

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF GARISSA



THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF GARISSA
THIRD ASSEMBLY – THIRD SESSION

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

No. 9 of 2024

ON

DRESS, CONDUCT, AND VISITOR PROTOCOLS WITHIN ASSEMBLY PRECINCTS

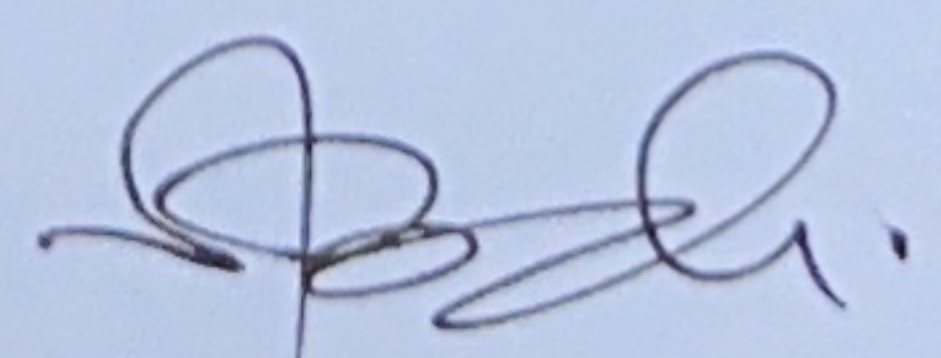
Honourable Members,

1. As we convene today, I wish to address a matter of utmost importance regarding access by visitors to the precincts of the Assembly, which has constantly been breached. Recently, there have been violations that allowed visitors access to the chambers without the necessary permissions and proper dress code, disregarding the established code of conduct applicable to accessing these chambers. Such actions are an offense pursuant to Section 31 of the County Assemblies Powers and Privileges Act, 2017
2. In accordance with the mandates provided by Section 38 of the County Assemblies Powers and Privileges Act, 2017 and Assembly standing order 43(1)(b) and 260 (6), I issue this communication to guide and regulate the conduct of members, staff, and visitors within the precincts of the Assembly.
3. The precincts of the County Assembly, as defined under Section 3 of the County Assemblies Powers and Privileges Act, 2017 as read with Standing order 1 on interpretation of terms, include the Chambers where our sessions are held, all buildings and entrances, including committee rooms for meetings, and offices for members and staff. Additionally, these precincts encompass public and press areas during proceedings, as well as any other buildings we utilize.

4. Public access to these precincts is strictly regulated under Section 5 of the County Assemblies powers and privileges act, 2017. A member of the public may access designated areas within precincts of the Assembly, provided that such access is in accordance with the provisions of the County Assemblies Powers and Privileges Act,2017, the Assembly Standing Orders, and any orders issued by the Speaker. This regulation is essential to maintain order and decorum within our Assembly.
5. Section 31 (1) (c) of the County Assemblies powers and privileges act, 2017 stipulates that a person commits an offense where the person contravenes any order made under the County Assemblies powers and privileges act, 2017 regulating the admittance of the public within the precincts of the Assembly.

In light of these provisions, I hereby issue the following directives effective immediately:

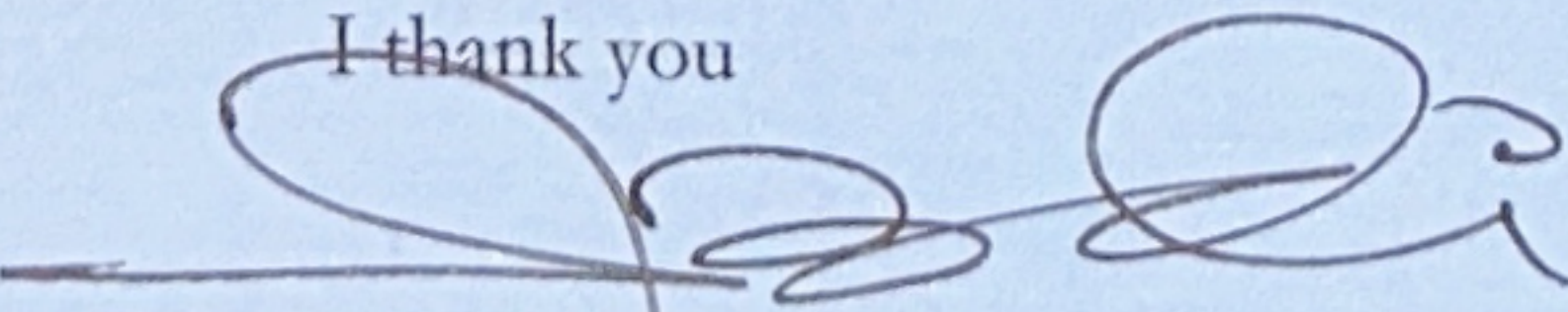
- 1) With regard to dress codes, you will recall in my previous communication, I did guide the house on the appropriate dress code in the House, to this end, Honourable Members the rules on dress code also apply in committees, Lounges, and all other areas within the precincts, including any external meetings.
- 2) Honorable Members, it is noteworthy that the forgoing direction also apply to Assembly staff as a pre-requisite for admission to the precincts of the Assembly. All staff, without exception, are required to dress appropriately and display their badges at all times pursuant to section 9 of the Public Officer Ethics Act, 2003.
- 3) In addition, all media representatives and visitors shall strictly be admitted only properly dressed and shall be required to display their identification badges at all times whilst within the precincts of the Assembly.
- 4) Members of the public have access to the County Assembly and its committees pursuant to Standing Order 259 (1) and shall be admitted with prior notice to the Clerk of the Assembly, provided they are properly dressed and escorted by a member of the Serjeant-at-Arms.
- 5) Any visitor wishing to meet with a member or staff of the Assembly must obtain the necessary pass prior to entering the precincts. Such visitors shall not be permitted to remain in any part of the Assembly unless accompanied by a member of the County Assembly or an officer of the Assembly.



- 6) Members and staff of the Assembly are responsible for the selection and conduct of their visitors whom they introduce to any part of the Assembly precincts and are required to assist in enforcing these rules and standards of behavior.
- 7) Members of the public wishing to access Assembly buildings, including the chambers, shall be admitted during non-session hours, provided they are appropriately dressed and escorted by a serjeant at arms.
- 8) Honourable Members, to safeguard your comfort and privacy, no members of the public shall be admitted to places exclusively reserved for members, such as the members' lounge or any other areas designated as restricted, unless permitted by the Honourable Speaker.
- 9) The Serjeant-at-Arms, or any individual acting under specific instructions from the Serjeant-at-Arms, is authorized to expel any person deemed to be infringing upon these rules or behaving inappropriately. Such expulsion shall not be questioned except by way of appeal to the Speaker after compliance.
- 10) Going forward, the chambers of the Assembly shall only be utilized for house proceedings and other significant public engagements. I have instructed the Chief Serjeant-at-Arms to ensure that committee proceedings are conducted in designated committee boardrooms or alternative venues other than the chambers. Furthermore, I hereby order that the Speaker's chair is a restricted area, and no member of the public shall sit in it for any purpose.
- 11) The Clerk of the Assembly is instructed to ensure that these rules are circulated to all members, staff, and the general public to promote awareness and compliance.

The house is accordingly guided

I thank you


Hon. Abdi Idle Gure
Speaker, County Assembly of Garissa
Tuesday, 15th October 2024

