

Wednesday, 3rd March, 2021 COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF SIAYA DEBATES

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

SIAYA COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THE HANSARD

Second County Assembly-Fifth session

Wednesday, 3rd March, 2021

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

[The Speaker (Hon. George Okode) in the Chair]

MOTION

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE INTERRUPTED ON 2ND MARCH, 2021 AT 2.30 P.M.

Hon. Speaker: Yes Members. The Motion debate is continued to those who had not gotten a chance to contribute. Yes, Hon. Madialo.

Hon. Madialo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The address sought to enumerate the achievements or the intended achievements that have been put in place by the Governor's administration, and more subsequent to the last administration.

In associating myself with some of the contents elucidated in the address, I wish to urge and encourage the Executive to emphasize on actuating the policies that were put to us as the Assembly and by extension to the County, through ourselves as the representatives of the citizenry of this great County, that in actualizing it, substance comes out of the policy that were sold to us.

Going forward and looking into the near future when we expect that the election cycle will be coming round and perhaps cognizant of the fact that the administration which addressed us is perhaps in the dawn section of election, it is imperative that pressure is exerted, so that even as the Governor concludes his term, we have substance to point at as that which has been achieved during his term. Thank you.

Hon. Booker: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I would also like to remember some of the historic moments that have happened since I joined this Assembly. One of them is that in the second assembly is when the Governor decided to come and address the County from this House, something that had never happened, and that must be commended.

I sat across listening keenly to what the Governor was trying to put across, as the MCA representing the interests of North Uyoma people, I really want to commend the work that has been done especially in the Financial Year 2018/2019, and 2019/2020. We hope that the vigor

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that the oversight authority and the implementers which this House is completely involved, I really would have liked that they continue with that vigor, so that we put Siaya somewhere where it was not.

In the department of Water, where I am the Chairman, I want to commend what has happened since we joined this 2nd Assembly. It is commendable. I also want to comment about roads, but there are some sectors which are lagging behind, especially in Agriculture, I didn't hear keenly the Hon. Governor talking about projects like tractor hire.

If analyzed keenly you will realize that we spend a lot of money in tractor hiring. I therefore think that the Assembly together with the Executive should come up with an alternative because you would ask yourself, "Why should we spend a lot of money on hiring the tractors while we can spend less when we buy our own tractors and maintain?"

So why don't we advise the Executive to buy tractors so that the little that we have can be put into better use. Thank you.

Hon. Oyugi: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. First, I would like to take this chance to commend the Governor for coming to the Assembly to give the State of the County Address. This is a move in the right direction even though we had not seen it before and moving on we are expecting this to be the order of the day as required by the Law.

Mentioning just but a few of the projects talked about in the State of the County address, of noteworthy was the area of ECDEs. It was very commendable that we are having many ECDE centers being built, which is a good thing, however, I believe that we wholesomely need to think of equipping the ECDEs as part of the projects despite having the buildings so that our children will have proper learning environment.

Secondly, on matters roads; it is noteworthy that we have very many roads being built in various areas, which increases accessibility to our various facilities. In addition, we need to have some funds set aside for maintenance of these roads because with the kind of rains we have most of these roads get depilated and destroyed. Therefore, we need continuous maintenance of the roads.

Lastly, we need to fast track PMC Bill so that the people we put in charge can be part of the process because they are people from Siaya County and they are doing a good job in supervising the works being done. I therefore, think that it is paramount to consider with the time remaining that the PMC Bill comes into effect. Thank you very much.

Hon. Omoro: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. I rise to give my insights on the State of the County Address by the Governor. As much as it has taken long for this to happen, at least the Governor has adhered to the regulations and the norms of the County by giving out the Address here in the House.

The State of the County Address is in line with the National Government's big four agendas and Vision 2030. In the Address, they captured three pillars;

1. The enablers.
2. The economic pillars.
3. The social pillars.

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The County Government has achieved some milestone in terms of Governance in areas of ICT, Tourism and even Roads, even though the area of Tourism has not been properly exploited because there are tourist attraction sites that have not been highlighted like the Ginga highland which is in Eats Ugenya Ward; this is a major brooding area for hippopotamus and crocodiles and it can basically form a big tourism attraction site.

In the economic pillar, the County Government has highlighted some of the advancements in terms of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Enterprise and even Finance.

Going by our budgetary allocations we find that Agriculture department gets the least allocations. The poor allocations can never help in ensuring food security in Siaya. I would urge the County Government to enhance the budgetary allocation for Agriculture.

Food cages have improved our nutritional value by improving access to a lot of fish, Agriculture should be enhanced in terms of budgeting. In the social pillar; the County Government through the Governor addressed issues pertaining to Education, Health, Water and Natural Resources. In areas of Education, we appreciate the fact that several E.C.D.E. blocks have been put in place as much as most of them have not been equipped and lacking enough instructors.

The government should make a better step of making sure that each and every E.C.D.E. block is furnished with equipment and instructors hired. Pertaining to health; since the inception of Devolution, the County government has really tried because we have seen a lot of dispensaries mushrooming in our various Wards as much as we are still lacking personnel to work in them in terms of health workers but it is a step in the right direction. I want to urge the County Government to move with speed to make sure that the nurses are employed and deployed to various areas.

In the area of Water and Natural Resources, the County Government has tried in conjunction with the County Assembly. We have given priority to water development because water is life. In fact, if you go around most of the Wards more so in East Ugenya you will find that we have sunk a lot of boreholes that are solar powered. We have also done several spring waters up to a tune of 50 and therefore water shortage is no longer a menace in Siaya.

When you provide clean drinking water then your constituency leads a healthy life because the moment you use a lot of money to treat water-borne diseases then you will be dragging the economy back. Making sure that there is sufficient safe drinking water then is an assurance that we will be keeping the water-borne diseases at bay.

In industrial development, I would like to observe that the County government has taken too long to enact the cooperative development fund bill. As much as it is highlighted here in the State of the County Address, it has been brought to the County Assembly very late.

This is one of the fundamental areas where at least we can empower our constituents. If the cooperative fund is put in place, then the Abedo women will at least get a place where they can go borrow money and go about their everyday businesses.

The youth will also get a place where they can also borrow money and repay with some small interest to empower them. Not forgetting people with disability and the people at large.

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The County government should therefore take a better and very fast move of making sure that all the Bills that have not been enacted, all that have been passed by the County Assembly should be implemented forthwith so that at least the constituents or the electorates get at least a reprieve of some areas they may deem at least easier for them to capture their daily needs.

In the area of Education, as much as we are giving bursaries, we find that most of our students are still going without it. I urge that in the next Budget the bursary line should increase as much as we are doing infrastructural developments in terms of putting up ECDE blocks, hospitals and erecting solar lights in the numerous markets, education is key and should be given a priority.

At least next time we should elevate this from Kshs. 80 million that is being allocated for bursary to around Kshs. 200 million so that we can capture most of the day scholars.

If you find a kid going to a day school, it automatically indicates that the kid is coming from a very poor background. By virtue of the fact that the day scholars are only given Kshs. 5,000 I think this thing should be done overall so that each and every child attending a day school in Siaya County more so in East Ugenya Ward should get at least across board Kshs. 5,000 regardless of those who applied or not. That is the time when we will enhance our capability of education.

I speak specifically of day schools because I am a product. I went through it and if you find me here then I should agitate for them. There are a lot of brains being wasted out there who are very bright but when they land at the day school at the same time they end up being chased out of the academic system and they don't finish their academic line.

The State of the County Address has captured a very vital area which is called 'nyathi en mwandu' which is normally being initiated by the First Lady, Rosela Rasanga and this program should be given a proper Budget because we have attended several workshops on the ECDE and we have found that a lot of things happening are at the early part of the age those who are maturing from 18 and above. You find the behavioural effect at that time is as a result of lack of better early childhood development care.

It should be given a lot of emphasis with a very good Budget line and also the ECDE should be given a workshop or a platform in which they will be getting highlighted on how to do early child development.

Going by what at least we had in some of the workshops we find that from conception the mother and father need to cooperate so close so that when the child is being brought up then the child is born then you find the child shall have started being in that environment that makes the child know that this is the father and the mother.

Early Childhood Development through "nyathi en mwandu" if given priority in most cases you find that they will have bright students because during the time of brain development is between the time of inception and 3 years. When enhanced properly I think in the near future we will at least retain our pride of Siaya academicians and think tanks.

With those few remarks I thank you.

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MOTION
ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Speaker: There being no other Business this House adjourns until today afternoon, 3rd March, 2021 at 2. 30 p.m. in the Chamber.

The House rose at 10.11 a.m.