

Wednesday, 6th December, 2017 COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF SIAYA DEBATES

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

SIAYA COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THE HANSARD

Second County Assembly – First Session

Wednesday, 6th December, 2017

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

[The Speaker (Hon. Okode) in the Chair]

PRAYER

NOTICE OF MOTION

SIAYA COUNTY FINANCE BILL, 2017 (BILL NO. 18 OF 2017)

Hon. Oduor: Hon. Speaker, I wish to give a Notice of the following Motion:
THAT, the Siaya County Finance Bill, 2017 be read a second time in this Sitting.

BILL

Second Reading

THE SIAYA COUNTY FINANCE BILL, 2017 (BILL NO. 18 OF 2017)

Hon. Oduor: Hon. Speaker, I wish to move that the Siaya County Finance Bill, 2017 (Bill No. 18 of 2017) be read a second time.

I wish to take this opportunity to bring this Bill before you and as you know the Bill was brought to us a little bit late. We were only given 21 days to go through it. The Bill was committed to us on 7th November, 2017. We had a joint meeting with the Executive; we analyzed it and went for public participation on 29th November - 1st December, 2017.

Hon. Members, it was a task that was not easy but bearing in mind that we were late, we had to move with speed and within no time this Bill was read and is before you for approval. As you know, we are supposed to raise Kshs. 270 Million that will form our revenue collection and that also will translate into what the Siaya County Government will receive from the National Government.

As I stand here, I believe that you have the copies that were given to you and in the morning, we had a good Kamkunji. We deliberated on the contentious issues that were there and

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so on that matter I would not wish to read the Bill again to you. I beg the Hon. Members to pass this Bill as it is with amendments.

I call upon Hon. Siguru to second to the Bill.

Hon. Siguru: Hon. Speaker, I stand to second the Bill as presented by the Chairman. Thank you.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Speaker: Yes Hon. Andiego of Central Sakwa.

Hon. Andiego: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I want to take this opportunity to thank the Committee on Finance for a job well done. As has been stated by the Chair, indeed the time limit was too short. I went through the Report and what I saw was wonderful, I want to thank them so much for what they have brought to us. As has been stated, revenue collection is the law and we are required as a County which is a government of its own, to also collect the revenue that can sustain the County.

As it is now, we depend so much on the money which is being given from the National Government which is also a government like us. When we compare Siaya County with other counties, you realize that whatever we have been collecting is too low. When I was going through the Report and checking on the target which has been put in place from 2013 to date, it is not pleasing. I saw that what was put in 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 is the same and I always believe that the target should be improving each and every year as the Finance Bill which is also being done annually. I feel that something needs to be done.

I learnt that it was also the concern of the Committee that the target which we had in 2016 is also the target that we had in 2017. Going through the targets, on many occasions we were not meeting them. For example when we go to 2013/2014 target, we had a target of Kshs. 200 million, but collected Kshs. 100,659 million which was almost 50% of what we had targeted. I know Siaya and I have lived in it for many years, whatever was collected here was less than those that were being collected in Bondo during the County Council time. We again move to the year 2014/2015 and 2015/2016, the target was the same and the collection was a little bit improved but not to the target and there we also hit below the belt.

When we go to 2015/2016, on the amendments, you will find out that the collection was below even what was collected the other year of which we don't know why it was so. When we move again to 2016/2017 the collection target was Kshs. 270 million but here we again went a little bit above our target but to me still that is not what we are supposed to collect.

I support this Report because the recommendations were targeting what is supposed to be done and therefore I truly do support this.

On the Report, on page 11 of 22, point 3.2, the Committee stated very well that it learnt that the revenue target set at Kshs. 270 million was insufficient and scientifically set by County Executive without any due regards to any scientific figures or data of business from which the revenue is to be levied.

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For us to have lived in this County for 5 years and we still say that there is no data that shows where we are going to collect our revenue then they go ahead and put for us a target, you wonder where was this target coming from. It means that the Executive has not been doing what they know. They just come to the office and close their eyes and then pinpoint that this time round we are targeting Kshs. 100 million or Kshs. 200 million of which we will not get to the target.

Page 12 of 22 there is this point where they stated that the Finance Committee applauds the revenue office on the proposed taxations in the fishing industry. This is very true. Before the County Government we used to have the County Councils. It was believed that the fishing industry was the biggest revenue collecting department. That is the area where we used to get a lot of revenue and mind you, you will find that in Siaya County for the past 5 years no one was collecting revenue from the fishermen and yet we do lack the money that we need.

There was this collection where we had boat registration levies. We had the fishermen paying taxes and those who were moving with fish had what we call the Fish Movement Permits. They were there those times but within the 5 years we had no collection from those areas. At the same time we complain of the little money which is being collected by our revenue collectors. These revenue collectors in Siaya have just been seated waiting for money to come from the national government and then they are paid their salaries.

The CECM in charge of Finance should be responsive to the provisions of PFM Act. This is another issue that we face in this County where these people do not even bring in time these Reports to the Assembly as required by the Act. They have been failing and now here is a recommendation we really agree with.

On recommendation number two, while applauding the County Government for the automation attempt, it is only in Siaya where everything is done manually. If the Committee has recommended that they automate everything on collection of revenue, we appreciate and our only request is that these recommendations as put by the committee be implemented. Implementation of resolutions passed in this Assembly has been a problem but this time round it will not be business as usual. The recommendations as passed by this Assembly should be taken into consideration and we want to make sure there is a follow up. They have to be implemented as required by law. I support. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Yes Hon. Omwende.

Hon. Omwende: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me an opportunity. I need to appreciate the work done by the Committee on Finance. I will go straight ahead to our revenue target. From the FY of 2016/2017, I am very happy that the graph is now decreasing. How I wish that in the financial year of 2017/2018 it should increase even more so that the target does not remain the same.

My area of concern is on the families I represent, that is PWD, I am very happy that for the first time the Committee also targeted the families of PWD through public participation.

Concerning the issue of taxes there was agreement that People Living with Disabilities be exempted from paying taxes on condition that they should have what we call the National

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Council Card which I totally agree with. I would only request that those who are in the process of getting those cards should also be exempted. I support given that this is the first time my family is being considered for tax exemption.

Hon. Speaker: Yes, Hon. Otare.

Hon. Otare: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I just want to support this document. They have done their best and as we know no document can be 100% perfect. But my concern was about service delivery which has been addressed by this Committee because even if you are collecting taxes from our people, the most important thing is that you must give them the services.

But if I look at this document on page 7 of 22, I think the Committee has done a lot on it, so what we are waiting is implementation from the executive. Secondly, I just want to appreciate this Committee that if you go to health you will find that they have done their best and they have reduced some charges that were very high by the anti-sleek renal which the County government used to charge at ksh7,300 and the Committee has recommended that it be charging at ksh2000.

This is very much encouraging Mr. Speaker and lastly Mr. Speaker in the same document if you look at the department of Youths and Sports annual fee for the CBO'S used to be charged at kshs.10,000 per annul and the Committee has decided that they should be charging at ksh1000. So I have to say that the committee has done its best and now we are just waiting for the Executive to give its implementation and you know very well the consequences of not collecting the taxes when it reaches time for development so we are just praying that the implementation Committee should follow and make sure that the Executive has done things according to the recommendations of the finance Committee.

Hon. Speaker: Yes, Mheshimiwa Adalla.

Hon. Adalla: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I also support the Committee`s good work simply because they have taken care of the common man, the mama mboga, the shoe shiner and many others. And when it comes to health I can see they have done a great work so I am in support of the Committee`s good work and the report is okay.

Hon. Speaker: Yes! I call upon the mover to reply.

Hon. Oduor: Thank you Mr. Speaker sir, I would like to thank the House for having given us humble time, I would like to thank my Committee for working so tirelessly and they worked very fast which is what made us bring the report at the right time and at this time I would like the Honorable Members and request them to pass this bill with amendments, thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Honorable Members allow me to put the question which is that the Siaya County finance bill 2017 Bill number 18 of 2017 be now read a second time.

(Question proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

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(The bill was accordingly read the second time and passed)

Hon. Speaker: Next order!

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker: There being no another business this House stands adjourned until this afternoon in the chambers.

The House rose at 10.11 a.m.