

Thursday 11th May, 2023 COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF SIAYA DEBATES

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

SIAYA COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THE HANSARD

Third Assembly - second Session

Thursday 11th May, 2023

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

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

PRAYER

MOTION

FISCAL STRATEGY PAPER 2023 AND THE DEBT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY PAPER
2023/2024-2025/2026

Hon. Speaker: Yes, Budget Chair

Hon. Madialo: Mr. Speaker I wish to move the Motion:

THAT this House adopts the Report of the Budget and Appropriations Committee on the Siaya County Fiscal Strategy Paper 2023 and the Siaya County Debt Management Strategy Paper 2023/2024-2025/2026.

The Fiscal Strategy Paper and the Debt Management Report have been in the custody of the membership of this House for months. It has been spoken of, it has been discussed, Public Participation has been undertaken, interaction between the County Executive and the County Assembly has been undertaken and the contents are in the knowledge of the two arms of the Government.

The contents are self-speaking and I propose not to belabor on it with the detailed reading of the said contents because the report has been in our custody and knowledge. I will call upon *Mheshimiwa* Booker to second.

(Motion Seconded)

(Question proposed)

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Thursday 11th May, 2023 COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF SIAYA DEBATES

(Question put and agreed to)

MOTION

**REPORT OF THE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE SUPPLEMENTARY
BUDGET II FOR FY 2022/2023**

Hon. Madialo: Mr. Speaker, I would like to move the Motion:

THAT this House approves the Report of the Budget and Appropriations Committee on the Siaya County Supplementary Budget II for FY 2022/2023 laid on the Table of the House on Wednesday 10th May, 2023.

The rationale for the Supplementary Budget II as laid in this House was contained in the forwarding letter and included the following;

That there was need to bring into our budget lines the industrial parks as proposed by the National Government in their manifesto, and there was a proposal that the County Government does contribute towards this program in two tranches and the County Executive has proposed to introduce Kshs 100 million into the Budget to enable the National Government match what this Government is providing for that park.

It is akin to mandatory. There was need also to operationalize Ugunja and Bondo Municipalities by providing the said money to facilitate the management of those two institutions that are newly constituted. The other rationale was that pursuant to the policy of National Government there is need to provide for pending bills.

It is common knowledge that payment of pending bills is a requirement by the treasury as a condition for release of the monthly dues that goes to the Counties. The Report was given to each and every Member of this Assembly and I will go to the recommendations.

This Committee recommends that any variations that Ward specific projects by movement of funds therein be done with the consultation with membership. The County treasurer prioritizes settling of genuine and verified pending bills before any budgetary items are charged and while doing this transparency be observed to the maximum.

That pursuant to the resolution of the joint meeting of Committee on General oversight and County Executive held on the 8th May, 2023, this Committee recommends that before approval of the Supplementary Appropriations Bill 2023; the County treasury should submit to the County Assembly a list of all the pending bills intended for allocation in this Supplementary Budget for verification and approval of the House.

Upon such an approval and appropriation such pending bills should be given priority for payment. In the event of an accord between the respective MCAs and the County treasury for certain projects to be reduced or removed for the purposes of taking care of a pending bill or any other justifiable cause, this Committee recommends that such projects be given first chance in allocation during preparation of Financial Year 2023/24 estimates.

Given then insistence of the County treasury to maintain all sorts of projections at Kshs. 700,000million and without clear demonstration of achieving the target by end of the Financial Year, this Committee recommends that any deficit that would arise from over projection of the

Thursday 11th May, 2023 COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF SIAYA DEBATES

own source revenue be absorbed by the projects other than those specifically identified at the Ward levels.

During its interaction with the CEC Member for Finance on Wednesday 10th May, 2023 the Committee was notified of the County government intentions to allocate Kshs. 90million initially meant for recruitment of staff, supply of drugs and non-pharmaceuticals.

This Committee recommends that upon submission of an assurance that this would not create the deficit in the PE by the end of June 2023 this reallocation be approved and be spent as requested. In the process of verifying projects as to prioritizing payment of verified pending bills, this Committee takes cognizant that there has been procurement process initiated in certain projects.

It therefore recommends that any variation done should not lead to a removal of a project which has been awarded as this may lead to breach and further legal consequences in addition to frustrations of implementation over the process.

The County Assembly estimates say for any amendments that may be introduced by the County Assembly Service Board remains as was approved in Supplementary 1 FY-2022/23. In case of any changes then the same be communicated to the Committee in good time before consideration of the Appropriations bill 2023. With the above recommendations this Committee presents its Report for adoption by the County Assembly. Allow me to request Hon. Philip to second.

(Seconded)

Hon. Speaker: I therefore propose the question that this Hon. House approves the Report of Budget and Appropriations Committee on the Siaya County Supplementary Budget II FY-2023/24 laid on the Table of the House on Wednesday 10th May, 2023. Mover will you reply.

Hon. Odongo: Mr. Speaker, Sir; before the Mover replies, allow me to appreciate the work done by the Committee on Budget and Appropriations. I don't have much to say since we had already deliberated the same Report in Kisumu.

As I support the Supplementary Budget, there are some areas that I would request Hon. Chair for Budget and Appropriations Committee that it would have been in order to highlight which pending bills, the amount to be paid because I believe that before the Committee brought this Report they sat with the department of finance and reached an agreement. Therefore, when the document is brought to us with some areas blank it is not right.

I support, but I request that moving forward the Committee highlights the areas that I have mentioned and if it is a matter of payment of pending Bills, it is proper enough that I placed a request which was committed to Committee on Finance.

I want to confirm that I received a response yesterday evening and haven't gone through it on payment of pending Bills and it has pained me to hear that the Supplementary II Budget has got intentions of paying pending bills. Therefore, I would just urge that when we have such payments we need to know what kind of pending bills and how much we are paying.

Thank you.

Thursday 11th May, 2023 COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF SIAYA DEBATES

Hon. Madialo: Mr. Speaker, Sir. By the silence of our membership, I presume that we all support. Thank you for supporting the document and may the Ayes carry the day.

(Question put and agreed to)

Hon. Speaker: Charles you will advise the Member how not to violate the rules when the Speaker is on his feet.

At the statement hour, there was no communication so I want to invite Hon. Masidis Scolastica to just share with the Members on her trip to Mombasa on their welfare if you have anything to share because we are going to close in a few minutes. Will you?

Hon. Masidis: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I would like to give a very brief summary of the deliberations in Nairobi. Mr. Speaker Sir, it was in Nairobi not Mombasa. The meeting of all MCAs that took place on the 3rd May, 2023 bringing together more than 2200 MCAs from across the Country.

For your information Siaya is one of the Counties that subscribed heavily with over 30 MCAs subscribing out of 42. However, there were many Counties with 100% participation with 40 Counties who fully paid though those who attended were around 2200.

I want to thank all those who supported this mission, I was among the few who had been in the forefront of the discussion, and I formed part of the steering Committee. Siaya was represented by 9 of us who attended the meeting physically and they can attest to the mood of the meeting.

People were excited, energized and there was an overwhelming support to the mission of the day. The key issue to clarify here is that the meeting was driven by need from MCAs and there is no splinter groups from CAF as some people may think. There was a vacuum which was filled by the necessity of MCAs to come together and speak about their issues.

There were resolutions made, there was a petition, a list of 9 issues that were raised and the key one was on salaries and allowances for Members of the County Assemblies. We all agreed that our salaries are low and here we are fighting for the welfare of the MCAs irrespective of the party.

It was not about Kenya Kwanza and Azimio parties but about all MCAs and you could see that the divide was not there and we were all fighting for the welfare of all MCAs. Among them, the key resolution was we wanted the MCAs' salaries to be reviewed and there was a figure that was proposed, I think from where we are, to over three hundred. I don't have the figures off-head but it is three hundred plus.

We also asked for the reinstatement of the Plenary Sitting allowances, we asked for the introduction of the Ward Development Fund. We also asked for harmonization of the pensions for MCAs. There were 9 recommendations.

Hon. Speaker: You don't have to list all of them.

Hon. Masidis: They are all for the welfare of MCAs. We asked for a forum from the Executive that we would like this issue to be addressed and gave an ultimatum that these issues

Thursday 11th May, 2023 COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF SIAYA DEBATES

should be addressed within 14 days or at least there should be a discussion within the 14 days, failure of which we all agreed as MCAs that we are going to down our tools.

The 14 days ultimatum ends on Tuesday next week. I think it will be on the 16th and I think after that we agreed that we are going to down our tools, we are not going to attend any Assembly meetings, we are not going to approve any Budget and that's a collective...

Hon. Speaker: Including General Oversight? We are not attending General Oversight? Okay, fine you will do a formal report.

Hon. Masidis: We shall do a formal report but that's what we agreed. After the 14th there's going to be further communication. I am going to share that communication. Most of us are on that WhatsApp group that was established, the Kenya MCAs, which was full and then we were asked to go to the next platform, which is Telegram.

That's where updates are put every day. Literally on an hourly basis there is an update on that wall. I urge you to sign up on that wall so that you are updated but also I will when there's key information I will share on our WhatsApp group.

As we go on recess I just want you to keep this information on the back of your mind, that you will need everybody to come together. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Then I am also advising that you will consult with the membership, if they want us to go to Mombasa before we close the Financial year, then you will advise us so that we are able to make the necessary adjustments in the Budget, not very significantly. So you will consult the Members and communicate to us.

Hon. Masidis: Okay when is Mombasa supposed to be?

Hon. Speaker: Just consult them then you let me know. In case they want to go before 30th of June then we'll see how to go with our Budget.

Hon. Masidis: That's already a consensus that we want to go before 30th of June.

Hon. Speaker: Then we shall coordinate with the Committee on Budget if we are to make any alterations.

Hon. Masidis: It's fine so we have agreed we want to go to Mombasa before 30th June. Chairman for Committee on Budget please note that.

(Loud consultation)

Hon. Speaker: While you were away Hon. Cynthia was coordinating the attendance of a funeral in Sakwa. Maybe, Cynthia you can give us any report and way forward?

Hon. Akinyi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. As we all know Hon. Arunda lost her mom about 2 weeks ago. The burial is today. The current tentative plan, I say tentative because we agreed that we are going to discuss, if we continue with that or we'll move to last respect insurance.

So the current tentative plan is that each member then contributes Kshs. 3000 if a Member loses a parent or a spouse or a child. So currently all of us apart from one Member, Hon. Awita have brought their contributions, I am not able to get her on phone, so we have Kshs. 120,000 from the Members. We had Kshs. 5,000 from the Speaker and Kshs. 3,500 from the Clerk. So the total amount of money that we are going to support our sister with is Kshs. 128,500.

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Thursday 11th May, 2023 COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF SIAYA DEBATES

During the Harambee, because she had a fundraiser which unfortunately none of us attended, I think it was on a Sunday, even though we didn't attend, our Kshs. 70, 000 was sent from the Assembly Membership to that Harambee.

Today we are going to present Kshs. 58, 500 in cash. So just to say thank you Members for always standing by ourselves that is from the Welfare Committee. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: What time are we expected at the funeral?

Hon. Akinyi: We are expected at the funeral at 11 O'clock.

Hon. Masidis: Mr. Speaker, how do we move, together? Or everybody finds their way, or we meet at Pride? I think it'll be better if we converged at the Pride then we move together from there because I am told towards the... is it that place we went near the lake? Let's meet at Pride at 11 a.m. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Okay?

Hon. Akinyi: Okay.

Hon. Speaker: As we close let me just direct that there are recommendations the Committee on Budget has given that might dictate further actions on the Budget propositions and sometimes also there are comments made by the COB on the Budget as passed so if there are alterations which will be necessitated by the COB recommendations or Committee recommendations that they be communicated to the House before or during the passage of the Appropriations Bill.

Oh, sorry, sorry, sorry. Yes Hon. Dorothy.

Hon. Oinga: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Allow me to register my appreciation to Members of this House for sparing their time and coming to stand with me on our church Harambee. You helped us raise Kshs. 905,000 and we do appreciate so much and our people from home were very happy and they appreciated your coming. May you continue with the same spirit and thanks for the love that you showed.

Hon. Speaker: Yes Hon. Masidis.

Hon. Masidis: Sorry to come up again. I would like to inform the colleagues that we have a plan as the Women Caucus to go and have Cervical Cancer screening on Monday and we received a request from many colleagues that they would like their spouses to be enjoined in so we welcome your spouses.

I am going to communicate to you the exact timing so that you can invite your wives to come and join us so that they too become champions in the villages.

Hon. Speaker: Our wives lead today.

(Loud consultations)

Thank you.

Hon. Omoro: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I would also like to urge the members of the Committee on Agriculture to shortly remain behind, there is an issue. We want to discuss something shortly before we break.

Hon. Speaker: The Chair for Committee on Finance, how about your Report?

Hon. Oduor: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Our report is ready I thought I would lay it today but I have just consulted with my Clerk, she needed to take that report to your office first.

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Thursday 11th May, 2023 COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF SIAYA DEBATES

MOTION
ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker: There being no other Business, this House adjourns as per our Calendar, we will reconvene on the 6th of June, 2023 in the Chamber or on notice should there be need for special Sitting.

The House rose at 10.56 a.m.