REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 21st September, 2022

Third Assembly – First Sitting

(Convened vide Gazette Notice No. 10988 of 2022)

The Assembly met at 10.00 a.m. at the Laikipia County Assembly Chambers, Nanyuki, on Wednesday, 21st September, 2022, it being the first sitting of the Assembly.

(The proceedings were opened with a prayer read by the Clerk of the County Assembly (Mr. Mutuiri)

PRAYERS

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE CLERK

The Clerk of the County Assembly (Mr. Mutuiri): Hon. Members, on behalf of the staff of the County Assembly and on my own behalf, I wish to congratulate you all on your election as Members of this House. I further wish to welcome you to this first sitting of the Third County Assembly. I take this opportunity to welcome back all the Members who served in the previous Assembly that have been re-elected.

I also extend a special welcome to the Members joining the County Assembly for the first time. You can get in Hon. Members so we can proceed but in case there is another Member outside he or she should be allowed to come in.

Hon. Members, pursuant to section 7(b) of the County Government Acts, 2012 H.E the Governor Laikipia County notified the first sitting of the County Assembly vide legal notice number 10988 of 2012 dated 13th September, 2022. I wish to lay a notification from H.E the Governor and I quote;

Notice is given pursuant to section 7(b) of the County Government Act and Standing Order number 3 of the County Assembly of Laikipia Standing Order, Joshua Irungu Wakahora, Governor of the Laikipia County give notice that the first sitting of the Third County Assembly of Laikipia shall be held today Wednesday, 21st September, 2022 at the County Assembly Chambers within Nanyuki at 10.00 a.m. Accordingly, Hon. Members, this sitting is hereby convened.

PAPERS LAID

GAZETTE NOTICES

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I wish to lay the legal notice number 10988 dated 13th September, 2022 gazetting the first sitting of the Laikipia County Assembly. I will ask the Deputy Clerk to lay. Hon. Members, Standing Order number 3 (2) requires that;

On the first sitting of a new Assembly after a general election, the Clerk shall;

(b) Lay a list of the names of the persons elected as members on the Table of the Assembly.

(The Deputy Clerk (Gichuki Waweru) laid the papers on the Table)

I will now proceed to lay on the table of the County Assembly;

1. Gazette notice number 10988 dated 14th September, 2022.
2. Gazette notice number 9956 dated 24th August, 2022 containing the names of the persons elected as Members of the County Assembly pursuant to Article 177 1(b).
3. Gazette notice number 10712 dated 9th September 2022 containing the names of persons nominated as members to the County Assembly pursuant to article 177 1(b) and (c) of the Constitution.

I will ask the Deputy Clerk to lay the two other gazette notices.

(The Deputy Clerk (Gichuki Waweru) laid the papers on the Table)

Hon. Members, Standing Order Number 3(2) (c) requires that; on the first sitting of new County Assembly pursuant to the Governor's notification under section 7(b) of the County Government Act, the Clerk shall administer the oath or affirmation of office provided for in the first schedule in the County Government Act, 2012 to all Members present in the County Assembly in the order set out in Standing Order number 3.

The Standing Order Number 3 provides that;

The Clerk shall administer the oath or affirmation of office to Members of the Assembly in *alphabetical order using the following order of precedence;*

(a) Members with the longest cumulative period of service in the Assembly.

(b) Members with the longest cumulative period of service in the Assembly and any local authority existing prior to the final announcement of all the results of parliament as contemplated under section 2 of the sixth Schedule to the Constitution.

(c) Members with the longest cumulative period of service in any local authority existing prior to the final announcement of all the results of parliament as contemplated under section 2 of the sixth schedule to the Constitution

(d) All other members

Hon. Members, Article 74 of the Constitution provides that;

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Before assuming a state office, acting in a state office, or performing any functions of a state office, a person shall take and subscribe to the oath or affirmation of office, in the manner and form prescribed by the Third Schedule or under an Act of Parliament.

Hon. Members, as you are aware, the office of the Member of County Assembly is among those defined as state office under Article 260 of the Constitution. Hon. Members, unless a person is elected to this House takes and subscribes to the oath of office prescribed by the First Schedule to the County Government Act, 2012, he or she shall not assume or perform any functions associated with that office of a Member of County Assembly including the election of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker for the purposes of today's sitting.

Standing Order Number 5 provides that when the Clerk is administering the oath or affirmation to office to Members, before the Clerk has administered the oath or affirmation of office to the Speaker, any question arising shall be determined by the Clerk. During that period, the Clerk will exercise the powers of the Speaker.

Hon. Members, pursuant to Standing Order number 3(2) c, I shall now proceed to administer oath or affirmation of office to Members here present in the order of precedence that is set out in the Standing Order Number 3. In order to facilitate this process, the name of each member shall be called out, when called out, the Member shall proceed to the podium on my right and there upon, I shall have the option to take the oath or affirmation of office as they may choose and in accordance with their respective religious persuasions.

After taking the oath or affirmation of office, the Member shall proceed to subscribe to the oath or affirmation of office on the table on my far right by signing the oath or affirmation of office. Hon. Members, we are now ready to commence the process. I want to be sure all Members are present.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH

The Oath of Allegiance was administered to the following Members;

1. Hon. John Irene Wachuka
2. Hon. Kimani Simon Kanyutu
3. Hon. Leshuel Paul Kirenyi
4. Hon. Kamau Stephen Ndiritu
5. Hon. Kibue Catherine Nyokabi
6. Hon. Muchemi Daniel Mugweru
7. Hon. Wairimu George Karuiru
8. Hon. Lowaya Salim Edung
9. Hon. Gatati Samuel Mugambi
10. Hon. Kihika Caroline Wanjiku
11. Hon. Macharia Joseph Gitahi
12. Hon. Maina John Gichuki
13. Hon. Moile Eunice Salaten
14. Hon. Muriuki Mary Gathoni
15. Hon. Muturi Nicholas Mwaniki
16. Hon. Mwangi Benson Kuria
17. Hon. Nicholas Lempaira Korkole
18. Hon. Parleto Lekopien Sammy

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19. Hon. Umija Catherine
20. Hon. Wambui Antony Theuri
21. Hon. Yusuf Amina Leila Hussein

The Clerk of the County Assembly (Mr. Mutuiri): I believe that all Members have taken oath and I wish to congratulate you for having taken the oath of office. You are now mandated to take any other activity of the House.

ELECTION OF THE SPEAKER

The Clerk of the County Assembly (Mr. Mutuiri): Hon. Members, having taken the affirmation of office to Members, we shall now proceed to the next business which is the election of the Speaker of the County Assembly. Hon. Members, pursuant to Section 7 (b) of the County Government Act, 2012, H. E the Governor of Laikipia has notified this first sitting of the 3rd County Assembly of Laikipia vide legal notice No. 10988 of 2022 dated 13th of September, 2022.

Pursuant to Section 11 (1) (a) of the County Government Act, 2012 the Office of the Speaker became vacant at the commencement of today's sitting being the first sitting of the new House of the County Assembly after elections. Further, Standing Order No. 4(1) provides that a Speaker shall be elected when the Assembly first meets after the general election and before the Assembly proceeds with the dispatch of any other business except the administration of oath to Members.

Hon. Members, pursuant to Standing Orders a number of activities were required for the election of Speaker before the first sitting. I will proceed to details each such activity and the manner in which we have complied with the Standing Orders, any other Act detailing the procedure and the Constitution of Kenya, 2010.

Standing Order No. 5 (1) requires that upon the Governor notifying a place and a date for the first sitting of the Assembly, pursuant to Standing Order No. 3, which is in the proceedings of the County Assembly, *the Clerk shall notify the fact and invite interested persons to submit their nomination papers for election to the Office of the Speaker.* In the exercise of power convened in Standing Order No. 5(1), I did notify the general public of the vacancy in the Office of the Speaker in the County Assembly of Laikipia and publicized a declaration of the vacancy by advertising the two newspapers of the National circulation i.e. the Daily Nation newspaper and Standard newspaper of 15th September, 2022.

Hon. Members, the Standing Order No. 5(2) *requires that the names of the candidates for election to the Office of 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 to elect the Speaker.*

Hon. Members, in the notice of the advertisement, I invited interested persons who qualified to be elected as Members of the County Assembly but are not such Members to submit their nomination papers for election as the Speaker of the County Assembly pursuant to Section 9 (a) of the County Government Act, 2012.

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The following persons collected nomination papers from the Office of the Clerk of the County Assembly between 15th and 19th of September, 2022.

1. Godfrey Ngunjiri Njuguna
2. Henry Kimani
1. Patrick Waigwa Bilha
2. Simon Maina Munene
3. Mark Kimaru
4. Jecinta Koree
5. Mary Wangui Miano
6. Isaac Muhota
7. Esther Kairu
8. Lantano Nabaala
9. Milka Nyaruai
10. Tema Saaya Karmushu
11. Nelson Mbari
12. Ibrahim Ngugi Wang'ombe

The following did not return their submission papers;

1. Esther Kairo
2. Milka Nyaruai
3. Mark Kimaru.

Hon. Members, Standing Order No. 5(4) *requires that the Clerk shall maintain a register which shall be shown the date and time when each candidate's nomination papers were received and shall ascertain that every such candidate for election to the Office of the Speaker is qualified to be elected as such under Article 193 of the constitution.* I hereby confirm that the register has been maintained in accordance with the Standing Order.

Hon. Members, Standing Order No. 5(5) *requires that immediately upon the close of nomination period for the period provided for in paragraph 2, the Clerk shall;*

(a. publicize and make available to all Members a list showing all the qualified candidates

(b) Make available to all Members copies of the curriculum vitae of the qualified candidates.

Hon. Members, I hereby confirm that the list showing all qualified candidates was publicized and made available to all Members. I further confirm that I made available to all Members copies of the curriculum vitae of the qualified candidates.

Hon. Members, for the position of the Speaker of the County Assembly, the following candidates in alphabetical order were validly nominated at the close of the nomination period.

3. Ibrahim Ngugi Kagombe
4. Tema Saaya Karmushu
5. Henry Mbuthia Kimani
6. Bilha Patrick Waigwa

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7. Godfrey Ngunjiri Njuguna
8. Lantano Nabaala
9. Nelson Mbari Mwangi
10. Simon Maina Munene

Hon. Members, Pursuant to Standing Order No. 5(6), I have prepared ballot papers upon which shall be shown the names of all candidates validly nominated under Standing Order No. 5 as shown above.

Hon. Members, Standing Order No 6(1) *provides that the election of the Speaker shall be by secret ballot.* I urge the Hon. Members and members of the press that no photo shall be taken at the polling booths. We shall now proceed to the ballot for the election of the Speaker as provided under Standing Order No. 6 (2) to (7). Hon. Members, Standing Order No 6 details the procedure of voting and I wish to lay it.

1. *The election of the Speaker shall be by secret ballot.*
2. *The Clerk shall at the commencement of each ballot close the ballot cause the ballot box empty and unlocked to be displayed to the Assembly and shall in the presence of the Assembly, lock the box which shall thereafter be kept in full view of the Assembly until the conclusion of the ballot.*

So, in that case I want to order that the ballot box be unlocked and displayed to all Members. Hon. Members that is our ballot box and you can check it a bit to ensure that there is no ballot paper stuck there. I want to order the same to be locked.

(The Serjeant-at-Arms opened and displayed ballot box to Hon. Members)

I want to order the same to be locked.

(The Serjeant at Arms sealed the ballot box)

3. *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 areas provided by the Clerk for that purpose and located next to and within reasonable distance of 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.*

So, for our purposes, we have two booths. The Members from this side will use the booth on the right and the others will use the booth on the left side and we have said no photos at that place.

4. *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.*

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5. The Clerk shall make such arrangements as may be necessary to enable any Member with disability to vote.

6. 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.

7. A ballot paper is spoilt, if in the Clerk's opinion, it does not identify the candidate purported to be selected by the Member voting.

So, I want to commence the business of voting. I will ask the Clerks concerned to take their positions. Members, you will be called as per the list of precedence. When you come, you will be issued with one ballot paper bearing the names of all candidates and then you will proceed to the right booth, sign and fold it while there, and place it in the ballot box. Now we can proceed.

(Hon. Members were issued with ballot papers and proceeded to vote)

(Voting in progress)

The Clerk of the County Assembly (Mr. Mutuiri): Hon. Members, 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. Having rejected those unmarked or spoilt, report the result of the ballot. No member who has not already recorded his or her vote shall be entitled to vote after the Clerk has unlocked the ballot box.

I believe every Member has cast their ballot paper. I said a spoilt vote if in Clerk's opinion is one that doesn't identify the candidate purported to be selected by the Members. Hon. Members, Standing Order Number 7 provides that;

(1) *A person shall not be elected as a 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, the candidates who received the highest number of votes in the ballot referred to in paragraph (1) and the candidate or candidates who in that ballot received the highest number of votes shall alone stand for election in a further ballot and the candidate who receives the highest number of votes in the further ballot shall be elected Speaker.*

Hon. Members, having explained the above, I now wish to direct the Serjeant at Arms to unlock the ballot and I wish to inquire from the House if any Member acting or representative or agent of the designated candidate which will be strictly one candidate to step forward and approach the Table so that we can proceed.

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Because we have many candidates I suggest we have one Member representing two candidates to witness the tallying. Let staff to volunteer as agents. In the meantime, the box can be unlocked.

(The Clerks unlocked the ballot box and proceeded to count the votes)

The Clerk of the County Assembly (Mr. Mutuiri): Clerk, first read the names of the candidates as per the ballot papers.

(Vote counting in progress)

The Clerk of the County Assembly (Mr. Mutuiri): Thank you. I now wish that you tally and submit the results to me.

RESULTS

The Clerk announced the results of the ballot as follows;

NAME	VOTES
1. Ibrahim Ngugi Kagombe	Nil
2. Tema Saaya Karmushu	Nil
3. Henry Mbuthia Kimani	8
4. Bilha Patrick Waigwa	Nil
5. Godfrey Ngunjiri Njuguna	Nil
6. Lantano Nabaala	13
7. Nelson Mbari Mwangi	Nil
8. Simon Maina Munene	Nil

The Clerk of the County Assembly (Mr. Mutuiri): Hon. Members, as earlier stated, I now wish to refer you to Standing order No. 7 *on the election threshold. A person shall not be elected as Speaker, unless supported in a ballot by the votes of two-thirds of all Members.* For our case, it is 14 Members and therefore I wish to confirm that from the aforementioned results, none of the Members has met the required threshold of two-thirds. Therefore, I will order that we shall do a second ballot. May I request the staff to quickly do ballot papers that bears the names of Henry kimani and Lantano Nabaala.

(The Clerk ordered a second Ballot)

Hon. Members, we will wait a bit as we do the ballot papers and that is provided for under Standing Order No. 7(2) *If no candidate is supported by the votes of two-thirds of all Members, the candidates who received the highest number of votes in the ballot referred to in paragraph (1) and the candidate or candidates who in that ballot received the highest number of votes shall alone stand for election in a further ballot and the*

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candidate who receives the highest number of votes in the further ballot shall be elected Speaker.

In the meantime, the ballot box and the papers should be emptied for the process will be repeated. We now have the ballot papers for the repeat election and as we begin, may I order that the ballot box be opened and displayed to the Members.

(The Serjeant-at-Arms opened and displayed ballot box to Hon. Members)

May I order the ballot box to be locked.

(The Serjeant at Arms sealed the ballot box)

Hon. Members, we shall be going for the second balloting and this time round we shall be voting for two candidates who received the highest and the second highest following the same order.

(Hon. Members were issued with ballot papers and proceeded to vote)

(Voting in progress)

Thank you, Hon. Members. I believe everyone has voted, If that is the case, we will proceed. I order the opening of the ballot box; I request we have agents for the two candidates.

(The clerks unlocked the ballot box and proceeded to count the votes)

(Vote counting in progress)

The Clerk of the County Assembly (Mr. Mutuiri): Proceed to tallying and bring the results.

RESULTS FOR SECOND BALLOT

The Clerk announced the results of the second ballot as follows;

NAME	VOTES
1. Henry Kimani Mbuthia	7
2. Lantano Nabaala	14

The total number of valid votes cast is 21

The Clerk of the County Assembly (Mr. Mutuiri): Hon. Members, I now wish to declare that Hon. Lantano Nabaala stands elected as the Speaker of the County Assembly of Laikipia.

(Applause)

Hon. Members, I now wish to direct the Serjeant at Arms to go and search for the said Lantano Nabaala, identify him and present him before me here in the House so that he may subscribe to the oath of office as a Speaker in accordance with the Constitution.

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(Hon. Lantano Nabaala was presented to the Clerk by the Serjeant at Arms)

ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE BY SPEAKER

Clerk of the County Assembly (Mr. Jasper Mutuiri): Hon. Members, I now wish to administer the Oath of Office to the Hon. Speaker-elect.

ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE BY SPEAKER

(On arrival of Hon. Lantano Nabaala in the Chamber, he was escorted to the Chair Hon. Irene Wachuka)

(On arrival at the Chair, the Clerk thereupon administered the Oath of Allegiance to the Speaker-elect, Hon. Lantano Nabaala)

(The Speaker, Hon. Lantano Nabaala, then took the Chair, and the Mace, which before lay under the Table, was placed upon the Table)

Clerk of the County Assembly (Mr. Jasper Mutuiri): We now want our Speaker to go and put on the robe and then take charge of the business. Clerk assistants please escort the Speaker. Hon. Speaker, congratulations for being elected as the Speaker of the County Assembly of Laikipia. Please take charge of the business from now.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY THE SPEAKER

Speaker: Hon. Members, I am glad to be here. I want to read a speech in acceptance of the noble Office that has been bestowed upon me.

Hon. Members, I wish to take this opportunity to thank you most sincerely for electing me as your Speaker. Before I proceed, let me congratulate you, Hon. Members, who were elected to represent various wards. I know the elections and campaigns that went with it were not easy. I further congratulate those Members who have been nominated to serve in the various capacities in this Assembly.

Hon. Members, I wish to recognize that I am coming in as a Speaker to build on where my predecessors left. I specifically wish to acknowledge the First Assembly Speaker, Hon. Patrick Mariru, who had a challenging task steering the Assembly being the first Speaker after introduction of devolution. I recognize and appreciate that most of the facilities we shall be enjoying including the offices and the Chamber we are in was done under the stewardship of Hon. Patrick Mariru.

In the same spirit, I wish to acknowledge the contribution done by the immediate former Speaker, Hon. Patrick Waigwa who steered the Second Assembly to remarkable success too. I wish to recognize that under Hon. Patrick Waigwa, this Assembly has made significant progress too including purchasing of seven new Assembly vehicles, operationalization of the Assembly cafeteria and renovation of the multipurpose hall and construction of elected Members ward

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offices. The ward offices shall no doubt accord elected Members a conducive environment to undertake their representation role.

Hon. Members, I am grateful and humbled that I am taking over from the previous Speakers whose contributions shall not be forgotten when the history of this Assembly is written. In view of their foregoing, I wish to commit myself to guide this Assembly to even higher levels. To achieve this, team Spirit shall be key from both Members and staff. I therefore call upon all of us to embrace team spirit and commitment in our specific duties and mandates. We must realize that Laikipians have a lot of expectations from all of us and therefore we cannot afford to fail them. As an Assembly, we shall undertake our key mandate of representation, oversight and legislation amongst others with the seriousness it deserves within the confines of the law.

Hon. Members, as we assume our Office as Members of County Assembly (MCA), we must be alive to the fact that five years is not a long time. It will therefore call upon us to do the best that we can to meet the expectations of the electorate in order to gain their trust and re-elect us in 2027. I wish to commit myself to fully serve the Assembly and guide the Business of the House in accordance with the law and Standing Orders. It will be my joy if this Assembly gets to be known for doing what is good and helpful to the citizens of Laikipia and not vice-versa.

Hon. Members, as I conclude my remarks, I wish also to thank the Clerk of the Assembly and all staff for conducting the election of the Speaker, Administration of Oath and Affirmation of Office of Members in a smooth and professional way. I know that the staff, led by the Clerk, have been in charge of the Assembly business after the Second Assembly went on *sine die* recess. On behalf of Members, we appreciate the warm reception that was accorded to Members by staff yesterday during orientation and Administration of Oath or Affirmation of Office of Members. I further undertake to consider the interest and welfare of staff alongside that of Members as the Chair of the County Assembly Service Board.

Hon. Members, I wish to conclude by praying to Almighty God to grant us favour and wisdom to undertake the work ahead of us. Thank you all and may God bless you.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

Clerk of the County Assembly (Mr. Jasper Mutuiri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to give the following information: Standing Order No. 13 (4) provides that;

> *(4) The procedure for electing the Deputy Speaker shall with necessary modifications be the same as that prescribed for election of the Speaker.*

Hon. Members, with the guidance provided under Standing Order No. 3 (4), I did notify through the Daily Nation and The Standard newspapers dated 15th September, 2022 of the vacancy of the position of the Deputy Speaker. Interested Members were to collect nomination papers from the Clerk's office from 15th to 19th September, 2022 and return the same on or before 19th September, 2022 at 10.00 a.m.

Hon. Members, at the close of the period, the following Members had collected and returned the nomination forms for the position of Deputy Speaker:

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1. Hon. Daniel Mugweru Muchemi
2. Hon. Anthony Theuri Wambui

Accordingly, Hon. Members, we shall have the two Members as candidates for the position of Deputy Speaker. The procedure for the election of the Deputy Speaker shall be as for the Speaker and I shall guide accordingly. So, just as we did I will ask the clerks to empty the box. Yes, that is the ballot box. I will order it opened and displayed to all the Members. You can shake it a bit.

(The Serjeant at Arms opened the ballot box and displayed it to the Members)

So, Hon. Members, as it was with the process of the election of the Speaker, we shall have each Member coming for a ballot paper then you use the booths at the designated sites. You mark the candidate that you wish to vote for and then submit your ballot paper deposit it in the ballot box. Let the box be sealed and the clerks issuing the ballot papers take your positions. We shall follow the order as it were in the election of the Speaker.

(The Serjeant at Arms closed the ballot box)

(Members were issued with ballot papers and proceeded to vote)

(Voting in progress)

The Clerk of the County Assembly (Mr. Jasper Mutuiri)**:** Hon. Speaker, I think we are through with the voting. I will now request that the ballot boxes be sealed as we wait for the agents. Let us have two agents, one to represent Hon. Mugweru and the other one to represent Hon. Theuri. Two agents, please. Now with the agents present, you can unlock the ballot box and I will ask the officers to proceed and tally the votes. As we did with the Speaker, you take the vote from inside the box, display it and then it is recorded accordingly.

(The Clerks unlocked the ballot boxes and proceeded to count the votes)

(Vote counting in progress)

The Clerk of the County Assembly (Mr. Mutuiri): Do the tallying and present the results to the Speaker who will announce the winner.

RESULTS

Speaker: Hon. Members, I am going to announce the results of the Deputy Speaker. 21 Members have voted, two Members contested and the results are as follows;

Name	**Votes**
1. Hon. Daniel Mugweru Muchemi	8
2. Hon. Wambui Antony Theuri	13

None of the Members have attained the threshold for a Deputy Speaker and therefore I order for a repeat of a second runners up.

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The Clerk of the County Assembly (Mr. Mutuiri): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, we shall do the 2nd balloting and the winner will be determined by a simple majority. So, Members we are going to undertake the process following the same order.

Speaker: There is a point of order?

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Yes Hon. Speaker. It is always wisdom to concede defeat and there wouldn't be need of subjecting the members into another voting process. I feel contented because I still represent the people of Umande comfortably and happy. Under all circumstances, him being the Deputy Speaker, he will be the Deputy Speaker of the whole House including myself. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, so much, that is in order Hon. Member. Following the withdrawal of one member, the House now therefore declares Hon. Wambui Antony Theuri as the Deputy Speaker. As a result, I would wish to request you to step forward to take oath of office.

(Hon. Antony Theuri was escorted to the Chair byHon. Irene Wachuka and Hon. Maina John Gichuki)

(The Speaker accordingly declared Hon. Antony Theuri Wambui elected Deputy Speaker of the County Assembly and administered the oath to him accordingly)

Speaker: You, Hon. Member, the Deputy Having taken your position. I kindly invite you to give your acceptance speech.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and the Honourable House and my family. It is much of a surprise that I did not prepare the acceptance speech. I thank the Lord for this opportunity, and my worthy competitor, Hon. Daniel Mugweru. I have nothing much to say but to thank the Hon. Members for trusting me with this position. I will serve them diligently without favour. Thank you very much.

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Members, Standing Order 14 (1) provides that;

(1) Immediately after taking and subscribing to the Oath on Affirmation of Office under Standing Order 12 (Swearing in of the Speaker), the Speaker shall notify the Members of the place, date and time of the opening of the Assembly.

Accordingly, pursuant to Standing Order 14 (2);

(2) The Assembly shall stand adjourned until the date and time of the opening of the Assembly as shall be communicated by the Speaker.

Allow me also to invite all of you with cards for a luncheon of this occasion for today at Aberdare Cottages after this.

The House rose at 1.25 p.m.

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