

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF SIAYA
THE HANSARD

Third Assembly-First Session

Tuesday 25th October, 2022

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

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

PRAYERS

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

MEETING

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Members, I allow me to bring to your attention that I have received a communication from the majority party leader and the Whip of the party of the majority that you converge soon after the afternoon Session.

Secondly, I have communication regarding the Committee Membership that those who still have issues about Committees to kindly liaise with the Whip of the majority party and the Majority party leader so that we can conclude that exercise. Also, be notified that we shall be going on recess on Thursday for one week then we resume.

PAPERS

The Majority Party Leader (Hon. Otieno): Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. I beg to lay the following papers on the Table of the House:

1. The Siaya Government Quarterly Report and Finance statement for the Quarter ended 30th June, 2022.
2. The Siaya County Annual Development Plan for FY 2021/2022.

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3. The Siaya County Budget Review and Outlook paper for FY 2021/2022.

Hon. Speaker: I think tomorrow at the statement hour I will be asking various Members of the Assembly who went to Nairobi to give the House report on their trip. Just a brief update on what you want to do and what transpired so that the House is properly informed.

NOTICE OF MOTION

THANKS OF THE HOUSE

The Majority Party Leader (Hon. Otieno): Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. I wish to give notice of Motion:

THAT pursuant to SO No. 21(4) the Thanks of the House be recorded for the exposition of policy contained in the address of the Governor delivered in the House on Tuesday 11th October, 2022.

MOTION

THANKS OF THE HOUSE

The Majority Party Leader (Hon. Otieno): I wish to move the Motion:

THAT pursuant to SO No. 21(4) **the thanks of the House be recorded for the exposition of policy contained in the address of the Governor** delivered in the House on Tuesday 11th October, 2022.

I therefore, stand to contribute on the Governor's speech that is on food security where the Governor promised to provide certified seeds as well as revive Yala swamp to create job opportunities and develop the economy of the County.

I believe that we need financial discipline on the health sector and prudent use of public money. I fully support the directive issued by the Governor that he will re-fence the Budget of the health sector and ensure availability of drugs in the health facilities in the entire County.

On Water, he launched the rehabilitation of Abura dam in North Alego, which will ease pressure on Yala - Sidindi water project and also cover Ugunja and other parts of the County.

On roads, the Governor talked of value for money by ensuring that road openings and repairs are done to their acceptable standards. I also support the creation of Ugunja, Bondo and other town centres as municipalities in the future.

Furthermore, we shall always encourage consultative meetings with the Executive and our legislative work. Thank you and I call upon the Whip to second.

(Hon. Booker seconded)

(Question proposed)

Hon. Speaker: Allow me to guide. Hon. Members, Usually when we deal with the Governor's address we just make comment about it. You can usually make comments on what is contained in the address that is in consonance with your expectations or what you feel was left out. Usually there is no question being put on this speech so that you are just free to talk about it.

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Yes, Hon. Washington Booker Bonyo and Member for North Uyoma whip for majority party.

The Whip for Majority Party (Hon. Booker): Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. I stand to laud the Governor's speech more so on water resource. We find that water was discovered in 1866 by John Priestly and the Dublin principle says that water is valuable resource and it is a social good.

Allow me to ask that if it was a social good would our mothers still walk over 20km to go fetch water in the lake? I therefore disagree that water is a social good if our mothers are still walking long distance to fetch water.

When I was patiently listening to the Governor give his speech on water I was very happy because water is a resource, which could be enhanced and provided for every citizen in Siaya County. I remember in the last Assembly when I was the chair for Water I made a Bill and the Bill required that every woman and citizen in the County should only walk about 200 meters to fetch water.

I only wish that that Bill could be put into practice so that our people could get easy access to this social and important commodity.

On health, I also want to thank the Governor for envisaging how to make health sector better in Siaya County. If I give preference to Rarieda and Madiany sub county hospitals where I come from we don't have Wards, you find that maternity ward is also the paediatric ward, surgical ward is also the male ward and it is only be they don't have the room but they would have put male ward still to be the female ward.

Therefore, if only the Governor could do something like a referral in every Sub County we would be very happy.

On Roads, you we still have all weather roads everywhere so we expect that the Governor will at least provide tarmac road in every ward not sub County so that we can at least brag that in our times *Wuod Apiyo Nyoloo* made Gagra - Madiany road a tarmac. That would be very good as well as build us politically.

With all those few remarks, I only ask God to bless the Governor so that he can implement the programmes that he has for the County.

Hon. Speaker: Member for West Ugenya and the Deputy Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Oduor): Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. Before I appreciate the Governor, allow me to appreciate and thank the people of West Ugenya for electing me because as you are aware it was not easy but I maneuvered around. I must appreciate that it is not because am the best in West Ugenya but because of God's mercy and the electorate.

Allow me also to appreciate you for being elected Speaker for the third time and we all know that it is not easy because in various Counties the number of elected Speakers can be counted but in Siaya through your leadership you have been the Speaker for a third time. This shows that there is something special in you and I appreciate that.

I was present when the Governor read the speech and I believe that all of us have copies, therefore there is nothing else that can make a Member criticise the speech because the governor

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has even committed to avail the Ward Fund to Members, something that we have been demanding for too long.

This has been our prayer that we get the money, in fact, this was in the BBI and the part that was very attractive was the part touching on the Ward based funds. Therefore, I want to say that this is a document that must be discussed soberly and I would request your office as the Speaker to allow Members go through the document.

The people who wrote the document were much aware of the plights of Members and how Members have been suffering for years on the issue of Ward fund.

Lastly, I want to say that the three days may not be enough for us to debate on the speech given that we have new Members in the House and some might still be going through it as well as catching up with the procedures of the House. Thank you.

Hon. Omwende: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I want to appreciate my constituents that is Sigomre Ward 001 in Siaya County. To be in this House for the third time is not easy and this means that my future is bright because electing me three consecutive times means that even electing me for the fourth and fifth time is automatic. I therefore thank the people of Sigomre and pray that God protects and bless the work of their hand.

Back to the speech, I have specific area of interest because I cannot touch on everything so I will dwell on matters health. I admire the idea of automation because normally we budget for drugs but they do not even stay for a month, which means there are problems somewhere. There are some people who think they know how to use those drugs better than others.

The issue of automation on the Governor's speech where he will secure and save our medicine from theft and wastage. I am not saying that automation will solve the entire problem but it will reduce at the extent.

We normally call the Executive at some point to come and explain the various departments on their progress and success but I admire when the Governor said that he was ready to be invited to the Assembly (for interrogations).

That means he is very serious about our Assembly and he even went ahead and said that any Executive member should prepare to be called to clarify on queries within the Assembly.

In the National Government and County governments, we have what we call mainstreaming of people living with disabilities in the government sector be it employment. I admire when the Governor mentioned that he will make sure that our women, youth and people living with disability are involved in the running affairs of the County at all levels from the grass root to the upper levels of the Executive. I do support this entirely.

Hon. Angule: First of all, may I take this opportunity to congratulate my constituents of West Yimbo for having elected me. I would like to say that it is quite true if I say I am unique in this House I think nobody will refuse to say yes because to be elected in Siaya County as an independent candidate this one is just miraculous. I congratulate the people of West Yimbo for having faith in me.

Just as a fellow Member said I know they still have faith in me and it won't be very tough for my second term. I want to say that the Governor's speech was quite good but a few things were neglected or weren't tackled. I am a fisherman; most of the fish we get from the

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Lake Victoria come from Uganda but you find that before the fish travel to Uganda they lay eggs in Kenyan shallow waters.

The Ugandans say that we only own the water but the fish is theirs. I expected our beloved Governor to touch on security on the lake because when we go for fishing, Uganda soldiers arrest us and demand a lot of money.

I expected the Governor to touch on that but he omitted it so I am just reminding him or whoever is concerned. Let them do something about the situation because if you look at the revenue collection in Siaya County because Bondo is contributing a lot of revenue in Siaya County and more so West Yimbo through fishing.

I expect the matter to be handled with urgency. In order for us to get enough revenue for Siaya County we need security in the Lake. So I expect this to be taken into consideration next time in the Governor's speech when he will be addressing us again. Thank you, Hon. Member for West Yimbo.

Hon. Omoro: Mr. Speaker, first of all I would like to thank God the almighty for keeping me alive, I also thank the people of East Ugenya for re-electing me for a second term. I have gone through the Governor's speech.

It is a good speech because it touches on food security, and this will be ensured by enlarging our Agricultural productivity and making sure that the Yala swamp is properly reclaimed, and let it act as the food basket to the people of Siaya.

Through subsidies and fertilizers, I think farmers in Siaya County will be better placed to do crop production for both subsistence and commercial production and this would increase our economic power because the people of Siaya would now be able to get something from their productive yields.

Also on the Governor's speech, he says that he would ensure that there is enough money for the procurement of drugs. You know health comes first and without health we cannot gain any political mileage.

Making sure that we put appropriate budgetary allocations for buying the drugs and also making sure that we curb the pilferages, because in most cases you find that a lot is allocated for pharms and non-pharms but still there is pilferages thus deficit of drugs.

The speech also talked about the feeding programs. If this is done, I think we shall have elevated our level of education, because you know, with the poverty index in Siaya, you find the nursery going kids who at times go to school without even taking porridge. If this is done, then they will be healthy and comfortable in their learning environment.

The other thing that should form part of Governor's speech is how to enhance our bursaries. There are lot of bright students who need to be propelled forward in terms of better education and most of them come from poor families whose academic process never sees the light of the day.

So you find that most of them start and fall along the way. What is currently being given at the Siaya Bursary stands at 80 million, I urge that going forward if the kitty can be doubled so that we get more than Kshs 250 million, so that most of our students who are in day schools who are the majority in the villages and come from poor families can benefit and the number of elites increase.

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Also in the Governor's speech there is provision for sufficient clean, portable drinking water. Water is also key in our life and the Governor making sure that within 100 meters we will be having clean portable drinking water will be key, thus our moms will not be spending a lot of time looking for water but will be able to engage in other activities.

In the Governor's speech there was also the rejuvenation of the previous irrigation schemes, some were started a long time ago and became dead. One of the schemes quoted was the kathieno – Anyiko - Ujwanga rice scheme.

This was started early back by a donor in the 1970s. It has been operating on minimal production and it majors on rice production. Sometime back when we were looking at what is owned by Siaya, when we looked at Bunyala irrigation scheme, we found that we co - owned it with western, so we never saw reason for pumping in money on the Bunyala, so instead, we looked for an irrigation scheme that was within Siaya, and that was the Ujwanga - kathieno - Anyiko rice scheme.

It is a vast project and it is supposed to kick off sooner, because in the last assembly, we appropriated 5 million for the feasibility study which was done, and up to now we know the contractor will be on the ground sooner and there is a canal that will be done that is going to be supplying water to the rice field.

If that is done properly then the people who are in that area will be economically empowered because rice fetches some good money as compared to maize. 1 bag of rice that has been winnowed goes for Kshs 15,000 as compared to maize which during harvest goes for Kshs 4,000 or 5,000.

The speech also talks about youth, women and people living with disability. Without the youth, women and PWD, we would be working in a biased way. Since the Governor's speech encompasses on that, we would want to have a better way through funding these three groups. They are very vital and core part of the community.

They are people who have financial discipline. Going forward there should be better funds, for example the Abedo fund which if properly instituted would at least help our women groups to at least have coffers where they would be at least getting some funds to at least give some strength to their businesses.

These are people who are striving on very small capital, for around Kshs 500. If the Governor would ensure that they are taken care of then our economy would be very good.

With those few remarks I think we shall give the Governor easy time to work in Siaya, we want a better Siaya than we found it. Those who were in the last regime also did their part, and therefore there is already a laid stone that the current Governor will be stepping on, therefore he will not be starting from the scratch. So within the 5 years we will give him the much needed support and make sure that Siaya glitters.

Hon. Booker: (on a point of Order) Mr. Speaker, is it in order that the Hon. Member speaks for 2 hours when there are other Members who would like to contribute? I think you should give a timeline for contribution because if we continue this way we shall be here up to tomorrow.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Member, we have the Standing Orders of the House and therefore we know the number of hours that a Member is allowed to contribute. He is within the hours.

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Hon. Omoro: Thank you, Hon. Speaker for protecting me. I was not to bore you with a lot of lyrics but with the few remarks, allow me to say thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Honourable Members, I would like to communicate that it is not a must that we finish the debate of the Governors speech today. We have the 2 days meant for the debate of the speech only. Therefore, however much a Member debates, we shall still be continuing with the debate tomorrow morning and afternoon session. Yes Hon. Felix, West Alego.

Hon Okumu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mine is very short and precise. First of all, let me appreciate the people of West Alego for having re-elected me to the County Assembly of Siaya. Secondly as we applaud the Governor, the message I would like to send to the Executive is that I foresee a delay in discharge of duties based on how our assembly is conducting duties, being that we have new members and the old guards who have made a return. So I sense a delay that if not tackled may not help new members.

Hon. Omwende: Point of Order, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: What is your Point of Order, Hon. Omwende?

Hon. Omwende: Is it in Order for the Honourable Member to mislead the House with his own report that is not in the Governor's speech?

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Honourable Member it is not in Order but he has finished anyway. He was not within the discussion of the House. Yes, Honourable Peter Oduor, Ukwala Ward.

Hon. Oduor: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. First of all, I would like to thank the people of Ukwala Ward for having elected me the second time. They had faith in me and that is why they decided to give me a second term.

I have gone through the speech of the Governor and I think his intention and the intention of his office to the people of Siaya is good, He wants to ensure that we have food security, and that is good and that is what will make Siaya people not have so many diseases, will go to school and other better things will come out of food security.

The Governor should ensure everything he has mentioned in his speech is not hot air. We have seen them come and when they come here they tell us a lot of good things but when it comes to actualization, it is never done.

He actually said that by January during the long rains he will provide us with fertilizers and tractors. I hope he will keep his word and if he doesn't we are here for him. We will talk about it and we will castigate him seriously.

What I saw that also made me very happy is the issue of ECDE teachers. He talked of employing them even though the time frame was not given but it is a good gesture. We know how our teachers down there are suffering and they don't even have a structure of their salaries. I hope that will be looked into and everything will be okay.

The last point is on the issue of health. I come from a Ward that has a hospital but does not have good facilities. It is not facility oriented, by that I mean equipment are not there. We have some equipment that were taken there a year back like the x-ray machine.

It has not started working. I think the Governor is aware and when it was tested just last month we found that the machine is obsolete. It cannot work. I hope as he said that he is going to equip all the hospitals in Siaya County.

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Hon. Okumu: Point of Order!

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Yes Hon. Felix Okumu.

Hon. Okumu: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order that he started discussing Governor's speech then Members to bring in their own issues of their Wards. The way the hospital in his ward is ...

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Member, resume your seat please. I believe the Member is within the discussion. It is in the health department which is indicated in the Governor's speech. Proceed.

Hon. Oduor: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir for protecting me. The Member who has interrupted me, I don't know whether he is in his right suit or he has dressed properly for this Assembly.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you for the reminder. Going by the rules Hon. Okumu kindly walk out. Go and dress properly.

Hon. Oduor: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir...

Hon. Omoro: Point of Order!

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Yes, Hon. Omoro.

Hon. Omoro: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. The Member you have driven out is smartly dressed.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: I know the rules of Speaker's...

Hon. Booker: Point of Order!

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Yes Hon. Booker.

Hon. Booker: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Recently, we were in induction session in Mombasa. I remember I asked the question, I think the member is smartly dressed because we were told once you are in a suit you are smartly dressed.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: I am not unfair. I have ruled and the Hon. Member has walked out and should dress properly as the Whip has dressed. We need a suit and a tie. Hon. Member for Ukwala proceed.

Hon. Oduor: I know there are so many Members who don't want me to speak...

Hon. Arika: Point of Order!

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Arika be brief so that you allow the Member to stick on the debate.

Hon. Arika: I am just trying to seek a clarification, what is the difference between dressing correctly and smartly.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: I said earlier, going by our Standing Orders, the ruling that has been made by the Speaker is not allowed to be challenged in the House. Kindly bear with me as those who are in the Speaker's Panel. Allow Hon. Oduor to proceed.

Hon. Booker: Point of Order!

Hon. Deputy Speaker: No! Kindly allow Hon. Oduor to proceed.

Hon. Booker: I am in order to stand on a point of order.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Only when allowed!

Hon. Booker: Unless you hate me so much that you can't allow me to do it. Can you please clarify the kind of dressing you would like in this House?

Hon. Deputy Speaker: I will communicate that later. Proceed.

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Hon. Ragen: Allow me to ask a question about the dressing. We are Africans and my understanding about a suit is there is a Kaunda Suit for Africans.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: If it is on the same I have ruled that I will bring the dressing code for the House and we will discuss that later.

Hon. Booker: According to Parliamentary practices, even in the National Assembly, Hon. Ole Kina wears Maasai regalia!

Hon. Omwende: Point of Order!

Hon. Deputy Speaker: You cannot stand on a Point of Order when another Hon. Member is on a Point of Order. I have ruled on the matter...

Hon. Booker: I wanted to sit listening to him the way he is going to divulge the Standing Order.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: No it's not allowed.

Hon. Booker: I am on Point of Order, so you are not supposed to stand on a Point of Order not unless I permit you to speak. Okay, I permit you, go on.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: You don't have powers to permit him when the Speaker is around. Kindly I have ruled on that matter and it will be a discussion tomorrow during our informal. Kindly allow Hon. Oduor to proceed.

Hon. Omwende: Recently you went for induction. I believe and trust that all Members were listening. If the Speaker has already ruled on a matter in the Assembly, there is no any Member whatsoever that can go against that. I agree with you Mr. Speaker, the matter has been ruled nobody can challenge.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you and you also remember that it was communicated that we have 5 years to learn. Learning is a process. They will learn progressively. Just allow them. Proceed.

Hon. Oduor: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I don't want to bore you now there has been so many interruptions. I want to go to the 2 last points that I want to make.

First, is on the automation of the machines of the revenue collection. Once I was a Finance Chair and it took us 5 years and we never managed to get 10 machines. This time now that the Governor himself has talked about it I hope we are not going to have impediments as to achieving that goal.

Lastly, I was impressed by a paragraph in the speech which talks about the widows. The widows of Siaya have never seen any good thing that comes from the government. For that matter the Governor as he talked we should take it seriously and in this appropriation of this Financial year something should be done so that we should start giving our widows support.

Otherwise I support the Governor's Speech. Thank you.

Hon. Okelo: I thank Bondo Constituency and West Yimbo at large for having me nominated. I want to support the Governor's speech on Agriculture.

First, our county is very fertile. We can make good produce. Secondly, from West Yimbo, we can use that water for irrigation.

Hon. Oinga: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir for giving me an opportunist to speak in the honourable House. My name is Hon. Dorothy Awino Oinga. Allow me to sincerely thank the people of Siaya County.

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When I vied for the position of Woman Representative, majority of them stood with me and I do not take their support for granted. For that I remain grateful to date.

Allow me to also thank my party ODM for having trust in me to nominate me to represent the young people in this House. I know there are some youths who could have matched this shoe but I was chosen as the first among equals.

Allow me to indulge a little bit about the Governor's Speech. Much has been said about my colleagues but I would also like to contribute something touching on the youths. The Governor in his speech mentioned that his government will empower youths and create jobs.

He also extensively talked about Agriculture and food production in Siaya. I think this could be fostered by involving the young people in agribusiness programs for value addition in the agricultural produce so that the youths could be self-employed.

The Executive should facilitate our youths to form cooperatives because their funds which were passed by the previous Assembly which could also help them.

Last but not least allow me to indulge on something health the Governor talked about. The theft of drugs in our hospitals. Having sat in some committees in the Executive side of the government I was privileged to understand how some of these medicine were being siphoned from the county pharmacies.

I really welcome the idea of automating the whole process. Apart from that, his government should also develop a procedure and a way of handling these drugs because the automation would only reduce it to a little extent. Thank you.

Hon. Apodo: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I want to take this first opportunity to thank and appreciate the people of Sidindi Ward for giving me an opportunity to serve them as their MCA. It was a heavy task and I want to promise them that I will not let them down.

Secondly, when I indulge into the Governor's Speech, I want to applaud it. My specific areas are completion of Rang'ala road that was started by KENHA and was incomplete.

I also want to support the idea of employing ECDE teachers and giving a feeding program to the ECDE pupils so that we can help our parents who are voters and contribute in paying the teachers and at the same time contribute cash and cereals so that they feed the ECDE pupils.

I would also like to thank the Governor for considering in his Budget that if possible, he will employ CHV who will help us in the villages concerning health issues and I would really appreciate if all that the Governor has said will be taken into consideration and implemented. I support it in totality.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Having looked at the House and since the debate will still proceed tomorrow in the morning I would therefore request Clerks to take us to the next order.

MOTION

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, there being no other Business the House stands adjourned until tomorrow Wednesday at 9.30 a.m. in the Chambers.

The House rose at 4.10 p.m.