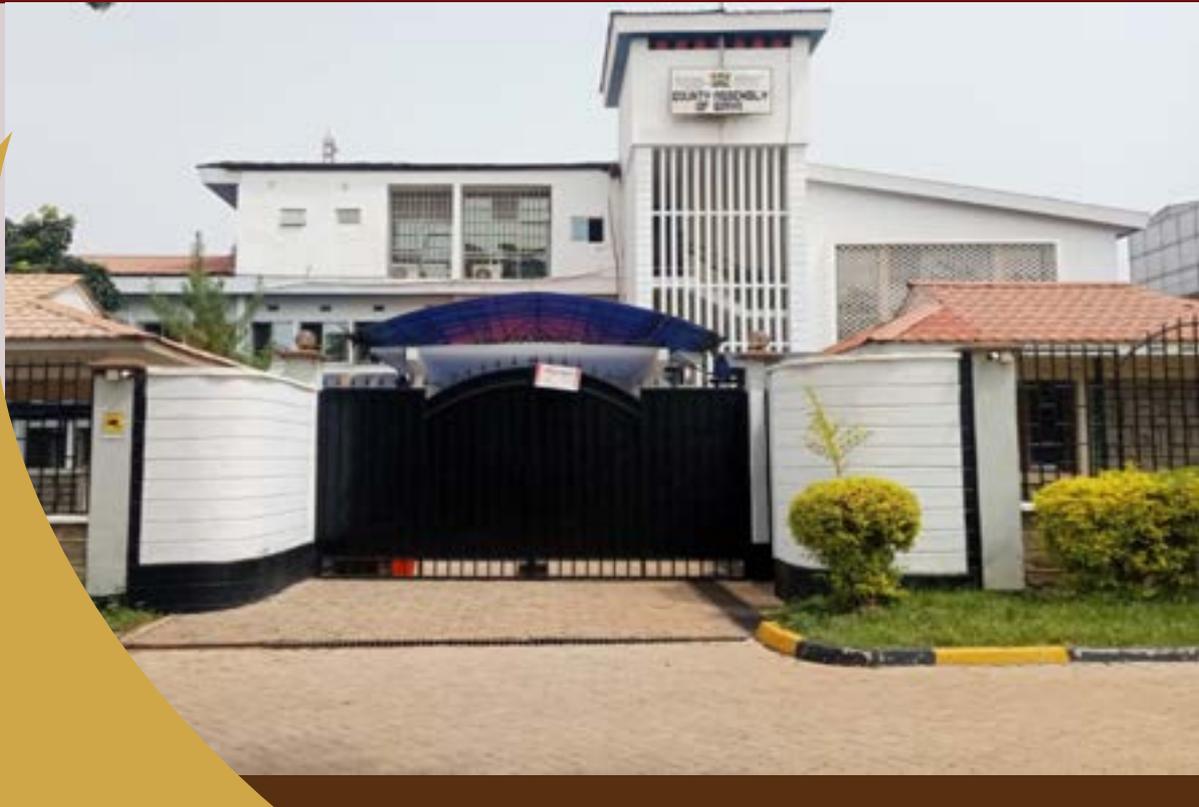


# BUNGE OUTLOOK



## Highlights

- Raila visits the County Assembly
- Joy For Siaya Ecde Teachers As They Get Permanent Employment Terms
- Speaker Okode Meet Iranian Ambassador to Kenya
- Siaya Assembly Women Caucus Inaugural Meeting With The Siaya First Lady
- Know Your MCA Hon. Madowo
- Terms used in Legislative Assembly

# RAILA VISITS THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY

**By Tom Brian Oduor**

Azimio La Umoja-One Kenya leader Raila Amollo Odinga visited the County Assembly on July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2023, where he was hosted by House Speaker George Okode. During the visit, Raila underscored the importance of the County Assembly noting that it is an essential cog in the wheel when it comes to devolved governance. Flanked by Governor James Orengo, Suna West MP Peter Masara and the newly elected vice chairperson of the Luo Council of Elders James Ayaga, the former premier addressed an informal sitting of the House where he offered his invaluable counsel on matters surrounding the effective implementation of devolution.

In his address, the Former Prime Minister reiterated his commitment to devolution remarking that devolution remains the crown jewel of the 2010 Constitution. The ODM leader celebrated devolution as a potential mechanism of accelerating transformative economic development at the grassroots level and called on the Members of the County Assembly to safeguard it.

Raila noted that, 'devolution has opened up and transformed rural places in this country hence the need to strengthen it in a bid to enhance quality service delivery and accelerate development right across the county. To achieve this fete, it is important for the two arms of the County Government to work together. I'm encouraged by to hear that there exists a cordial relationship between the Executive and the Assembly. Such a working relationship should not hamper the oversight responsibility of the Assembly, but should enhance service delivery.

To capitalise on the cordial working relationship between the Executive and the County Assembly, Speaker Okode affirmed the legislative body's commitment to coming up with robust legislations that will support the *Nyalore* government's development agenda with the end goal being to lift the living standards of the people of Siaya.



**Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga (in a hat) in a group photo with a section of Siaya County Assembly staff.**



**Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga (in a hat) confers with Siaya County Assembly Speaker Hon. George Okode (left) and Siaya Governor His Excellency James Orengo during a courtesy call in the Assembly.**



**Speaker Hon. George Okode addressing Members during the visit by the Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga.**



**Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga (in a hat) in a group photo with a section of MCA's.**



**Hon. Speaker, George Okode presenting a gift to Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga**

## JOY FOR SIAYA ECDE TEACHERS AS THEY GET PERMANENT EMPLOYMENT TERMS

By Tom Brian ODUOR

602 Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) teachers drawn from the six sub counties of Siaya County were in an ecstatic mood on 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 after the county government hired them on permanent and pensionable terms after years of waiting. Jubilation, songs and dances dominated the county headquarters as the ECDE teachers celebrated the new terms of employment.

Speaking while issuing the new contracts to the teachers, Governor Orenge remarked that the new arrangement now offers the teachers better terms of service based on their qualifications.

"I consulted with speaker George Okode and the County Assembly and agreed that there cannot be any budget without the ECDE teachers being part of it. Being permanent and pensionable means that your salaries have been enhanced" Orenge said.

Previously, all ECDE teachers were entitled to a uniform pay of Sh22,626 regardless of qualifications or duration of service. However, with the new terms, certificate holders will earn a gross monthly salary of Ksh. 23,853, while diploma holders will earn Ksh. 33,906. Degree holders will earn a gross monthly salary of Ksh. 43,470 per month. While observing the foundational role played by ECDE teachers in imparting good values and morals on children, Speaker Okode averred that the new terms of engagement was a major breakthrough for the instructors and is expected to inspire them for optimum performance.

"You play a significant role in the growth of our children. You nurture and mould them for a greater future. You possess the unique ability to positively influence their physical, emotional and intellectual growth. The shift from contractual to permanent and pensionable terms of employment is aimed at motivating you and promoting quality early childhood education. *The ripple effect of this will be improved performance and service delivery,*" he stated to the teachers.



Speaker, Hon. George Okode addressing the ECD teachers at the Governor's compound



Hon. James Orenge Celebrating with the ECD teachers.

## SPEAKER OKODE MEETS IRANIAN AMBASSADOR TO KENYA

By Tom Brian ODUOR

House Speaker George Okode, on 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2023 joined Governor James Orengo in hosting the Iranian Ambassador to Kenya Jafar Barmaki, where he rooted for enriched cooperation between Siaya and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The consultative meeting held at the County Headquarters aimed at fostering bilateral relations for the mutual benefit of the people of the two nations and spotlighted on potential areas of collaboration between Iran and the County Government of Siaya. Key among the possible areas of partnership include education, engineering, information and technology.

In addition, they discussed ways of re-igniting the county's agricultural sector in order to alleviate drought and food insecurity. In his remarks, the Ambassador expressed Iran's interest in supporting young Kenyans to innovate and build their start-up businesses through the Iran House of Innovation and Technology.

“I appreciate the Governor and the Speaker for hosting me for this significant meeting. We will continue to engage more with a view of exploring more opportunities for the good people of this county,” he added.

Governor Orengo opined that his government remains open and committed to receiving and hosting Iranian investors and businesspeople, and providing them with a conducive business atmosphere

Noting the significance of such collaborations, Speaker Okode asserted that, “as an Assembly, we commit to provide the necessary legislative architecture to augment our County's cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran and other development partners for the benefit of our people.”



Governor James Orengo (left) and Speaker Hon. George Okode (right) in a group photo with the Iranian Ambassador Jafar Barmaki (center) with a section of Siaya county leadership.



Speaker Hon. George Okode shaking hands with Ambassador Barmaki. Looking on is Governor Orengo.



The Siaya County leadership following a presentation during the visit by Jafar Barmaki.



Ambassador Jafar Barmaki (center) holding the Luo traditional regalia. Looking on is Governor James Orengo and Speaker George Okode,

## SIAYA ASSEMBLY WOMEN CAUCUS INAUGURAL MEETING WITH THE SIAYA FIRST LADY

By **Mary Sadia**

Siaya Assembly Women Caucus on 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2023 had a consultative meeting with the office of the first lady in collaboration with Kisumu Medical Education Trust (KMET) Kenya.

The meeting which was graced by Betty Orengo accompanied by Dr. Monica Ogutu, Director KMET was aimed at promoting joint advocacy initiatives between the office of the First lady and the women caucus; building networks, creating partnerships and collaborations to enhance gender main streaming in the county.

'I am happy to be with the women legislators in this meeting to see how we can work together to improve Siaya as women leaders. My office runs various key projects such as nurturing care for ECD, Sexual Gender based violence (SGBV) & Advocacy and it is my desire to work closely with the women MCAs'. She said

The first lady said that she was keen to amplify the good work started by the previous administration for the benefit of the child and adolescent under the Nurturing care initiative '**NYATHI EN MWANDU**' but the Assembly was the missing link. She urged the members present to support the initiative since they represent the people at the grassroots.

She decried of the increasing number of SGBV cases which had rose to 2.2% in Siaya with East Alego Ward at the top. She shared that there should be honest and meaningful conversations both at home and Barazas.

"As women leaders we should come up with measures to avert SGBV and support the survivors. We need to push for policies touching on SGBV, establish treatment centers with psycho-social support corners for SGB survivors and provide shelters and transit centers for both children, teen mothers and run away mothers". Betty said.

She urged the women to create awareness on cancer screening and treatment because of the increasing cases and also push for widows' advocacy on access to information, rights and justice.

DR. Monica in her remarks welcomed the incorporation of the women legislators into the nyathi en mwandu Programme and committed to work together to make it more successful. 'I want other counties to come and bench mark in Siaya'. She said.

Hon. Masidis buttressed the need to work with the office of the first lady and KMET. She committed that the women caucus will endeavor advocate for gender equity and main streaming in the County in collaboration with like-minded partners. 'the vision of the caucus is to mentor women and girls towards governance, promoting their rights and addressing their challenges'.



First lady Betty Orengo (center) with Dr. Monica (right), Hon. Masidis, Hon. Cynthia, Hon. Truphosa and Hon. Rabinya at the front row. Standing are Hon. Eunice, Hon. Dorah, Hon. Wilfrida, Hon. Alice and the secretariat in a group photo.



Hon. Cynthia Akinyi explaining a point during the meeting.



**Hon. Ann Osoo giving her contribution during the meeting.**



**Hon. Masidis addressing the meeting.**

# KNOW YOUR M.C.A HON. MADOWO



**By: Saline Migaya**

'Masidis' which she is commonly known by is an epithet from the Mercedes Benz car which denotes beauty, strength and reliability. However, during the campaigns, she faced a dilemma because people knew her as Masidis which was not official and could not be on the ballot papers. The name had to be incorporated as an official name to avoid losing of votes.

Born and raised in Mombasa; she is the sixth born in a family of eleven, a mother of four and a grandmother. She has been widowed since 2015 and currently resides at her residence in Barolengo.

## **Education & career**

She started her elementary school and college in Mombasa and later furthered her studies where she acquired two Master Degree in Development Studies (MDS) from St. Paul's University and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree from the Institute of Technology, Australia. Additionally she has specialized training in management, development work, advocacy, negotiation skills and basic French. Currently she's pursuing a degree in Community Development.

Her career journey began at the Municipal Council of Mombasa; worked for several NGOs then joined the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) where she worked for 20 years in Kenya and rose to the position of Administrative Manager. She later relocated to the UNICEF Headquarters in New York when she was elected the Chairperson of the Global Staff Association overseeing the welfare of all the staff of UNICEF in the entire world until her retirement in the year 2020. Presently she is the Director and Founder of Tumaini Academy in Barolengo, secretary of the Siaya Rotary Club, board Member of Barolengo Secondary, patron of ODM party and MCA in South East Alego.

## **Q. Why Politics ?**

Her political interest came into play during the Covid-19 Lockdown in 2020 which found her in the village at Barolengo where she spent time providing support to her community. It was during this period of close interaction with the community that she saw the gaps and got motivated to assist the community. With her expertise in development coupled with her networks, she plunged herself in the political arena with a view of uplifting the livelihood of the community around her and beyond.

## **Q. What have you found to be the barriers of getting more elected female MCAs?**

'Siaya County has 30 Wards and out of this number, only 4 women were elected. This is just about 12% and is quite low. This number remained the same as in the last Assembly. In fact, this imbalance is experienced all over the country and is the reason for the high number of women nominated through affirmative action'. Said the tough spoken legislature. She noted that politics in Kenya required resources and is known to be a 'dirty game' full of violence, abuses, hired goons among other vices that scares majority of women. She decried that the society is too patriarchal coupled with the traditions and cultures which discourages women leadership to be a major hindrance. 'I feel elated to be the first elected woman in South East Alego Ward since independence. Together with other women leaders, we can change the narrative and encourage more women to join the political space'.

## **Q. What challenges have you faced so far since assuming office?**

'As a leader challenges are expected and how to surmount them is our priority. They may not be solved in a day because the voters' expectations are high and the resources are scarce'. The legislator also cited unequal sizes of the

wards vis-avis the equitable distribution of funds with no consideration on the wards with the largest population which she said was a denial to fair representation and financial resources. She said that their roles were not just limited to their mandates but included social needs which at times were overwhelming and stretched their pockets.

Hon. Masidis is confident that she will surmount many challenges that come her way because of the good relationship and support she enjoys from her fellow legislators and the executive.

**Q. Do you see affirmative action as part of a greater change in the political system?**

Yes. In Siaya it led to the nomination of 10 women which brought the total number of women MCAs to 14 increasing the number of women voices in the Assembly. However, in her view, affirmative action needs to be reviewed to avert conflicts between the Elected and Nominated members so that the nominated can be more effective and work harmoniously with their elected counterparts without competing each other.

**Q. How will inclusion of women alter the course of development at ward level?**

Their inclusion will amplify the voices of women at the grassroots level; and it is natural that when you tackle women issues, you actually address the issues of the whole family: children, youth and men. This is because women are the care-givers for their families and their challenges affect the whole family and society.

**Q. Have you sponsored any bills so far in Bunge?**

I have not directly sponsored any bill in Bunge. However, there are bills in process such as Gender and Women Empowerment, Youth Empowerment, Widow Protection, which I am very passionate about and I have contributed towards the drafts.

**Role in Committees.**

Hon. Masidis is a member of the committees on Agriculture, Education, Finance & Trade, House Business. She is the Chairperson of the Siaya Assembly Women Caucus which advocates for women agendas in the County in collaboration with county departments and other women caucuses in the country. Additionally, she chairs the Welfare Committee which looks at the general welfare of the legislators. In this regard, she is in the Executive Committee of the Association of all MCAs of Kenya that is advocating for the improvement of salaries and remuneration of MCAs.

Hon. Masidis has called for women to seek leadership positions and urged the electorates to support women candidates to make the two-third gender rule a reality as espoused in the constitution of Kenya, 2010. 'Mine Nyalo!' meaning women are capable.

## TERMS USED IN A LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. **“Allotted day”** means a day set aside for the consideration in committee of supply of proposals in respect of the annual and supplementary estimates, as provided by Part XXIII of these Standing Order;
2. **“Clerk”** means the Clerk of the County Assembly, or, if the Clerk is absent, or if the office is vacant, **such** other person as is for the time being performing the duties of the Clerk;
3. **“County Assembly Party”** means a party or a coalition of parties consisting of not less than five percent of the membership of the County Assembly;
4. **“Leader of the Majority Party”** means the person who is the leader in the County Assembly of the largest party or coalition of party under Standing Order 15;
5. **“Leader of the Minority Party”** means the person who is the leader in the County Assembly of the second largest party or coalition of parties under Standing Order 16;
6. **“Majority Party”** means the largest party or coalition of parties in the County Assembly;
7. **“Minority Party”** means the second largest party or coalition of parties in the County Assembly;
8. **“Member”** means a Member of the County Assembly of .....elected or nominated in accordance with Article 177(1) of the Constitution;
9. **“Majority Whip”** means the Member designated as the Majority Whip by the leader of the Majority Party;
10. **“Minority Whip”** means the Member designated as the Minority Whip by the Leader of the Majority Party;
11. **“Member of County Executive Committee”** means a person appointed as a member of the county executive committee of ..... under Article 179(2) (b) of the Constitution;
12. **“Notice Paper”** means the official schedule of business intended to be transacted by the County Assembly during a particular week, published and circulated by the Clerk by order of the County Assembly Business Committee under Standing Order 35 (Order Paper to be prepared and circulated);

**By Stella Ahenda**

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