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Report on teen pregnancy ready

Taskforce formed by Governor Kingi to probe early pregnancies to hand over its report. |PG 3



New road eases transport in Mtwapa

Once forgotten key road in Mtwapa gets new lease of life, to the relief of locals and good tidings for business |PG 5



Coast Guard finds new home in Kilifi

The move is a demonstration of the rising confidence in Kilifi as an investment destination and ideal home for State agencies. |PG 10

Chonyi Amphitheatre to incubate talent

It is also meant to promote both domestic and international cultural tourism with a view to improving local economy. |PG 12



Kilifi Governor Amason Kingi assents to the Kilifi County Citizen Participation and Civic Education Act, 2019, in his office in Kilifi town in November, 2020. Looking on are County Secretary Arnold Nkare (left) and County Attorney Bibi Fondo.

New Law gives Kilifians more say in affairs of the county

BY GOVERNOR'S PRESS UNIT

Citizens of Kilifi County can now participate more effectively in the governance of their county, thanks to a new landmark law assented to recently by Governor Amason Kingi.

The Kilifi County Citizen Participation and Civic Education Act, 2019, which came into force in November last year after sailing through the County Assembly, opens up space and gives more voice to the region's citizens on matters concerning the running of their county.

The law which is robust in its provisions, offers a more structured way through which residents can engage with their County Government and even influence decision-making on key issues affecting them, which is one of the main aspirations of Devolution, as envisaged in the Constitution of Kenya, 2010.

It was born out of the desire by Governor Kingi, to bring all citizens of the county on board and accord them an unprecedented say in virtually all matters of governance and development and social well-being as citizens of Kilifi County.

Since the onset of Devolution and in nearly all the 47 counties, clear modalities for county government-citizen engagement have been missing or lacked legal backing, resulting in a limited role by residents in the affairs of their county, save for public participation forums required for budget-making processes.

Governor Kingi assented to the legislation in his office, an occasion that was witnessed by County Secretary Arnold Nkare, County Attorney Bibi Fondo and other senior county officers.

The law creates a three-pronged framework for its operationalization. First it establishes the Directorate of Citizen Participation and Civic Education, whose key mandate is to facilitate and coordinate participation of the citizens in the governance of the county.

Secondly, the law establishes a slew of public forums at which citizens can easily fit in and engage actively on matters affecting them, their county and its leadership. These forums effectively serve as civic education platforms and create more awareness among citizens of their rights.

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