

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF SAMBURU



THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 13th February, 2018

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

The Speaker, (Mr. Lempere Solomon) in the Chair

PRAYER

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

NUMBER 1, 2018: ADDRESS ON TUESDAY 13TH FEBRUARY, 2018 BY THE SPEAKER OF THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF SAMBURU ON THE OCCASION OF RESUMING BUSINESS AFTER A LONG RECESS.

The Speaker, (hon. Lempere Solomon): H.E, the Governor of Samburu County, Hon. Moses Lenolkulal; H.E, the Deputy Governor, Hon. Julius Leseeto; Hon. Members of the County Assembly; Hon. CEC Members; Ladies and Gentlemen.

It's my pleasure to welcome you back to the Assembly for yet another session in the Second Assembly. I wish to extend a warm welcome and wish everyone the best in executing the mandate of this Assembly.

We meet again after being away for two months in line with our Assembly Calendar. It is my considered view that recess should not only serve as repose but also serve as a reminder of our core duty of representing our constituents.

Our 2018 Assembly Calendar has been designed not only to enable us spend enough time in doing House Business but also offer Members considerable time for other activities outside the Assembly.

The occasion of today's session warrants me to reflect on significance and centrality in our work as legislators, as well as contribution to the image and decorum of our Assembly. This Assembly exists primarily for one reason only, and that is to solve the problems and meet the needs of our people. To do that, we, therefore, need to constantly remind ourselves of what this Assembly expects of us as Members, how we carry out oversight, and the impact of bills passed by us on the people for whom we are here to represent. Fundamentally we should be aware of what is expected of MCAs outside this House.

Deliberations in our county Assembly are accessed by the public within the county and beyond. Therefore, we must always be conscious of the fact that we are actually speaking to the people out there. When ordinary people listen to their representatives speaking, they actually want to hear themselves speaking. If arguments are articulated convincingly, people will want to associate with that because they always want to associate themselves with what is noble and what is lucid.

We must do things differently, the on-going practice of non-attendance in the House reflects very badly on the decorum of this Assembly. On this note, I am happy that the Assembly has embraced technology and soon we shall be having the electronic registers. However, Members it is my honest opinion that when it comes to time management and attendance of House sittings, it is more of personal responsibility as a leader.

A substantial moment also needs to be channeled towards empowering our Members on the technical aspects of bills. Our committee members must be equipped with the necessary skills and expertise to rectify bills before bringing them to the house for adoption.

I wish to state that emphasis shall be placed on committee work as we move forward. The purpose of Assembly committees is to perform functions which the Houses themselves are not well fitted to perform, such as carrying out inquiries, hearing witnesses, sifting evidence, discussing matters in detail and formulating reasoned conclusions. This kind of work is more effectively carried out by small groups of Members. A further advantage of committees is that several of them can operate at a time, which enables many more matters to be dealt with.

In closing, I wish to reiterate that, as Members we have the responsibility to improve the role played by this important organ of the Samburu County Government, as mandated by our Constitution. Our individual efforts and collective must contribute towards making this Assembly a critical pillar in a paradigm of a developmental government. This Assembly must act as the voice of the people and an important platform for monitoring the implementation of policy programs of the county government.

Once again, may I take this opportunity to officially welcome His Excellency, the Governor of Samburu County, Hon. Moses Lenolkulal, to address this Assembly. This is a special moment for him to open the session for the year 2018. Welcome your Excellency.

SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

The hon. Speaker of the County Assembly of Samburu, The hon. Members of the County Assembly of Samburu, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. Today marks another auspicious occasion as we all convene for the opening of this hon. House for the year 2018. This is indeed another year that God has granted us to serve the people of the County of Samburu in our various leadership capacities.

Hon. Members, as we all set out in our respective tasks this year; let us continue with the spirit of a people-centered leadership that defines the ultimate existence of our call of purpose, be it in the representation, oversight and legislation in the County Assembly or public service at the executive wing of the county government. We have come a long way towards the realization of the devolution dream as a county that once suffered from vagaries of marginalization for decades dating back to the days of pre and post-colonial Kenya. The County Government of Samburu has set up crucial public based development projects in the past five years of devolution in the areas of health, agriculture, tourism, infrastructure, education, social services and lands. Were it not for the continued cordial relationship of both arms of the county government, many of our development projects and programs could not have taken effect, most importantly, all for the benefit of our people.

Hon. Members, in the recent past, preparations of the 2018-2022 Samburu County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) have kicked off in earnest. The CIDP formulation process has undergone a number of very successful engagements during public participation sessions with sectoral players in different development fields both in the governmental and non-governmental entities and communities from the Samburu county village administrative units from all our wards. I also thank you all for turning up for the public participation sessions in your wards.

Different technical teams drawn both from the government and the development partners will soon finish the final preparation of the Samburu County CIDP 2018-2022 document.

An integrated and a holistic development planning process that meets socio-economic, political and environmental aspirations is an important approach in the modern economic development agenda. Apart from enhancing faster economic growth, it also enhances harmony between various sectors, especially in our County's economy. The CIDP is majorly anchored on three pillars (Food Security, Health care and Education) which are Samburu Government's 3 strategic thrust areas identified that should stimulate the entire service delivery impetus in the county. Our CIDP also conforms to President's big 4 agenda.

Hon. Members, the issue of inter-communal conflicts spurred by age-old livestock raid practices has continued unabated more so at the Samburu north sub county. We have lost hundreds of lives and property worth millions as a result of related acts. Tension is still high between two communities following a recent raid incident that saw thousands of cattle, sheep and goats being driven away by bandits and the killings of young men. Though it is not the constitutional mandate of the county governments to directly counter insecurity incidents, it is high time that inter-governmental approaches to dealing with this perennial problem that has continuously affected communities in the north for decades be reinforced.

I equally reach out to the national government which is tasked with the security role to revisit its strategies towards dealing with the runaway insecurity in the Samburu North region. Livestock economy constitutes close to 90% of our people's livelihood but its future has always been at stake due to the danger posed by human conflict alongside vagaries of nature, such as drought, all of which can be managed to certain levels. By virtue of people losing their livelihoods, also means a loss of the human dignity and the future of the respective generations.

Hon. Members, even as effects of drought are being felt across the county during this period, the county government will embark on food distribution programs beginning next week in Samburu East and North Sub-counties on efforts geared towards hunger mitigation. 720 metric tons of maize and 33 metric tons of vegetable oil will be distributed.

The Samburu County Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Policy development is at an advanced stage. Plans are also underway to establish a long term community-based food security sustainable projects. The three major ones being: irrigation schemes in Arsim, Lulu and Kurungu. The County's Livestock department will also distribute drought resilient camel breeds to livestock farmers in the lowlands. Further, on efforts to address the problem of water shortage for the county residents during this drought period, the Samburu County Government's department of Water has embarked on the equipping works for 29 solar-powered boreholes across the Samburu central, East and North sub counties. The ongoing borehole equipping works are slated to be completed by the end of this month. The Samburu Central Sub-county will have 17 of its boreholes equipped during this season, the Samburu East will have 8 of its boreholes equipped and a further 4 of the boreholes will be equipped in the Samburu North Sub-county besides the servicing and repair of existing ones.

Hon. Members, on efforts to enhance service delivery to our people, the county assembly plays an integral legislative role in passing relevant legislations which are crucial in the establishment of the relevant legal and institutional frameworks towards the operations of the devolved units. I urge this hon. House to fast-track the following bills:

1. The Samburu County Health Services Bill, 2018
2. The Samburu County Livestock Sale Yards Bill, 2018
3. The Samburu County Spatial Planning Bill, 2018
4. The Samburu County Cooperatives Societies Bill, 2018
5. The Samburu County Trade Licensing Bill, 2018 and
6. The Samburu County Trade Bill, 2018.

Hon. Members, as we start off this year, it is my sincere hope that we will all journey together towards the uplifting of the standards of the great County of Samburu in all our different endeavors. Challenges have always been there as we go about dispensing our different leadership tasks but that should not be the reason to hold back our quest to advance the agenda of development of our people. We, for example, have had the challenge of a cash crunch brought about by liquidity issues at the National Treasury hitting counties across the country. This has caused delays in our commitment to make payments in time and completion of various projects.

Nevertheless, my government has laid out ambitious development plans geared towards the improvement of the quality of life in the region.

With those few remarks, I wish you success as you all embark on your respective endeavors for the year and may God bless you and God bless Samburu County.

The Speaker, (hon. Lempere Solomon): Hon. Members, the time being 3 minutes past 3 o'clock and there being no other business, this Assembly stands adjourned until Wednesday, 14th February, 2018 at 9 am.