

SAMBURU COUNTY ASSEMBLY



THE HANSARD

Thursday, 23rd July 2015

The assembly met at the County Assembly chambers at 2.30. p.m

Temporary speaker, (hon. Raisy Letura) in the chair

PRAYER

STATEMENTS

MCA Maralal ward (Hon. Elly Loldepe): Thank you Mr. speaker sir, I rise to give a response to a statement requested by Hon. Benjamin Leitore, Member for Wamba west ward to the sectorial committee on Finance, Economic, planning and Marketing. Hon. Speaker sir, Hon. Benjamin Leitore member for Wamba west requested for the statement on 17th July 2015 from the chairperson of the sectorial committee on Finance, Economic, Planning and Marketing regarding the collection of revenue and employment of Revenue clerks in Samburu East sub-county. Hon. Speaker the committee conveyed the request for the statement to the County Executive Member in-charge of Finance, Economic planning and Marketing. Hon. Speaker sir, on behalf of the committee I wish to report on the communication received from the County Executive committee member (CEC) and I beg to lay this response from the committee member to this house in regard to the above statement. Mr. Speaker there were three major questions raised by the Hon. Member, and one was what plans the department has on collection of revenue on sand harvesting in Wamba west ward and other parts of the county. The county treasury will have the plan and have it budgeted to collect revenue from sand harvesting and we have collected Ksh.12.3 Million with a big improvement coming from Archers-post town of Waso ward and Baragoi town. In Wamba west, we do not have even a single designated purchasing site with a revenue clerk and there are so many sites where sand is being harvested for example *Parsilinka*, *Lodung'okwe* and its environs but the big challenge is that there is no revenue clerk apparently in the county Revenue department since we are yet to receive any from the county public service board. Plans to erect barriers and loosen gaps at *Lalantare* junction and are currently under the department annual work plan. Secondly, Hon. Benjamin Leitore also requested to know what are the plans of curbing loss of revenue in Samburu National Reserve, the department has done a lot to stream line revenue collection and seal loop holes which include automation of revenue, procure accounting revenue account system which the county government has done that is advertising, evaluation technical and we are in the stages of piloting before we hit a snag. However, we were advice by the CRO a board mandated to monitor revenue collection. In the county satisfactory as per Article 52 of the constitution and we can now move on, it is not true to mention that revenue collection from Samburu National Reserve has declined by the attached records as before 2011/2012 to 2014/2015. The National Reserve revenue is divided into four categories namely: Gate collection, Food and accommodation charges, ground rent. The first three entirely depends on the number of tourists but the ground is fixed. Despite the challenges affecting the Kenya tourism sector the gate collection improved from an average of shs.2 million in 2012/2013 to shs.4 million in 2014/2015. Hon. Speaker sir, the department is still faced with strategies to deploy at all sides and has also partnered with the department of tourism to enhance market of Samburu as a destination for tourism, the number of tourists has been decreasing due to the following:

1. Ebola
2. Terrorism in Kenya
3. Insecurity in our county
4. Grazing of livestock in the park

Hon. Speaker the third issue, requested by Hon. Leitore was when will the revenue clerks be employed and the criteria to be used in employing them. The employment of Revenue clerks for livestock market is on-going by the public service board as requested by the attached indent form the department dated 24th November 2014. However, the department still needs 48 more revenue clerks to meet the needs to the other sectors that is public works, ALS, barriers, quarries, upcoming slaughter houses, land rents and sand harvesting. In the spirit of regional balance the county government will recruit nine revenue clerks from each sub-county making it 27 Revenue clerks and in Wamba west ward in Samburu East sub-county the department will recruit two for *Lpus* and *Sesia* livestock markets. Mr. Speaker attached is the indent as requested by the department and the public service board and Mr. Speaker I think it is very clear on the number of revenue clerks which have been requested by the department, Ndoto ward will have four, in Ilaut, Seren and Tankar. Ng'iro one, Kururngu, Elbarta, one in Baragoi town, Nachola one in Marti, Barsaloi two in Nkorika and Barsaloi zone, Maralal one, in Maralal town, Porro one in Porro, Loosuk one in Loibor Nkare, Suguta marmar three in Loolmolog, Suguta and Loongewan, Lodojekek three in Kisima, Lekuru and Kirimom. Wamba ward one in Ngilai, Wamba East three in Loolkuniani and Wamba town, Wamba west two in Lpus and Sesia, Waso three in Ndonyio wasin, Sere olipi and Archers post town making a total number of 27. Thank you Mr. Speaker sir.

MCA Wamba west, (Hon. Leitore): Thank you Mr. Speaker sir, first and foremost I want to appreciate the answer given by the department and even in extension Hon. Speaker I want to appreciate the response from the vice chair Hon. Loldepe. I know Mr. Speaker that this has been a statement from the Hon. Member the chair person, and I want to appreciate the answer and Mr. Speaker with all that said, the answer is not adequate Hon. Speaker because I am not yet contented with the report that there is no sand harvest in my ward and particularly I think all members will bear me witness Hon. Speaker that some time back almost two years back there was a barrier in *Sura-Adoru* then there was a barrier somewhere around *Lodung'okwe* just for sand harvesting to collect cess from sand harvesters. Hon. Speaker sir but the three sites that have not been mentioned by the department here shows that they are not interested in collecting any more revenue from sand harvesting which has actually been left to be destroyed or utilized by the department since the establishment of the County government. Mr. Speaker this shows that the department does not collect revenue so the records of the past local authority could bear me witness that there were such revenue collection points for sand harvesting especially in *Lodung'okwe* and *Sura-Adoru*. Even at the *Sura-Adoru* point it was used to collect revenue from the *Lodung'okwe* point so Mr. speaker we see that there is no sand harvesting or the department is not informed of any sand harvesting points in my ward is totally misleading Mr.

Speaker, and I request that the department should be serious in collecting revenue. Secondly, Mr. Speaker on the issue of revenue collection at Samburu National Reserve and specifically at the gate and Mr. Speaker we are losing a lot and the loss of revenue has also demoralized the staff working at Samburu National Reserve. That is why we hear a lot of cases or incidences of our pastoralists taking their animals to the park because people are demoralized on how this park is managed. Mr. Speaker just imagine a situation whereby cattle collects revenue from the headquarters for the tourists who tend to come to Samburu National Reserve, then they say the same service, collecting revenue at our gate. Mr. Speaker we are losing a lot, the study indicates that automation was installed in Narok county has actually increased the revenue collection from Shs.200 million to almost a billion, hence they need to go the same way as a county because we have interest of collecting revenue for service delivery. So Mr. Speaker, I think the department should be serious on revenue collection because when they only inform us of the interest of revenue collection without expectations I think Mr. Speaker it is not right and the department needs to do a lot. We appreciate the mechanism placed to collect revenue but it is not adequate and we call upon the department to make sure that revenue is collected. Mr. Speaker I also requested to know when the Livestock revenue clerks will be recruited, it has taken a long time the advertisement was run around the month of November or December and it almost eight months down the line without the recruitment taking place. This is a disservice to the people of Samburu, applicants had already applied and up to now nobody have been recruited and I think the department should speed up the recruitment of the revenue clerks in order to improve revenue collection because we need a lot from our livestock markets, sand harvesting and many other collection points. Thank you Hon. Speaker.

MCA Ang'ata Nanyokie, (Hon. Lemulugo): Thank you Hon. Speaker, we are not really satisfied with the report Mr. speaker, there are so many markets or points of revenue collections which have not been mentioned as we do not have the attachments which the Hon. Member for Maralal ward read, but there are also many businesses in my ward, livestock markets which have not mentioned and I see a lot of people who are coming for internship Mr. Speaker but they collect revenue Mr. Speaker. There are people at *Nkorika* market and there is a small market in *Lpus* not mentioned, and all those people from Barsaloi are collecting revenue, so Mr. Speaker our collections have really decreased and I think it is spent in other ways, as Hon. Leitore said that our people are being demoralized at Samburu National Reserve, the same happens at other places we have many other markets such as *Lekuru*, big markets like *Loolkuniani* and our revenue should increase Mr. Speaker. But I ask the same question that the revenue clerks positions were advertised on 22nd December 2014 and the department has been silent up to now though we see some other people coming and collect revenue I do not know what criteria has been used to hire those people at the ground. So we do not say that we do not have those revenue collectors because they are there, but there are people at some areas to collect the revenue so may be that revenue is used in other way because it will be indicated in our revenue collection so the

department should first employ the revenue clerks and they should be clear on the criteria they will use to do that, thank you Mr. speaker.

MCA Maralal Ward (Hon. Elly Loldepe): Thank you Hon. Speaker Sir, Mr. Speaker I think also that the issues raised are of my concern, but Mr. Speaker it is good to also appreciate the fact that the answers brought by the department actually answers the questions as raised initially, because there are questions that were raised initially that are fully answered, and what we have now here are other concerns that were either within our hearts or the thinking we had initially. I think we had taken long out of the concerns of the Members and I think that maybe the committee other than just the statement we will follow up those other issue because I think that the questions raised are within the statement. Hon. Speaker and that the issue of cattle I think that institution memories sometimes is also good, and I think Hon. Leitore was also part of the institutional memory because he was there in the previous local authority, and the question now raised actually raised within the statement so there was no way actually we could have easily captured them, so I think those other concerns we would have taken note of them and we will also furnish the house as soon as possible, thank you.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Raisy Letura): Hon. Chair of finance, what do you think you need to do to address the issues that face the statement, because I believe that it is true that most of the concerns of your statement were addressed, and again there are some other issues like the automation of the system which is not very clear and the other is also about the attached report that is the comparison and analysis for the 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 financial years. So what time do you think you need to address those and the other four issues that have been raised by the following revenue collection records 2014/2015, recruitment of revenue clerks, and also the criteria for employment as asked by Hon. Lemoosa, and also the automation of the revenue collection systems, and the very much raised by the members of this house, maybe those are the few concerns that you need to give us guideline to sort, we also note this down for record purposes

MCA Maralal Ward (Hon. Elly Loldepe): Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir, since all these are new concerns, I think it will require more than three weeks, and we will need three weeks as a committee because we will not need to rush and say that we will bring this issues to this house tomorrow, then again we will be told to go back, because there are verification to be made in terms of revenue collection, there are verification to be made in terms of clerks raised that they have been recruited which we are not aware of. In Angata Nanyukie which we are not aware of, there are concerns on the new markets and we think that the department actually picked up very few. There are also other revenue streams which I am aware that the members need to know, although initially it was like addressed to the livestock market. So in terms of getting valid and critical information Hon. Speaker, I think the committee needs three weeks to furnish this Hon.

House, so we need to make something conclusive and I think three weeks for us is the most prudent

Hon. Leakono Point of information

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Raisy Letura): Hon. Leakono let the member finish so that you can inform the house.

MCA Elbarta Ward (Hon. Romano Leakono): Thank you Speaker, I just wanted to inform the Hon. Member that there is nothing like three weeks. There is nothing there to research for him, it is only going back to the records to tell this gentleman to give us the information that is lying on their tables. So it is the same thing as he says three weeks it actually shows the lack of seriousness that the Hon. Member is trying to defend the executive, you see, there was nothing there besides collecting the information that is lying on the table of the executive, so one week should be enough, thank you Hon. Speaker.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Raisy Letura): Hon. Loldepe did you want three weeks to bring a report to the house or you wanted to bring a response from the CEC in charge of finance because if it is a report you may require more time

MCA Maralal Ward (Hon. Elly Loldepe): Mr. Speaker I think that there are many concerns raised by the Members and that is what we need. For example I do not know how we will know the motivation or the morale booster of the staff in Samburu National Reserve as raised by Hon. Leitore that the staff are demoralized, and you want us to know what really transpired between 2011-2015 that the staff are more demoralized now than they were previously when they were working in the previous local authority. Unless some of the terms of reference that we needed to actually bring up to the house are relooked in the context of what we need to bring back but if we have to, then we need to raise facts and I think that two weeks cannot be enough so three weeks will be enough for us, thank you

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Raisy Letura): Hon. Leitore, the chair wants to make a ruling but I can always give you to ventilate once more.

MCA Wamba West (Hon. Benjamin Leitore): Thank you Mr. Speaker, I a member representing Samburu National Reserve, and for the purpose of knowledge I want the members to understand that Samburu National Reserve is part of our ward. So that is why I am so much impressed and I want to accept the request from the Hon. Chair for Finance but this issue requires adequate time because a lot of information needs to be collected, and 90% of our revenue comes from Samburu National Reserve, so I also request that even the issue of demoralization and the establishment of the relationship between cattle and the revenue department should also be informed and investigated. So I want to concur that adequate time should also be given to this committee thank you.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Raisy Letura): Thank you Hon. Members, I think the issue of collection of revenue which is a concern of most of the Members, and as Hon. Loldepe has put it that this house requires a comprehensive report on the same because we are finding ourselves getting piece meal information from the same, I think it is also enough of this County when revenue collected from the Samburu National Reserve. I give this committee three weeks as requested by the Hon. Loldepe to bring the report to the House on August 13th Thursday 2015. See to it that you have a report; you need to work on it to see that we have a comprehensive report that answers most of the Members concerns in this house. Hon. Members, the time being seven minutes past four o'clock and there being no any other business, this Assembly stands adjourned until Tuesday 28th July at 2:30 pm