

Wednesday, 14th November, 2018 COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF SIAYA DEBATES

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

SIAYA COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THE HANSARD

Second County Assembly – Second Session

Wednesday, 14th November, 2018

The House met at the County Assembly Chamber at 2.30 p.m.

[The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Opanga) in the Chair]

PRAYER PAPERS

1. REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SIAYA COUNTY PROJECT MANAGEMENT POLICY, 2015
2. REPORT ON STATUS OF DISBURSEMENT OF BURSARY FUND FOR FY 2017/2018
3. REPORT ON THE CONDUCT OF THE CECM FINANCE AND ECONOMIC PLANNING AND THE COUNTY SECRETARY

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Opanga): Chairman Finance, Hon. Peter Oduor, Member, for Ukwala.

Hon. Oduor: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir; I wish to lay on the Table of the House the Report on implementation of the Siaya County project management policy, 2015 for adoption.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Opanga): Hon. Lorna Adida.

Hon. Adida: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir; allow me to lay on the Table of the House the Report on status of disbursement of bursary fund for fy 2017/2018 for adoption.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Opanga): The Vice chair for powers and privileges, Hon. Omwende.

Hon. Omwende: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir; I have delegated to my co-.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Opanga): Hon. Carren Ayika.

Hon. Ayika: I wish to lay on the Table of the House the Committee on powers and privileges Report on the conduct of the County Executive Committee Member for Finance and Economic planning and the County Secretary for adoption.

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STATEMENT

CONVERSION OF SIAYA AGRICULTURE TRAINING CENTER TO BARRACK OBAMA UNIVERSITY

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Opanga): We have a Statement response from the Chair of Agriculture, Hon. Willis.

Hon. Ochieng: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir; I wish to give a response to Statement request by Hon. Francis Otiato, MCA Yimbo East Ward; conversion of Siaya Agriculture training center to Barrack Obama University.

Chair, after getting this Statement we communicated to the department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries and this was the response they gave us. In response to your letter dated 15th August, 2018 ref: SCA/CORR/C.EXEC/18 VOL. XI-119 refers.

The department appreciates the Assembly's role of investigating, inquiring into and reporting on all matters relating to the mandate, management, activities, administration, operations and estimates of the department as enshrined in the Constitution 2010 and the Assembly Standing Order No. 200(5). The department will cooperate fully with the Assembly to explain any and all issues of concern raised.

The issues raised by the Honorable Member of County Assembly during the Assembly sitting on Thursday, 9th August, 2018 were:

- Current occupants of Siaya ATC,
- Learning activities at ATC,
- Courses offered at ATC,
- Conversion of ATC to a university,
- Financial for budget allocation and

- Fate of all training and agricultural activities originally domiciled at ATC.

The responses to issues raised are as follows; on the issue of the circumstances under which the Siaya Agricultural Training Centre (ATC) was allegedly converted into a university, I wish to state that the question does not reflect the true position of the circumstances on the ground. ATC has not been converted into a University campus within the facility and discussions towards the same are ongoing.

On the issue of the budgetary allocation from where the proposed University will be funded, I wish to indicate that the proposal being considered for the establishment of the said University campus has a financial component which can only be shared formally after the ongoing discussions for the establishment of the University within the facility have been duly exhausted and agreed on.

The tone and language of this question in the Statement are such that Hon. Francis Otiato appreciates the fact that the issue is futuristic in nature and as such no plausible answer may be given to the question at this stage until the ongoing discussions are exhausted. The County Government of Siaya signed an M.O.U for collaboration with Florida Agricultural and Mechanization University (FAMU) of USA, and is keen on pursuing partnerships with other

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relevant institutions and agencies as a strategy towards improving the quality and diversity of courses offered by the Siaya ATC.

On the issue of current occupants at Siaya ATC is an agricultural training institution within the department of agriculture, food, livestock and fisheries in the County Government of Siaya. The current occupants of Siaya ATC are employees of the County Government in the department of agriculture.

Learning activities are still ongoing for farmers and other agricultural stakeholders as per the functions and mandate of Siaya ATC. The courses offered are tailor-made depending on the demand of clients, students and institutions' needs. Most of the trainings offered are non-residential and there are no formal courses offered therefore there is no documented student population since trainings are offered on need basis.

The current activity taking place is upgrading ATC to increase its capacity to undertake research and other collaborative function to be able to focus on food security, extension services, capacity building, research, exchange programs among others. The upgrading will enable the institution operations and in turn make it more proactive, relevant and responsive to the desires and needs of people of Siaya and the region.

The fate of all training and agricultural extension activities originally domiciled in the institution will be decided once negotiations by the team spearheading the transformation of the institution to a university are complete.

We are not killing Agriculture but upgrading ATC to undertake and respond to more dynamic needs of the County. The new status will respond competently to the true functions as envisaged in the Fourth schedule of the Constitution of Kenya 2010.

The list of staff attached to Siaya ATC is as follows:

Name	P/No	Deployment	Telephone
Dismas Ogola Oyugi	1989095993	Principal	0721713202
Herine Adhiambo Okoth	1985030878	Training Officer	0722279085
Mark Omollo Oganyo	1988055495	Farm Manager	0721589398
Elijah Okoth Umidha	1982042046	Agro Processing Officer	0712836330
Hellen Atieno Onyuka	2010110491	Cateress	0721826561
Pamella O. Okola	1983074088	Accounts Clerk	07204334866
Elizabeth Kitoyi Omire	1979070624	Cleaner	0724334866
Gladys M. Milengo	2009061540	Cook	0720741778
Charles O. Mumbo	1985048952	Farm Supervisor	0724065137

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I am persuaded to believe that this response will be sufficient to satisfactorily answer the concerns of the Honorable Member of the Assembly. Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Opanga): Yes, Hon. Otiato.

Hon. Otiato: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. Thank you and the committee for the response but as much as I would want to be convinced that this is the right position of things...

Hon. Olasi: Point of Order!

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Opanga): Yes, Hon. Olasi, Majority Whip of the Party.

Hon. Olasi: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. The response we have here is signed by the acting Chief Officer of the Department. One of the areas that we as a House passed that we cannot recognize! I believe even the Mover was not in order to read this kind of response in this House. So as far as we are concerned, we cannot recognize this response in this House!

(Applause)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Opanga): My ruling yesterday was that as a House we will no longer recognize those who are acting until a substantive Chief Officer is appointed and they were given a period to respond. I think the Chair for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries through the secretariat should communicate back that the Report has been rejected. It is not recognized by this House.

(Applause)

Yes, Hon. Willis.

Hon. Ochieng: I appreciate the concern of Hon. Whip and yours, Hon. Chair that is the reason while I was reading this response, when I reached the center I was shocked! That is why I didn't read 'from the acting Chief Officer' and I was just waiting for your ruling and do the necessary. Thank you.

(Laughter)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Opanga): Hon. Otiato, as it stands we have not gotten the response. As a House I believe you are surely waiting for that response.

Hon. Otiato: I understand what you have said. When we made a decision as an Assembly, unless somebody thinks otherwise, the Assembly in the Act has a status of the High Court and any matter can only be appealed to a higher level not even to any other court. The decision of this Assembly once it was made, we need to move with speed on how to now stamp our authority.

Currently from this particular unofficial document you realize that when the Chairman is communicating back he should pick on these issues so that we don't waste time taking it back and then they only change the signature and bring back the same things.

The reason I was asking this question was that somebody so called acting is a political appointee...

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Hon. Oyuago: Point of Order!

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Opanga): Yes, Hon. Shirley.

Hon. Oyuago: I think you have made a ruling so it is not in order for an Hon. Member to deliberate or pick any matter from the unofficial document. It is the same Member who appeared today in the Standard...

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Opanga): Hon. Shirley, refrain from the point of order you are raising.

Hon. Oyuago: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for a Member to pick an issue from an unofficial document which you have made a ruling on?

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Opanga): Hon. Otiato, you are out of order and we have made a ruling on the same. I have directed the Chair for Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries to communicate back, we get the official communication based on what we had requested. You can liaise with him based on the letter that you have given out as per your request.

Hon. Ochola: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. I also wanted to get proper clarification and direction from the Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries that are they confirming to us that there was no committee sitting to scrutinize and deliberate on the letter to the point that they should have noticed...

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Opanga): Hon. Nick Ochola this was a response and it was sent to the secretariat and the chair was able to have it, not the committee!

MOTION

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Opanga): There being no other Business, this House adjourns till today Thursday, 15th November, 2018 at 2.30 p.m. in the Chamber.

The House rose at 2.45 p.m.