

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
SIAYA COUNTY ASSEMBLY
THE HANSARD

Second County Assembly - Fourth Session

Wednesday, 8th April, 2020

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

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

PRAYERS

STATEMENT

Hon. Oriaro: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. I want to put a Statement to the relevant Committee of the House with respect to the phenomenon of now having an acting person in the name of Chief Officer in the department of Finance, and the absence of CECM in the same department at a time when the County is processing crucial documents on financial regime 2021/2022.

I want to know how the House will be properly in place to transact on documents from Executive on authority whose origins are devoid of the stipulation of Laws. Thank you.

Hon. Olasi: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. I am not familiar with what the Hon. Member is trying to put across. Does he mean that we are lacking some CECMs or CEOs at this time?

Hon. Temporary Speaker: We need clarification, Hon. Oriaro.

Hon. Oriaro: Madam Chair, fortunately this is information I have and I don't know how it can be shared.

Hon. Temporary Speaker: Hon. Oriaro, where did you get the information?

Hon. Oriaro: Communication is all over even on social media and it was even being preempted two weeks ago by I would say spanner boys of His Excellency the Governor. It has since been made public that he has sent his CECM Finance on compulsory leave and he has even gone ahead to appoint someone on an acting capacity and the previous one transferred to Trade.

If Members are not concerned with this it's my main concern and have even communicated this to the Governor and the same text I have also shared with the Speaker.

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Hon. Temporary Speaker: Fine, this is a House of rules and I would suggest that we wait for proper communication before we deal with rumors or what we get from the social media. There is no written communication that has reached the Speaker's office that there is no CECM Finance. Therefore, at this time I urge that we put the matter on hold until such a time that we will get official communication from the Executive.

Hon. Temporary Speaker: Yes, Hon. Booker. Are you rising on appoint of Order or you have a Statement?

Hon. Booker: I don't have a Statement but to give out my small opinion on the same.

Hon. Temporary Speaker: Hon. Booker, the Temporary Speaker has made a ruling on the same so please sit down.

Hon. Booker: Madam Temporary Speaker you are so hard on me and I knew you would.

Hon. Temporary Speaker: Hon. Booker, kindly take your seat or you will be thrown out.

Hon. Ochieng: When I woke up today I was listening to our local radio station Ramogi and the presenter was like reaching out to the Counties on how prepared they were on Covid-19.

When it reached Siaya County, there was a person by the name Oscar who was being interviewed and as chair of Agriculture; I was surprised when he told the Nation that Siaya County was prepared by donating seeds to farmers so that they can plant in preparation for a bumper harvest.

My worry is, as chair Agriculture; I have never heard such a communication that there are seeds being distributed to farmers at this particular time. Therefore, it will be upon your wisdom to handle it to see into it that we get clear communication because the one who was speaking is an employee of the County Government of Siaya and he was speaking on a National radio station in which I believe the recordings can be extracted and brought to this House if needed.

I think you should direct on how they should come, address us, and if at all there are seeds, let our farmers be informed in good time because this is the planting season. So when they are not available now when are they planning to bring them? Thank you.

Hon. Olasi: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. Allow me to have a rejoinder to what the chair of Agriculture and Fisheries has just said. We are fed up with Public Relations from the Executive at a time when the whole World is focused on Covid-19 so when you listen to the vernacular radio stations as well as the National radio stations, the focus is on how we can prevent Covid-19 because there is no cure.

First of all, who is Oscar by the way that he purports to talk on behalf of the Executive in regards to Agriculture without following proper communication channels that is supposed to be followed? I started by saying that very soon we will have no one to represent here.

so why don't they direct their effort on how to secure our people because if Hon. Willis is the chair of Agriculture and he has got no knowledge at all about the seeds. So with no Budget of seeds and subsidies supplies as I know in this Financial Year, from which source did the money come?

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Some of these things we should not take them just as statements when someone from the Governor's office goes on Radio to say they are buying seeds yet we know there is no such allocations. Therefore, if this is how they wanted to convince the Nation as well as the County that this is how best they are tackling the pandemic, let us just be informed.

I had said earlier that as County Assembly Members the CEO needs to address us and not send people to come and tell us how prepared the County is against Covid-19 instead of sending people like Oscar to come and lie to people while we know this is the House that passes the Budget. So if we didn't pass the Budget where did they get those monies? That is my only major concern.

Hon. Oriaro: Madam Temporary Speaker, the concerns of Government Whip are positively in congruence with my earlier concerns because where do they get the money? By having acting people as much as I would have wished the Government Whip had elevated me to higher heights.

Hon. Temporary Speaker: Hon. Willis, you realize as the chair Agriculture you have the powers to sermon the CECM. Therefore, you can liaise with your clerk assistant. So go ahead, dig deep and then give the Members feedback when you are done.

Do you have a Statement?

Hon. Otieno: No, I also just wanted to react on the same.

Hon. Temporary Speaker: I think you are forgetting because I have already communicated and that is as good as have made my ruling. You cannot talk after the Speaker has made a ruling.

Hon. Otieno: I thought you were only addressing Hon. Willis.

Hon. Temporary Speaker: Hon. Willis is the one who came up with the Statement and he has the powers to give us an answer. Hon. Booker, kindly take your seat.

MOTION
ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Temporary Speaker: Hon. Members would we be upstanding for adjournment. Hon. Members, there being no other business this House stands adjourned until Thursday, 9th April, 2020 at 2.30 a.m. in the chamber.

The House rose at 3.23 p.m.