other members without appearing aloof. Therefore on occasion you would be called when we are struggling when we began the new bicameral parliament in 2013. We were 349. Many of the members were new to me. We did not have the guiding rules. The 10th parliament did not anticipate that there was going to be so many members almost double the previous number. The Speaker had to look at the size, height, appearance because the House must not only be technical on occasion you would hear the Speaker identifying a member as a Member with a receding hairline, a short one or the one wearing a buibui. The Speaker did not know these people. The Speaker had to remain firm.

Relationship between the County Assembly and the County Executive.

As we well know, we departed from the Parliamentary system under our previous Constitution to the Presidential system in our current Constitution. Consequently, Cabinet Secretaries no longer sit in the House. Likewise, County Executive Committee Members do not sit in the County Assembly. I have had the unique opportunity to be involved in this process in different capacities as a member of the Parliamentary Select Committee on the constitutional review from 1999 to 2004; and I was also the Party of National Unity (PNU) Constitution Committee chairman during the national constitutional talks from 2008–2010.

Hon. Speaker, the doctrine of separation of powers continues to occupy the minds of scholars. There are those who belong to the school of thought that contends that in applying the doctrine amongst the three arms of government, its application should be rigid,

unflinching even. They argue that keeping one arm of government in check and from its excesses, requires a strict approach.

Then there is the other school of thought that maintains that, we are building this edifice together, thus we can check on each other, but should not lose sight of the bigger picture; which is, to recognize that we don't need to misinterpret the doctrine while we can find ways of cooperating in achieving our common goal as a county or even country.

Hon. Speaker, I belong to the second school of thought. I believe that this is possible within our constitutional parameters. The United States has a presidential system— just like ours and is bicameral, the US Congress consisting of the House of Representatives and the Senate. Although South Africa has a parliamentary system that we departed from, our Constitution heavily borrows from theirs. They have a bicameral parliament consisting of the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces (commonly abbreviated as NCOP). The provincial legislatures govern each of the country's nine provinces. It is the equivalent of our Senate since it ensures that provincial interests are taken into account in the national sphere of Government. The NCOP consists of 90 provincial delegates; that is 10 delegates for each of the nine provinces. In Canada, the Parliament mirrors ours, consisting of the House of Commons and the Senate. And the Australian Federal Parliament is bicameral too, consisting of the Senate and the House of Representatives. In Nigeria, the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria comprises of the Senate and the House of Representatives. Their model is borrowed from the US Congress.

Hon. Speaker, I mention a few of these examples to show that there are jurisdictions with a bicameral system like ours, but who have ensured that power is decentralized and that the legislature both at the National and at the devolved level finds its voice and place in advancing democracy.

Ensuing Matters: Academic requirements for elective positions.

Hon. Speaker, the issue of academic requirements of a university degree for a Member of Parliament or County Assembly for one to be eligible for the 2022 general elections has been debated upon for a while now.

Hon. Speaker, this issue has had a chequered history. Article 34 of the previous Constitution

provided that, as long as you are able to speak and read in Swahili and English languages well enough to take an active part in the proceedings of the National Assembly, then we can have you. Perhaps this thinking could be aligned to the fact that Parliament and County Assemblies employ professional staff who guide Members on technical matters. In Parliament, for example, we have the Parliamentary Budget Office staffed with seasoned economists and Fiscal Analysts to advise on the budget and wide-ranging financial matters. We have also employed advocates who advise on legal matters.

Hon. Speaker, with regards to qualifications, the Committee of Experts' position was that an Act of Parliament should set educational qualifications for Senators and Members of the National Assembly as these could change over time and should therefore not be stipulated in the constitution.

Hon. Speaker, the 10th Parliament (2008-2013) passed the Elections Act in 2011 providing for the academic requirements (a degree for a Member of Parliament, and a postgraduate diploma for a Member of County Assembly).

However, fortunately or unfortunately, His Excellency the President had his reservations on these provisions; thus, it did not see light of day.

Hon. Speaker, during the 11th Parliament (2013-2017), Senator Kiraitu Murungi (as he was then) and Senator James Orengo led a joint *ad hoc* committee and among other raft of issues related to electoral reforms, it recommended that the academic qualifications be provided for. Thus, section 22 (1) (b) of the Elections Act provides that both a Member of Parliament and a Member of County Assembly must have a degree from a university recognized in Kenya. But fortunately, the same section provided for the suspension of application of that requirement until after the 2017 general elections. I also recall that the application of Election Campaign Financing Act was also suspended until after the 2017 general elections.

Hon. Speaker, as you are aware, the high court on the 15th day of this month (October) expressed itself and held that the provision in the elections Act, 2011 providing for the degree requirement as a qualification to run for an elective position is unconstitutional as it limits the political rights of an aspirant to run for political office under Article 38 of the Constitution. It is my considered opinion that while this question will continue to be with us, that in the spirit of participatory democracy, that this decision be left to the conscience of the voter.

County Assembly as the vehicle for the Socio-Economic Development of Bomet County

Hon. Speaker, Bomet County is a richly blessed county with more than 80% of the land being arable. Consequently, Agriculture has been identified as the strategic entry point for the County's development agenda. The favourable climatic conditions, arable land and good rainfall underline the importance of agriculture and livestock production as the key economic activities of the county. The main crops include maize, tea, pyrethrum, potatoes, fruit, horticulture and livestock including cattle, goats and poultry.

Hon. Speaker, the higher altitudes in the north eastern parts of the county being particularly suitable for tea and dairy farming; while the middle part of the county is suitable for tea, maize, pyrethrum and coffee. We recognize the main economic activity as livestock production in the southern parts of the county such as Sigor and parts of Longisa, while milk production is a major economic activity in Sotik sub-county. Furthermore, the County has an abundance of water resources including several rivers, dams and pans and enjoys even distribution of rainfall throughout the year, with annual rainfall, ranging between 1000 and 1400mm.

Hon. Speaker, in view of the strategic goal of promoting agribusiness within the county, a clear value addition/value-chain approach to support key agents in agricultural production, processing and marketing forms a key plank of the strategy.

Hon. Speaker, I acknowledge the rich agricultural potential of Bomet County and a defined approach to unlock the growth potential of the productive sectors of this great economy should be encouraged. Agriculture is clearly the strategic entry point for the County's development agenda. Increased agricultural production and productivity will not only raise incomes for the majority of the people of Bomet, but also contribute to the County's economic development agenda and growth targets. Furthermore, the other productive sectors of trade and industry are linked to Agriculture through the value-chain approach of promoting agribusiness and value addition within the county. Leveraging on economies of scale and facilitate better access to finance, inputs and technology, and markets will ensure that the greatest potential through agriculture is achieved.

Engagement with Strategic Partners:

Hon. Speaker, the potential of this county will be further enhanced through a continued facilitation of the existing resource mobilization strategies. Further, a diversified approach for resourcing from Development Partners and other stakeholders is encouraged for special activities which are aligned to the broader strategy. At the international level, devolution is emerging as a priority agenda for development partners, and is translating into a multiplicity of actions towards supporting development initiatives at the local level. The County Government of Bomet can therefore take a strategic approach to leverage on the potential resources and good-will. Engaging with Development Partners will both complement and fill gaps in the available resources.

Hon. Speaker, most importantly will be for the County to forge Strategic Partnerships with a range and players, including the private sector, the national government; various research institutions and development partners in order to leverage on the current successes to effectively connect production units to new technologies, new knowledge, funding and markets. I urge the County Assembly to continue to nurture these Partnerships and even other counties to build on current successes to connect farmers to new technologies, new knowledge and business models and markets.

Harnessing the Youth Potential:

Hon. Speaker, a strong, dynamic and empowered youth is critical in catalyzing and driving the transformations envisioned in the Constitution of Kenya and the Kenya Vision 2030. The youth aged 15-24 constitute an important segment of Kenya's population. In Bomet County an estimated labour force of 390,196, representing 50.2 percent of total county population; while the population under the age of 34 is estimated at 586,746 and constitutes over eighty percent of the total population in the County. Therefore, by providing the working population with opportunities to contribute to economic development, we can increase its wealth and improve the quality of life for its citizens.

Hon. Speaker, the five leading employer categories indicates that those persons aged (15-34) are engaged in informal activities. Small scale agriculture and pastoralism sectors are the main employers of at least a fifth of the youth population. With the Agricultural potential of this County, a deliberate and strategic approach that takes into account this sector can further increase entrepreneurial and employment avenues for the youth.

Hon. Speaker, policy interventions should also focus on entrepreneurship, financing and capability development while giving cognizance to the existing youth employment policies, employment implications of devolution of government activities to the counties; and sectors which have greatest potential for employment creation. The ongoing policy interventions on youth empowerment initiated by the government which include: The National Youth Service programme, Youth Enterprise Development Fund, Youth empowerment programme, Uwezo Fund and youth access to government procurement opportunities must be retrieved. It therefore behoves the members of this County Assembly to look through these interventions and see how best they can be tailored to meet

the needs of the youths. Consequently, reaping the demographic dividend in this County requires investments in job creation and skills development. As the number of workers grows more rapidly than the number of dependants, individuals and families will be able to make savings, which when translated into investment will boost economic growth. Hon speaker, Parliament has passed a raft of legislations that touch on the functions of the County Government and which further enhance the provisions of service within the counties. As Members of the County Assembly, it is imperative that you maximize on the implementation of these legislations to ensure that our citizens benefit optimally.

The important aspect here is how the County Assembly builds into the vision envisaged by such legislation, giving the necessary support through appropriate supplementary legislation, budgetary allocation, and oversight.

Hon speaker, there are functions assigned to the national government and those assigned to County governments according to the Fourth Schedule to our Constitution. The two levels of government have a duty to align these functions with the government agenda. I have in mind for instance, “Big-Four Agenda” which was introduced by the President in December 2017. The question that we need to ask ourselves is, to what extent has the county government collaborated with the national government on these priority areas? To what extent has this August Assembly ensured that the County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) are aligned to these priorities, or indeed other priorities that it can benefit from? The County Assembly can also pin point areas which they feel cannot be implemented in the manner that they have designed it. Hon. speaker, the key aspect here is finding innovative ways of collaborating and partnering with the national government. One of the ways is by acknowledging that the

County Assembly is an important vehicle towards the journey of the socio-economic transformation of the county and the journey starts by passing appropriate legislation, budgetary allocation, and oversight.

As you may all may be aware, Parliament recently passed the Tea Act (No. 23 of 2020) last year, which was introduced in the Senate by Senator Aaron Cheruiyot from Kericho, and a raft of other recent legislations which touch on the functions of the county governments including:

- (a) The Irrigation Act (No. 14 of 2019);
- (b) the County Outdoor Advertising Control Act (No. 19 of 2020)— which regulates outdoor advertisement in the counties;
- (c) the Office of the County Attorney Act (No. 14 of 2020)— which provides for the Office of the County Attorney consisting of the County Attorney, County Solicitor and County Legal Counsel;
- (d) Petition to County Assemblies (Procedure) Act (No. 15 of 2020)— last year’s legislation that provides for the procedure of submitting petitions to County Assemblies;
- (e) The Early Childhood Education Act (No. 3 of 2021) which provides a framework for the establishment of systems for the administration of early childhood education within a County.
- (f) We also amended the County Governments Act, 2012 to entrench the procedure of removal of a Speaker in the Act which had a lacuna in the respective rules of the County Assemblies. Mr. Speaker, this law borrowed very heavily from my own proposals which I captured in our standing orders about removal of the speaker. As you know, it is fair that the speaker be also protected. They may not be removed whimsically. Hon. speaker, all legislatures can be sources of valuable innovations, regardless of their size or age. Different experiences, approaches and attitudes foster variations in practices and policies which stimulate innovation everywhere.

The COVID-19 Pandemic which had its onset in the country in March, last year, greatly affected the operations of Parliament. With the Ministry of Health Guidelines on COVID-19, the National Assembly had to develop innovative ways so as to execute its constitutional functions unhindered. We have since amended our Standing Orders to provide for virtual participation of Members in the Plenary proceedings and for virtual Committee Sittings. Whereas the virtual way in the beginning appeared as an option that we would try as long as

the COVID-19 Pandemic subsisted, this is no longer the case. It is evident that House Business is now more efficient and furthermore, the participation of Members has increased as Members can log in remotely from which ever location. A further positive outcome has been the saving on public resources as we are now a paperless institution. To this end, even post COVID we will be using technology in our operations. This also is in line with our Strategic Plan as Parliamentary Service Commission of which I am the Chair. The Strategic Plan requires us to be E-Compliant and move towards a green friendly environment.

Hon. speaker, as the Bomet County Assembly, I challenge you to embrace the use of technology and maintain the same even post COVID. However, this calls on you to review your rules of procedure in several areas ranging from extending the privileges and immunities of Members to virtual sittings, to finding a reliable secure and flexible virtual platform that can allow you to transact your business virtually as an Assembly including for purposes of recording attendance, debating and voting, among others. You are all welcome to confer with us and we will be glad to share our experiences.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend you for the big strides you have taken in ensuring that your members in the very near future, will be well accommodated in your new chamber that you have developed. Hon. speaker, the COVID-19 Pandemic has unfortunately led to loss of many lives and livelihoods for most of our people. This calls on you at the County level to develop policies geared towards cushioning your people from the adverse economic effects of the Pandemic. In the case of the National Assembly, you would recall that we passed various COVID-19 Pandemic related legislations, including a raft of tax laws amendments which saw the reduction of VAT from 16% to 14%, Corporation Tax from 30% to 25% and PAYE from 30% to 25%. We also did pass various subsidiary legislation again seeking to cushion our people from the effects of the Pandemic. We however need ensure a healthy balance between adopting measures to cushion our people and revenue generation because at the end of the day, we must ensure that services within the County are not disrupted.

Hon speaker, in the process of cushioning citizens of Bomet County from the effects of Covid – 19, you do not need to lose revenue or record negative numbers on your County revenue collection. A resourceful and balanced approach can be adopted to ensure that an upward trajectory of revenue collection is maintained. To support this, I will make refence to the National Assembly where recently, we passed the Finance Act. In a bid to create such a

balance, the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning removed all measures that were meant to increase tax on food commodities, while simultaneously recommending an increase in taxes for businesses that are largely unaffected by the Pandemic like banks and IT Companies and hence increased tax on bank money transfers and internet.

This balance allowed the National Assembly to cushion the people it represents, while preserving tax collection which is key towards ensuring continuous provision of services to our people. Hon speaker, Article 209 of the Constitution gives power to the county to impose various taxes including property taxes, levies and fees. Certainly, using these powers you can cushion the great people of Bomet County by reducing levies for small scale traders who work so hard to provide for their families and in order to create a balance with revenue collection, you may consider increasing taxes on other non-commodities. You can also consider applying commencement clauses in the County Finance Act to delay coming into force of tax measures that may affect the people of this great County. Hon speaker, I am also glad to note that although the drafters of the Constitution had envisaged possible conflict of laws in terms of Article 191 of the Constitution, 11 years down the line, we are operating in harmony and our legislative wheels have continued to move without any hitches, thanks to the guidance of the Speakers of the County Assemblies. Indeed, I wish to reiterate that effective legislatures are one of the principal institutions of any functioning democracy. Mr. Speaker, you have remained focused on this and I commend you.

Hon. speaker, in conclusion allow me to applaud this August Assembly for all the positive development agenda it has adopted; the livelihoods that have been uplifted, and most importantly, the progressive legislations it has enacted; those that have been considered, and those that are currently pending in various stages. I also thank you for according me this privilege to share in the gains that have been made in Bomet County and to celebrate the progress so far irrespective of unavoidable challenges.

At this juncture Hon. Speaker and members, I leave you with a call from Pope Francis to political leaders and I quote as I sit, *"It is now, more than ever, necessary that political leaders be outstanding for honesty, integrity and commitment to the common good."* Thank you.

(The Rt. Hon. Justin Muturi resume his seat)

Hon. Speaker Hon. N. Mutai: Hon. Josphat.

Hon. J. Kirui (Leader of Majority): Thank you Hon speaker, I beg to lay the following Paper on the Table of the County Assembly today Thursday 28th October, 2021; The address by Hon. J. Muturi, Speaker of the National Assembly.

The Paper is laid at the Table

Hon. J. Kirui (Leader of Majority): Hon. Speaker, I beg to give notice on the following motion THAT pursuant to Standing Order no. 24 of the County Assembly Standing Orders, The thanks of the County Assembly be recorded for the address by Hon. J. Muturi, Speaker of the National Assembly, signed by the leader majority Hon. J. Kirui. Thank you Hon. speaker.

The notice is tabled

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker: Hon. members, dignitaries present, this House stands adjourned to 9th of November 2021 at 9 a.m. Members to remain standing until Chief guest, His Excellency the governor and the Senator have left the Chambers. Thank you.

The House rose at 12:30p.m