



# County Assembly of Siaya

## BUNGE OUTLOOK



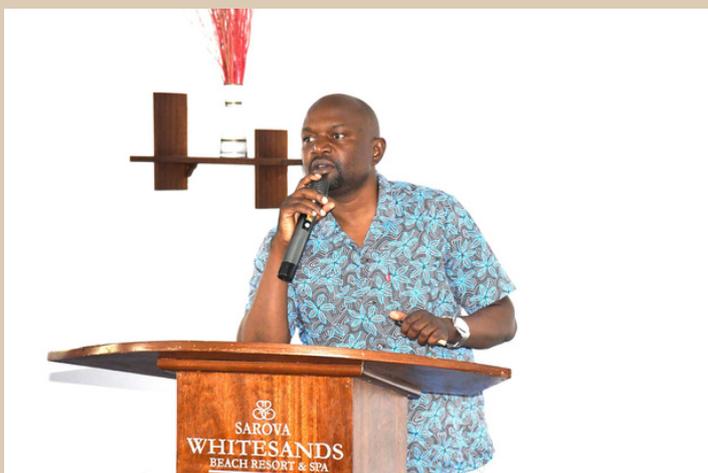
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# OVERSIGHT

## Performance Evaluation Workshop Between the Assembly and Executive



*Speaker George Okode gives a speech during the recently concluded joint evaluation workshop at Sarova Whitesands, Mombasa*

In his remarks, Speaker George Okode noted that the workshop is a significant and strategic opportunity to not only appreciate the fundamental roles of each arm of the county government in the delivery of services to the people, but also pinpoint lingering challenges that need to be addressed to enrich performance.

The Speaker has challenged the participants to be at the forefront in championing for the delivery of better services to the people of Siaya, ensure timely implementation of projects, and foster teamwork within the County Government.

By Tom Brian Oduor.

Interdependence of both the County Assembly and the County Executive is necessary for each arm to function effectively to drive both development and service delivery in the county. The Executive requires the goodwill and the support of the Assembly for passing and implementation of key policies, while the Assembly also relies on the Executive's cooperation to execute legislative decisions.

Thus, in a quest to synergize efforts of making the County Government of Siaya work and improve the quality and efficiency of service delivery, Members of the County Assembly and the County Executive Committee last week attended a performance review workshop aimed at evaluating the impact and performance of the Nyalore administration's first year in office.



*Speaker George Okode (r), Governor James Orengo (l), George Nying'iro CECM Public Works Roads & Energy (behind, right) and Deputy Speaker Andericus Odongo (behind, left) arrive at the joint workshop meeting at Sarova White Sands, Mombasa.*

# OVERSIGHT

## House Committee Vets Selection Panel for the Recruitment of the County Public Service Board Chairperson



*A section of members of the Standing Committee on Appointment Chaired by Hon. Speaker George Okode during the vetting process of the selection panel for the recruitment of the county public service board chairperson*

By Tom Brian Oduor

In line with the provisions of Article 179(2)(b) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, read together with Section 58A of the County Governments Act, 2012 and the County Assembly of Siaya Standing Orders, the House Committee on Appointments Chaired by Speaker George Okode

has today conducted approval hearings for the five-member panel nominated by Governor Orendo to oversee the competitive process of getting the new Siaya County Public Service Board Chairperson.

All the nominees appeared before the Committee where they shed light

on who they are, their qualifications and what they intend to do in the event that their nomination to the Selection Panel is approved by the Committee.

The Committee is expected to table its report on the suitability of the nominees in the House next week.

### FUN FACT !!!

Did you know that the Committee on Appointments is constituted within seven days of a new House and serves for a period of three years and that appointed thereafter shall serve for the remainder of the term of the Assembly? That the quorum of the Committee on Appointments shall be one half of the Members of the Committee, but the Speaker shall not be counted for the purposes of quorum and shall not vote?

# LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

## House Adopts Motion on Establishment of Project Management Committees

By Tom Brian Oduor.

The House, on Tuesday, 31st October, 2023 adopted a Motion compelling the County Government of Siaya to within 14 days develop project management guidelines for approval by the County Assembly.

In a session chaired by the Speaker of the County Assembly, Hon. George Okode, Members of the County Assembly noted that project management committees are vital components of project management, supervision, implementation and community ownership of projects within the county, but decried the fact that currently, the County Executive is yet to formulate a clear guide on their key roles and responsibilities.

Thus, the House unanimously resolved that when developing the guidelines, the County Executive should place strategic focus on the roles, facilitation and remuneration of members of the project management committees.

Moving the Motion, West Alego Ward MCA, Hon. Felix Okumu, stated that various projects within the county are being implemented without meaningful involvement of project management committees and that there are reported cases where payment for projects have been made without documented approval of management committees.

Members of the County Assembly lauded the Motion and subsequently resolved that the implementation of projects for the FY 2023/2024 to be subject to the operationalization of the approved guidelines

## House Passes Motion on Development of School Feeding Program

By Tom Brian Oduor.

The County Assembly, during a Session on Tuesday, 31st October, 2023 passed a Motion calling on the County Executive Committee Member in Charge of the Department of Education, Youth Affairs, Gender and Social Services to develop the Siaya County Feeding Policy for Early Childhood Development Education.

Via a Motion moved by Hon. Cynthia Akinyi, the House resolved that the CECM develops the policy within 30 days and further propose measures to sustain the programme in order to ensure that ECDE children are maintained in schools for effective learning and early strong foundation. While moving the Motion, Hon. Akinyi noted that school meals remain a core development...

### FUN FACT!!!

Did you know that Early Childhood Education & Development is a devolved function? That the county governments are mandated to oversee, manage, and develop county-specific laws that govern early childhood education and development?



# LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

intervention to support the county's achievements in the education sector and divulged that early childhood education enrolment rates have been found to be higher in centers providing meals.

She added that school meals are an important safety net for the vulnerable children from food insecure households in the county and have the multiple benefits of increasing ECDE enrolments and attendance as well as significantly contributing to the reduction of hunger and nutritional intake.

Supporting the Motion, East Ugenya MCA, Hon. Fredrick Omoro, averred that a seamless school feeding programme will provide poor families with a strong incentive to send their children to school, thus directly contributing to the growth of the county.

South Uyoma MCA, Hon. Michael Omondi, noted that investing in nutrition and education during early childhood will break the cycle of malnutrition and help children to reach their full potential and become productive adults.

Central Gem MCA, Hon. Sylas Madingu, avowed that school meals also promote the consumption of diversified diets while enhancing local economic development. Central Alego lawmaker, Hon. David Ragen, noted that though some Wards within the county have adopted Ward based initiatives for ECDE school feeding programmes,

lack of policy guidelines may have resulted in an unstructured and erratic implementation of the program.

## Assembly Hosts Learning Institutions On an Education Excursion

By Mary Sadia.

A total of 459 students and pupils have visited the Assembly since the beginning of this year with a view to learn on the operations of the County Assembly. Among the key notable areas that the Assembly has taken learners through includes; the law making process, roles of the Assembly, Budget making, roles of the Speaker, the Clerk and general Chambers(House)operations.

The educational visits are coupled with a comprehensive guided tour of the Assembly and watching of the live proceedings of the House. Schools that wish to visit the Assembly for learning purposes can place a formal request through the office of the County Assembly Clerk indicating their preferred date of visit.



*Students from St. Barnabas Secondary School-Kisumu County during a learning session in the chambers.*



# COMMITTEE ROUNDUP

## Health Committee Engages Health Officials



*Chairperson Committee on Health Hon. Sylas Madingu during a meeting with health officials from the Executive*



By Tom Brian Oduor

The House Committee on Health Services chaired by Central Gem MCA, Hon. Sylas Madingu on Wednesday, November 1st, 2023, held a meeting with the County Department of Health Services.

The deliberations centered on the department's operations and the status of implementation of the departmental projects budgeted for in the Financial Year 2022/2023.

During the meeting, attended by the top brass of the Health Department, the CECM - Dr. Martin K'onyango, downplayed recent claims of transfer of officers including medical superintendents in various Sub-County Hospitals terming it as 'hot air'.

Dr. K'onyango told the committee that presently there were no plans of effecting any transfers within the department and termed such reports as baseless.

The CECM sought the Committee's support in the implementation and realization of the department's mandates, objectives and goals.



1.CECM Health Dr. Martin K'onyango during a meeting with the Committee on Health.

2.A section of the department of Health officials during a meeting with the Health Committee

3.A section of members of the health committee led by the Chairperson Hon. Sylas Madingu

# STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT



## Education Committee Conducts Stakeholders Engagement on the Siaya County PwD's Bill, 2023

By Mary Sadia.

The Siaya County PwDs Bill which underwent a three days' stakeholders engagement from 8th to 10th October was further combed by experts from Transparency International led by the Western regional coordinator Elizabeth Duya with representatives from Siaya PwDs network in all the six Sub Counties, CEC Education, Youth Affairs, Gender and social services- Dr. Edgar Otumba, Chief Officer Dr. Nicolas Kut, Director Maida Nyawade, the president of ODM disability league Hon. Nelson Kakiri, Members of the education committee led by the Chair Hon. Arika and the Ag. Clerk Mr. Erick Ogenga.

The Bill seeks to respond to the current realities faced by the PwDs with a view to establishing its relevance in the context of Siaya County. Among the key highlights of the Bill are the establishment of a committee that will ensure implementation of National and Siaya county government policies and programs designed to achieve equal opportunities, rights and privileges of PwDs and establishment of a permanent fund which shall be used for their benefit.



*The Ag. Clerk Mr. Erick Ogenga addressing participants during the PWD stakeholders engagement.*



*Hon. Arika, Chair education Committee addressing stakeholders*



*Hon. Nelson Kakiri president of the ODM disability league giving his speech.*

In His remarks Hon. Kakiri said that the bill will help guide the implementation of Article 54 of the constitution since the PwDs have been overlooked and missed opportunities. He Asserted the need to have a percentage designated for the PwDs since the current National Act talks of thirty percent without any apportionment. With regard to Access to information for PwDs he said that the County should provide information in accessible formats.

Dr. Kut commended the participation and dedication of stakeholders and applauded the education committee for the milestone they have made with the Bill. "I am very passionate about this Bill since it will be a game changer to the PwDs in Siaya; The Bill brings hope, love and caring to those believed to have been neglected". He said.

### FUN FACT!!!

Did you know that 3rd December is International Day of Disabled Persons? The International Day of Disabled Persons aims to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society.



## SPEAKER'S CORNER

### Speaker Okode Loads Praises on CHPs, Terms them as Critical in the Realization of Universal Health Coverage



*Speaker George Okode (1), Governor James Orengo and Mama Ida Odinga during the launch of motivational recognition materials for all CHPs*

By Tom Brian Oduor

Speaker George Okode has heaped praises on Community Health Promoters (CHPs) terming them as a key cog in the county's quest for an efficient and effective healthcare system.

'Our dedicated Community Health Promoters are an important link between the community and the formal health system. They play a focal role by providing linkages between communities and facilities and promoting healthcare at the community levels,' he noted

Speaking on Monday, November 6, 2023, during the launch of motivational recognition materials for all the 2,128 community health promoters drawn from the county's 221 community health in Siaya County, the Speaker stressed that early diagnosis and referrals from the grassroots level can save lives and reduce the burden on higher-tier healthcare systems. He urged the health promoters to redouble their efforts to improve the health and sanitation of their communities.

During the event which was headlined by Mama Ida Odinga, the community health promoters were provided with uniforms for proper identification,

mobile phones for real-time data entry and other assorted items necessary for their community outreach services.

The assorted items include a first aid box, weighing scales for adults and children, an infrared clinical thermometer for contact-free temperature measurement, a mid-upper arm circumference tape measure for both children and adults, a torch, a blood pressure monitoring device and a water flask.

Community Health Promoters are trained to provide a range of health services, including prenatal care, immunization, nutrition education, and treatment of common illnesses. They work closely with communities to identify health needs, provide health education and information, and refer individuals to health facilities for more specialized care when necessary.

According to data from the Siaya County Department of Health, the Community Health Workers have made tremendous community contributions to the Siaya County health indicators since 2013. Between January & March 2023 alone, for example, skilled deliveries improved to 92.4 % from below 30% in 2013.

The 4th Ante – Natal Care visits also improved to 64.5% with fully immunized children increasing to 98.2 % during the said period. 90% of pregnant women attending 1st Ante – Natal Care also received a long lasting insecticide net while 99% of suspected Malaria cases in Siaya County were tested with appropriate tests. Similarly, 92% of confirmed malaria cases were treated with the required first line treatment courtesy of the efforts by the health volunteers while working with other government agencies and partners.



# KNOW YOUR MCA- HON. JAMES OBIERO OTARE- MAYOR



*Hon. Obiero Otare takes oath of office as MCA elect Siaya Township for a third term.*

By Linda Odinga

Popularly known as Mayor, his story begins in 1968 in Mlaha Sub Location. His name is legendary and is heard in far flung places and when they come to Siaya County to look for the political giant they meet a humble and slight man in frame.

## Education

The young Otare went to Nyandiwa Primary School and sat his KCPE in 1985. He then proceeded to Mwer Secondary School and sat for his KCSE in 1989 then being the pioneers of 8-4-4 System.

The youthful Otare proceeded to Kenya Polytechnic to pursue a Diploma in Electrical Engineering. He then came back to Siaya and started doing business, “I was supplying fish then joined boda boda for 2 years there I was elected Chair of boda boda in Siaya Town. In 2013 he went to Moi University to pursue a Diploma in Human Resource Management.

## Journey to politics

The year was 2002 when he thrust himself into the political arena and was elected a Councillor.

In 2007 he was again re-elected as a Councillor. “I then ran for position of Mayor and won” he reiterates.

Under the New Constitution in 2013 he ran for MCA for Siaya Township Ward and has remained in the seat since then. He says, “I always ask myself why do they love me? Being elected for the past 25 years is not easy because you cannot satisfy people”.

## Handling Conflicts and Scandals

He states that most of the conflicts and scandals arise only during campaigns and are just ways to discourage people, “For example on the issue of Cemetery Scandal in my Ward, everything is in order and is working well. You cannot avoid scandals but you have to see how to handle it” He reiterates that that is why he went to do his Human Resource Course so as to know how to handle conflicts because once you are a leader there must be resistance and conflicts. “In Siaya Township Ward conflicts are handled professionally with good approach and I can advise all leaders to go to college and do human resource and mostly concentrate of handling conflicts.”

## Achievements

He prides himself in being the pioneer of easy loan access by the several groups in Siaya. A fete he began as Councillor when K-Rep Bank first came into the town. He says, “Even now there are groups that can even manage to get a loan of Kshs. 2 million.”

He is also the biggest advocate of education. evidenced by the large number of about 400 students whom he sponsors their uniforms yearly



# KNOW YOUR MCA-HON. JAMES OBIERO OTARE-MAYOR

“As early as now I have already started saving for the kids doing their Class 8 and joining Form 1 next year”. He also contributes to every fundraiser for school fees no matter how little he has at the time and says he values education very highly.



*Inset: Hon. James Otare during his hey day as Mayor of Siaya Municipal Council before the advent of devolution.*

He is also the biggest champion for sports like football, netball and volleyball. He is the founder of Otare Cup, a football tournament played every year and has managed to expose 3 boys into the mighty Gor Mahia Football Club. He says, “I also engage in a lot of church fundraisers and activities.”

Other achievements he prides himself in as a former Mayor who initiated construction of buildings within Siaya Town. He says, “There were no big buildings in this town and in 2008 I initiated the issue of repossession of idle plots. I insisted that if you don’t develop your plot it will be reverted back to the local authority. Siaya is also one of the most well planned towns in Kenya and it was planned when I was Mayor.”

He prides in the Committee of Lands as being the most active one. Some of their achievements is steering the making of Siaya, Bondo and Ugunja as Municipalities. “With this achievement Siaya is now able to receive donor funding”

## Challenges

The veteran politician says, “The biggest challenge is that politics is quite demanding and there is no privacy. Most people believe that a politician should always give out something yet you can’t solve all the problems.”

## Balancing Politics, Business and Family

He reiterates, “You have to create time for your family. You can’t do politics 24 hours. During campaigns you are running left right and centre but after elections you can be able to concentrate on your family and business also.

My advice to fellow politicians is you should mix politics with business. You should not only rely on politics and involve your family in the business so that when you are not re-elected you can still go on with your life. Life moves on.

My future plan is to remain in politics with aim of being Governor. I started as a Councillor the Mayor of the MCA so why not Governor? It is possible!”

## Family, Fun and Hobbies.

I have two wives and 8 children. I am very proud of them. My favourite food is Chips. I love Chips. My hobby is playing Volleyball



# PICTORIAL



1. A section MCA's and County Executive officials during the recently concluded joint evaluation workshop at Sarova Whitesands, Mombasa.

2. The Ag. Clerk Erick Ogenga gives his remarks during the joint evaluation session.

3. Usonga MCA Hon. Sylvester Madialo expounds a point during the joint evaluation session.

4. South Uyoma MCA Hon. Michael Adiala and his South Gem counterpart Hon. Syllas Madingu in a hearty moment during the session.

5. County Secretary Joseph Ogutu gives his remarks during the recently concluded joint evaluation session.



# PICTORIAL



1. Hon. Speaker. George Okode (1) shares a light moment with Mama Ida Odinga during the launch of motivational recognition materials for all CHPs in Siaya County.
2. A section of Community Health Promoters in a group photo during the launch of motivational recognition materials.
3. Pupils from Small Clouds Academy in a group photo during a recent visit to the Assembly.
4. A section of students from Got Abiero Secondary School in a group photo during an educational visit in the Assembly precincts.
5. 6. Members of the public during the recently concluded public participation exercise on the Siaya County Persons with Disability Bill, 2023 in Bondo and Alego-Usonga Sub County respectively.
- 7, 8, 9, 10, 11. Mr. Willis Ayieko, Mr. Francis Ochung, Ms. Velma Maumo, Prof. Rose Anyango, and Mr. Kennedy Opiyo Omondi when they appeared before the Standing Committee on Appointments for vetting of selection panel for the recruitment of the County Public Service Board Chairperson.
12. Majority Leader and Ugunja Town MCA Edwin Martin during the vetting session.



# TERMS USED IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. **“Public Bill”** means a Bill which is intended to affect the public generally, or a section of the public;
2. **“Private Bill”** means any Bill, which is intended to affect or benefit some particular person, association or corporate body.
3. **“Precincts of County Assembly”** includes the chamber of the County Assembly, every part of the buildings in which the chambers are situated, the offices of County Assembly, the galleries and places provided for the use and accommodation of Members of County Assembly, members of the public and representatives of the Press and any forecourt, yard, garden, enclosure or open space, appurtenant thereto and used or provided for the purposes of County Assembly;
4. **“Party Whip”** means a Member designated by a County Assembly party as its party whip for the purposes of the transaction of the business in the County Assembly and includes the Majority Whip and the Minority Whip;
5. **“Point of Order”** A question by a member to the presiding officer calling attention to a breach of order or of the rules.
6. **“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)

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