

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THE HANSARD

Second County Assembly-Fifth Session

Wednesday, 3rd March, 2021

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

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

PRAYERS

MOTION

EXPOSITION OF PUBLIC POLICY CONTAINED IN THE STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Members. Members I believe that we are all aware that we are in a continuation of the morning debate that has been read with our clerk. The floor is opened.

Hon. Siguru: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is a position that at least I want to echo as taken by the Governor of the County of Siaya to have issued a State of the County address and in it there are observations that it lists could easily be seen that it was a gesture that probably addresses social accountability in terms of the disbursement we get from the national government much as the same was done it takes an observation that in sectors that were covered in the State of County address in Education particularly.

We are well aware from the observation and the State of County address that we laud our County Government for embracing the ECDE (Early Childhood Education) which is a devolved function but in our general oversight responsibility of the representatives of the people much as we have infrastructural arrangements done and probably we take queue that at least we are leading in terms of having done more ECDE classrooms.

At least we really need to see into operationalization of the same because infrustructionally we have classrooms done. But when it comes to issues with making them operational to see into it that at least we get value for the structures that we have, we know we are lagging behind in terms of recruitment for ECDE teachers, furnishing the same facilities and therefore this makes it difficult for our people to probably get the maximum benefits they are supposed to be getting from the infrastructure done by the County Government.

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Probably if we can emphasize in terms of making them operational by recruiting ECDE teachers and probably furnishing them to see into it that our children get maximum benefits from the same that should really be done and be considered by the County Government. When it comes to Healthcare, we also know that we have the same challenge that we have facilities that have been done, money spent but in terms of equipping both in staff and in equipment has been very slow.

Same as to ECDE, our health facilities also we need to really factor in equipping and probably staffing of the same such that at least we can say that in doing this, we can account for value for the resources that we've allocated. Lastly, Mr. Speaker in Agriculture, there is poultry and dairy farming that the County Government reported having sponsored and probably having put emphasis into.

We know that in our County we should say that is an agricultural County and we have not really done so much because we see there is poultry farming and we support it and the County Government also has supported dairy farming.

I make an observation that before we gauge ourselves into some of these, we need really to work on sustainability programmes because we realise that probably we get involved in poultry and dairy farming and we fund some of these groupings in terms of chicks and cows to enhance poultry and dairy farming.

We really don't factor in putting in measures to see into it that it is a sustainable program that can probably make our community live differently from where it is and this observation I make in reference to the programmes that has been done in different wards. We know that County Government has spent money into enhancing poultry and dairy farming but when you go to the same wards where these projects were initiated, you'll realise that at least being that we never had a sustainability program, all these programmes have just failed.

When you go in terms of getting value for that allocation, you realise that we may not have achieved much into venturing into this so we need to go further and see into it that before we venture into some of these technical farming which we say that is a modern way of farming, then we need to invest heavily into looking into sustainability programme to see into it that when we issue out some of these things.

They are able to change the lives of our people by educating them, making them understand how to do them better before we invest money into buying these facilities to take up to our people. Otherwise thank you, Mr. Speaker I support the gesture in doing the State of the County Address and at least it is a good opportunity that we can also ventilate on some of the programmes that the County Government is doing. Thank you very much.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Siguru. Any other member to add something. Hon. Jane Odhiambo.

Hon. Atieno: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Yes it was a great pleasure to have the Governor come for the State of the County Address. At least this gives us something to look into when we go back to the ground we compare what he tells us, his achievements.

When we come to his achievement on the Stadium; this is actually when it is finished, will be something to be proud of because Siaya will have a Stadium which will bring more

people in. The tourism will increase and even kids will have a place to be proud of to play. So this was something which is great to have in our county.

The other achievement he talked about is the Governor's office, you are proud to come from Siaya because you can see that you can't compare with other places that the Governor's offices are because it is shining and with the park around, even the County Assembly is now shining, this is great achievement we can talk about.

When it comes to Health, we are proud to have three hundred beds for isolation because at the beginning, Siaya was having countable beds for isolation hence that is an achievement and even if corona is no longer there, we can use the facilities to expand our Health facilities. This is something to be proud of. There is also a place to do CT scan in Siaya because originally we used to take our people to Kisumu and some other places.

Hon. Atieno: -- Originally we used to take our people to Kisumu, to other places, this is a big achievement and we should be proud of.

Maternity health: at least that's good for our women. They don't have to travel so far away to go for the maternity health care. That is good. On education, ECDE, we are proud of our ECDE, because that is where our children start learning and I know it is not perfect, but we have started somewhere, we know we are going somewhere.

It is the starting which is more important so now we know we can improve on all these things and we are happy for our children that we have ECDE and we, as he promised that, you know he is going to improve on them and that is what we should look at and hope that you know, we will have more ECDEs and they are going to employ more teachers to go to teach on these classes so that will bring employment too, so that is a good achievement for our people.

When we talk about the agricultural tractors, I mean at the beginning we had only three tractors. Although this did not really make a big impact it made an impact because it made our people to be aware. There are now tractors coming from different places to our County, so our people are now doing more agriculture than they were doing before the introduction of those three tractors.

I mean, we should not be happy that other people are coming from outside to bring their tractors, it is a beginning and our eyes are open now so we should be able to bring more tractors to do the ploughing on our land.

Water coverage: I can see there's boreholes in most places. Our women are not going to so many kilometres to get water and even water for our animals, the cows, I mean it's not travelling. I know when I was growing up we had to go to three miles to fetch water. That's not the case anymore, and I know it is the beginning, it's not enough yet, but it is a start.

Better a start than nothing so we hope and pray that these things are going to improve, and it will improve our people, it will improve the health of our people, it will improve on our women, they will not be labouring to go so many miles away to fetch water. Some of our schools now even have water in the school. Not all schools have it but it is coming. So gradually we hope all the schools will have water and water is health so if we have water, that is a good achievement for our people.

I think we should encourage our Governor to be coming every now and then so that he can tell us what kind of achievements he has made so that when we go back we can compare what we see and what we haven't seen so we can encourage each other to do more. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Hon. Ousa: Thank you, Mr Speaker for having given me time also to talk over what we call State of the County Address that was done by the Governor. Mr Speaker, actually I have been going through this Document and I have some comments on it, and it is my personal view on the things that are given out as development projects in this document.

First, Mr Speaker, what I have been wondering, we are in a Devolution System of Government and Siaya as a County, when I go through this Document, I have failed to see any new technology in every Department that Siaya as a County has tried to bring in form of development.

If you have checked this Document we refer as State of the County Address, Mr Speaker, if you see the department of Agriculture, we have got the Executive where the people who are employed there, we actually refer to them as experts, but even in the Department of Agriculture, Mr Speaker, there is nothing, at all, showing any new technology, in the Department of Agriculture, Mr Speaker.

All these development projects, I have also failed to understand why these development projects are not distributed among the 30 wards. Do we mean to say that there are some wards which are not in need of development? There should have been an example of every development cutting across all the 30 wards.

Thirdly, Mr Speaker, I fail to understand why all the projects that are here, almost one and a half are incomplete, and we are going to the second term of Devolution. Mr Speaker, I am happy.

I can commend the Governor that he did, as per the law requires him to do, the State of County Address, but according to me the developments that are given in this thing are not enough for me because I cannot see any attempt in all the Departments, which will make Siaya to go ahead from where we are.

We ought to have seen all the Departments with new technologies that is where Counties should head to, Mr Speaker. Next time, Mr Speaker, I do know that we are discussing this thing and the report will go to the Executive over the projects that are given an example here.

There is a project here, No. 41, a project that was founded by the Governor not by the Siaya County. This project of fish cages in North Uyoma Ward, this is not a County project, this was a Donor project and I fail to understand why we can fail to distribute to our people the modern technology of fish in fish cages, then when donor has done it, we give as an example, Mr speaker. With those few remarks, Mr Speaker, thank you very much for giving me time.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Simeon Ousa Nyaji. Hon. Shirley, do you have anything to say? Hon. Ambrose, you are okay. Yes, Hon. Shirley Irene.

Hon. Oyuago: Thank you, Mr Speaker. We are still on with the debate, probably up to our tomorrow's sitting. I am still preparing my notes, so I'll give my final comment on the County Address. Thank you, Mr Speaker, for your concern.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you so much, Hon. Shirley. The debate is still on until tomorrow. We will conclude on this deliberation tomorrow, Thursday. I think, being a continuous debate, we allow the Clerk to take us to the next Order.

MOTION
ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, let us be upstanding for adjournment. Hon. Member, there being no other business, the House stands adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, 4th of March at 2.30 p.m., in the Chambers.

The House rose at 3.54 p.m.