

Thursday, 23rd April, 2020 COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF SIAYA DEBATES

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
SIAYA COUNTY ASSEMBLY
THE HANSARD

Second County Assembly - Fourth Session

Thursday, 23rd April, 2020

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

[The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Odongo) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

PAPER

PROGRESS REPORT ON CORONA VIRUS

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Chairman Special Committee Covid-19.

Hon. Otiato: Thank you, Deputy Speaker, Sir. Allow me to lay on the Table the progress report on Corona virus pandemic in the Country.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Otiato, chair Special Committee Covid-19 which Emergency Response Committee.

NOTICE OF MOTION

PROGRESS REPORT ON COVID-19

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Yes, Hon. Otiato Member for Yimbo East, chair for Emergency Committee.

Hon. Otiato: Thank you, Deputy Speaker, Sir. Allow me to give notice of Motion:

THAT this House moves the Report on County Assembly progress report on Covid-19, Special Committee on Corona virus in the County Assembly tabled before the House today 23rd April 2020.

While still on the same, allow me to request that this particular Motion be moved and debated in the cause of next week, date of which your office might decide. I would also like to urge that at the end of the day as these Committees should be moving on with their

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Thursday, 23rd April, 2020 COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF SIAYA DEBATES

activities, tomorrow we want to deliberate and do it with speed so that we get also progress report from these Committees by Monday so that we can compile and give this as part of our progress.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Otiato for the progress report. I believe that when with Covid-19 we agreed in this House that rules should be adhered to and the Assembly made sure that each Member was furnished with a sanitizer and a safety mask.

From where I am seated I can see one Member, Hon. Omwende not adhering to the rules in this House by not having the mask on. I do not know where the problem is may be the serjeant-at-Arms did not furnish him with the items.

Hon. Omwende: Thank you, Deputy Speaker, Sir. I have a problem right now and my personal doctor has advised that I cannot put the mask on due to unavoidable reason, so just understand.

Hon. Omoro: Point of Order!

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Yes, Hon. Omoro, on a point of Order!

Hon. Omoro: On the sentiments of Hon. Omwende, what did your personal doctor advise on the status of Covid-19?

Hon. Omwende: I need not to repeat this because it is personal and I did not want to put it public.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Odinga “*Min Bondo*” has something to say.

Hon. Odinga: Thank you, Deputy Speaker, Sir. Allow me to correct you before I say anything. I am Hon. Osewe that is my official name in the House because this is an honorable House and I cannot bring my nickname here.

Back to the point; if you allow me that I do not think or it is not fair to all of us or the ordinary citizen to be at risk at the expense of Hon. Omwende. Covid-19 is a very serious pandemic threatening people’s lives, therefore, I would rather if the doctor feels Hon. Omwende should not comply with the rules of wearing mask then he should be in quarantine.

(Applause)

We are not ready to contract this disease at the expense of Hon. Omwende being comfortable. I recommend that if Hon. Omwende could be quarantined so that he can be in a room or at his house not wearing any mask, thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Yes, Hon. Booker, you were on a point of Order.

Hon. Booker: Thank you, Deputy Speaker, Sir. Hon. Osewe has properly addressed my sentiments, but I would advise that the Hon. Member furnish you with the documents from the doctor or he be quarantined because we are not ready to be infected by Hon. Omwende as we all know the rules that everybody should put on a mask.

Hon. Omoro: Excuse me chair, let’s not cheat one another, it’s through Government directive that with or without the doctor’s document there is no gathering that should take place without you wearing the mask. Therefore, the idea is null and void and I think he just wants us to make the news.

Thursday, 23rd April, 2020 COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF SIAYA DEBATES

Hon. Oyuago: We are not going to allow Hon. Omwende to give us documents from his fake doctor from the village because there is no doctor who would advise any patient not to wear a mask because we all know what is happening.

(Laughter)

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Omwende has decided to leave the House to allow for further investigations.

Hon. Otiato: Going by what Hon. Madialo just said that Hon. Omwende was giving mask to his constituents, which means he was in public, and going by Mr. Mutahi Kagwe's directive yesterday that whoever is exposed and that even going to bar is not bad but we only take you to quarantine because we expect you to have been exposed. I think the serjeant-at-Arms here should take it seriously that Hon. Omwende has been exposed.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: I also witnessed him doing so.

(Laughter)

Hon. Akoth: This is a global issue and we cannot take it lying low. Therefore, such a person should be chased out to come back when he is ready to cooperate.

Hon. Aringo: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Any Hon. Member that comes here must wear a safety mask. As has been said Covid-19 is not a joke. It is real! Hon. Omwende interacts with people outside. It is not in order for him to put the life of other Members at risk

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Yes, Hon. Abigael

Hon. Abigael: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I don't want to belabour much on the issue of Hon. Omwende since he has ejected himself out. I would also like to request the Chair that as much we have the masks, some of us here are not putting it on the right way. Somebody should direct people on how to put on the mask. They have been put on inside out like Hon. Booker, Hon. Otiato, Hon. Abudi and even the Chair and that is dangerous.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Yes, Hon. Olasi

Hon. Olasi: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. The Chair of Committee on Health has said something very serious. In this House we have at least two people with a background on matters health. They should guide us to know how this thing is done.

Hon. Omwende has just taken himself out, Hon. Abudi was saying that this House passed a report here last week. We were the first House in the Republic to pass the rules and we need to abide by the rules. It is not something that we are coming up with now even the Chair knows very well that it was passed here. Everything is abnormal this is not the way we normally sit.

Going forward it is not a matter of somebody to rise on a Point of Order to come and tell us to wear the mask or wash our hands. Take it upon yourself and if you have a letter from the doctor kindly please keep away. As simple as that! Not coming here to tell us you are here without a mask because the doctor advised otherwise. Just keep off!

Thursday, 23rd April, 2020 COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF SIAYA DEBATES

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members I believe that our last discussion and communication from the Hon. Speaker it was clear that it is not a must that you attend the session.

If you feel that you have a problem and you are not feeling well health wise you are advised to stay at home. Therefore, going by Hon. Omwende's case, he should remain at home until the doctor advises that he can now put on a safety mask.

MOTION
ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Deputy Speaker: There being no other Business this House adjourns until next week Tuesday, 28th April, 2020 at 2.30 p.m. in the Chambers.

The House rose at 2.58 p.m.