

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
SIAYA COUNTY ASSEMBLY
THE HANSARD

Second County Assembly – Fourth Session

Wednesday, 22nd April, 2020

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

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

PRAYER

STATEMENTS

Hon. Otiato: I want to inform the House that having gone through responsibilities that you gave us and going through the Motion; the Adhoc Committee met and we carried out elections. I was then elected the Chair of that Committee with Hon. Abigael being the Chair of Health deputizing. We had a meeting that endorsed some terms of reference for Sectoral Committee and I want to make it clear that in the Central Committee, we are majorly focusing on the policy issues.

We are planning to have a meeting with the accounting emergency response so that they give us their plans, programs and policies in place. Possibly by tomorrow we shall be doing an advertisement in the newspaper to call for memorandum so that we know what actually the Board wants as a mode of engaging them.

We shall also conduct visits to these other facilities and the Referral hospital noting that when we do the visits to the Referral hospital we will be expecting the Referral hospitals isolation center, we will be expecting to come up with work plans.

The T.O.R and the work plans for the Sub County we will designate that we require you as Members of Sub County committees to give us Reports on what is happening at the Sub County levels.

We shall have a meeting with the Chief Officer Health then meeting with some of the stakeholders and do a review of public views then we do a Report. Any spending on Covid-19 might be subject to very serious scrutiny.

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We want to ensure that as Committees we meet...we have a proper line of reporting and documentation in case of anybody who questions on what actually happens then we can get a proper defense on it. As such we are requesting the Sub County Committees at the County level; we know and are aware that you did your first meeting, some have even done the second meeting and elections were held.

It's our humble appeal that we get the elected parties: Chairperson, Vice etc. because the terms of reference are very specific in Sub Counties. Our Clerk, Mr. Agola will email you the terms and attendance lists thereof.

We are putting at least 5 meetings per week; we are having a meeting for today and tomorrow up to Monday. On Thursday afternoon session there will be a progress Report that we will be tabling for discussion.

Hon. Oyuago:.... (Inaudible)

Hon. Olasi: Allow me to congratulate Hon. Otiato for the position he was given by Adhoc Committee to be the Chair of that particular Committee. We believe they will deliver what is expected from them as a Committee.

I was requesting that if possible that work plan should be shared with us as Members of Sub County. I believe they should be working on the Reports from Sub Counties; if you share it's going to help the leadership of the Sub County.

Lastly, I will request that as we disperse, I have the names for representatives of the leadership of Sub Counties. I would request other Sub Counties to submit so that before the end of the discussion we should have these names compiled together and added up.

Hon. Otiato: The reason we want this urgently is that we communicate back to you in joining fellow Members at Sub County level. The Members here should be attending those particular committees. I know Mr. Chair that the other thing that is really a concern to us is that we really need to move with speed and collect information from the people.

As a County we are in total darkness. I am told from other sources that we are still struggling on what to do at the Executive level, on what to do to the people, and that is why up to now there is nothing tangible that we can see has been done towards Covid-19. I really sympathize with some Members who have to go and solicit for masks and hand washing equipment so as to distribute.

I want to congratulate Hon. Okwiry. We saw her distributing masks and sanitizers, but then again, as representatives of the people, it is not good for us to go to our hard earned money in our pockets yet there are machineries and opportunities as representatives here.

We have monies within the House. So we need to move with speed, and I am happy that our Chair of Budget is here and he is also our legal person who will advise us on what to do.

As a Chair of this Committee, I am only worried, and I think that was also a concern of our Honorable Speaker, when we are saying that we need to release money, if up to today the Executive cannot decide on what they need to buy for our people, will they buy it tomorrow given the chance? And what will they buy?

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So if there is any other way, we were just thinking that as Members and with the Chair of Budget, that what should we do? In fact if we have to contribute to that kitty, we do the contribution in terms of items which are very specific. They should be what? So those are avenues that we assume but it is a concern and a request that by the end of the day we need to pick up this.

By the end of the day, from tomorrow up to Monday we should be having about 5 kitties, so that by next week reaching on Tuesday we should be having a report to present, so that that report informs the decision or whatever the Assembly is going to do next. Thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Yes, Hon. Madialo.

Hon. Madialo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I did not intend to be on my feet but Hon. Otiato has touched on something that has been worrying everybody. As we sit today we are part of those unfortunate Counties where a Committee has been identified and announced to be present. Sometimes we engage in yoyo dance that is unnecessary.

From where we are seated, we are public officers with public offices paid for by the Government and even the argument of who should be procuring what and who should be eating which money. I think in so far as the Assembly's concerned, it should not be an issue because there is no directive that our offices should be closed.

When you come here as a representative, you come here with a message of the people who elected you, or the people who you represent as a constituency. I saw Mheshimiwa Willis addressing his Constituents and issuing masks and before we even talk about this we are supposed to be looking at the Budget estimates for the next Financial Year and Public Participation.

Since we cannot have public meetings, it means that people who are sending you here will be bringing their memorandum to your office, but it goes without saying that our Chair will have to address his mind as to those who are bringing memorandum to you as representative should wash their hands, should sanitize and even wear safety masks for them to enter your offices at the Ward level.

For those Nominated Members who have staff as drivers, there will be need to sanitize those cars and those drivers don't stay with you in the same homes, so there is need for you to take action to ensure that the people who are seconded to you as your staff are able to be compliant with the regulations.

I wish and pray that even as the Executive is made up of human beings in this County even the same way we are also human beings, even as we run, we are running in the same direction as much as we are two boats, one boat is the Assembly and the other is the Executive.

So let the Executive row their boat and the Assembly also their boat, and as long as those two boats are rowing in the same direction, that is called holding hands together to help ourselves jointly. Thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Yes, Hon. Omoro. You have something to add?

Hon. Omoro: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In as much as we are expected to cough up some money and back up the Executive so that at least we move in one direction as far as mitigation is

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concerned to help control Covid -19,I think as the Siaya County Assembly we can as well move in our own pace because we are currently in the same population and that is even what made some of us go ahead and procure safety masks and even the hand washing soaps to our own people because the due process of the Executive is a tall order and it may take a longer time, but with any disease outbreak we should never waste even a single time.

So I was of the opinion that we got the money in our Budgetary allocation as a County Assembly, so we should at least get a way of accessing part of this money and get a way of helping our people.

At the same time, we may also create Siaya County Assembly Account where well-wishers can also maybe chip in something so that as we move together, there will be a very big difference. Thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Omoro for the input; I believe that you are all aware that the Department of Health organized by the Executive has created a site where all the monies are appropriated. I therefore request all the Committees that have been meeting to maintain all the rules and make sure that the rules given by the Government are adhered to. Next Order!

MOTION

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon Members, there being no other Business, will you be upstanding for the adjournment.

Hon. Members there being no other Business this House adjourns until today Wednesday, 22nd April, 2020 at 2.30 p.m. in the Chamber.

The House rose at 10.58 .am.