

Thursday 1st December, 2022 COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF SIAYA DEBATES

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

SIAYA COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THE HANSARD

Third Assembly - First Session

Thursday 1st December, 2022

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

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

PRAYER

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

ABSENCE OF A SECTION OF MEMBERS

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, you are aware that some Committee Members have engagements outside the precincts of the Assembly but we shall proceed with the Members that are present. Thank you. Next Order.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TASK FORCE BY THE EXECUTIVE

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Omoro, East Ugenya.

Hon. Omoro: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to give Notice of the following Motion:

Aware that the County Government of Siaya has established task forces within the Public service to undertake certain functions, **concerned** that the functions assigned to the task force are similar to the job descriptions of various offices within the County Public Service, **further concerned** that the terms of reference of such task forces are not clear to the Members of the County Assembly and Members of the Public, this House resolves;

1. That the County Executive submits a comprehensive list of all the task forces within the County Government to the Assembly, clearly indicating;
 - a) The rationale for establishing the taskforces.
 - b) The Membership of the taskforces

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- c) Terms of references of the taskforces
- d) Terms and conditions of service of Members of the taskforces including remuneration and allowances.
- e) Whether the establishment of the taskforces was provided for in the Budget of 2022/2023
- f) The attendant cost on the supplementary Budget.

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Omoro. You can now proceed to the next Notice of Motion.

Hon. Omoro: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Allow me to move the following Notice of Motion:

Aware that the Constitution of Kenya 2010 devolves the function of Agriculture to the County Government, **further** aware that Siaya County depends on Agriculture heavily as basic economic activity and own- source revenue, with the majority of its rural population taking part in different forms of farming including but not limited to crop farming, fish and animal husbandry,

Cognizant of the support given to agricultural sector by Agricultural Sector Support Development Program, ASSDAP2 which is one of the donor funded programs in Siaya County, which seeks to contribute to the transformation of crop, livestock and fisheries production, to commercially oriented enterprises to sustainable food and nutrition security and develop sustainable value chain for improved income,

Concerned that ASSDAP2 has endeavored to mentor and capacity build several farmers groups in fruits, indigenous chicken and fish value chains to improve their productivity and value addition thus promoting agribusiness amongst the youth and women in our society but who in turn are facing inadequate market for their produce, due to lack of coordinated support from the County Government and related stakeholders,

Noting that the public procurement and disposal act 2015, provides for 30% procurement reservation criteria for Youths, Women and Persons with Disability in all Government procurements, now therefore this Government resolves;

1. That the County Executive Committee Member for Trade, Industry and Cooperatives develops and submits to this House within 60 days a market strategy with a data base of affirmative farmer groups that will improve the market information by value chain actors in fish, fruits and indigenous chicken who are in Agribusiness for sustainable economic growth.
2. That the CECM for Agriculture prioritizes the procurement of local farm produce from local farmers with a reservation of 30% for Youth, women, and persons with disabilities farmers' groups in order to promote the theme of buy Siaya build Siaya in agricultural sector effective in the Financial Year 2023/2024.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Omoro. Next Order

MOTION

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TASK FORCE BY THE EXECUTIVE

Hon. Omoro: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Allow me to move the following Motion:
Aware that the County Government of Siaya has established task forces within the Public service, to undertake certain functions,
concerned that the functions assigned to the task force are similar to the job descriptions of various offices within the County Public Service,
further concerned that the terms of reference of such task forces are not clear to the Members of the County Assembly and Members of the Public, this House **resolves**;

2. That the County Executive submits a comprehensive list of all the task forces within the County Government to the Assembly, clearly indicating;
 - g) The rationale for establishing the taskforces.
 - h) The Membership of the taskforces
 - i) Terms of references of the taskforces
 - j) Terms and conditions of service of Members of the taskforces including remuneration and allowances.
 - k) Whether the establishment of the taskforces was provided for in the Budget of 2022/2023

Mr. Speaker, we are all aware that there was a constituted taskforce to check on some anomalies. One of them is the areas of revenue. In cases where the revenues were being collected and not properly used, the cases of ghost workers who were in the areas of revenue sector and other areas of financial reason that were seen as evidence that could be investigated into, and therefore a taskforce was formed to look into that.

After the taskforce was formed, it was not with the proper knowledge of the Assembly, and therefore the Assembly has deemed it fit to get clarity from the Executive, over the rationale that was used to establish the same task force.

The County Assembly would also like to know the Membership of the taskforce, also the terms of reference, the terms and conditions of the Membership of the taskforce including the remuneration.

The Executive should also put it clearly in the report, if there was a budget line in the 2022/2023 Supplementary Budget that would still sustain the same task force. I think when the task force was put in place, it was clear that the force was to work within one year.

From some other quarters it is whispered that the task force is geared to working for another extended period. It is important that the Executive sheds light on this. I call upon Hon. Julie to second.

The Deputy Speaker: Yes, Hon. Julie

(Hon. Okelo seconded)

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(Question put)

(Question proposed)

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Yes, Hon. Angule.

Hon. Angule: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I support this Motion. The executive should state categorically why they put the task force yet there were people who were concerned with those various job descriptions. It implies that we are double paying on these various aspects and yet we have other issues where we could spend money that will benefit the people of Siaya.

In that regard even 1 year is too much. It should be stated clearly when we are reminding the Executive that we need this Report as soon as yesterday so that we save our country from losing some substantial amount or paying this task force yet they are able people employed who carry out various activities. Thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Yes Hon. Majority Leader.

Hon. Otieno: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I am on my feet to support the Motion. At times I feel the Assembly is taken for granted. I don't see how a task force can be in place spending money that is passed by this Assembly but when it comes to accountability the Assembly is not notified. This Assembly demands to be furnished with the said explanation. Thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Yes Hon. Masidis.

Hon. Masidis: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I also rise to support the Motion and agree with my colleagues who spoke before me that this is a loophole area. We demand as a House responsibility from the Executive if a task force was formed with a specified period of work in the event that there is need for extension of the task force then the House needed to be informed in advance.

As already stated there is duplication of duties and if this is left unchecked then we continue losing valuable resources.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Yes Hon., Awita.

Hon. Awita: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I strongly feel that the House should demand proper explanation because we cannot be taken for granted. Thank you.

(Question put and agreed to)

MOTION

MARKETING AND PROCUREMENT OF LOCALLY PRODUCED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Hon. Omoro: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir. Aware that the Constitution of Kenya 2010 devolves agriculture as a function of the County Government. Further aware that Siaya County heavily depends on Agriculture as a basic economic activity and main source of own source revenue with a majority of its rural population taking part in different types of farming including but not limited to fish farming, crops and animal husbandry.

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Cognizant of the support given to the agriculture sector by the agricultural sector development support program ASDSP II which is one of the donor funded programs in Siaya County which seeks to contribute to the transformation of crop, livestock and fisheries production into commercially oriented enterprises for sustainable food and nutrition security and to develop sustainability priority value chains for improved income

Concerned that ASDSP II has endeavored to mentor and capacity build several farmers groups in fruits, indigenous chicken and fish value chains to improve their productivity and value addition thus promoting agribusiness amongst the youths and women in our society but who in turn are facing challenges of inadequate market for their produce due to lack of coordinated support from the County Government and related stakeholders.

Noting that the Public Procurement and Assets Disposal Act 2015 provides that for 30% procurement criteria for youth, women and PWD's in all government procurements now therefore this House resolves as:

1. The County Executive Member for Trade, Industry and Co-Operatives develops and submits to this House within 60 days a market strategy with a database of affirmative with farmer groups that will improve access to market information by value chain actors in fruits and indigenous chicken who are in agribusiness for economic growth.
2. The County Executive Committee Member for Agriculture, Irrigation, Food, Livestock and Fisheries prioritizes procurement of local farm produce from local farmers with a reservation of 30% for youth, women and PWD's farmers' groups in order to promote the theme of 'buy Siaya, build Siaya' in agricultural sector if effective the FY 2023/2024

We are all aware that agriculture is a devolved function of the County Government through the Constitution of Kenya 2010. In Siaya we entirely depend on agriculture as a source of our economic activity our livelihoods revolve around agriculture as a major source of engagement in our economic activities.

You also find that the County Government of Siaya gets a bigger chunk of revenue from agricultural produce within Siaya. For example, in the fisheries sector there are millions of revenue that is collected from that stream and if enhanced properly we think we are really going to improve our own source revenue if we really target the fishing sector.

Likewise, the crops and animal husbandry and crop production in those areas we normally get a lot of revenues that helps us steer the functions of the County Government.

Agriculture is also a source of food security for the population. Mainly, our food security and nutrition emanates from the fish, crops, animals and other food crops. The food security of Siaya is enhanced due to the agricultural productivity that has been put in front by the people of Siaya as however much there are several impediments towards achieving the stipulated goals.

Agriculture in Siaya has also been supported by the ASDSP II the Agriculture Sector Development Support Program which is a major donor funded program that has really capacity built several agricultural farming groups. These includes the youth, women and PWD's.

ASDSP II has really transformed the groups that I have mentioned here into a commercially oriented enterprise and henceforth those groups are now able to do their small farming enterprises and generate their income in terms of getting money through the same.

Through the several value chains that have been empowered by ASDSP II there are hitches because you find that the groups have been capacity built, they have been empowered,

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they are now agriculturally productive and they are producing a lot of good that need to be taken to the market but you find to their dismay that there is no properly channeled system of making sure that whatever has been produced from our local people meets the market.

A market is a major challenge that needs to be looked into by the County Government of Siaya through the CECM Agriculture, livestock and fisheries. You find that most of the groups that I have mentioned, they have the knowhow, the knowledge they have been empowered by various donors and therefore they are now able to produce chicks that can be sold as seeds to other farmers.

They are able to produce fingerlings. They are also able to produce grafted seedlings that if bought and given to other groups and other independent youth groups can be a milestone to the development of Agriculture in Siaya.

In this area we find that the various groups have been disadvantaged more so in the areas of procurement. You find in areas of procurement it is the big wigs that normally gain from the procurement processes in Siaya. The ‘who and who’s are the people who normally benefit.

The Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act 2015 gives a priority of 30% to the youths, women and PWD’s in all government procurements. This one has never been enhanced and therefore as much as we are working hard we are working round the clock to transform the lives of these affirmative farmer groups, our efforts are watered down.

It is in this vein that I have through the CECM Livestock and Fisheries, we ask kindly that in the subsequent FY 2023/2024 we would want to see a case scenario where the affirmative farmers’ groups are also given the priority in the procurement process.

The reason as to why we want our locally produced goods through a better procurement process is that maybe if we go for fish fingerlings we will go to Uganda or outside the country. When the fingerlings are brought, they are not the quality that we need.

When the chicken are sourced from central, maybe the chicks can never thrive in Siaya. We have mangoes, avocados that have been grafted within our local farms and this can be done locally within our area.

We urge that in the subsequent Financial Year the procurement process engulfs the facial affirmative action. I call upon Hon. Arunda to support.

Hon. Arunda: Seconded

(Question proposed)

Hon. Masidis: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I rise to support the Motion very strongly recognizing that Agriculture is the backbone of the economy of us people in Siaya, it is important that we encourage our farmers to grow more and for them to grow more we need to create market for them. It is unfortunate that Siaya as it is right now is food insecure.

Most of our foods actually come outside Siaya County as far as Uganda, Eldoret, Kitale, Kiambu and so forth. I support the Motion to demand of the CECM to show the strategies to be put in place to encourage farmers to grow more.

From my own experience, one of the setbacks is the high cost of inputs, so our produce ends up being expensive than produce from outside.

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In the issue of creating job opportunities, tenders and contracts for the marginalized groups as per the Constitution, the County Executive should go a step further and exercise flexibility to enable these young upcoming entrepreneurs to break into that market.

It is not very easy to break into this procurement system of this Assembly unless it is an affirmative action to enable them. Because if the rules are the same for everybody then our upcoming young groups and mothers and women groups will not be able to meet them. Thank you.

Hon. Angule: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I stand to support the Motion. Me being a fisherman, we buy fingerlings from far and at an expensive price. You find that someone brings you fingerlings maybe from Kakamega and estimates a small bag of fingerlings that contains 500 while in the real sense if you sit down to count them, you find that they are 250.

If you put them in the cage, you go into a loss because you will be feeding 500 fingerlings yet the fingerlings are only 250. I really support this Motion. We should be given an opportunity to produce our fingerlings around and produce the fish food.

Fish food from somewhere else is expensive and yet we are the people producing fish around the lake. Let the CECM concerned do a lot so that we can get fish. If given the opportunity, the production will be high and the price of fish won't be very high. At times we get fish from China yet around the lake we can produce fish which can sustain us and also export to other countries.

We need to build a fish processing industry around and this will also create some job opportunities to our young people. Thank you.

Hon. Okumu: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I rise to support the Motion. We have to check on the negative things that have always brought us down due to negligence from the Executive office, Agriculture sector.

We had cotton factory in Siaya and an individual in Siaya bought it and it went like that. He turned the building to be his. If you go to West Alego, a store was built which cost tax payers money but I am lucky because we are using it to store ECDE feeding food stuff i.e. maize and beans.

For us to succeed and make Hon. Omoro to be happy and the County as a whole, the Executive Wing must pull up their socks. If they don't, the Executive Wing and the Committee on Agriculture should push the Executive Wing to make it a success. Thank you.

A Hon. Member: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I support the Motion. We can use Lake Water for irrigation and help our young youths, the incoming generation. I support the Motion.

Hon. Wanzila: ... *"Naunga huu mjadala ya kulima mkono kwa kusema kwamba sisi kama Siaya tukifuga kuku kienyeji tunaweza faidi watu wengi sana haswa wamama na vijana kwa vile watakua wanafuga na kuuza.*

Kwa sasa huu msimu wa krismasi ni vigumu sana kupata kuku kwa maana wafugaji ni wachache kwa hivyo ukulima wa kuku itakua jambo muhimu tena yenye manufaa. Asante."

The Deputy Speaker: Yes, Hon. Member, are you on a point of Order?

Hon. Okumu: Yes, there is something I forgot to say and just want to add on...

The Deputy Speaker: Resume your seat Hon. Member, you are only allowed to deliberate ones in one Motion in the House so once you are done you are only allowed to whisper to your neighbour hasn't contributed to assist you.

Hon. Oguta!

Hon. Oguta: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I want to support the Motion and I want to put more emphasis that it should not be limited to fisheries, fruits and kitchen per say. It should include even the cereals and as we know in the NYALORE Government Agriculture is

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one of its key pillars and very soon, we are going to roll out implementation of Agriculture starting by ploughing and putting more effort and resources to cereal produce.

It is equally important that Ministry in line do a database of farmers who are also concerned with cereal produce. We should also know the market where we are going to sell the produce/ surplus. I therefore, support but still request that we do not just limit it but also think of cereals.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you. I now call upon the Mover to reply.

Hon. Omoro: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir. I first take this opportunity to congratulate the Hon. Members for seeing the sense in supporting the Motion the Marketing and Procurement of our locally produced goods

. As I had said earlier that Agriculture constitutes the major economic activities that we engage in Siaya and a major source of revenue as well as source of food security. As I said, ASDSP is also a major donor group that supports mostly affirmative farmer groups that is women and youths in Siaya and people living with disability.

This group is normally disadvantaged and the Motion stipulates properly that these people should be empowered by giving them 30%. It is in order that the Members have contributed towards the same course and the Motion stands supported virtually by almost all Members.

I also support the contribution by one Member that we should also engage in the production of animal feeds like the fish feeds and chick feeds so that we give a bigger coverage to our farmers. There was also a suggestion from one Member that we should have our own fish factory, and I support because you find that Lake Victoria gives us tons of fish but it's transported to Uganda through very huge vessels.

This is because we do not have a factory and the factories that were around went down, factories like Capital fish, Wet and many others. Therefore, factories from Uganda have taken over and they are buying our fish at very low prices. I also support the idea that the National Government together with the County Government should coin a strategy to curb the importation of the plastic fish from China.

Sometime before the general election, you would find that fish from China had mushroomed the market and was being sold as far as Siaya here, which should be regulated. A Member also contributed that the Motion should encapsulate even the production of crop. I think it is in the Motion that the ASDSP program in Siaya County seeks to contribute to the transformation of crop, livestock and fisheries and therefore, crops are also included which is cereals.

I congratulate the Members wholeheartedly for supporting the Motion and therefore what awaits is for the part of Executive by adhering to the 60 days deadline so that we would be able to have a Bill. Thank you.

(Question put and agreed to)

MOTION
ADJOURNMENT

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, would we be upstanding for adjournment. Hon. Members, there being no other business this House stands adjourned until Tuesday 6th December, 2022 at 9.30 a.m. in the chamber.

The House rose at 3.58 p.m.