

BARINGO COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THE HANSARD

The House met on Tuesday 21st February 2023 at 2.48AM.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Aengwo) in Chair

PRAYERS

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Aengwo): Dear gentlemen, there is lack of quorum. Ring the bell for the next five minutes

(Quorum bell rung)

Order hon. Members we have quorum and therefore we can proceed.

PAPERS

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Aengwo): I call upon the majority leader to lay the paper

Hon. Lokorio: thank you Mr. Speaker sir I beg to lay the CIDP for year 2023/2027 at the floor of the house thank you Mr. Speaker

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Aengwo): Well majority leader that paper is committed to the finance and economic planning committee. Next order

STATEMENTS

UNFINISHED KAPKONG-KAPKELELWA GRAVITY WATER PROJECTS`

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Aengwo): We have two answers and I want to call the Chairperson Water and Irrigation Committee. I call Hon. Tarus from Sacho Ward. Yes Hon Ernest

Hon. Ernest: Thank you Mr. Speaker sir, I am not the Chair but I am a member to the Water Committee and I had been tasked to read this.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Aengwo): Well proceed.

Hon. Ernest: Mr. Speaker this is a response to a statement raised by the Hon. John Tarus MCA Sacho Ward to the Chairperson Water Sanitation and Irrigation Committee seeking the following matters of concern;

Following the allocation of Ksh 2M to for Kapkong Kapkelelwa gravity water project water pipes were delivered but not works was done

- i) Why was the works not done despite the availability of the water pipes
- ii) What measures has been put in place by the department to ensure that the works is done considering its importance to the residents

The response for the 1st question, after the supply of the pipes their rose a community conflict between the downstream users and the upstream users. The pipes were to serve the downstream users by gravity using Kapkwang supply intake. Installation of the pipes therefore stopped

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because the upstream users insisted that the water should benefit them before being allowed to serve the downstream users.

Efforts to reconcile the two parties did not succeed the contractor therefore had to be paid only for supplies because he could not undertake any other activity such as excavation, pipe laying and construction of anchors blocks any and man hole covers. Attached here are copies of payment voucher for supply of goods that's pipes and fittings and a copy of the billing information as an appendix 1a&b the project has a balance of Ksh 695,710 awaiting implementation and completion of pending works as indicated in the payment voter and the detailed billing information table

Response to question numbers two. There was a provision of 3M for Kapkwang water project for financial year 2022/2023 the department therefore undertook that the two pumping station for Kapkwang water project are operational. The department is procuring submersible pumps and will install them in the two pumping stations this will increase the water supply quantities in the upstream users of Kapkwang water supply and thus enabling them allow the installation of gravity lines to serve the downstream users. The department has also persuaded the local leadership of the project to have a discussion on hoe to support the warring communities to support the installation of gravity lines as soon as possible

In addition the department is in plans to ensure that the contractor for the gravity lines projects moves in to install the lines and construct the pending works such us anchor blocks, man holes covers once the submersible pumps intended to serve the upstream users are installed to ensure that the two communities benefit together during the same period. Thank you

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Aengwo): Thank you Hon. Ernest. This was asked specifically by Hon. Tarus of Sacho Ward. Who will take over to say if you are satisfied with the answer or not because it is specifically for Sacho Ward

(Loud consultations)

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Aengwo): Hon Ernest, I think the MCA Sacho Ward will come and read it and if he is not satisfied he can raise it but since you are his neighbor you can assume that he will be satisfied. Let's stop at that. What is it again?

Hon. Ernest: Mr. Speaker maybe you can is set aside until tomorrow when the member is around so that he can put his input. We as a department are confident that this is the best answer you can ever get.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Aengwo): Thanks Hon. Ernest. I rule that he will come and read the answer to the statement and if he is not satisfied he may seek from the department because he ought to be here when the answer is given.

What is it Hon. Sitoi.

Hon. Sitoi: Mr. Speaker, I don't know... that might be the culture of this House but I believe that when Hon. Tarus raised this issue it was not only because it affected Sacho Ward. Probably there could be another project that was done and there arose conflicts. Mr. Speaker the main

thing that we need to deliberate on as a House, because I see one of the response was not done because there was a conflict.

Mr. Speaker, it was just last week that we discussed the issues that are arising because of water conflict. Mr. Speaker, I thought Members would contribute and even go further and advise the department on what to do when there is a conflict between different members of the community. Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Aengwo): Thank you Hon. Sitoi. I know water is a basic resource everywhere and especially now during the dry season but nevertheless... what is it Hon. Cheboiwo

Hon. Cheboiwo: Mr. Speaker thank you for giving me this opportunity. Why does the Government award tenders without knowing the ground, I assume when awarding the tender the BoQs being collected by the departments at the place where the project has to be and therefore there is need to know the environment before awarding the project.

I wonder about this project when you just deliver the pipe that is the shortest way of getting money without verifying the ground because supplying pipes, you just give someone an order to bring it and he just disposes them there and the pipes now are at risk of being stolen or destroyed by the sun.

So Mr. Speaker I am not satisfied with the answer despite the fact that it has affected Sacho Ward it has also affected me. I know this is a tradition of the department whereby whenever they get something very simple to deliver or to be done they just award before verifying the place.

Mr. Speaker in all our projects we must first make sure that the ground belongs to the community like for example when you are constructing a cattle dip; the land should belong to the department of livestock or if it is somebody's private land there must be an agreement of the title being shared with the project.

The department should then be very careful when handling any project; otherwise I know these are just ways and means of quick deliveries. Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Aengwo): Hon. Cheboiwo I think all of us are aware of even Mogotio and Ravine conflict over the Chemosusu water. This is a season where water as a resource is actually causing a lot of conflict, so I think it is prudent that the department plus even the committee of water to visit Kapkong to find out and also to relate with other projects. Yes Hon. Lokorio.

Hon. Lokorio (Deputy Majority Leader): Thank you Mr. Speaker. My concern is also on the same matter, I think going forward for us to discuss a matter and dispose it off, it would be prudent that going forward we prepare the order papers earlier enough and give notice to Members like chairs so that they are prepared a weeks' time so that we come and dispose of the matter.

It is really disturbing the same question appearing almost every week, so if we were given notices earlier enough I am sure Hon. Tarus would have been here so that he would go ahead and inform this House if he is satisfied or not.

I suggest that the committees or the departments prepare answers early enough and the Chair or Vice Chair to come and defend the report so that we move forward, otherwise going this way I think we will be doing the same thing over and over again and we will be behind the schedule.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Aengwo): I think Hon. Lokorio it is quite in order. Clerks it is in order that when an Honorable Member has sought a statement, it is important that when the statement is brought to this House, it is important to notify the particular Honorable Member to be there to say if he is satisfied or not.

At the same time also, when answers are being brought the chairs to the various committees should be present and notification should be done. Hon. Kigen, I think you should be the last one to contribute on the same so that we don't belabor much on it.

Hon. Kigen: Thank you Mr. Speaker sir. I can confirm that being a neighbor to Hon. Tarus he has communicated to me that he accepts and I accept on his behalf, I am satisfied with the answer. Mr. Speaker your communication is valid that an Honorable Member should be notified and. Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Aengwo): Hon. Kigen, I don't know whether... when you communicated to Hon. Tarus, was it a phone call, sms...

Hon. Kigen: Mr. Speaker it was through sms

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Aengwo): Plus all the answer... We are an honorable House we shall accept. Hon. Cheboiwo.

Hon. Cheboiwo: Mr. Speaker this is a House of rules and procedures if there is an Sms the Honorable Member can table it so that we understand because we cannot joke with these issues. You know this is a ward based project that needs somebody to accept whether he or she is satisfied. So can he just table it, Mr. Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Aengwo): What is your point of concern Hon. Lokales.

Hon. Limo: Mr. Speaker, I am rising with a lot of concern on how this matter is being handled. I don't want to say that you yourself is giving room for Members to joke with this issue but I may be tempted Mr. Speaker to say so.

Is it in order for the Hon. Member from Tenges to purport that he has blessings while we don't have; any authenticity on what the Member has said? Mr. Speaker our own standing orders on rules and procedures of such a matter, it should have been in writing if he had gone for a function or a meeting. He should have written to the Speaker himself and say something about it.

But the case of saying that he is the neighbor, we are all neighbors here, and we are Baringo therefore I think you should rule that he is out of order and we wait for Hon. Tarus to respond. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Aengwo): I think Hon Chief Whip, I had even ruled over the same that Hon Tarus from Sacho will come and see the answer and then he will actually say whether he is satisfied with answer or not and he will give us any direction that he will deem fit. I don't want to belabor so much r on the same. Hon Whip.

Hon. Ernest: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I think I can say something because I am a neighbor to Kigen where we are sitting now and I have been able to see the SMS. Mr. Speaker this is technological era we should embrace technology. If a member has send a message saying accept that answer meaning the member is already in the know. There is a thin line when we come to technology because it is not something visible it might look like a joke but it is real business.

REPLACEMENT OF DECEASED AND RETIRED HEALTH OFFICERS

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Aengwo): I have overruled on the same I think the next one is also another statement directed to Health Services Committee from Hon Loice Kipseba MCA Baringo County. I think our Chairperson Health Services Committee had committed him in the morning to come with the answer. The floor is yours Hon Logorio.

Hon. Logorio: Thank you Mr. Speaker I am on the floor I don't know whether you will allow him to interject ...

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Aengwo): What is your point of order Hon. Kibet.

Hon. Ernest: You know I am the chief whip and I keep records of members present. I can see clearly the Hon member who asked this question is not in the house and it would not be in order again he reads the answer and then we start saying let us wait for the member. Can you rule on that, what happens?

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Aengwo): I think Hon Whip since this question is not for a particular ward then it is a property for all of us as a house. The other one for Sacho was for a specific project, Hon Whip let us consume it is for the Whole House. Hon Logorio proceed.

Hon. Logorio: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I was worried with the Chief Whip, I thought he wanted to reject my response to the statement sought by Hon Loice Jepkorir Kipseba, the question was asking whether there were any plans by the County Government to put in place to replace retired public health officers and others lost through natural attrition to ensure public health is not endangered in areas of the County.

Mr Speaker, the response is as follows. The County Government of Baringo has taken measures and has identified gaps for those who exited through natural attrition and retirement through the universal health coverage and as such 20 public health officers were employed on contract which will expire in July 2023. Those who exited through natural attrition are 37 in number and a request for replacement has been forwarded to public service board for replacement. Currently 159 public health officers are in establishment but there is acute shortage of officers.

Question two, whether there are modalities to ensure that such replacements are done with due regard to constitutional and legal profession. Mr. Speaker the response is that the department of health has raised the existing gaps with public service board, which is mandated by law to advertise and recruit formally. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Aengwo): Thank you Hon Logorio. This is a statement for all of us to consume it was not for particular place but for all of us. I think members we can ventilate on the same statement for a while. Anybody who wants to contribute. Hon. Sitoi

Hon. Sioi: Mr. Speaker allow me to take the opportunity to congratulate the health team for ensuring that we get a response on this issue. Mr. Speaker, when I read the question I sent know whether I am the only one who got confused or I have some partners because this question wanted to address public health officers and I can see a list of 159 who are in the establishment. Mr. Speaker I would wish that we clarify whether these are public health officers or the entire health team including the nurses the clinical officers or these are specifically the public health officers because Ne Speaker if that is the case then I don't think it is right to say in Baringo we have an acute shortage of public health officers if they are 159. Thank you Mr. Speaker sir

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Aengwo): Hon: Hon Logorio.

Hon. Lokorio: Thank you Mr. Speaker in responding to Hon Sioi MCA Bartabwa, to set the record clear public health officers are public health officers just as it has been mentioned. This is one of the cadres in the health unit in fact the category is public health officers only. Because we have technicians and officers. Number two it is the public health personnel who manages all health services in every health facility in Baringo and not only in health facility set up, there are down to the villages in the level of sub location. So you Hon. Sioi and do data collection to find out, how many Sub Location do we have in Baringo? And really appreciate the fact that, there is an acute shortage of public officers in Baringo, thank you Mr. Speaker.

Meanwhile I want to thank everyone, my team the Health Committee team for the serious work they have shown and in fact Mr. Speaker sir, I think when I said in the morning that we will provide the answers, even now you can see Mr. Speaker sir that we were serious and we have the answers, it is only that we were not correct by saying we have the answers in our offices but we meant we have answers in ourselves, thank you Mr. Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Aengwo): Hon. Lokorio allows others to applause you.

(Laughter)

Nevertheless, you did it as you said. I thought I saw Hon. Kigen hands, is the same Member of the committee, okay Hon. Majority Whip.

Hon. Ernest: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I have just listened to the Chair and you know he is talking about public health officers, of course we know how to read but you know for us it is matters of health. He should explain to us what is different between a Public Health Officer because when you say Public Health Officer, what is it Mr. Speaker?

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Aengwo): Hon. Lokorio, I think you said Public Health Officer is just Public Health Officer.

(Laughter)

Please...

Hon. Lokorio: Mr. Speaker let me correct.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Aengwo): Because you went to school please expound further.

Hon. Lokorio: Thank you. Mr. Speaker I realized the Hon. Whip is in a very serious induction course but this is ...but nevertheless, I will take few minutes to differentiate. Public Health

Officers, I don't know I was explaining a cadre amongst the health and service providers. The nurses, clinical officers, doctors, pediatrics and all name them, so these are Public Health Officers.

So if you want me to expound for him to understand the meaning of public health, it is simple definition. It is the general well-being of the public including you. So this Public Health Officers are in charge with the general health of the people, physically, mentally, spiritually and we can proceed until tomorrow, thank you Mr. Speaker. I think he should pay me for this serious induction.

(Laughter)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Aengwo): Hon. Majority Whip are you satisfied with the definition?

Hon. Ernest: Mr. Speaker let me give a layman's understanding. Mr. Speaker you know when we talk about Public Health Officers, I thought he would explain. Like now if I want to open a hotel. I will need Public Health Officers to do inspection. That my layman understands because I once opened an hotel in town and I saw Public Health Officers. You see when you say...I was asking him because he said Public Health Officer is Public Health Officer and you see most of us we don't understand that this Public Health Officers are the ones who should run almost all our activities.

They should check our schools, hotels, business premises and even come to the Assembly. Mr. Speaker today I had a concern because being the whip, I realized the Assembly is very dusty and I was requesting Mr. Speaker that we buy that automatic shoe shinning machine so that, you see a Member should not be coming here with dust. That kind of issues are associated with public health and that's my layman understands.

So when he talks about nurses we know nurses and doctors and all pediatrician and all those. Maybe the chairman should take our question seriously. We are not just asking because we don't know. We are asking because we need to inform more people.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Aengwo): Thank you...

(Hon. Lokorio stands on his feet)

Before you rise Hon. Lokorio, I think matters concerning health are actually very serious. I think if you talk about cadres, you tell us about nurses, the clinical officers, doctors and all of them. Can you expound a little bit without putting some kind of ...you know sometimes you are...let me not say much but...can you put it right...?

Hon. Lokorio: Mr. Speaker...

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Aengwo): Can you be serious Hon. Lokorio.

Hon. Lokorio: Mr. Speaker you are also getting lost at some point Mr. Speaker...

(Laughter)

And I must correct. If we continue Mr. Speaker this way, you see Hon. Ernest who is our whip will keep getting confused if I go ahead and give the definition of Public Health however...

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Aengwo): Order Hon. Lokorio. You see you are the chair of the committee, Members are very right to get the answers, never assume. You might be a technical person in the same department but these are Members who need to get the answers right so don't assume he will get more confused. Can you answer straight away?

Hon. Lokorio: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I am guided. I was guided by the set of questions and that is why Hon. Loice Kipseba sought the question referring only to the number of Public Health Officers we are having here and I was only so generous to the level that I wonder how the House is tracking me to give the definition of public health, however public health is in charge with the general well-being of the public including us here as said by Hon. Ernest that it is all about inspection of schools, all buildings, sewer lines, provision of medical certificates, licensing of industries that are coming up, approval of plans, inspection of food, caucuses that is the living and dead animals and many others.

Mr. Speaker there are so many, if we discuss Public Health it is all round. It is a whole day discussion about public health. However, let me belief, Mr. Speaker sir that if we were to go ahead and now that I have not been practicing for a while it may require me to do more research. If somebody wanted some more knowledge about public health, Mr. Speaker I am hope I have satisfied the Hon. Member and I want to... thank you Mr. Speaker.

(Laughter)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Aengwo): What is your point of concern Hon. Lokales?

Hon. Limo: Mr. Speaker, I want to sympathize with the Hon. Chair of Health. Mr. Speaker this was not a lecture room that Members wanted a definition of public health. I think you can get from your Google app or any other gadget. Let's spare our chair sometime, thank you Mr. Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Aengwo): Thank you Hon. Lokales.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no other business, order Hon. Members, this House stands adjourned till tomorrow Wednesday at 9:30am.

The House rose at 3:28PM