

BARINGO COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THE HANSARD

The House met on Tuesday 14th February 2023 at 9:38AM

The Speaker (Hon. Kemboi) in Chair

PRAYERS

The Speaker (Hon. Kemboi): Sergeant-At-Arms we don't have quorum kindly ring the quorum bell

(Quorum bell rung)

We still don't have enough quorum please Sergeant At Arms ring the quorum bell the second time for five minutes

(Quorum bell rung)

What is it Hon. Sitei?

Hon. Sitei: Mr. Speaker I see we now have a quorum in the House.

The Speaker (Hon. Kemboi): Thanks Hon. Sitei, we may now proceed with the business of the day, Clerk;

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

MEMBERS DELIBERATIONS ON MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR IN THE ORDER PAPER (SO 1)

The Speaker (Hon. Kemboi): Hon. Members I want to take this opportunity to welcome you to this second session of the Assembly after a long recess and which I have been informed and have seen that you have been very active in your various Wards articulating issues that touch on *wananchi*. I want to commend you for what you have been doing, I have been following you on social media and main stream media. I am happy that our members have been doing commendable work in their Wards.

I want to urge you that as we begin this second session you may extend the same zeal and zest that for the remaining part of this session and that we may also see that the lives of the people of Baringo is improved.

Secondly, Hon. Members, during the same time we have seen issues that were raised in the mainstream and social media and more specifically the state of health in Baringo County at large, in fact I expect that we will be able to see the Health Committee and members of this County Assembly taking the County Executive to task on those issues.

The other issue is the issue of drought that has ravaged various parts of this Country, it is a serious issue especially in Baringo County and as such I call upon members to work with the technical committee and ensure that they come up with motions or questions to the Executive so that our County may find a solution and the Executive may also be prompted to tell us what they are doing.

I am aware and cognizant of the fact that the County Executive have been doing something, however, not all of us are privy to the information and as such I call upon the Chairs of the relevant committees that you may provide information to this Hon. House so that when members go to their Wards or their various destinations they will be able to highlight to our constituents what the County Government is doing to address the issue of drought and the challenges related to it.

Hon. Members so that we don't take more time I would want to thank you Hon. Members for the meeting we had with the President yesterday, it was a wonderful meeting and out of it we were able to achieve a lot, we have seen that it is through our efforts that the President was able to meet us and address the challenges facing our Country and the insecurity situations in parts of Baringo South, Tiaty and Baringo north. It shows that we are not small people in this republic we can influence change and policy decision. I commend all of you for the attendance and the support you gave us as County leaders during the said meeting.

Moving forward members, I urge same cooperation you exhibited yesterday that we work as a team to achieve the saying 'together we succeed separated we fall' we move with the same spirit as a team and we would conquer mountains and achieve more. I call upon the Clerk to take us to the next order!

PAPERS

The following papers were laid by **Hon. Ernest** (The Chief Whip)

1. The Baringo County Government Quarterly Report and Financial Statements for the period ended 31st December 2022,
2. The Baringo County Public Service Board Annual Report for the year ended 2022

(Hon. Ernest laid the Papers on the Table)

The Speaker (Hon. Kemboi): Hon. Members I direct the said report to the Finance and Economic Planning Committee. Hon. Chair, I expect you to give us report after analyzing the same within the shortest time possible. Next is the report of the Baringo County Public Service Board Annual report for the year 2022, I direct this to the Committee and Labour, Social Welfare, Children Youth and Sports to address the said report and give back a report within the shortest time possible.

MEMBERS DELIBERATIONS ON MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR IN THE ORDER PAPER (SO 1)

The Speaker (Hon. Kemboi): Hon. Members allow me to use my discretion under Standing Order number 1 to allow members to ventilate on the two reports and to also give their experiences during the recess period. The floor is open members, Hon. Ernest Kibet.

Hon. Ernest: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I thank you for allowing us to ventilate on some issues. I welcome back members from the long recess. Members are well composed and ready for work.

Mr. Speaker we have had a very eventful recess though with difficult economic times we were able to pull through and we have come back well. Mr. Speaker, we have a serious concern on health issues. We as members request that this time round we look into this sector seriously. We can visit some hospitals like Chemolingot, Eldama Ravine, Kabartonjo as an Assembly because the electorates know us the elected members not the CECs, COs. Mr Speaker we should be seen to be doing our oversight role.

Someone was telling me that things are not going on right at our referral hospital and you cannot tell exactly what is wrong. We want the Committee to lead and expose us to serious issues being talked about. It is time we looked at the budget allocation for the Health Department. Mr Speaker, we expect a lot from them.

Mr. Speaker, I don't want to take much time, but we are ready to work and appreciate members for the interaction with the President yesterday. Mr. Speaker, Baringo County Assembly has its place in this country and we want to raise that bar a little bit higher. We have issues that affect these leaders and it is time to bring these issues on a serious platform.

I have checked and found out that members are not remitting their voluntary savings Mr. Speaker because their pay slip cannot meet the threshold for saving. We have been saying we deal with this silently but we have serious constitutional bodies like SRC and why would someone sit somewhere and give the Governor Kshs. 550,000 basic salary, a CEC Kshs. 400,000 basic salary and give an MCA Kshs. 86,000 as basic and also given a loan to repay Kshs.90, 000; it is the most ridiculous experience Mr. Speaker. Members it is high time we need not hide anymore yet we are need of basic needs for the sake of other people. We are not MCAs for life we need to set precedence. We would rather challenge this issue from all dimensions even if it is to take a legal action against a body that is abusive like SRC Mr. Speaker. Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir.

The Speaker (Hon. Kemboi): Hon. Sitoi

Hon. Sitoi: Thank you Mr. Speaker. First I thank Members and congratulate them for the opportunity to attend the first session of this House. Baringo County is facing a lot of challenges among them drought which we may not be able to control but we can mitigate. I come from a Ward that is hard hit by the drought and my colleagues from Tiaty enjoy the same predicament. Sorry for using the word enjoy but I have chosen it because that is the state of affairs. The current situation in Bartabwa, Saimo Soi, Mukutani, Ilchamus, the entire Tiaty and part of Tiaty and Barwessa are facing crisis in water both for domestic and animals. As we speak, the human wildlife conflict is acute in Bartabwa and Saimo/Soi. I don't know what we need to do as an Assembly or the Executive to move with speed and ensure that our livestock are safe because people in that area depend on them. Like for us in Eldama Ravine we keep dairy cows. We depend on livestock and if we lose them due to drought, then we are losing our livelihood.

The second very serious issue we are facing as a County... and I request Members to take it with the seriousness that it deserves is the issue of healthcare. I visited Baringo County Referral Hospital and the situation in that facility is not acceptable for a referral hospital. I asked one of the doctors if he would bring his child to that facility if he falls sick. The doctor replied that he wouldn't. I told him he can't chose where to be taken if he falls sick and we would be the one to decide where to take him.

I also had an opportunity to interact with the CEC Health department and we had a deep discussion. We as Members need to rise above the mediocrity that is happening in our referral hospital. All Members were elected to represent people, and for this case poor people who are not able to take their children to private facility. If we cannot as an Assembly speak on behalf of the poor mothers and grandmothers, then if Jesus comes back today, then all of us will go to hell. The reason why we were elected is to represent the voice of the voiceless.

If we cannot a rise and address the issue of insecurity, that includes making some sacrifices. If the Governor does not have enough resources to re-firm the health sector, then it tells us that we

need to put more resources to that facility so that we have enough medicine. Imagine a young lady coming with a sick baby and both of them are crying. It is very sad because the mother has no money to buy medicine for the child. That is not acceptable in our County.

I urge and plead with Members to rise and address this issue as soon as possible. I believe this House has the power to summon the CEC Health, Acting Chief Officer Health and any other person responsible for the hospital. I request Members of the Health Committee that health is a very serious docket that affects all of us unlike lands which I chair.

Some of us may not have a privilege of owning land and roads where my colleague where Koech is chairing. We may not have the opportunity of owning cars but all of us require medical attention. There is also another challenge that we ...

The Speaker (Hon. Kemboi): Hon. Sitoi, kindly wind up because we have so many Members...

Hon. Sitoi: Thank you Mr. Speaker. The last issue is that we have equipment in our County specifically the road and water sector equipment. If we as Members are not careful, the equipment may create problems for us as Members. We have a shared grader, dozer, tipper, excavator and a roller for the County but if we ask where these equipment are working, none of this Member will be able to say. We have a rig and the entire County now wants water last week this rig broke down in Ossen and it spent about five days without being repaired. The five days we would have done one borehole. So Mr. Speaker we want to see as members how we will agree amongst ourselves noting that water is a very important resource that all of us deserve to enjoy. We need to find a way of compelling the Executive to manage the equipment in a very efficient and effective manner. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Kemboi): Let me go to senior Hon Lekakimon then I come to Hon Kiprono.

Hon. Lekakimon: Thank you Mr Speaker, first I thank the Almighty God for keeping us healthy and happy and we must Thank God for that. It is not a guarantee that when we go for more than two months we come back safely. It has taken the hand of God. I thank honourable members for being with the people in their wards and share their problems. Mr Speaker, I just want to contribute a few issues on addition to what our members have contributed. Mr. Speaker, this County we have 10 ministries represented by the CECs and the directors. We have the Chief officers who have not been recruited and we hope they will be recruited and deployed to work under those ministries.

Mr Speaker, Hon Members if these ministries or departments have been created to fasten our work in the wards. For example if I have roads that are impassable I go to the department of road, if there are dispensaries that are working, I go to the department of health. Mr. Speaker personally, I want to urge all the chairs of these committees to be pro-active and help members in the wards as per the money that have been allocated to those departments. Mr. Speaker, you realize that our work go slow in our wards and our people are really suffering. I sympathize with my department, I am a member of health and we have some members here in health committee we have seen things that are not supposed to happen , as health committee we have visited about three health centres and referral hospital, we went to Kabarnet and Marigat.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen that some people are earning while not working. There are some Medical officers that we call them Med. Sups who are rarely seen, some of them are working elsewhere but they are earning in this County. It is our task as members of this Assembly to take

action because we shall keep on referring people, we shall have dispensaries that are not functioning and we have a number of casualties that have not been paid.

Mr Speaker now that we are back we are energized and we have seen the problems that our people have it is now us to wake up and take action because this is the mandate for these members of this House so that our people can get the best from this County. Personally I thank

God that yesterday we shared a lot with his Excellency the President although I did not get time to say halo to him but at least I took time to greet him. Being a member of the other coalition but we are ready to join hands and come together and be in the same party.

Mr Speaker when members said that it was the first time to be in State House, I think that was my fifth time to be there, during Moi's time I went there severally. It is a State House that has goodies for your people and yourself. Otherwise we started the year well in fact we are the most privileged County to end our recess by meeting with the President. Imagine we meet the President and we open our Assembly. It is a blessed Assembly Mr Speaker and I think this year will go well

Mr. Speaker, I want to touch on some few areas that we have a problem with. Apart from health because it has been exhausted we also have water crisis. This is a major problem. Mr. Speaker, this is the first time that River Perkerra dried up since it existed. The river has been there throughout but when you go down below Marigat town there is a crisis downstream because there is no water for the people and animals and it is a big problem and we are in dire need of dams that will supplement the water.

Another item Hon Sioi talked about is the machines. It is like we made a mistake by buying machines, I am not talking of the shared machines but I am talking about the ones that we have in our wards. For example let me cite Baringo South as a Constituency. We have four wards and we have our own machines but it has become very difficult for these machines to roll the way as they are supposed to be. It is like the department of roads is not happy about these machines because they have their own machines and it is like they are missing jobs to do and that is why they are using these machines on different activities and even the contractors are being hired to use these machines yet us here we are suffering on the ground. The impact is really being felt; the people have already set aside money to buy the machines but they are not seen doing the right work that is required of them.

Mr Speaker, if this trend continues I think we will have to come up with a legislation to control these machines to help us in our wards and see how we will be able to protect and guard them from being misused so as to enable members of the wards to get the benefits of those machines. Second last, Mr. Speaker, is about food security. It is true that we are now seeing the effects of climate change, people need food. When you go down here in the areas that were mentioned by Hon Sioi that is the lower parts of Baringo, people are really suffering. You realize that those who have been depending on irrigation there is no water for that. Those people who have been depending on irrigation for food are suffering. Animals have nothing to eat, there is no food here so there is big outcry Mr. Speaker and we need more money for Emergency to address the situation.

It is really pathetic, people go far to get water, people struggle to get food, animals are suffering and therefore this is a time we need a lot of emergency fund, so that we don't lose lives when we have emergency funds to help people buy food and assist them.

Lastly Mr. Speaker, this goes to our able Chair of the Budget Committee Hon. Kibet. I wanted to say Hon. Speaker that when you look at that budget, the ministry and these departments have really expunged most of the projects without notice. It is the other day, I have just come from treasury, health and agriculture department and most of the money that was allocated to those sections were expunged without notice and people on the ground are aware that these activities are going on.

So we need protection and action taken on these ministries expunging some projects without the awareness of the Members. Otherwise Mr. Speaker we thank God that we have started our Assembly well energized and healthy and we hope that God will lead us through and also help us to manage the activities that we were entitled to do, thank you Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Kemboi): Hon. Kiprono.

Hon. Kiprono: Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me this opportunity. First of all, I want to greet all the Members and I don't know if I am allowed to greet them by the theme of the day, Happy Valentine's day Members.

(Laughter)

That is the theme of today. It's a good day and I think I am the only one and Hon. Alex, yes and Hon. Lekakimon, we should be in red. Yes, Hon. Sialo is not very far, thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say something small about the issue of water which is a very serious issue not only in Baringo but I think it's almost worldwide. All the rivers are drying up. As we all heard yesterday especially some few minutes ago Hon. Lekakimon talked about River Perkerra.

The origin of Perkerra Irrigation Scheme come from my Ward Lembus Perkerra, this the origin of this river and for sure this is the first time that this river has dried all the way down from the upstream to downstream; unfortunately around three weeks ago we had some intruders from Emining and Mogotio Ward, who came with arrows and machetes all along following the river upstream and it was so unfortunate because we had to talk to our people so that nothing ugly happens, otherwise things would have worsened. It was very sad because of the issue of water.

This is a very serious issue, all rivers are drying up and the first reason is due to deforestation. Apart from climate change which is also another reason, we don't have the forest we had the few years ago. Climate Change poses also another threat because at the moment the whole world is becoming hot. It has become very hot and due to that the entire world is very dry. So I think we have to mitigate this. As human beings we have to do a lot.

In Kenya alone we are at 7.2% of forest cover which means we have to attain the minimum 10% required worldwide and according to a survey done recently, we need to plant over 4.2 billion trees so that we cover the 10% of forest. So that is a very tall order and I know through developed countries we have 100 billion US Dollars to mitigate issues of climate change and I am very glad that even the 44th President of America Barack Obama said that; No challenge poses a greater threat to the future generation than Climate Change. So we need to be very serious when it comes to the issue of planting trees and all other areas of mitigating the Climate Change, Green House emissions and all that.

About the issue of the rig and the County water boozers. We have had several meetings as the Water Committee and very soon we are doing a policy on Baringo County Water Policy and also the policy guiding the use of water boozers within the County and the one rig that we have. I

know it's a major challenge and at the moment nobody knows. I know today it is in Chepkesin and the other time it was in Ossen but I am telling you that we are waiting for the policy and a report to be tabled maybe soon about the same.

I think lastly you talked of the issue of hospitals and I think that is very serious area. This cuts across all the Sub Counties and I was privileged to be a board member in Eldama Ravine Level 4 Hospital some few years ago and I know there are some games played by those staff. If our Committee in this House will not be serious, the game inside there, I think those guys knows how to play those games. The drugs which goes to those facilities, within a week you find that there are no more drugs in all the facilities.

Those guys who worked there, I don't want to mention them but they know themselves, in the morning they enter with an empty bag but in the evening the bag is full. So I don't know if maybe there are some uniforms or something, I don't know what they take out of that facility but we need to be serious as an Assembly. We are here because of our people and so we want to put to task the Committee. We will assist them where possible so that we address these issues. So I don't want to take much time, thank you so much our Speaker, have a good Valentine's Day, thank you so much.

(Laughter)

The Speaker (Hon. Kemboi): Hon. Kiprono the Members are laughing and I want to confirm that I have not joined the other side and wish Members Happy Valentines. Do we still have another contribution from the Members?

ADJOURNMENT

Order Members, we have come to the end of this session. This House stands adjourned until 2:30pm today.

The House rose at 10:36AM.