

Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2020 COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF SIAYA DEBATES

## REPUBLIC OF KENYA

### SIAYA COUNTY ASSEMBLY

#### THE HANSARD

#### Second County Assembly-Fourth session

**Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2020**

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

*[The Temporary Speaker (Hon Jane Atieno) in the Chair]*

#### PRAYER

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

##### ADHOCK COMMITTEES

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Atieno): Hon. Members, I would like to communicate to you that yesterday you remember we constituted an Adhock Committee on the Wards and for the County Assembly. We hope that soon you can arrange and meet and decide who will be chairing these Adhock Committees. Next Order!

#### NOTICE OF MOTION

##### COOPTING OF STAKEHOLDERS IN PUBLIC AWARENESS MEETINGS OF THE COVID-19 DISEASE

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Atieno): Yes, Hon. Olasi

**Hon. Olasi:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to give a Notice of Motion on the Public Awareness of the Covid 19 situation.

Aware that the Assembly passed a Motion creating Ad Hoc Committees and resolving to create awareness on Covid-19 pandemic to the public in the Country; Noting that there is need to involve other relevant stakeholders in the exercise;

This House resolves that the Ad Hoc Committees to consider coopting religious leaders, the youth, local administration and local public health officials at community level during the public awareness meetings.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Atieno): Next Order!

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## **MOTION**

### **COOPTING OF STAKEHOLDERS IN PUBLIC AWARENESS MEETINGS ON COVID-19 DISEASE**

**Hon. Olasi:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Aware that the Assembly passed a Motion creating Ad hoc Committees and resolving to create awareness on Covid-19 pandemic to the public in the Country; Noting that there is need to involve other relevant stakeholders in the exercise;

This House resolves that the Ad Hoc Committees to consider coopting religious leaders, the youth, local administration and local public health officials at community level during the public awareness meetings.

When we talk of Adhoc Committees and Sub county Committee, it has reached a point where we cannot get anything from there. The Adhoc Committee was formed to give support to the Sub county Committee, to handle related issues at the Sub county level.

*(Inaudible speech)*

*(Question proposed)*

**Hon. Odhiambo:** Madam Speaker, I wish to echo on what the Honorable Whip has just moved. In the actual sense you realize that people have not taken this disease seriously. Actually this disease is even more dangerous, and it was wise that we form a number of Committees on the Sub county level and one at the County level.

The only challenge that we have is that as much as they didn't create awareness, you understand that they will always blame the Government. Instead of understanding the Government we will always blame the Government like where are the sanitizers that we are talking about, that they just have water.

We need to make them understand that the water they have at home or even the soap they can buy at the shop are even much more important than the sanitizers they are talking about.

So I would really wish to urge the Honorable Members that whatever you have created as the Adhoc Committee should be of importance so that we reach our people at the ward level full time and create awareness and talk to them and advise them on what to do because at the moment, the data shows that Siaya has got 2 infected people, one I think is at Bondo Sub county isolation Centre, and there are so many isolation centers around this sub county.

You can also see people posting why some areas are having more isolation centers than others; that do they want to infect them! So such cases need advisory to the public so that they don't see it as a way of infecting them that is why the many isolation centers have been created. Otherwise I would say that whatever is in place, let us take it serious, and let us support awareness in the County. Thank you.

**The Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Atieno): Hon. Adala

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**Hon. Adala:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. When we are talking about Corona, when we want to change the mindset of people, then it needs a lot of concerted efforts on all the stakeholders. We are aware that we live in a society that is so much inclined to certain culture on how we do some of our things e.g. weddings, funerals etc.

For these things to become a success then awareness is the way forward. While we want to focus on the awareness, and it's very unfortunate that it is going to come late in the day, I think 6 weeks as from the time the first case was confirmed, my main concern while I support the motion, and I know steps have already been made, I also want to believe that there are other Committees in place, are we going to form new ones or we are going to work with the existing ones?

It was my opinion that awareness at this stage needs a linear way of approach. That as we embark on this thing, I would like to lay my fears, as to whether we will be starting afresh or we will mop around and see what is already in place and then see how we can work from there.

We have reported now two cases in Siaya, and when you walk around people are being told to sanitize. The attention that we gave the man who died and was buried in an inhuman manner in Ugenya, that is the attention that all of us should focus our energy on, to what is it that we would do to stop the spread of this disease.

I can see a situation where the public is focusing a lot of energy on how someone was buried. I understand it was not done well, but as a leadership of Siaya, the task that we now have is to stop more infections in our County.

So I support and it would be my joy that when history will be written, those who really did a lot to ensure that this pandemic did not wipe us are mentioned.

**Hon. Olasi:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Our people have a lot of trust in us. Some of us are very careless but when there is a message from their leaders I believe we can achieve something. Already we had cases and as of yesterday we don't know what is going to come.

If we are not careful like America has lost over 26, 000 we don't know where we are heading. I was hoping to see and when we were seated somewhere we came to an agreement that in Siaya we are not so badly off. Our situation has not reached theirs but we can at least as leaders talk to our people directly to bring some changes that we see. Better late than never.

I was telling Hon. Adala that there is already a pre-existing committee handling this pandemic within the county. We thought it wise as a unit within the community and the process of passing the Budget is one of our mandates anywhere that electorates that we live with keep on asking us the basic questions that we should be asking those who lead us.

When we have that other committee and the Sub-County committee, I believe we will get somewhere because we will be working hand in hand with the already existing committee. I thank the Members for supporting.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

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**MOTION**  
ADJOURNMENT

**The Temporary Speaker:** There being no other Business this House adjourns until today Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 at 2.30 p.m. in the Chamber.

The House rose at 10.11 a.m.