

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

SIAYA COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THE HANSARD

Second County Assembly – First Session

SECOND ASSEMBLY FIRST SITTING

Wednesday, 20th September, 2017

The House met at the County Assembly Chamber at 9.30 a.m.

ARRIVAL OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

[His Excellency the Governor (Cornell Rasanga) escorted by the County Assembly Speaker

(George Okode) accompanied by the mace entered the Chamber]

[His Excellency the Governor took the Chair]

(The mace was placed on the Table)

PRAYERS

Hon. Speaker (George Okode): Hon. Members, it is now time for us to be led in prayer by our spiritual leaders.

(Prayers were said by three spiritual leaders)

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

1. WELCOMING HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

Hon. Speaker (George Okode): His Excellency the Governor, the County Government of Siaya and the Hon. Members present in this House, feel most welcome. Before I proceed I want to recognize the presence of some VIPs in the Speaker's gallery. I may not have the full list. Kindly welcome the Deputy Governor, Dr. James Okumbe.

(Applause)

I have equally seen Madam Veronica of Lap fund.

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(Applause)

The County Secretary, Mr. David Anyona Kanundu.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: ---and many more who perhaps I have not seen. If we have any County Executive Committee Members present, will you recognize them?

(Applause)

We have Hon. Members who served in this Assembly in the previous regime. We have Hon. Charles Omollo K'owii.

(Applause)

We have Hon. Pamela Ngure. Will you recognize her?

(Applause)

We have Hon. Erick Oduya Ndonji. Will you recognize him?

(Applause)

We have Hon. Mary C. Ajwang'. Will you recognize her?

(Applause)

We have Hon. Walter Okello. Will you recognize him?

(Applause)

We also recognize any other member of the public who is here and is representing any institution. Feel welcome.

The occasion we have today is indeed a brief one and I want to be as brief as possible. We apologize for the technical hitch we have with our public address system; but all the same, we will proceed.

I want to make a number of Communications before I welcome H.E The Governor to address the Assembly.

2. MEMBERS OF COUNTY ASSEMBLY NOMINATED BY POLITICAL PARTY IN THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY SERVICE BOARD.

Hon. Members, The County Assembly Services Act, 2017 creates the County Assembly Services Board whose functions are spelt out under Section 11 of the said Act. The Services Board has initiated the process of appointing two qualified persons in the Board by declaration of a vacancy which appeared on The Standard newspaper on Monday, 18th September, 2017 pursuant to Article 176 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, read together with Sections 8, 9, and 47 of the County Assembly Services Act, 2017 (No. 24 of 2017) and the First Schedule thereto.

Pursuant to the Provisions of Section 46 (c), the Orange Democratic Movement Party (ODM) is hereby directed to nominate one member in the County Assembly to represent the interest of its members in the County Assembly Service Board.

The name of your nominee should reach the office of the Clerk by close of business tomorrow Thursday, 21st September, 2017 to enable the Board discharge its functions as the law provides.

Hon. Members, you realize that initially, it used to be automatic for the Leaders of the Majority and Minority parties to be members of the Services Board. However, in the new Act, the party nominates one person who can either be the Majority Leader or the party can decide to pick any other Member.

3. MEMBERSHIP TO HOUSE COMMITTEES

Hon. Members, it has come to the attention of my Office that the ODM party membership seeks direction on the following:-

1. Whether a Member who has not been sworn in can have their names slotted in Committees approved in this House.
2. Whether the Committee on Education, Youth Affairs, Gender and Social Services can have its membership increased from nine to eleven.
3. Whether Hon. Otieno Winnie Mercy Akoth and Hon. Odinga Truphosa Apondi Osewe can be included in the Committee on Education.

My guidance is that a Member who has not been sworn in cannot transact business in the Assembly and therefore the names of Hon. Jane Atieno Odhiambo cannot be included in the Committee list for consideration in this Assembly. She is still deemed to be a stranger in the House until she takes oath of office.

In the interest of affirmative action and in conformity with the previous rulings I made regarding transition of the current Standing Orders, the Committee on Education can be expanded to an odd number, but not more than eleven Members in the fulfillment of the spirit of affirmative action.

However, the following conditions should be adhered to;

1. The Members so included must be women and to a large extent nominated members.
2. The Members so included must have indicated interest in the said Committees prior to this Communication.
3. The Members so included must relinquish one of the Committees previously held in favour of the Education Committee.
4. The Members so included must get their names approved afresh in the Selection Committee through the Assembly procedures.

In conclusion, the Party Whips should procedurally refer the names of Hon. Otieno Winnie Mercy Akoth and Hon. Odinga Truphosa Apondi Osewe to the Selection Committee for reconsideration and finally approval by the House.

Finally, I further advise Members of the Selection Committee who were nominated by various Sub-County MCAs to meet Members from their Sub-Counties and endeavour to explain to them how the nomination to Committees was done with a view to clearing the air.

4. THE GOVERNORS' NOMINEES TO THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

This is what The Governor has communicated to the Speaker:

Hon. Speaker, Article 179 (2) (b) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 read together with Sections 30(2)(d), 35 and 42(2) of the County Government Act, 2012 confers on me the powers to nominate persons for vetting and approval by the County Assembly for purposes of constituting the Executive Committee within twenty one days from the date of swearing-in of the Members of the County Assembly.

I will go to the material sections of the communication.

Below is the list of my nominees to the County Executive Committee for vetting and approval by the Assembly:

1. Agriculture, Food and Fisheries – Dr. Nicholas Ochogo Kut – Male - 51years old, from Township Ward, Alego Usonga Constituency.
2. Finance and Economic Planning – Joseph Onyango Ogutu – Male - 49 years old, from West Alego Ward, Alego Usonga Constituency.
3. Enterprise, Energy and Industry – Dr. Elizabeth Achieng' Odhiambo – Female – 46 years old, from Yimbo East Ward, Bondo Constituency.
4. Physical Planning, Land, Housing and Urban Development – Adrian Ouma – Male - 41 years old, from South Gem Ward, Gem Constituency.
5. Water, Irrigation, Environment and Natural Resources - George Misore Rubiik – Male – 60 years old, from West Uyoma Ward, Rarieda Constituency.
6. Health and Sanitation – Dorothy Akinyi Owino – Female – 59 years old, from South Gem Ward, Gem Constituency.
7. Education, Gender, Youth and Social Services – Mary Apiyo Omondi Olute – Female – 62 years old, from Ukwala Ward, Ugenya Constituency.

8. Public Service and Governance – Dismas Omondi Odhiambo Wakhla – Male – 49 years old, from South East Alego Ward, Alego Constituency.

9. Public Works, Roads, Transport and Energy - George Amenia Oyeho-Male - 65years old, from Sigomere Ward, Ugunja Constituency.

10. Tourism, Culture, Arts and Sports- Jaoko Oburu Odinga – Male – 46 years old, from West Sakwa Ward, Bondo Constituency ,

I have full confidence that the selected individuals will be properly vetted and found competent enough to help my Government successfully achieve on its legal and Constitutional mandate to the benefit of the people of Siaya County.

The communication is signed by H.E. Cornel Rasanga Amoth and was received by this Assembly on the 18th September, 2017.

Having made that Communication therefore, I wish to bring it to your attention that Standing Order No. 50 of the County Assembly states that;

(1) Upon receipt of a notification of nomination for appointment to an office as is under the Constitution or under any other legislation required to be approved by the House, the nomination shall stand committed to the relevant Sectoral Committee, or such other committee of the House, as the speaker may direct, for consideration.

The Relevant Committee in our case is the Appointments Committee; and I direct that before holding an approval hearing, the Committee shall notify the candidates and the public on the time and place for holding of the hearing.

This should be at least 7 days prior to the hearing and the Committee shall conduct the hearing on the proposed appointment and shall unless provided in law, lay a Report in the House within 14 days of the date on which the notification was received. I therefore direct that the Appointments Committee submits its Report to this House on Tuesday, 3rd October, 2017 at 2.30 p.m.

Finally, on the Governor's address, I want to advice as follows;

Standing Order no. 18 provides that the Governor shall address the opening of each newly elected Assembly and I advise that at the conclusion of the Governor's address, the Sitting shall stand adjourned. Our next Sitting will be on Tuesday, 3rd October, 2017. I direct that when the Governor is delivering the address, he shall be heard in silence and the address shall not be followed by any comments or questions.

Whenever the Governor delivers an address like he is doing today, a Member may as soon as practicable thereafter, lay the address on the Table of the House following the reading of such address. A Member may give a notice of Motion That, the thanks of the House be recorded for the exposition of public policy contained in the address of the Governor but the debate on the Motion shall not exceed four Sitting days. This will be done when we resume on the 3rd of October, 2017.

Having said that, Hon. Members and visiting dignitaries, allow me to invite the Governor of Siaya to address this House.

(Applause)

THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS

THEME: DEEPENING PROGRESS

H.E. The Governor: The Speaker, Siaya County Assembly, Hon. George Okode, Clerk of the Siaya County Assembly, Mr. Felix Isaac Olwero, the Majority Leader, Hon. Benard Odero Oor, the Chief Whip, Hon. Joannes Andiego, the Hon. Leaders of House Committees, Hon. Members of Siaya County Assembly, ladies and gentlemen. I am humbled and privileged to preside over the official opening of the Second Siaya County Assembly.

Indeed, today marks an important occasion in the brief history of Siaya County. About seven years ago on 27th August, 2010, we, the people of Kenya gave ourselves a new Constitutional dispensation that had far reaching structural adjustments to the Country's electoral systems, the greatest of which was the devolved governments.

One arm of governance in this devolved system is the legislature whose core roles include oversight, legislation and representation. It is this crucial institution sitting that we officially open today after tedious and grueling campaigns which were largely peaceful. Notably, this second official opening of Siaya County Assembly heralds a new beginning for the next face of growth for our nascent County Government.

May I take this earliest opportunity to sincerely congratulate the Members of the Assembly present here today, both elected and nominated, for having surmounted various odds to sit at the legislative body of the Siaya County Government. Congratulations are also in order to the Assembly Speaker, Hon. George Okode, for your election to this very important office. It is my hope that you will guide this Assembly in transacting its business diligently and expeditiously for the benefit of the people of Siaya County.

I wish to further congratulate the leadership of the various Sessional and Standing House Committees on their election to head the Committees. The current Members of the Siaya County Assembly have the overwhelming mandate of the people and must live up to the expectations of the electorate to maintain the public confidence you currently enjoy.

While working with the previous Assembly, my previous Government registered tremendous success in delivering on my mandate to the people of Siaya County as pledged in the 2013 campaigns and as envisioned in the County Integrated Development Plan. The achievements both in the Executive and the Legislature were only possible due to a close and consultative working relationship between the two arms of the government.

Some of the notable achievements of the Executive in the Education Department included, but were not limited to the establishment and equipping of over 420 early childhood classrooms in various parts of the County, the recruitment of 636 early childhood education tutors, the payment of secondary, tertiary and university bursaries to over 10,000 students broadly identified as needy across the county and the establishment of at least one Vocational Training Centers in each ward within Siaya County under the education department.

Regarding infrastructure, the Roads and Public Works Department opened up new roads of more than 1,200 kilometers. Some 802.05 kilometers of road was also maintained and culverts built in various foot and vehicle paths spread across the county through the Roads and Public Works Department. We managed to purchase a fire engine and a grader within the period too.

The Trade, Industry and Cooperatives Department also oversaw the construction of more than 17 market shades and 96 toilets in market centers across the county. Improvements in five markets and construction of four modern washrooms were also done while 221 solar powered

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lamps were installed in market centers enabling traders to operate until late in the evening thereby registering marked expansion and improvement in their business incomes. The department provided supervisory support to the 247 cooperative SACCOs within the county with a membership of 51,655 individuals and a share capital of Kshs. 577,448,413.00. My government also provided soft loans worth over Ten Million Kenya Shillings to small scale traders known locally as Abedo' to boost their businesses.

In the department of agriculture and irrigation, multiple initiatives were undertaken including the provision of tractors to farmers in Siaya County to aid in land tilling and ploughing on a large scale to bolster food security. This initiative was officially launched by The Right Honorable Prime Minister Raila Amollo Odinga and registered success with over 14,000 acres of land tilled across the county.

To improve the quality of our livestock and increase incomes, the department procured and distributed some 834 in- calf heifers, 110 dairy goats, and 39,344 month old chicks to our local farmers for income generation as groups and through schools which has seen improved living standards in more than 10,000 households. Under the agriculture department, we have also constructed fish bandas, fenced fish landing sites, trained over 10, 000 farmers and put up several irrigation schemes to ensure that Siaya County is food secure.

The health department saw complete face-lifting of the Siaya County Referral Hospital to modern standards and construction of an oxygen plant in the same facility, the construction of eight health centers and fourteen dispensaries within the county, upgrading of Ukwala Health Centre to Ugenya Sub County Hospital, equipping various newly constructed maternity wings, , recruitment of health service providers in various cadres including over 2,000 community health volunteers and purchase and deployment of ambulances to provide emergency services to the Siaya County citizenry.

The community health volunteers; popularly known as 'Nyamrerwa,' have reduced the current county infant mortality rates by over 30% due to their grass roots health activities. Further, several counties have largely borrowed our *Nyamrerwa* initiative to improve their health services while various donors have been attracted by the concept with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation already partnering with Siaya County Government to strengthen community health care through our community health volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Honorable Members; during the next five years, the County Government of Siaya seeks to deepen the progress that we have registered so far. Indeed, our plans, priorities and deliverables will be guided by key planning frameworks including The Global Sustainable Development Goals, Kenya's Vision 2030, The National Super Alliance Manifesto, The Siaya County Integrated Development Plan and The Public Participation Reports from the county assembly and the executive.

In the Department of Agriculture, Fishing and Livestock Development, the Siaya County Government will continue to fight food insecurity by ploughing and tilling at least 140,000 acres of land within the next five years under the tractor subsidy project. This will benefit over 100,000 families directly. We will double the fertilizer subsidy access program to improve the farm yields by our farmers. In order to support our farmers with the much required technical know-how, I intend to engage the services of one agricultural extension officer per sub location within the next five years.

The main task of the field extension workers will be to demonstrate to our farmers how best to exploit their agricultural potential. They will also show our farmers how to improve

family diets through such household products as vegetables, milk and poultry. I wish to emphasize and encourage our farmers to grow such varied products like bananas, groundnuts, onions, tomatoes, vegetables among other horticultural crops to bolster food security at the household level and even for commercial purposes as individuals or as cooperative groups. My government will provide linkages with the markets where necessary. I urge our farmers not to sell all their farm produce but to preserve enough to feed their families. A healthy family is a healthy county.

In order to boost the dairy farming program that is ongoing, I intend to work towards having a dairy cow for each household within the next five years. Farmers will then need to invest in the planting of hay to feed the cows. Artificial Insemination will be an important assignment for our field extension officers to promote improved breeding.

Through strategic public private partnerships and innovation, the government will be keen on jumpstarting the planned revival of cotton farming within the county, ensure that irrigation programs that we began in Uyoma and Asembo become successful and ensure that the establishment of yet another mega farming investment project in the Yala Swamp becomes a reality.

The Siaya County Department of Health Services takes pride in large scale establishment of critical infrastructure to support the provision of health service to the citizens in the previous government. In the next five years, we will endeavor to continue providing better working conditions for our health service providers, going hand in hand with better remuneration for them. I further commit to enhance the numbers of our community health volunteers and upscale their current remuneration to enable them continue giving critical service to our people at the grassroots.

I invite the donor community to partner with us in strengthening this *Nyamrerwa* initiative further. Apart from the day to day provision of health services by my government, we intend to refurbish Siaya County referral Psychiatric Unit, construct and equip amenity wings in seven level four health facilities, purchase six new ambulances, and construct staff houses across the various health facilities in the county.

Our health care providers currently on strike should balance their demands for increased pay with the nobility of their profession. The ongoing strike and the winding efforts to negotiate their salaries have increasingly affected health care provision adversely. While I appeal with the health care providers to resume their duties and provide health care to the general public, the Siaya County Government will stand firmly with the provisions so far negotiated with the Salaries and Remuneration Commission, The Council of Governors, The Kenya Union of Pharmacists and Dentists Board and The Kenya Nurses Union.

My government intends to put more focus on consistent and adequate supply of drugs to address existing gaps. We will seek to efficiently coordinate the procurement and supply of drugs to our local health facilities through partnership with Kenya Medical Supplies Agency.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Honorable Members; The Water, Environment and Natural Resources Department will also focus on adequate supply of clean and safe water through complete restructuring of the Siaya Bondo Water Services and Sanitation Board. My government intends to pursue other partnerships with local and international institutions and organizations intended to increase piped water availability to every household in the county. We will continue to excavate new and rehabilitate existing water pans to increase access to water services for hard to reach and perennially dry areas within the county and provide watering points for our livestock.

Further, we intend to dig and install solar- powered boreholes in all market centers and primary schools within Siaya County. This has the potential of significantly reducing the occurrence of health related outbreaks within the county.

In partnership with Lake Victoria Water Services Board, the Siaya County Government will soon launch the last mile water connectivity project targeting various parts of the county. The project estimated to cost Kenya Shillings Two Hundred Million is projected to provide access to water services for up to 10,000 households across the county.

Other new investments in the water department include a Kenya Shillings Nine Hundred and Eighty One Million water project targeting Ugunja, Ukwala and Segwa regions to be undertaken in partnership with Lake Victoria South Water Services Board. The overall goal will be to provide each household with clean, safe and accessible water services.

In order to improve the Siaya County forest cover from the current 1% to 5%, my government will also establish 200 demonstration tree nurseries under the Environment Directorate which will enable us plant over two million tree seedlings while ensuring survival rate of above 85 % within the next five years.

The next five years will also see an increased investment of public resources in the Education, Training, Youth, Gender and Social Services Department. In partnership with stakeholders and national government, we are ongoing with the establishment of the Barrack Obama University of Siaya County. Separately, the Siaya County Government is providing support to Moi University, Odera Akango Campus in Yala and Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology in Bondo to help them further expand their learning programs within the county.

Even though it is not a devolved function, we will continue to increase our efforts in supporting higher education while partnering with various stakeholders to ensure that we increase access to higher education in Siaya County and churn out enough man power that will propel our county to the desired future. We also intend to support the establishment and strengthening of these universities to provide economic benefits to our local citizens and further expand our town centers as a result of the student population that accompany such institutions of higher learning.

While Primary and Secondary education are not devolved functions, the education of the girl child is very dear to me given the disadvantages they face as they struggle through childhood. As a personal initiative, therefore, I intend to work with partners in ensuring that a girl's school that takes care of needy children through primary to secondary education is established in Siaya County. This will be my legacy to the people of Siaya County.

Under the early childhood programs, I intend to initiate early childhood school feeding program in phases to give our children a stronger foundation that safeguards their future. Because most children drop out of early childhood due to malnutrition, the early childhood feeding program will be linked to the dairy cow farming program to ensure constant milk provision for our early childhood learners in all our Early Childhood Development and Education centers.

Even though the Siaya County Government has built a record number of Early Childhood Classrooms, we intend to continue establishing such structures on a needs based system. We have planned to recruit 110 ECDE teachers before the end of the year 2017 and will continue to recruit more while equipping the early childhood centers to accommodate increased number of children annually. Over 70% of bursary allocation for secondary and university students will be provided to our local day schools directly to

benefit bright but needy students to be identified in the schools. The remaining percentage will go into supporting bright and needy tertiary and university students across the county. I urge you Honorable Members to help with the verification of beneficiaries to avoid duplication and mischief.

Our youths continue to suffer the vagaries of unemployment and limited training. Through the 34 Vocational Training Centers which we have and will continue to establish and equip, my government intends to empower at least 4,000 youths annually in various artisan courses including electrical, ICT, automotive engineering, tailoring, carpentry, dress making, salon and masonry.

This large pool of trained individuals will then be supported to gain employment or be transitioned to the Jua Kali sector as Small Micro Enterprises. More youths will be supported with small irrigation equipment including water pumps and generators to practise farming as groups and as individuals.

To promote sporting as an art, we will develop Siaya County Stadium to new standards while improving the status of Migwena and Akala Stadia. This has the potential of developing the local talent in sports among our youth. We will further identify retired sports persons and organize them to mentor our youth in various sporting talents.

Mr. Speaker Sir, Honorable Members, The Roads, Public Works and Transport Department is central to the proper functioning of all the other departments already mentioned herein. The Siaya county Government will therefore continue to open, grade, murram and regularly maintain all roads within its mandate in Siaya County.

We plan to tarmac 200 kilometers of roads within the next five years. Further, we will construct and rehabilitate all bus parks in major towns, continue with street lighting programs and make Gombe Air Strip operational in liaison with Kenya Airport Authority. Opportunities of tarmacking some of our major roads will be pursued with the national government and any other relevant stakeholders and partners.

It will be of the greatest importance to pursue all these developments in the context of a proper land use policy. My government recently sponsored a Public Land Audit Survey and the report is out awaiting implementation. I intend to ensure that the implementation of the recommendations of this report is prioritized to engender proper land use within the county. The Lands, Physical Planning, Survey and Housing Department will see into it that all public land previously grabbed by private developers and which belong to the Siaya County Government is repossessed and used in the interest of the general public.

My plan is also to ensure that all towns within Siaya County follow a modern plan. To this end, all poorly constructed structures along our major town centers will be brought down to pave way for modern structures. Housing within the urban set ups are a reflection of the inner workings of any society. It is therefore in order that all our urban centers are adequately organized to attract external investments and increase revenue collected annually.

I ask for your support in bringing order to towns and ensuring that current owners of existing structures are adequately and peacefully relocated and compensated where necessary. Further, I encourage the Honorable members to come up with environmental friendly legislation and any other related urban planning policies to improve the image of the county nationally and attract investments. Any attempts to politicize this noble initiative will only see our urban centers stagnate and generate into ghettos.

The Finance, Planning and Vision 2030 Department will continuously improve and enhance public participation in devolved governments through each and every financial year. As

enshrined in the constitution and all devolution related legislation, we will seek to engage the public at every stage of governance from conception of activities to their conclusive implementation and evaluation.

We will ensure revenue collection targets are met in the next five years. To this end, our efforts will be directed at partnering with established private firms to automate revenue collection. Discussions are already on going to actualize this. Errant revenue officers will be punished and sacked if proved as colluding to steal public revenue.

In order to ensure effective service delivery and deepen the progress of our focus, I have signed an executive order reorganizing the departments of my government to reflect emerging governance realities of the 21st Century under Public Governance and Administration. I will also be establishing the village councils and will recruit village administrators to ensure county services are further devolved to the grassroots.

In summary, all the other departments will experience various programs to deepen the progress of the activities we initiated in the last term of government. I intend to establish the Co-operative Development Fund to boost all cooperative SACCOS and increase their share capital thereby providing more opportunities for access to loans by enterprising citizens.

The government will also train fish farmers and fishers on various aspects of fisheries management and fish culture under the fisheries department.

To further promote our culture, my government plans to develop various national sites and we will also construct Got Ramogi Heritage Centre as a heritage site among other sites and make Got Ramogi Cultural Festival an annual event. On ICT, my government will develop and establish ICT as a platform for the county development agenda.

We will ensure faster internet connectivity through upgrading of our current fiber optic connection. All the county business transactions and activities will be ICT based and supported. All ward and sub county offices will be connected to the county headquarter for ease of communication through the internet. On irrigation, we will augment and expand all existing irrigation schemes and construct 20 new irrigation schemes along Lake Victoria, River Yala and River Nzoia.

On External Affairs, the Siaya County Government will initiate partnerships locally, regionally and internationally to attract investments in the best interest of the Siaya citizenry. We will pursue trade within the western region block of counties along the Lake Victoria Belt consisting of Kisumu, Homa Bay and Busia. All interested investors are encouraged to approach the county for mutual benefit of both the investors and the people of Siaya.

We will, however, ensure that any project of whatever nature takes the interests of the community as a priority and safeguard community members' rights adequately without prejudice to negotiated terms and agreements. The days of investors exploiting local communities must be put behind us completely.

Indeed, my agenda will be detailed in Annual Development Plans and County Integrated Development Plan and will require legislative, representative and oversight support of this honorable House. I look forward to the realization of all the objectives outlined here -in through a harmonious, close and friendly working partnership with the honorable members of this

Assembly. I further urge you honorable Members to formulate legislative frameworks and policies that will attract more resources to supplement the annual treasury remittances to our county.

Mr. Speaker Sir, Honorable Members; in conclusion, allow me to laud our justice system which has matured with the structural changes we have undergone as a nation. The recent ruling by the Supreme Court invalidating the August 8, 2017 Presidential Election is worth noting for its boldness. Every day, our people are continuing to have faith in our systems again. As we celebrate this democratic milestone, it is not lost on us that fresh presidential elections are pending subject to radical changes at the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission proposed by the National Super Alliance (NASA), the coalition with the majority in this Assembly.

My government stands with the coalition on the question of the Presidential Election and will not participate in any election that does not espouse the irreducible minimums as already announced by The NASA Principal, The Rt. Hon. Raila Amollo Odinga. Until we get further directions from the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) Party Leader, and as we pile pressure on individuals who bungled the Presidential Elections within IEBC to leave office, our people will not recognize the current National Government as constituted whatsoever. I look forward to a close working relationship with this Assembly on this particular matter as well.

With these remarks, it is now my pleasure to declare the Siaya County Second Assembly formally open.

Thank You,

God Bless You,

God Bless Siaya County.

Hon. Speaker: The ICT team, take note of every interruption. In the course of our proceedings, we had some former Members of this Assembly, who have joined us. Therefore, I want to ask you to again acknowledge their presence in our special way. Hon Jared Abayo, the 4th Member of the Board; Margret Olale, Hon. Selah Okwako, (*Applause*) and then appreciation to the media, KTN, NTV, they gave us free airtime during our Swearing in, they are here. So members of the 4th estate, feel most welcome,

Allow me also to make communication, which has come during our proceedings. There is an Executive order No.1 2017, which has restructured and rearranged the Departments. Therefore I direct the clerks to ensure that this be shared with the Committees, and portfolios, functions are arranged or rearranged accordingly. May I communicate that Members of this House remain behind when we will be leaving, there is an important communication.

The House rose at 11.43 a.m.