

Tuesday 11th October, 2022 COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF SIAYA DEBATES

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF SIAYA

THE HANSARD

Third Assembly-First Session

Tuesday 11th October, 2022

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

[The Speaker (Hon. Okode) in the chair]

(National Anthem played)

(East African Anthem stanza one played)

PRAYERS

CONVOCATION FROM THE SPEAKER

GAZETTE NOTICE NO. 12098

Hon. Speaker: Your Excellency, James Orengo, Governor Siaya County, the Senator for Siaya County, the Women Rep. Siaya County, Hon. Members of the County Assembly of Siaya. Pursuant to Standing Order No. 18(1) of the Siaya County Assembly, it requires that the Governor to address the opening of each newly elected Assembly.

Pursuant to Standing Order No. 13(1) of the County Assembly, vide Gazette Notice No. 12098 which was published in the Kenya Gazette of the 7th October, 2022, I gave notice for this Sitting to all Members and the general public which read as follows;

Pursuant to Standing Orders No. 13(1) and 18(1) of the Siaya County Assembly Standing Orders, it is notified for the information of the Members of the County Assembly and the general public that the official opening of the Third County Assembly by the Governor, Gov. James Orengo, shall be held at the Siaya County Assembly Buildings in the County Assembly Chambers on Tuesday, 11th October, 2022 at 9.30 a.m.

Hon. Members, this Sitting is therefore properly convened. It is almost the custom of this Assembly to recognize invited guests seated within the premises and the gallery. I therefore wish to recognize the following guests who are seated here. We have the:

1. Deputy Governor, Hon. William Oduol
2. County Women Rep. Dr. Christine Ombaka,
3. Margaret Wambani Onditi – Chief Magistrate, Siaya Law Courts

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4. Mr. Lester Simiyu – Deputy Registrar – Siaya Law Courts
5. Dr. Elijah Ochieng Achoch – Chairman Public Service Board – Siaya County Government
6. Canon Margaret Olale – Board Member – Siaya County Assembly Service Board
7. Mr. Eliud Onyango Owino – Board Member – Siaya County Assembly Service Member
8. Ambassador Richard Owade – County Attorney – Siaya County Government
9. Mr. Muchiri Nyaga – County Police Commander
10. Mr. Shaban – CIPU Commander
11. Chief Inspector Kilwa – The County DCIO
12. The County Commissioner
13. All the County Executive Committee Members (CECM) – Siaya County Government

(Applause)

Your Excellency, Hon. Members, apart from the former Governor, Rasanga Amoth, this Hon. House has been addressed by the Right Hon. Prime Minister, Raila Odinga, on the 7th of August, 2015. On the 28th of September, 2015, this House was also addressed by the then Speaker of the Senate of the Republic of Kenya, Hon. David Ekwe Ethuro and Senators, Hon. James Orengo, Hon. Moses Wetangula, Hon. Anyang Nyongo, Hon. Bony Khwalale and Hon. Olivia Omondi.

Before I call upon the Governor to address this House, please allow me to recognize by way of inviting for purposes of making brief speeches, Dr. Christine Ombaka.

Hon. Dr. Ombaka (Women Rep.): Your Excellency, the Governor of Siaya, James Aggrey Orengo, Speaker of the House, Senator Dr. Oburu and the legislators who were elected and nominated. Mine will be very short, it will be simply to congratulate all of you for having won your seats and you are now here as legislators.

Your role is well known and we expect you to perform them as adequately and efficiently as possible. There are only three of them; to make laws, to represent Siaya people and also to be the watch dog of the Government of Siaya. I know it will be a peaceful one because we have seen many County Governments disagree and fighting and violence erupting in some of those Counties.

Siaya has been known to be more peaceful, I have never seen any such fights and I expect you to continue being peaceful and agreeing on various Bills that you come up with and work peacefully with love, peace and unity. Otherwise congratulations and I wish you all the best.

The Senator (Dr. Oburu Odinga): Your Excellency Governor of Siaya County, Hon. James Aggrey Orengo, the Deputy *Speaker*, Hon. Oduol, the County Women Representative and all the Hon. Members in the House. .

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of you for either having been elected or nominated to this House. You do have a great responsibility to the people of Siaya, a responsibility to deliver services.

Most of you are from our party ODM and the Governor is also an ODM. You are supposed to oversight the Executive and you must perform your role of oversighting the Executive but I also just

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want to caution that please, don't be a hindrance to the performance of the Governor. Let him implement the policies that him and his deputy expounded and professed when they were campaigning. Give them opportunity to work but oversight them.

Bwana Governor, I just want to kindly ask you to know that these are the representatives of the people and they also have the responsibility to their people. Sometimes they also have some pressures and when they bring them to you, look at those issues objectively and see how you can support them so that they can also be re-elected.

(Applause)

They cannot be re-elected if they don't work for their people, please work with them closely. I think I was not supposed to make a speech, I was supposed to make a remark and I have done more than that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, very much Hon. Senator. For the record, allow me to convey to you a correction that the Senator has asked me to make. It was a slip of the tongue. He didn't mean to say that Hon. William Oduol is the Deputy Speaker, he meant to say the Deputy Governor.

(Applause)

Allow me to state that it is not me correcting, it is him who has advised me to correct. The Senator that is permanently your seat and nobody will warm it for you, you will warm it yourself, feel free to come anytime of your choice and we shall welcome you to talk to us. Thank you.

On the Address by the Governor, Hon. Members, I wish to guide the House, the Standing Order No. 21(2) provides that when delivering an address to the House, the Governor shall be heard in silence and the address shall not be followed by any comment or question for now, we will have an opportunity to discuss his address because it is a policy.

Hon. Members, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, it is now my honor and privilege to invite the Governor, His Excellency the Governor of Siaya County to address this Assembly. Will we be upstanding as he makes his address!

(Hon. Members on their feet)

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, get seated!

GOVERNOR ORENGO'S ADDRESS

Mr. Speaker Sir, Honorable and distinguished members of the County Assembly, all protocol observed and with accordance with the rules of most legislatures, I recognize all those people in attendance.

It is my distinct honor and privilege to give this inaugural address to the County Assembly, which is the third Assembly since the inception and establishment of devolution, a key pillar and structure in Kenya's democratic constitutional architecture and system. This address also marks the beginning of the working sessions of the Assembly having been previously convened formally as required by the law.

Let me begin by congratulating you, Mr. Speaker, for being elected a record three times as the Speaker of the Siaya County Assembly. No individual in the current legislative bodies at the national or county levels has achieved this feat and accomplishment. You acted as the Governor of Siaya County in the very early days following the creation of county governments. Well done.

I also wish to congratulate each and every member of the County Assembly for being elected and nominated to the County Assembly. I wish each one of you success in attaining the dreams of your vision and legitimate ambitions in serving the people of Siaya.

The powers of this Assembly are derived directly from the people, who are sovereign, and each one of you, through the ballot obtained your mandate and the collective legislative authority from the people of Siaya.

You exercise the sovereign will of the people at the county level. Article 175(a) of the Constitution provides that county governments shall be based on democratic principles and on the doctrine of separation of powers.

In the establishment of county governments, constitutional law requires that devolved governments decentralize functions to the extent that it is efficient and practicable to do so. In addition, the many objects of devolution include the promotion of democratic and accountable exercise of power, grant of powers of self-governance to the people and enhancement of the participation of the people in the exercise of the powers of the State in making decisions affecting them.

The purposes of devolution also include the promotion of social and economic development and the provision of proximate, easily accessible services.

Things are not looking bright at the economic front. The economies of the world are confronted with conflicts and substantial challenges, making it difficult to spur growth and achieve sustainable development.

The drums of war are not close to our borders but the crisis in Ukraine has spanned the globe. Kenya is affected and despite campaign promises made during the general elections, the prices of oil and related commodities are up.

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The removal of subsidies has resulted in increased costs for essential everyday commodities including unga. With oil and food costs up so are services including transport. This is the environment in which we are going to work and live in at least for some time. Yet it is our solemn duty as elected leaders to make life bearable and to uplift the standard of living of our people.

Siaya has great potential. Our land is generally arable and both Agriculture and Livestock farming have a place. We have the largest expanses of Lake Victoria within the territory of Kenya. Providence has blessed Siaya with Lake Kanyaboli, and two of the major rivers feeding Lake Victoria; Nzoia and Yala.

Deposits of gold exist in Gem and Alego as part of the belt that runs through parts of Rarieda and Bondo. There was a time when Siaya was the land of cotton and robusta coffee was grown in Ugenya, Ugunja and Gem. Sugarcane does well in a myriad of areas in the county.

Crops like maize, sorghum, millet, cassava, sweet potatoes and a variety of fruits and vegetables have great potential and cultivation can be upgraded beyond the scope of mere economies of subsistence Agriculture. Siaya can be food secure and commercial farming or Agriculture is not only possible but also has great potential.

Food security and farming for business (kilimo biashara) in Siaya was a central theme in our manifesto during the campaigns. The Deputy Governor and I will engage you on how to make this dream a reality.

We hope to take decisive measures, with your support, to supply certified seeds and fertilizers to registered farmers in the next planting season during the long rains. We are making plans for provision of reliable and affordable tractor services so that we can expand the horizons of Agriculture beyond subsistence.

We need qualified personnel and extension workers to be on hand in the villages and wards to improve and modernize Agriculture and Livestock keeping and husbandry.

The fish stocks in our lakes and rivers are getting depleted at an alarming rate due to activities upstream and within or inside the water bodies. There are no fish processing plants in the county thus limiting optimum incomes and revenue that can be generated through value addition.

Fishing farming, sustainable activities in the lake and fish ponds offer limitless opportunities and our policies and strategies in matters relating to the blue economy must now be mainstreamed in order to improve incomes and livelihoods.

I am hoping that within a reasonable time we should be able to resolve issues concerning and affecting the Yala Swamp. It is the greatest ecosystem in the region both as a wetland and as habitat. Its diversity is unique and its potential greatly significant.

We must protect the right of communities living in or in the proximity of the swamp as a first step in realizing its vitality as a source of abundant resources and without disturbing its dynamic nature as a habitat.

It is possible to conserve the swamp while at the same time positively exploit its resources for farming and industry. There are studies that have been carried out that can be used

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to create an equilibrium between the imperatives and dictates of environmental protection and the need for well-planned human activities and investment.

We will look at Yala Swamp with the prism of our commitment to protect the environment, increase the forest cover in Siaya (which is below the national average) and our determination to engage our people in the climate change agenda as one of the defining issues of our time as a human race.

We have just faced and gone through a major global health crisis, the COVID 19 pandemic. The virus has caused untold human suffering and destabilized the global economy – Kenya included.

This has been exacerbated by the lingering health havoc- of HIV-Aids, the outbreak of Ebola in neighboring Uganda and the persistence of tropical diseases like malaria and malnutrition particularly amongst children.

Malnourished children, particularly those suffering from severe malnutrition have a higher risk of common childhood illnesses such as diarrhea, pneumonia and malaria. Most of our people, at all ages, die from preventable ailments. Many of our women also die from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth.

Kenya has fully embraced the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals including Good Health and Well Being, to ensure healthy lives and to promote well-being for all at all ages. Since health is devolved, the counties have a huge health agenda to undertake and accomplish.

In Siaya, we must try to attain prevention of common diseases by making great strides towards achieving this noble goal. Water is core in this regard and I will say more about it in a little while. We must be food secure. We must grow our own food, protect the poor and vulnerable, and eradicate hunger.

All these are important needs and factors, which are correlated in meeting our health agenda. We propose to provide a universal school feeding programme in the established ECDE centers in the entire county as a health and wellbeing strategy from next year, and for this, we will seek support from development partners and stakeholders including the National Government.

The health sector in the county has been adversely affected by the consequences of financial indiscipline and lack of prudent use of public money. It has contributed to frequent shortages of drugs and medical commodities in our health institutions.

There are many instances when funds secured in the Budget for the purchase of essential drugs have been raided and spent in less deserving cases. I have directed that money allocated for buying medicines and other non-pharmaceuticals for our medical facilities must be ring-fenced for that purpose, and that purpose only, and not transferred to other uses whatever the emergency.

I must confess that there are also cases of pilferage of medicine in the health institutions some of which are eventually found in private healthcare outlets including pharmacies. Sale of public health supplies sometimes take place even in private homes. I appeal to the members of

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the public to report to us or other appropriate authority if they find medicines branded with the KEMSA logo in any such places. Those involved in this business are committing the most heinous crimes against our people.

We have a serious deficit of doctors, nurses, health technicians, specialists and paramedical staff in all our health institutions. The services provided by our over worked medical staff must not be considered in real terms merely as part of the wage bill.

The emoluments paid to a doctor, a nurse or health technician cannot be just a component of a wage bill. It is money paid for an extremely essential service, service to save lives. Siaya Referral Hospital is still a referral hospital in name. We need more doctors, more specialists, better-trained nurses, better modern facilities and equipment.

We need an ICU, a modern one, and surgical theatres. The same can be said about Bondo, Yala, Madiany, Ambira, Ukwala and Ruambwa, Sigomre and the list can go on. We should now change strategy and instead of building more and more dispensaries and health centers, we should concentrate on recruiting medical personnel, providing medicine and equipping the facilities in Siaya with needed health infrastructure.

I am happy to report that we have broken ground for the construction of a modern surgical theatre complex with an ICU wing to be properly equipped and furnished. It should be ready in the next eight months at the Siaya Referral Hospital. We are planning to construct a modern Hospital Complex building in Siaya that complies with the requirements of a modern referral hospital.

Siaya Referral Hospital and Bondo Hospital should in the future become fully-fledged university teaching hospitals. Within five years, as Siaya County's own source revenue collection grows we can build modern hospital complexes in at least Yala, Bondo and Ambira and others in the next five years.

The mortuaries at Siaya which I have visited, Bondo, Ambira and Ukwala save for Yala, all these hospitals must be refrigerated not only for the purpose of preservation of bodies, but in the world of pandemics, life threatening infections can begin from anywhere, and the belly of a medical hospital is not excluded.

The refrigeration programs for Siaya, Bondo, Ambira and Ukwala are therefore a priority and I am hoping that within this Financial Year at least that should be done in Bondo and Siaya. I have been to mortuaries both in Bondo and Siaya, officials at the hospital are trying their best but it is a shame.

A referral hospital in a County in the capital city which is Siaya, we have a mortuary which is not refrigerated and I am hoping that within this Financial Year we should be able to do that with your support of course.

Finally, on this subject, I wish to report that we shall be digitizing and automating our in-house processes and procedures in order to secure and save our medicines from theft and wastage. It is my administration's declared objective to ensure that the drugs we need for pains and critical cure and therapy must be procured and made available all the time. It is all about prudent use of resources, planning and safeguarding our supply of medical commodities.

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The five pillars of our manifesto are governance, food security, health, water and infrastructure. Let me now talk about water.

We recently launched the rehabilitation of Abura Dam in North Alego. The works involve desiltation of the dam and installing new pumps and other equipment to ensure pumping and reticulation of water. It will be completed in the next eight months.

Once complete, it will cater for the water supply needed in Siaya Town, Central Alego and parts of North Alego, South East Alego, West Alego and Usonga. It will ease the pressure on the Yala Sindindi Water project in supplying water to parts of Ugunja, Gem and Bondo Town. Large areas in North Sakwa and West Sakwa will be fully catered for.

Currently there is water rationing in Siaya and Bondo towns and water is pumped to these high population areas on alternate days or periods. For example for now they are pumping water majorly to Siaya town and in the meantime Bondo has to wait for its turn. We believe that with these interventions the situation is going to improve and this will come to an end.

We are also working on the old water pipeline and pump from Yala River to make sure there are no water shortages in Bondo and institutions like the hospital will benefit. The university for example has its own pump and line directly from River Yala and therefore they don't suffer the same kind of shortages that is experienced in Bondo town as a whole. We are hoping that we can create a line and a pump exclusively to serve Bondo hospital.

Within the County there is the extensive water project covering Ugunja – Ukwala - Segal, which is currently under construction. We also have the lower Nzoia River Water Supply and Irrigation, which will cover many parts of Ugunja, Alego Usonga and Ugenya Sub-counties and individual water projects all over the county.

These will make it possible to guarantee clean-piped water in every home in the fullness of time. The National government in collaboration with Siaya County government recently commissioned the construction of a 400m multi-purpose Anyiko Ujwanga Kathieno Irrigation project, in East Ugenya. This should spur economic activity once completed and improve the living standards of the residents of this area.

Proper infrastructure is the stimuli for development. The National Government is currently involved in the construction, to bitumen standard, of the Bondo-Wagusu road and the Got Nanga-Bar Ober-Uhuru Market –Siaya road.

There are also key roads along the lakefront and those connecting our sub-counties that will require the intervention of the National Government. There are incomplete sections of our road networks examples of which are Wang' Arot-Akado-Kalandin-Ka Elijah Road, Rang'ala-Wuoroya Bridge Road, Segere-Umina Road, Siranga-Yenga-Segal Road that were commenced and undertaken by the National Government.

We shall seek interventions by the National Government to agitate for completion of these national projects. On the docket of the Siaya County Government, I want to assure the Assembly of my robust and committed intervention for the improvement and expansion of county roads and the opening up of new road networks.

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I have a clear vision of the places that have terrible roads or no roads at all in all the six sub-counties. Above all, contractors must construct and repair roads to acceptable standards so that the taxpayer can get value for money spent.

We shall continue to modernize our market centers and provide requisite facilities. We want to decentralize the management and operations of our urban centers. I recently gave Siaya Municipality financial autonomy in its operations so that they can administer the town's Budget.

The creation of Bondo and Ugunja municipalities is at an advanced stage and with your approval, the towns will soon have their respective charters and operate as municipalities

Waste management and sanitation in all our centers is a big problem but we are soon coming up with a more reliable system of waste management and the construction of appropriate sewerage plants. We are committed to empowering the youths and creating jobs which largely must come from the private sector.

The pillars enumerated in our manifesto and our vision are all aimed at establishing an enabling environment for economic growth and prosperity.

At my inauguration as the Governor of Siaya, I promised that governance, that is good governance, would be the cornerstone of my administration. I may achieve nothing else during my tenure but instill good governance. I am going through a reality check.

I anticipate that it will be a difficult task to attain the standards and principles envisaged under Article 10 of the Constitution which standards bind all State Organs, State Officers, Public officers and all persons. Certainly we have no choice. Good governance is a constitutional prerogative.

As a starting point, I appreciate the fact the County Assembly, albeit being part and parcel of the County Government, is a separate and independent institution and consists of elected representatives of the people. The vast majority of you Honorable members belong to my political party and coalition.

The membership and partners in Azimio la Umoja One Kenya Alliance and ODM share the same vision and political blueprint. Yet you have an independent role to enact legislation. You have an oversight role, which you exercise over the county Executive committee and county Executive organs.

You approve certain executive appointments and you may receive and approve plans and policies for the management and exploitation of the county's resources and the development and management of the county's infrastructure and institutions. In a sentence, you exercise legislative authority of the county.

These provisions are clear in Article 185 of the Constitution. Legislative authority and oversight in the County, fall within your jurisdiction and domain as a County Assembly, straight and simple.

You, as a County Assembly, must exercise your powers robustly without let or hindrance. It is my deeply held conviction that for Siaya to reap the fruits and democratic dividends of devolution, good governance, integrity, transparency and accountability and for us to attain

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sustainable development, the legislative authority, which is vested in the County Assembly, must be respected, upheld, defended and protected.

I will never seek to make you an appendage of the county Executive and that is why we did not meddle in the election of the Speaker. On the same vein, the Executive will not micro manage the Assembly by seeking to impose house leaders, that is a matter within your domain and you must do it without interference from any quarter.

I commit myself to ensuring that all the officials working in or for the county Executive committee, including County Executive Committee members and any other county executive organs appear before you when invited or summoned by the Assembly or its committees.

As the county administration we shall, in accordance with the law, open all books, ledgers, bank accounts, records and documents and make any material available to this august assembly when called upon to do so in the exercise of your lawful duties and responsibility and if need be, as a Governor you summon me to appear and I will appear without fear.

(Applause)

I welcome the decision of the Supreme Court to the effect that governors must appear before the Senate when invited or summoned to do so. I have no qualms about that. Nevertheless, I think the Senate should also defer to the County Assemblies as the first sport of call except in the exercise of oversight over national revenue allocated to the county governments as provided in Article 96(3) of the Constitution.

I also wish to report that the financial records of our Finance Department have been wanting. Forget about this year. The Special Interim Audit Report on Financial Management for the Financial Year 2020/2021 prepared by the Director of Internal Audit of the County Government of Siaya painted a tragic picture of financial mismanagement, misuse of county revenue, waste of resources, and manipulation of records and the same trajectory has continued this Financial Year.

We have taken deliberate steps to stop this downward trend. We stopped the payment of pending bills, procurement processes and award of tenders to enable us understand the obtaining objective financial situation in the Finance Department. We have established the existence of unauthorized or unjustified pending bills and questionable contracts.

I think we have saved some resources through this exercise. We know that non-payment of legitimate pending bills, which are due and payable, is unfair and unjust. It also affects development projects and compromises our absorption capacity and rate.

I have now authorized payment of pending bills and urged that payments be expedited but there must be a record. If you want to make a payment in a public institution there must be origination of a request or claim, there must be a paper trail including stamps and seals.

We stopped the construction of the Governor's and Deputy Governor's residences because this Assembly had not allocated a Budget for the contracts which were entered into

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without an appropriation. Hit by the current hard financial realities, the projects cannot be considered as priority undertakings by the County Government.

I think building a new county Assembly Chamber for Siaya County Assembly, the land of Jaramogi, the land of Raila Amolo Odinga, the land of Obama is priority. When somebody comes to Siaya they must go away convinced that this is not a County of heroes in name but even in the way we plan our activities, the way we build our institutions and I am not very proud that you are in this chamber which was used by the former County Council.

I will support you 100% in the construction of the County Assembly. I want this County Assembly to at least by the end of 5 years that we have in iconic building in Siaya and it has been done in other Counties, why not Siaya?

The County Government is putting a premium on e-governance. In the area of revenue collection, we are studying plans to have cashless transactions and I applaud the former administration in putting a task force for collection of revenue, they were able to meet the target, they collected more than was targeted, they collected more than 100%.

If Siaya can collect nearly kshs. 500m with a little effort, I don't see why we cannot collect more than Kshs. 1b and if we collect more than Kshs. 1b I don't see why we cannot increase the Ward Fund so that when you get the Ward Fund is something you can go home with and make sure that some of the projects in your Ward are done.

Huge cash payments have been abused in the area of payment of imprests and maintenance of petty cash. Our payroll is like a balloon, without constancy and regularity. To this end and because of the dire state of our financial records I appointed a taskforce of eminent professionals and its work is ongoing.

The report of the taskforce will be placed before the County Assembly for debate and approval. Without your input, the report for legal reasons is of no use until you look at it and examine it and speak to it and make a resolution. So it will come before you and that will also help in future when we are doing budgets and procurement plans.

There are several unfinished projects undertaken by the previous administration including the Siaya stadium. The money expended for that stadium exceeded the Budget for the construction of the said sports arena. With the approval of the county assembly, we will mobilize sufficient funds to complete it and other projects and a project if not completed the cost of doing it becomes more expensive for the taxpayer.

In a matter of days, I will nominate and place before you the persons to be appointed as the County Executive Committee members. The nominees will only qualify for appointment after the County Assembly has approved their names consequent upon scrutiny and vetting. This process requires Public Participation just like all aspects of decision-making that affects the people. Together we can make Public Participation real and concrete, and not merely a symbolic and theoretical ritual.

On governance and Public Participation I will seek your approval of the interventions we intend to make to ensure that our women, the youth and people living with disability are

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prominent in running the affairs of the county at all levels from the grassroots to the upper echelons of the Executive.

My administration will seek you out, Mr. Speaker, Sir and the leadership of the Assembly and the members of the august House in the preparation of proposed legislation for consideration by the County Assembly.

Our administration will not bring a finished product to the Assembly. We must engage in a consultative process so that for Bills prepared by the Executive, engagement must start at the time of conception, drafting and general preparation of legislation.

This makes sense because Bills can never be moved in the Assembly by members of Executive even when prepared by the County Executive Committee and that makes sense because I cannot require of the leader of majority in the House to move a Bill that has been generated by the Executive without the House and the leader understanding what was behind the Bill.

So process cannot just start with the document when it is already a Bill. I believe strongly because institutions of governments are independent, the County Executives are inter independent, I will rather that we discuss legislation at the earlier stages to ensure that we bring proper Bills and the debate in House is enriched.

Let me not conclude my speech without expressing my administration's support for Ward funds as it falls within the realm of devolution and embraces the notion of taking resources to the people at the grassroots.

The debate should not be about necessity of ward fund but about the extent of increasing the fund without jeopardizing other needs and responsibilities assigned to the Governor under the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution. I am persuaded the Ward Fund must be increased.

Because of the exigencies and stresses brought about by the change of administration, we may soon seek your indulgence in the consideration, approval and enactment of a Supplementary Appropriation Bill.

We shall consult and hopefully draft legislation for uplifting the status and incomes of ECDE teachers and the Community Health Volunteers. We have also been approached to initiate legislation to deal with the problem and challenges of widows and we can engage each other in discussing the draft legislation prepared by stakeholders in this regard.

Together we must strive to domesticate environmental protection law and create a framework for dealing with climate change to complement national initiatives and legislation. And I mean it because climate change is here with us. When a whole country like Pakistan, half of their country can be flooded because of the vulgarism weather brought by climate change! That situation can confront us at any time and we need to be prepared for it.

In conclusion, we must raise Siaya to the next level, from a county without a single viable factory into an industrial hub. We can change the lives of our people by transforming livelihoods, by ensuring subsistence farming and petty trades evolve into stable and high level income generating occupations and jobs.

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We can build on the Blue Economy, expand our service industry, attract investments, create jobs and raise the standard of living in Siaya. As we said, NYALORE. INAWEZEKANA. We can turn Siaya green by planting trees and protect our environment.

We must encourage research and innovation, turn to the magic of science and technology and mobilize the goodwill and energy of our people to MAKE SIAYA GREAT. NYALORE.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, and the Honorable Members of the Assembly, I thank you and I thank the County Assembly. God Bless You God Bless Siaya County and God Bless Kenya. Thank you.

(Applause)

(More applause)

Hon. Speaker: Will we be upstanding as the Governor resumes his seat!

(Hon. Members on their feet)

Hon. Speaker: Thank you very much, your Excellency. At this point I want to communicate that the notice we put had also been extended to the members of the public and for the record we have members of the public here in their diverse numbers and places of origin. I want you to acknowledge all of them, I have seen Makamu and the rest, will you acknowledge them!

(Applause)

Allow me to communicate to you that the clerks had amended the Order Paper, No. 3 being Administration of Oath. Therefore before we proceed to Order No. 4, I will call upon the clerks to present to us the next order.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH

FREDRICK ODHIAMBO OLOO

Hon. Adida: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, allow me to present to you Mr. Fredrick Odhiambo Oloo, who is dully nominated by the ODM party to represent people living with disability to take his oath.

(Hon. Adida and Hon. Adala escort Mr. Fredrick Odhiambo to take oath)

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Hon. Speaker: Hon. Members, I am asked by Mr. Fredrick Odhiambo to read for him the oath and he will repeat after me.

(Oath is administered to Mr. Fredrick Odhiambo Oloo by the Hon. Speaker)

Hon. Adala: Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you for this gesture now that one of us is amongst us and has all the rights to fully discharge his roles in this Assembly and I have confidence in him that he will be able to serve the people of Siaya in just and fair manner. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you very much, Hon. Fredrick Odhiambo Oloo. Let him deal with the ceremony of signing.

(Hon. Oloo signed oath papers)

Hon. Members, as we shall be adjourning, allow me to communicate to you that after this adjournment, you have been invited to a lunch which has been prepared at the Distinction hotel.

Soon after the adjournment, we shall have a photo session in front of the County Assembly building and if need be avail brief address to the media.

MOTION

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Members, will you be upstanding for adjournment!

(Hon. Members on their feet)

Hon. Speaker: Your Excellency, Hon. Members, pursuant to Standing Orders of the Assembly, this House adjourns until tomorrow Wednesday 12th October, 2022 at 9.30 a.m. in the Chambers. There being no other Business, this House adjourns.

The House rose at 11.50 a.m.