HOUSE COMMITTEES URGED TO INITIATE IMPEACHMENT PROCESS AGAINST COUNTY SECRETARY AND FINANCE CECM

The House Committees on Implementation and Finance, Trade, Labor and Cooperatives, have been urged to initiate the impeachment process of the County Secretary and the CECM for Finance and Economic Planning in accordance with Standing Order No. 73.

This is due to their contempt of the House and unwillingness to appear before the Assembly Committes to answer to specific concerns of County importance domiciled in their dockets.

In a Report by the House Committee on Powers and Privileges adopted by the House during its afternoon session on Wednesday, 21st November, 2018, the duo is faulted for complete disregard and breach of Article 185 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010; Section 39(2) of the County Governments Act, 2012 and Section 18 of the County Assemblies Powers and Privileges Act, 2017.

The CECM for Finance is accused of disregarding and failing to honor a plethora of invites by the Finance, Trade, Labor and Cooperatives Committee. On 3rd October, 2018, the Chairperson of the Committee, Hon. Peter Oduor, reported to the House that attempts to have the CECM Finance, Joseph Warega, to appear before the Committee have always been futile as he has constantly and consistently defied invitations and summonses, thus undermining the powers of the Committee and the House at large.

On its part, the House Committee on Implemenation chaired by Hon. Fredrick Opang'a, also decried the failure by the County Secretary, Dave Anyona, to honour invites and summonses from the Committee. The Committee had invited the County Secretary three times to its sittings but he failed to show up, hence crippling the Committee's efforts to establish why a raft of 8 Acts passed in the First Assembly have never been published by the County Executive.

The authority and powers of the County Assembly are stipulated in Article 125 (I) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 on the power to call for evidence.

Additionally, the County Governments Act, 2012, empowers the County Assembly to call the CEC Members to answer on matters touching on their dockets.

Further, Section 18 of The County Assemblies Powers and Privileges Act, 2017, states that a County Assembly or its Committees may invite or summon any person to appear before it for the purpose of giving evidence or providing any information, paper, book, record or document in the possession or under the control of that person.