

Wednesday 14th December, 2022 COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF SIAYA DEBATES

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

SIAYA COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THE HANSARD

Third Assembly – First Session

Wednesday 14th December, 2022

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

[The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Cynthia Akinyi) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

PAPERS

REPORT ON RECRUITMENT OF EXTERNAL MEMBERS OF SERVICE BOARD

Hon. Oduor: I wish to lay the Paper on the County Assembly Service Board Report on recruitment of external Members of Siaya County Assembly Service Board.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

REPORT ON RECRUITMENT OF EXTERNAL MEMBERS TO SERVICE BOARD

Hon. Oduor: Thank you, Madam Speaker; I wish to read the Report of the County Assembly Service Board on recruitment of external members to Siaya County Assembly Service Board,

That Pursuant to section 12 (3) d of the County Government Act 2012; this House approves the Report on the Siaya County Assembly Service Board on recruitment of external members of Siaya County Service Board laid on the Table of the House today, 14th December, 2022.

RENOVATION AND STOCKING OF YALA FISH HATCHERY AND MULTIPLICATION CENTER

Hon. Oinga: Thank you, Madam Speaker; I wish to give Notice of Motion on renovation and stocking of Yala Fish hatchery and multiplication center:

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Aware that the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 devolves all activities fisheries thus giving the County Government mandate to manage and develop the fish landing bays and ponds in order to facilitate all economic activities for the community and stakeholders,

Further aware that in Siaya County the main activities in fisheries sub-sector are capture fisheries in Lake Victoria, Lake Kanyaboli as well as dams and fisheries aquaculture undertaken in fish ponds as part of Blue Economy in boosting food security and creating employment opportunities,

Noting that the fish landing or catch in Siaya County is similar to the situation experienced in the other Counties riparian to Lake Victoria has been declining while the demand for fish has steadily been increasing,

In a bid to bridge the emerging gap between the supply and demand for fish, the National Government intensified fish production through the Aquaculture Business Development program jointly funded by the Government of Kenya and the International Fund for Development (IFAD).

The overall goal of AVDP is to eradicate poverty and increase food security and nutrition in rural communities in 15 Counties including Siaya through training and provision of fingerlings to farmers in mainland,

Further noting that Yala Fish hatchery center that sits in a 0.4ha piece of land along the banks of river Yala and other spring water supplies within a Government facility used for fingerling multiplication, incubation, demonstration and training center for farmers is dormant with no meaningful activities taking place and with a capacity to produce 5million fingerlings every year.

The concern here is that the County Executive department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries has been procuring fingerlings from private farmers in and outside the County for supply to farmers at higher prices which in many occasions are of low quality leading to low production and high cost incurred by farmers thus compromising the quality of the output.

We are requesting the Executive Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries to prioritize the renovation and stocking of Yala Fish hatchery farm with fingerlings to support fisheries activities and training of farmers in FY- 2023/24 Budget, thank you.

MOTION

REPORT ON RECRUITMENT OF EXTERNAL MEMBERS TO SERVICE BOARD

Hon. Oduor: Report on the County Assembly Service Board on the recruitment of external members to Siaya County Assembly Service Board. Pursuant to section 12 (3) d of the County Government Acts 2012, this House approves the Report of the Siaya County Assembly Service Board on recruitment of two external members of Siaya County Assembly Service Board laid on the Table of this House today 14th December, 2022.

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Hon. Members, after every 5 years we normally have two external members of the Board. Vacancy was declared and advertisement was done for two members. Interviews were done in 14th October, 2022 at 4 p.m. There were legal requirements as per the advertisement. Pursuant to the provisions of the section 9 (1) of the County Assembly Service Act 2017;

The statutory requirements for the position, a County Assembly Service Board member was denoted as follows; be a Kenyan citizen, degree from a University recognized in Kenya, 10 years of experience in public affairs, meet the requirements of Integrity in chapter 6 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010.

Other attributes desirable for appointment; demonstrate a high degree of professional and technical competency in work performances and results, demonstrate a thorough understanding of Devolution, there was a long list that was received from the applicants. We had 18 male and 12 female applicants, a total of 30.

There were appointment and Terms of Reference for the interview panel. The Siaya County Assembly Service Board constituted an interview panel comprising of the secretary of the Board and experts in the relevant field. The panel was tasked with short listing of the applicants and conducting interviews and making recommendations in the County Assembly for consideration.

The interview was done as per bullet 3 and the methods were there; one comprised of 70% mark and the second was oral interview at 30% marks. After shortlisting, 12 male and 10 female candidates were considered coming to a total of 22.

In bullet 5 we have the table; the merits of the list of candidates and I encourage Members to go through the table as I go through the observations of the panel. Two male candidates did not turn up for the interviews and did not give reasons for their absence.

Two female candidates did not turn up for the interviews and no reasons were advanced for their absence. One candidate, Mrs. Roselinda Barasa withdrew from the interview in writing vide a letter to the County Assembly Clerk one day before the interviews were conducted.

From the scrutiny of the oral and written interviews, the following male and female applicants emerged successful: Eliud Onyango Owino who scored 86.5%, emerging the best. He comes from West Gem and holds a Master of Arts degree from San Juan University in Costa Rica and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Corporate Leadership and Governance from the same university.

He is an immediate former member of the County Assembly Service Board having been recruited for first time in 2017 and has served for the statutory 5 years before applying for the position. Before joining the Siaya County Assembly Board Mr. Owino had served as an Assistant Director Quality Assurance and Standards officer with the Ministry of Education for 4 years.

He had previously served as a District Quality Assurance and Standards Officer in various districts in Kenya for 10 years. He therefore has relevant experience in public service

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spanning over 10years. Mr. Owino submitted all requisite documents as advertised and as per requirements of chapter 6 of the Constitution of Kenya.

Two, we also had Mrs. Margaret Aoko Olale who scored a total of 84.5% in combined marks from both oral and written interviews. She emerged the best out of all the female applicants.

She holds a bachelor degree in Community Development from Daystar University and has undertaken various professional courses in the line of her career. She has served in the Siaya County Assembly Service Board as a Member having been competitively recruited in 2013 and 2017.

Before joining CASB in 2013; she worked with World Bank as a Procurement Officer for 4years and she also worked in the same organization in the financial management as Disbursement Assistant for 7years amongst other engagements in the public sector. Mrs. Olale therefore has relevant qualifications and over 10years experience in the public sector as the requirements.

Recommendations; the Board therefore recommends the two candidates; Mr. Eliud Onyango Owino and Mrs. Margaret Aoko Olale.

Conclusion; Pursuant to section 4 of the First Schedule of the County Assembly Services Act 2017 which states that *the name of a person recommended under paragraph 3 shall be submitted to the County Assembly for approval and appointment in accordance with the Standing Orders of the Assembly.* This Report is herewith submitted to the Assembly for considerations and approval as the provisions of statutes. I ask Hon. Booker to second.

(Seconded by Hon. Booker)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Akinyi): Hon. Members, I now propose the question that Pursuant to section 12 (3d) of the County Government Act 2012 this House approves the Report of the Siaya County Assembly Service Board on recruitment of two external members of Siaya County Assembly Service Board laid on the Table of the House today, 14th December, 2022. The Report is open to debate.

Hon. Adala: Thank you, Madame Temporary Speaker. I have read the Report of the panel that did various interviews of those that applied. It is also worth identifying that this time round I think we had very many applicants as per the Report of the service team that did the vetting and the panel that also did the interview.

This House has fashioned itself as a House that goes for merit, looking at the scores that various applicants got and the two whose names have been submitted for adoption on the Floor. Let me also voice my concern that I happened to be in the Second Assembly and Mr. Onyango who has been the proposed gentleman served in the Service Board well.

I think for the 5years that I was here Mr. Onyango did his work beyond reproach and I wouldn't have any concern to voice against his name being discussed on the Floor of the House.

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Mrs. Margaret Olale; for those of us who are aware is a member of the Sinod and for those who are members of the Anglican Church you know that Sinods are not just persons appointed for the sake of appointing but they are people whose character is by and large beyond reproach.

Just like Mr. Onyango Owino, Mrs. Olale was also in the last Service Board and the success that we witnessed in the last Assembly Board was as a result of the work that was done by the County Assembly and the Members including our staff but that cannot go without the guidance and the support of the Service Board chaired by the Hon. Speaker who also got maximum support from the two.

This being a House that is focused towards being rated the best in the Country; we need a Board that will not only support our agenda as Members but will also give good oversight to the Assembly itself so that whatever we do is in line with what is required by law and that which we envision in the vision of the County Assembly.

I happen to have looked at the names of the people that were interviewed and without fear of contradiction I can say there are persons that I also happened to have worked with in the last Assembly but as Members of the County Assembly and those that were by and large also my friends; Abigael Awino represented Central Gem, Irene Shirley Oyuago represented gender in the County Assembly. They are individuals that I did work with for 5 years and I can report that they are also persons that know how to work.

I also know of Mr. Calisto Owino Sigunga as a person that also expressed interest to serve Members of the County Assembly. With those few remarks I support the Report as read; I just request that Members look at it from that angle and we are able to fast track things and move.

Hon. Odongo: Madam Temporary Speaker, allow me also to support and agree with the Report that the Board has recommended and those that are known to us. In the last Assembly I can confirm that we worked well with the two proposed individuals; that is Eliud Onyango Owino and Margaret Aoko Olale.

This Report confirms to the Assembly that it isn't through influence of anyone but it is based on merit because having looked at the list and it is in public domain that the two names that appear here of former Hon. Members who served with us and were the best in articulating issues in this House.

I believe that they were also friends with our Speaker; this means that the names that have been forwarded to us not through any influence of any other person but based on merit and I therefore support.

Hon. Madingu: Thank you so much, Madam Speaker; I want to take this moment to appreciate the entire team that worked on this Report. From the look of things, you can see that the position of Board Member attracted even people from outside the county because I have seen an applicant coming all the way from Mbita.

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Nya Mbita by the name Linet Agutu came all the way to showcase to us what she has to offer. Just the same way other Hon. Members have shared, I have observed that Hon. Abigael who is my predecessor, a noble lady, a lady who has a proven track record and was wearing the shoe am wearing currently as the Health chair in this House.

I have also seen Dr. Dan Douglas Opiyo Owuor who is also a member from my Ward. Therefore, it seems like this position attracted two people from my Ward and who in fact are neighbours. Therefore, even though we people from Gem thought we could get a chance and that is why we brought two of our best so that in case we fail to get the male representation then we get the female one.

However, fortunately or unfortunately we have gotten Eliud Onyango Owino who is also from Gem sub-county, though west Gem. Even though the people of Central Gem did not get a position, we are happy that still Gem is represented in the Board from West Gem.

To sum up I just want to say that reading the report I have realized that the members that have been given chance to serve us have proven their worth and they have proven to be the best among the applicants.

This just tells us that when you are given a chance to work or to prove your worth make sure that you give your all. As we all know this is a House of records and therefore, the successful candidates should know that we have hopes in them probably because they have proven their worth hence should work extra hard given that this House has settled on them as the best for the position. Therefore, I beg to support, thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Akinyi): Yes, Hon. Angule.

Hon. Angule: Thank you, mine is going to be very brief given that I don't know any of the Members but given the confidence I have in the Board chair, the vice chair and the Members who mostly are old guards of this House, I would support the Motion based on the experience that the two have served this House. I therefore, support!

Hon. Masidis: Thank you. I rise to add a female voice to the sentiments already given and I support the two colleagues. Personally, I have met the two candidates and I could tell just from the short interaction we had that they are mature, solid and are persons of integrity.

I also noticed that the two of them have good synergy, chemistry, and work very well. I literally know all the female candidates and who are very strong powerful and many of them if not all have had a stint in politics and that shows that they are really women of conviction and would serve in the position, only that the best candidate got the job.

I really support the recommendation as well as the work done by the Committee. Though personally just as an afterthought I think that for one position the shortlist was too long and gave the recruitment team a very hard time. I would have been happy if the list was shorter, otherwise I support.

The Majority Leader (Hon. Otieno): I would also like to support the Report brought by the vice chair of the Board. I have worked with Madam Olale in the first Board of this Assembly and for sure, she boosted that Board with a lot of wisdom given the experience she had from the various places she had worked.

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Secondly, when we joined this Assembly on 2nd August this year we got the Board running and benefitted from what they had spared for the Assembly. I think when we were consulting other Assemblies we found that it is only Siaya that managed to keep well their financial accounts, that enabled us get our benefits that come with our position as MCAs being the first Assembly to get its benefits.

I also want to say that the other advantage of the two is that they worked with the Speaker who is still the chairperson of the Board, and would it be that there were issues with them then he would not have allowed them to be appointed to the Board again.

I therefore, advice the 2 who have been nominated to the Board to take full mandate and ensure that the Board runs well because the Board is the body that is mandated with the day to day running of the Assembly.

Hon. Oluoch: Thank you, for record I am Philip Oluoch, Member for North Gem and I want to congratulate the two; Eliud and Olale for being nominated to be part of the Board. The Board is supposed to be the engine of the Assembly and for shortest time I have been here the two diligently plaid their roles well and have served us well including the facilitation of Hon. Members.

The welfare of Members is solely within their mandate so moving forward I believe they will play the best role they can and we wish them well.

Secondly, I want to also congratulate the rest who did not make it because most of them are our friends and our father's house is so big therefore, we will accommodate them elsewhere. So not securing a position now should not hinder them from pursuing other areas.

Hon. Rabinya: I would like to commend the team that did this. They were very competitive positions and from the records you can see how they performed. I think if things are done in the right way then complaints like the ones we had the other time may not be there.

I also want to congratulate Hon. Eliud and Canon Margaret. Hon. Eliud was my inspector when I was a teacher, and he was a good person, still good. So by him getting this position, I think he deserves it, Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Akinyi): I call upon the Mover to reply.

Hon. Oduor: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. As the Vice Chair of this Committee, I don't think I have much to say. All has been said from the Speakers.

You have heard, we can read from their lips that the report was good. I thank all Members who have spoken positively and those who have spoken silently. I call upon the House to approve the Report. Thank you.

(Motion put and agreed to)

MOTION**YALA FISH HATCHERY AND MULTIPLICATION CENTRE**

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Akinyi): Hon. Madingu you were to move this Motion on behalf of Hon. Kinyanyi. Please go ahead

Hon. Madingu: Thank you so much, Hon. Speaker. Allow me to move the Motion: **Aware** that the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 devolves all activities of fisheries thus giving County Governments the mandate to manage and develop the fish landing bays and ponds in order to facilitate all the economic activities for the community and stakeholders,

Further Aware that in Siaya County the main activities in Sub sector are capture fisheries in Lake Victoria, Lake Kanyaboli as well, as dams and fisheries, Aquaculture undertaken in fish ponds as part of Blue Economy in boosting food security and creating employment opportunities,

Noting that the fish landings/ catch in Siaya County same to the situation experienced in other Counties riparian to Lake Victoria, has been declining while demand for fish has steadily been increasing,

In bid to bridge the gap between the supply and demand for fish, the National Government intensified the fish production through the Aquaculture Business Development Program (ABDP) jointly funded by Government of Kenya and International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD).

The overall goal of ABDP is poverty reduction, and increased food security and nutrition in rural areas in 15 Counties including Siaya through training and provision of fingerlings to farmers in main land,

Further Noting that Yala Fish Hatchery Centre that sits on 0.4 Ha piece of land along the banks of River Yala and has a spring water within is a County Government facility used for fingerlings multiplication, incubation, demonstration and training for farmers is dormant with no meaningful activities taking place, and with a capacity to produce 5 million fingerlings every year,

Concerned that the County Executive Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries has been procuring fingerlings from private farmers within and outside the County for supply to farmers at higher prices which in many occasions are of low quality leading to low quality production and high cost incurred by farmers thus compromising the quality of the output,

Now Therefore, this House Resolves that the County Executive Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries prioritizes the renovation and stocking of Yala Fish Hatchery farm with fingerlings to support fisheries activities and training of farmers in Financial Year 2023/2024 Budget.

(Question proposed)

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Hon. Oinga: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. I beg to support the Motion read by Hon. Kinyanyi on renovation and stocking of Yala Hatchery and Multiplication Center.

Indeed if there is an existence of a Fish Hatchery and it only requires renovation, I think it is in order you could do much into social media. There was a time when Nakuru Town residents were complaining that one Mr. Omondi was contracted to supply fingerlings in Nakuru.

Unfortunately since the Nakuru people did not know much on this, Mr. Omondi decided to supply *Omena*. 8 months down the line they thought these were fingerlings which would grow to be fish.

If Siaya County could have a Hatchery and a multiplication center, I think it will not only open avenue for revenue collection but it will also support the farmers who I think the *Nyalore* manifesto are really concerned with, these farmers from our county can be able to access fingerlings at a subsidized cost. I beg to support the Motion so that our own county can also have our own production with controlled quality of fingerlings.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Akinyi): Yes Hon. Angule.

Hon. Angule: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. I support. I suggest that it is okay if it is done in Yala but more so it would be better if it is done along Lake Victoria. You see when you do the fingerlings along the lake and you provide to the fishermen the cages you will find that the distance from where the hatchery is to where you are taking the fingerlings is a little bit near.

When we take these fingerlings from far distance to where we are going to place them in the lake or in the cages there is that distance. The distance would normally make the fingerlings be stressed. You find that if you had 1000 fingerlings you may end up with 800 when you reach where you are supposed to be putting them.

I support but I would also request that next time we do the same along the lake for those who stay along Lake Victoria.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Akinyi): Yes Hon. Oduor.

Hon. Oduor: Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. I want to support the Motion, having been one of the fishermen along Lake Victoria. We used to get fingerlings from Mbita in another county. Coming from an area where there is a dam actually we have started doing some fish caging and those who have started doing it imported fingerlings from Busia and Kakamega.

That's the reason why I am in full support of this hatchery and I also add to it that maybe in future they can decentralize them maybe it can be done from various parts of the county that will also help in the movement for those people farming on Lake Victoria and are actually having fish ponds around. I support.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Akinyi): Yes Hon. Adala.

Hon. Adala: Asante sana, Madam Temporary Speaker. Nimesimama kuchangia hoja la samaki. Samaki ni tamu na ni yetu. Sisi sote tunapenda samaki. Asante sana

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Akinyi): Hon. Madingu, are you standing to support?

Hon. Madingu: I am standing to support because I was moving the Motion on behalf of Hon. Kinyanyi but in this one I have to support because as mentioned by Hon. Kinyanyi, in his

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Statement or Motion you realize that Yala not because I come from Gem but Yala is the best place to bring projects because one, there is already an existent land that is meant for this.

We already have a water body in the name of Yala river. We are having the University of Odera Kang'o which is based in Yala offering courses in fisheries and aquatic science.

We are also having certificate of fisheries so in line of trying to win the practicality of the course it will be an honour to put this in order so that students who are coming from Karamojong' or Nyeri are able to learn from practicality.

I would request this House for the purpose of learning and also I understand the worry of Hon. Angule on behalf of the people of West Yimbo but remember we are also trying to inculcate the culture of doing fish ponds.

When we are talking of fingerlings it's not about just taking them to the river so that we can have those cages. We are also trying to train young people who want to start fish ponds within the local areas and they will be able to access this fish in Yala area.

I beg to support this and on behalf of Hon. Kinyanyi I would request this Hon. House to...

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Akinyi): Hon. Madingu you have not been called to respond the House is still contributing. Yes Hon. Omwende.

Hon. Omwende: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Among the Motions that have been moved today, I think this one needs minimal contribution. It is good but sometimes of there is a challenge we do understand. The real Mover or Author of the Motion sometimes is very important to be here when we are moving such a Motion. We are just not moving it for the sake.

This thing has got some importance and I believe that when the author was arriving at this I think he had an agenda to push across.

Right now the way things are I don't think we are going to get the degree of what he wanted because among the contributions even the person that was given the opportunity to move the Motion, see how he was gambling. He was not prepared to Move this Motion.

In future let us be serious. This is something that is very important to this county and it also needs important address. It is a matter that we are not just talking and leaving and then it goes like that.

Hon. Odongo: Point of Order!

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Akinyi): Yes Hon. Odongo.

Hon. Odongo: Is it in order for a Hon. Member to lecture the House when Membrs are ready to contribute?

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Akinyi): I think Hon. Omwende is within his rights to give his opinion so we have allowed him. He can continue with the contributions.

Hon. Omwende: Thank you, Madam Speaker, though I remember calling you Mr. Speaker, we will understand these things as time goes. The importance of a Motion, once we pass them they have got some consequences. They must be fulfilled.

It's not a matter of just discussing them and then they go away just like that and so for that reason because I can read the mood of the House, Members are not ready to discuss this item

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further so why don't you call the Mover to reply? I should be the last person to contribute on this matter.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Akinyi): Hon. Omwende, you are out of Order. As we have allowed you to give your opinion let's give all the Members present a chance to contribute to the Motion.

Hon. Angule you are free to come up with a Motion on the ideas that you have on fish cages and fish farming along Lake Victoria. As a House we shall look at it. I call upon the Mover to reply.

Hon. Madingu: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I said very well that on behalf of Hon. William Kinyanyi, I tried to echo the importance and the reason why I feel the idea of trying to bring this project based in Yala into life is very paramount.

Again I have no option of what other Hon. Members think of how I have presented it because they have their own version of how they would have said it but unfortunately the Member and author of this Motion felt within his right to grant me a chance to present it to this House.

I might not have presented it the Hon. Omwende's way but I have done it my way trying to echo the reason why I think that even on the purpose that was not mentioned in this Motion because I think the author didn't want to expound further I was also trying to remind this House that we have a university within that area that is dealing with Fisheries and Aquatic Science.

It was going to be something that was going to be very instrumental to this county not only through development or economic empowerment but also through academic prowess.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Akinyi): I think you probably didn't get Hon. Omwende's idea. It was not how you moved it. He was just trying to say that if a Member has a Motion they need to bring it up themselves. Can we just move on?

Hon. Madingu: I request this House to support this Motion because it is of importance not only to the great people of Yala but also to Siaya County. I would request Hon. Angule also the way you echoed your sentiments that if such projects succeed in Yala I am very sure that when you come with projects of the same will also auger well with the people of West Yimbo.

I beg that Hon. Members in this House support this Motion.

(Question put and agreed to)

MOTION

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Speaker: Hon. Members, can we be upstanding for the Motion of adjournment!

(Hon. Members on their feet)

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The Temporary Speaker: There being no other Business, this House adjourns to tomorrow, December 15th, 2022 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 4.18 p.m.