

SAMBURU COUNTY ASSEMBLY



THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 5TH May, 2015

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

(The Speaker Samburu County Assembly (Mr. Steve Lelegwe) in the chair)

PRAYERS

MOTION

DEBATE ON THE STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS BY THE GOVERNOR.

Majority Whip, (hon. Benjamin Leitore): Thank you Mr. Speaker, I rise to move the following motion, that the thanks of the assembly be recorded for the exposition of the public policy contained in the address of His Excellency the Governor which was delivered on Wednesday 29th April, 2015. I call upon hon. Lesoipa to second.

(Hon. Shdrack Lesoipa MCA Suguta marmam ward bows to second).

The Speaker, (Mr. Steve Lelegwe): Thank you hon. Members, I therefore propose the question that the thanks of the assembly be recorded for exposition of public policy contained in the address of His Excellency the Governor, whose address was delivered on Wednesday 29th April, 2015. Hon. Members, I welcome your contributions on the speech. Hon. Lesoipa.

MCA Suguta Marmar ward, (hon. Shadrack Lesoipa): Thank you Mr. Speaker, I stand to congratulate His Excellency the Governor for the good speech and the good things that we have seen so far. However, there are still more concerns especially on the issues of security. It is becoming a major concern and if there are no measures that are taken I think even the good issues that we are seeing pertaining to development here might not be realized. We are aware that we are a bit tied up on issues of security since these are issues to be tackled by the national government, though we must address this issue in our county. I think this issue is of interest to us and we can even quote from the Okoa Kenya initiative. There are some parts of it enshrined in the memorandum that security be devolved to the county governments. So, I don't see why we should not join the Okoa Kenya initiative to have the issue of security be devolved so that we can be able to manage it at county levels. So, the speech was good but there are still some issues like insecurity that needs to be addressed and they are becoming so volatile to an extent that other issues may not be realized. People are losing lives day-in-day-out. I think there is so little that have been mentioned in the speech of the Governor pertaining the issues of insecurity which leaves us with no hope. I also want to talk on issues of natural resources where some were

mentioned. More is still needed to be done to feel the resource that we have within our society especially issues that have been mentioned on quarry in Loosuk and Lolmolok areas. Little has been done and that is the only natural resource that has been exploited properly. So, it left the communities around the resource with no help to enable them to exploit this resource properly, thank you.

Majority Whip, (hon. Benjamin Leitore): Thank you Mr. Speaker, I also want to take time to congratulate the Governor for such a good speech. Wednesday last week was a historic day for the County of Samburu because this was one of the most valuable addresses that this house has ever received from the Governor. Besides that, I think the meetings that this house held with the Governor to find the way forward on unity issues was an indication that this county will move forward. Other than pointing out the small issues that may have been left out accidentally or unnoticed unless it is intentional and I know this should not go to the Governor but to the people who drafted his address. Because, mentioning the Deputy Governor, then hon. Speaker, then going to the Majority and Minority Leaders leaving the Deputy Speaker unmentioned was an oversight unless it was intentional. That is only one problem that I would like to point out from his address and I think this was just a typing error. What has been said and the Governor took note in his address, he outlined the activities that his government has undertaken especially on Agriculture, Livestock and the rest of the departments. It is an indication that this government has the objective of improving the lives of the Samburu residents. It is only in his address that we have found that little have been done on reclaiming our land because 80% of Samburu County residents are livestock keepers. So, it is only 20% that is fervourable to the agricultural farming. The government is not keen on reclaiming our land that we graze our livestock especially on the low lands. That is Samburu East and North. A lot needs to be done because, if we say that the government intends to improve our breeds, why do we do that if there are no grazing lands, no enough grass and a lot of our land is bare hence carried away by soil erosion. We are even getting threats to our facilities, be they dispensaries or schools, being swept away by water because of soil erosion. I want to congratulate the government especially the Governor for such a good address and this is an indication that the government will deliver the promises that it made to the people of Samburu County, thank you.

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MCA Maralal ward, (hon. Elly Loldepe): Thank you Mr. Speaker, I wish to add my voice to the speech of His Excellency the Governor of Samburu County. First is to congratulate the county government for the much that has been achieved as elaborated in the speech. As hon. Leitore has just said, I noted with dismay that the Office of the Deputy Speaker was either ignored intentionally or by mistake. A lot is still desired because it is a big office such that when you are typing a report, there is no way that somebody can just omit it. So, that is one of the concerns and I think every office which are found in the constitution of this republic must be respected and given due attention that they deserve. I also wish to note that as much as the public is being recognized in active participation, I think this house has a noble role to play in enhancing public participation, because, he said the public has been ably participating. I know we have also been taking part in public participation and there is a bill in this house which we need to push forward so that we get the modalities of how people will be engaged actively and fully without being segregated. Because, one of the notable things that communities are raising is that public participation is selective. So, unless there is a law that addresses the gap on selective public participation then the people of this county will still have so many dreams that will never be realized. I think that is one of the issues that, although addressed by His Excellency the Governor, the how is not really very clear and we need as a house to push on so that the legislation can cover up on the issues of public participation in the best way possible. I also wish to take note on the issues of agriculture as noted by His Excellency the Governor. There are many activities done including the 200 tones of seeds and 75 tones of fertilizer. This is one of my major concerns and which I think this house needs to follow up. I did call the CEC I think a week ago that the fertilizer that was brought into this county meant for the people, either through the county government or the National Cereals and Produce Board, also found it is way back to Nyahururu. We have provided evidence on that to the CEC concerned where people's names were released. I think the Manager in charge of the National Cereals and Produce Board was even using names of the staff working under the board. The fertilizers got out of the stores through the staff names but with a different ID number. The number was of the person who collected and the name was of a different person. The only other trace you had is the contact for the person who collected the fertilizer. I think this house, especially the Committee on Agriculture, needs to follow up on what really happened on the fertilizers because there is a very

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big mess happening. It went to a different destination other than the people intended for. We can still provide evidence on that. We need to increase food production in this county because we are a food-deficient County that deserves to feed its own population. I wish to also take note because in the speech of His Excellency the Governor, we have done the construction of ECD centres and recruited teachers for the jobs. And if my mind still serves me right, there were only 300 positions advertised which were filled by teachers. But I have seen continuously the number 320 being used in terms of teachers employed. So, I wonder whether there were teachers recruited through the back door. Because the advert provided for 300 people yet the speech says 320. And even those who were recruited the other time, and we saw the names on the notice board, were only 300. I am worried because the number I know is 300. Still on education, the budget was about Shs. 90 million but I am not sure whether for school fees and the bursaries this was changed because. I think it was around Shs. 60 million. So, unless the department concerned clarifies and puts more efforts to increase the funding because we need more. What I know and what I have seen is Shs. 60 million yet the speech says Shs. 90 million. In terms of water, His Excellency the Governor said the activities were undertaken by the Ministry of Roads and Public Works yet there are many others listed but the issue of perennial shortage of water is lacking in his speech. For instance, in Maralal we have heard the design for the dam was done and we have been budgeting for several years. The speech by the Governor does not take note of that and we are left worried whether this is something that is forgotten completely or there are other plans. At this moment it leaves us to ponder without a solution or without knowing what is next. Touching on issues of conservancy, I thought they could help us improve especially in terms of wildlife and environmental conservation. I know Kirisia East and West conservancies are not picking up and it is not clear whether there is any strategy to improve them because they are dormant and nothing is really happening. The department of tourism should also take note so that they are revived so that the issue they were intended for in the first place is also realized. The Governor also noted that the county government purchased Posho mills which were distributed to women groups. I am one of the disappointed persons on these. It is funny that one of the Posho mills disappeared mysteriously in this compound after a Lkuroto women group was allegedly given and it was supposed to be taken to them after three days once transportation was provided. Sometimes, we give a lot of things to communities but they disappear suddenly. So, I urge the

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department and the Chair for Tourism to take note of that and help us understand what had actually happened on what Lkuroto had been given. The hon. Deputy speaker warned me not to allow these things to slip-over to the next day but unfortunately we could not. We transported to his ward but for Maralal, we were given a tractor to transport them but mysteriously, everything disappeared. I wish to quickly comment on two issues. One is about implementation of activities in the county, because there are activities that we have always budgeted for. I would like to take note of the Archers Post dispensary which was mentioned as taking too long to be implemented. So, I do not know which committee should take up the issues of implementation in this county because things are being delayed either intentionally to defect the public on what they need to have achieved or I don't know by design or default may be a lot need to be desired and may be this also needs to take keen note so that activity implementation planned actually take into consideration that they are implemented within the necessary time frame other than delaying so that money for previous years disappears within air and I would like to take note that the 9 million for bursaries that this house has been following up. I was with the Minister this morning but unfortunately due to time lapse, the Shs. 9 million disappeared and even the department is not aware what really happened. The minister is even asking for our help to find out what happened. The money was awarded to students but the finance department changed this secretly. Despite all this, the community knows that their children were awarded Shs. 9 million. When this house continues to keep quiet when things are being implemented in a very slow manner, this is one of the ways of enhancing corruption. People can still do things and hide them in the subsequent years. Finally, on environment, I think the environment is more activity-based as noted by hon. Leitore and we are not taking care of it. If we take care of our environment, then it will take good care of us. Because if we deplete natural resources and our environment without even any other measure not just planting trees, not even in a systematic manner, I have seen the ministry planting trees sometimes in the forest even in the places where animals go to take water then those trees are nowhere to be found after a few days. I can give an example of Tamiyoi area where Kenya Defense Forces were taken, several organizations and the department itself went to plant over almost 6,000 seedlings and not even one at the moment is surviving. I think even the department needs to think more carefully on what to be done other than just spending money to

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complete the budget without any impact. That is my contribution on His Excellency the Governor's speech, thank you.

MCA Loosuk ward, (Hon. Adamson Lanyasunya): Thank you, hon. Speaker, I want to contribute to the Governor's speech, just to strengthen the areas other members have also talked about and one crucial area is that, I would like to see the situation whereby the community participation is highly strengthened because that is the pillar and key strategy and a means to identify community priority. It will enhance the proper address to the community needs. Am witnessing a situation whereby respective departments are making budgets in their offices without consulting the communities besides the routine and the traditional representation of the budget as regards the public participation and this normally makes the department to present what they have already indicated in their budget. But in terms of project cycle, the strategy should be that the departments, because that is their role, should go to the communities before they make any budget and inquire into the communities priorities. I can give an example of my ward where I see a lot of problems in terms of inadequate access to water, health services and other services. These are communities that are continuously crying. It is now two years down the line that the communities are not seeing the CECs or the chief officers or other officers preparing community public meetings and this sometimes forces the MCAs to play double role of them being the legislators and also them being development officers too. There is a crucial problem in our county now as far as security matters are concerned and as much as we know that the mandate of security is under the national government, I propose if this county can make a County Peace Policy which will actually be budgeted for such that communities will be able to have peace meetings every time so that they will be able to abandon traditional restocking mechanisms and focus on the modern trends. So, it is high time as a house and the executive that we come up with the county policy which will enable us to address the root causes of insecurity. Most of the responsive measures as far as addressing insecurity lies within the government's back. In terms of county peace policy, this can address preventive measures which are more important. (3) I had been in the conservation field before and I remember when insecurity was escalating especially in the East, the establishment of the conservancy has really assisted the community. In terms of peace and combating insecurity mayhems, I would also suggest that the county strengthens the conservation measures either by increasing the infrastructural strategies

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like increment of radio calls, patrols and so on. (4). It is experiencing a big problem among the youth in terms of lack of skills. So, I will propose if polytechnics are given a priority and mobilization is done all over the county to identify. When I used to be at the university, when we had ASUS, we have been going around training the youth on how they can identify their careers and 80% of our youth in the county, are drop outs either at primary or high school. So, if we can create programs for the youth to sensitize them on the different kinds of ventures like middle level skills and also the aspect of youth and employment. We would like to see the county address that in terms of regional balance and so on. We can also see our county, though it is still young, trying to address the issue of food insecurity especially through the supply of tractors and animal seeds, but I would like the speech taking the aspect of value addition either for crop production and livestock production e.g. hides and skins either abattoirs and so on. So, this can also be taught as a strategy to create employment among the communities because, we don't have places to sell our products. Lastly, the facilitation of land use strategy in terms of solving the conflict of boundaries either between the counties or the group ranches and facilitating the communities to get title deeds, especially for the group ranches that are not yet registered because, this also enhances land use and also fasten the community's spirits to develop, thank you.

The Speaker, (hon. Steve Lelegwe): Thank you hon. Members, I will postpone putting the question until tomorrow, Wednesday, and we will continue discussing the speech of His Excellency the Governor tomorrow at 9 am. There being no any other business and the time being twenty six minutes past three o'clock, the county assembly stand adjourned until Wednesday morning 9 pm.