

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF SAMBURU



THE HANSARD

Thursday, 8th March, 2018

**The Assembly met at the County Assembly chambers at 2:30 p.m. (The Mr. Lempere
Solomon{*in the Chair*})**

PRAYER

STATEMENTS

MCA Suguta Marmar ward, (Hon. Shadrack Lesoipa): Thank you Hon. Speaker. Pursuant to Standing Orders No. 45 (2) (c), I hereby respond to statement No. 03/2018 requested by the Member for Wamba East, Hon. Lucas Lekwaale regarding the Council monthly allowances. I now read the message received from the County Secretary. Hon Speaker, the letter is dated 6th March, 2018; Reference number SCG/CS/STATEMENTS/VOL.1/13, to the Clerk of the County Assembly of Samburu. “My office is in receipt of the request for statement vide Ref. SBU/CA/CK/CLP/VOL.1/006 dated 28th February, 2018 regarding the village council monthly allowance. The responses are as follows:

1. Whether there is any binding regulation that guides on the payment of the village council monthly allowance.

The Executive derives the authority to pay village Council sitting allowances as per the approval of the Cabinet special meeting held on 29th April, 2016. Annexure 1 attached

2. Why is payment of village council delaying?

The village council is on Board appointment and not salaried employment. This comes with the hiccups the County Government is experiencing with cash follow. Annexure 2 attached

3. Whether the concerned department is aware of the signed July and August payment schedules, while recipients haven't received their allowances.

As per their appointment letters, their contract ended on 7th August, 2017. Therefore, no payment schedule was signed for the month of August 2017 but July payment schedule was signed and sitting allowance paid. However, there is one-month unpaid allowance which will be paid when funds are available. With kind regards, Stephen Siringa Letinina County Secretary and Head of Public Service County Government of Samburu.”

MCA Wamba East, (Hon. Lucas Lekwaale): Mr. Speaker, I am not satisfied with the statement response given by the Leader of Majority because of the following:

Question two answer says that the County Government experiences hiccups in cash flow and I do not want to believe that the Executive staff employees have got their salaries, so why are the

village elders not paid while the others have been paid on time. Recently there was Kshs.120 million was given to this County, why has it not been used to pay the Council of elders?

They admitted that one month's allowance has not been paid but am surprised that the month is not specified so I assume it is July. They said that they will pay when money will be available, so I ask when will this be? They would have given a time line Mr. Speaker, I understand that their contract ended and they have not been paid, it is not good.

MCA Maralal Ward, (Hon. Fred Kiragu): Thank you hon. Speaker, I also want to say that this answer is not satisfactory, their contract has ended and they are not paid and new elders have not been appointed. This is holding the Administration in ransom because they cannot deliver service since they are demoralized. They might have not been told that their contract has ended, so they will continue becoming stumbling blocks in their areas of jurisdiction. The Leader of majority should make sure that these people move in heist to appoint other elders

MCA Nachola Ward, (Hon. Lawrence Lorunyei): Mr. Speaker, yesterday you ordered the County Secretary to come here with statement response or no vetting, he just wrote a response to please us that he did something, I don't know how serious he is. There is contradiction in response for question three because there is no specification of which month is not yet paid, we are taken as children. These elders are very important at the ground because they help the village administrators in addressing issues and coordinating County activities.

If they have not been informed that their contracts have ended and that their one month remaining pay will be delayed how will they know what is happening? Funds have already been signed and withdrawn so they must be paid because if not it shows that money has been taken somewhere else; this shows signs of looting, misuse and loopholes in the Executive.

I thank hon. Lekwaale for seeking this statement; the Members serving for their second term in this House are working with the village elders and they do not know how to explain about the lack of payment. Mr. Speaker I ask for your guidance in specification of when the remaining payment will be due and when the new village elders will be appointed, thank you Mr. Speaker.

Specially Elected Member, (Hon. Stephanie Lanyasunya): Thank you hon. Speaker, I want to concur with my colleagues that this report was done in a hurry and was not thought well of hence

it's not conclusive. With the new constitution passed in 2010, the idea was to devolve power, decision making and resources

At the end tail of decentralization of the structure are the village elders, these are people who know people in the villages, are with them every time, understand their aspirations and problems so I tend to think this was a position created for a purpose and maybe the usefulness is over, that is why their role is not recognized.

These are people deserving an honorary exit and if their term has ended it should be humane. Is this the statement Members want I think that we deserve something better, thank you hon. Speaker.

MCA Wamba West, (Hon. Benjamin Leitore): Thank you Mr. Speaker, I want to give my sentiment on this. The Executive is trying to play with the Assembly with this response Mr. Speaker because looking at the response for the question number three; whether the concerned department is aware of the signed July and August payment schedules, while recipients haven't received their allowances. It is true that signing of these schedules were done in August and the payment of whichever month was done on August, by saying that their contract ended in July therefore no payment then why was the schedule signed in August not July, Mr. Speaker this is disrespect even to the response.

Mr. Speaker we seek your guidance on how to deal with the Executive because it is playing with people's lives. I concur with hon. Stephanie (Lanyasunya) that appointment to these positions was a desire to achieve an objective in a particular period, an objective on how to play with people's mind given the opportunity to work for the County government, since the end of campaigns and elections, the village councils were no longer in existence. The honourable thing the County should have done is to pay off their pending allowance by the end of August so that we start recruiting new ones. It is more than six months since they were last paid, this is disrespect to our people and as their representatives we will not allow this any more

The total allowances to the village councils are five million and the County government has received more than a billion for this period, settling the village councils is a problem. We seek you direction on this Mr. Speaker because this is a serious play with the people we represent.

The Speaker, (Mr. Lempere Solomon): Hon. Members, Pursuant to Standing Orders No. 1, I wish to give directions in regards to this statement now that there are other issues being raised and they were not in the statement. I now direct to the Committee on Labour and Social Welfare to pick up the matter and report to this House

(Applause)

Hon. Members, the time being 4:53 Pm, and there being no other business this Assembly now adjourns until Tuesday March 13th, 2018 at 2:30 Pm