

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF SAMBURU



THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 5th September, 2023

The Assembly met at the County Assembly Chambers at 2:30 p.m.

The Speaker, (Mr. Lenamarle Stephen), in the Chair

PRAYER

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

The Speaker, (Mr. Lenamarle Stephen): Hon. Members, I stand before you today with great honor and pleasure as we reconvene in this Assembly, the heart of our County's legislative process. As we gather here once again, I would like to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to all our esteemed members who are returning from recess. Your presence in this chamber reaffirms our commitment to the people of Samburu and our collective responsibility to shape the future of our County.

During the recess period, I have had the privilege of interacting with many of you and the wards we all represent. These conversations have provided valuable insights into the pressing issues facing our County and the aspirations of our citizens. It is evident that there is much work to be done, and our wards are eagerly awaiting the positive outcomes of our deliberations.

Hon. Members, However, it has come to my attention, and indeed the attention of many concerned citizens, that the previous year witnessed a notable absence in one crucial aspect of our legislative duties – the passage of Bills. We, as the representatives of the people of Samburu, have the solemn duty to propose, debate, and pass legislation that will improve the lives of our constituents.

While we may have faced challenges and disagreements in the past, let us remind ourselves that we are here not for our own interests, but for the greater good of our County. Our role transcends party lines and personal differences; it is about fulfilling the aspirations of the people who entrusted us with their voices and votes.

Hon. Members, today, I urge each and every one of us to approach this term with renewed dedication and a commitment to excellence. We have an opportunity to address the pressing issues that our County faces, such as access to quality healthcare, education, infrastructure development, and economic empowerment for our people. These are not just empty promises; they are the cornerstone of our mandate.

Hon. Members, let us remember that progress is not measured solely by the number of Bills passed but by the positive impact of those Bills on the lives of our citizens. It is my hope that, in

this term, we will prioritize collaboration, dialogue, and compromise to ensure that we can move forward with a shared vision for Samburu County.

Hon. Members, in conclusion, I implore each and every one of you to put the interests of our wards at the forefront of your agenda. Let us engage in spirited debates, but let those debates lead to concrete actions and the passage of meaningful legislation. Our people are depending on us, and history will judge us by our actions and the legacy we leave behind.

Welcome back from recess, honorable members. Let us rise to the occasion, overcome the challenges, and work tirelessly to make Samburu County a better place for all its residents.

Thank you, and May this term be marked by progress, unity, and prosperity for our beloved County. Thank you very much.

PAPERS

MCA Nyiro Ward, (Hon. Lemoosa Jonathan): Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. The Public Finance Management Act Section 127/1 in accordance with Article 220/2, we are in receipt of the County Annual Development Plan 2024/2025 and I seek privileged and leave to table, thank you Sir.

(Hon. Lemoosa tables the Paper)

The Speaker, (Mr. Stephen Lenamarle): This paper stands committed to the Committee on Finance, Economic Planning and ICT let them report as stipulated in our Standing Order. Hon. Silapia do you have something to say?

Specially Elected MCA, (Hon. Lenamatio Silapia): No.

STATEMENTS

Specially Elected MCA, (Hon. Lenamatio Silapia): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise to do a follow up on the Statement of the feeding program I sorted in the last month and you ruled that it would be brought back today on the 5th, Tuesday, thank you Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker, (Mr. Stephen Lenamarle): Chairman on Education Committee.

Chairperson, Committee on Education and Vocational Training, (Hon. Lawrence Lorunyei): Thank you Mr. Speaker. As the Hon. Member has said that the Statement ought to have been responded to today. I had requested the Members to give me the ghost schools and I had also requested the office of the Clerk for facilitation so that we can go for fact-finding. They did not give me the list, they wanted me to respond as the complained and also we have not been facilitated. I said that the report from the Education Department which I said that it is not convenient because the Committee needs to go to those schools for fact-finding and for this reason I beg for another day to respond, thank you.

The Speaker, (Mr. Stephen Lenamarle): When are you intending to report?

Chairperson, Committee on Education and Vocational Training, (Hon. Lawrence Lorunyei): Mr. Speaker as per today I am going to ask the Members to give me the list of the ghost schools which they claim that they are ghost schools and then come to the office for facilitation so that we can visit schools because we need to go to schools from Wamba North, Samburu North and also Samburu Central. It is only until we are facilitated can we go for fact-finding, thank you Mr. Speaker.

MCA Nyiro Ward, (Hon. Lemoosa Jonathan): Mr. Speaker I also sit in that Committee on Education and we actually wish to be a member and your office, because much of the information that was actually volunteered seems to be malicious. I went through schools which were actually believed to be ghosts especially in Nyiro and I find that actually that is malice because most schools are live schools; not even classrooms they are live schools. So we need time with the member. Last month, we were so engaged. We had the CASA games, we had the devolution conference so we did not do much actually.

We plead that the member gives us time and with your authority also that we do something tangible because it does not need to be rushed because I think somebody who was doing that was a busybody. Thank you.

The Speaker, (Mr. Lenamarle Stephen): The Chair for Education, I think much of the work was done. The only thing that is remaining is to identify the ghost schools. There is an honorable

member who declared that in his ward there are already three. He has made your work to be a bit easy because he has already identified the schools. Is Tuesday next week okay with you?

MCA Nachola Ward, (Hon. Lorunyei Lawrence): Mr. Speaker, I beg that bring the report, return it is not good because we need to verify those schools so that we can give facts on the floor of this house. Unless you are ready for our facilitation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MCA Lodokejek Ward, (Hon. Lekuchula David): Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I think it is now getting to two months since we started the issue of school feeding program. We have been here each and every day asking for reports from the department. It has been postponed. This week comes and it has been postponed again. The other day they brought a very shallow report.

I beg you, Hon. Speaker. You need to rule the exact date that we get this full information. You know we have two issues here. We have the ghost schools that we are talking about and also some schools which are existing are missing in the list of schools that received relief food. We need the committee to pull up their socks. Please. Thank you Hon. Speaker.

Specially Elected MCA, (Hon. Lenamatiyo Silapia): Thank you Hon. Speaker. Let me rise again and say the committee on education should be serious on this matter. I think this is a very serious matter because it touches on our young ones who are studying in the ECD Centers across Samburu County. I do remember that day that we identified several ghost schools and also the private schools across this county that the department indicated that they distributed food to them. So, Hon. Speaker let this committee pull up their socks and if they are not serious we can as well take another way and form an ad hoc committee to take lead. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

MCA Nachola Ward, (Hon. Lorunyei Lawrence): Mr. Speaker we are up to the task. Being given a report there to read here, we are not for that. That is why we requested the office for facilitation so that we go one on one and bring the facts, verified reports to the honorable house. We wrote a request for facilitation, you signed it, it was presented to the Clerk but we have not been facilitated.

I only ask the honorable member to give us time so that immediately we are facilitated, we shall come with facts. Mr. Speaker we know we are serious. Otherwise, the report is there. The office

has responded but if she wants that we read it tomorrow because I have it with me we will read it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MCA Nyiro Ward, (Hon. Lemoosa Jonathan): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the matter is weighty and actually needs some good work to be done. Other than waiting for the report, another report from the department...I am aware there is a list. A list which can authentic or otherwise. That is why the committee wants to the area to certify these schools are ghost schools.

What Hon. Lekuchula said is true. There are other schools which were omitted in that particular list and are live schools. For example, in my ward there is a school in Parkati and also in Sarima and a few around Nyiro. They are not in that list. This is exactly why the Chair is calling for some patience because we all understand that over the month of August 2023 or even July, there were no vote heads and the committee cannot work without facilitation.

Yes, the Speaker has approved the facilitation but there was no vote head to charge. This is exactly why we are saying can we have authentic report from the committee and that is why we are calling for patience so that we bring a comprehensive report. This will give the existing schools and the non-existing schools. I do not know all the 15 wards. Some might have ghost schools and some might have the omitted schools, either deliberate or I do not know for what reason.

Mr. Speaker, the funding is there. We can even go tomorrow and that is why we are saying Tuesday is too close. Why do we not give ourselves ample time so that we bring a comprehensive, authentic report to the house rather than bring a report that will be turned down by the members? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MCA Lodokejek Ward, (Hon. Lekuchula David): Thank you again, Hon. Speaker. I think before the committee goes to collect information, they need to bring the report from the department so that when they go to collect reports from the public they can compare the two, instead of collecting information without the report from the department. Thank you.

MCA Nachola Ward, (Hon. Lorunyei Lawrence): Mr. Speaker, I do not know where the honorable member was because we had that report here. The schools, the list and the rations. Everything. The complaints came from the list. It was said that there were some ghost schools

and private schools. That is why we are now narrowing in on the ghost schools and the private schools. Hon. Lekuchula, through The Speaker, the report was brought by the department and now we are narrowing down on the private schools and ghost schools. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

The Speaker, (Hon. Lenamarle Stephen): Honorable Chair, I think two weeks is enough for you. I will give you up to the 19th of September, that is Tuesday after next week. Give us a comprehensive report and what we want to know is the ghost schools. If the ghost schools are there we want to know where the food went to. If there are private schools, we also want to know the criteria used to feed the private schools. So, on Tuesday 19th September at 2:30pm you give us a comprehensive report.

MCA Nyiro Ward, (Hon. Lemoosa Jonathan): I am sorry to bring an input after The Speaker, but this is just to say there are some fresh input from the Speaker. I think the concerned secretariat can give us the input from The Speaker so that we can incorporate it in our report. Thank you.

MCA Nachola Ward, (Hon. Lorunyei Lawrence): Yes, we can do that but I would ask Hon. Speaker, you order the Clerk to do the facilitation as quickly as possible.

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker, (Mr. Lenamarle Stephen): I have already ordered because once I approve I have ordered. Honorable Members, the time being 3:27pm and there being no any other business this assembly now adjourns until Wednesday 6th September 2023 at 9:00am.