

# REPUBLIC OF KENYA

## MANDERA COUNTY ASSEMBLY

### THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2021

*The House met in the Assembly Chambers  
County Assembly Buildings at 2:30 pm*

[Temporary Speaker (Hon. Sokorey M. Issackow) in the Chair]

#### PRAYER

#### CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

**Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Sokorey M. Issackow): Sergeant-at-arm, ring the bell for ten minutes.

*(Quorum bell rung)*

*(Quorum obtained)*

*(Orders read)*

#### STATEMENTS

**Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Sokorey M. Issackow): Yes, honorable Gabnan what is it. I do not have your statement honorable Member. Where is it? I do not have the written one. I only have the one of Hon. Shankaron. I have not received from the office of the Clerk. I only received this one. Hon. Shankaron, I won't allow. I have no evidence. I have denied then. Honorable Shankaron proceed

#### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

**Hon. Shankaron Sheikh Ibrahim** (Nominated): Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. They should know that I am the Deputy Minority Leader in this House. Yesterday was International Women Day. It was not a sitting day that is why we are bringing a general statement to recognize that day. The international women's day is commemorated on 8<sup>th</sup> March every year to celebrate women's achievement across the nation. It is also known as the United Nation day for women's right and international peace. The theme for this year's international

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women's day is women in leadership achieving and equal future in a Covid-19 World. We are at a pivotal moment of Covid-19 challenge that has greatly affected the society and particularly women's household economy. We must breakdown the historic cultural, social economic barriers that undermine development and empowerment across the globe.

The women in Mandera face many challenges including lack of access to education, quality medical care and high mortality, lack of income opportunities, political marginalization and carrier progressive among many others. It is time that men and women stand up for the right of women in our society. On this occasion, it is important that we reflect women participation in society and development and strength women empowerment and protect and advocates women's right in the World and particularly in Mandera County. Together let us all identify and make an appropriate solution in order to address challenges that impaired women development in our county and respond to and recover from the Covid-19 that affects the wellbeing of people and the planet for the next generation to come. Let us hold hands and put women at the right place.

Madam Temporary Speaker, as a woman in this county too, me in my political carrier I want to achieve to be an elected person. I am just saying I am going to be elected in this county. It is not important to mention the place. I am just informing you that I will achieve something in my political carrier. Madam Temporary Speaker, please protect me.

Now that the theme is women in leadership achieving an equal future in a Covid-19 World and this disease has really brought down people's lives. We have our very own that are affected. So, this is a very serious thing. I am going to vie. I want to appreciate every single woman in this Assembly. I want to appreciate our very own Legal Officer Amran, she is the only woman Legal Officer in this Assembly; I want to appreciate Rahma, our very own clerk assistant, I want to appreciate Madam Habiba Ali who is using social media to bring awareness to any situation in this county and help the poor through social media.

Thank you.

**Hon. Abdinoor Dakane** (Khalalio): Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker for allowing me talk about this International Women's Day. Our mothers have been ranked highly in religion and under this International Women's Day. If you remember very well this is an issue that is coming up in the third World. This is a way of making our sisters and mothers to get out of their homes and making sure that religion does not take away their rights to be leaders. In fact that is the main fact about this International Women Day. This International Women's Day is in one way or the other affecting the religion of Islam. Our sisters and mothers who are in leader position must try to know that this is an issue which has been brought up to make sure that our women and sisters come out openly to the street and go everywhere; they are told that they are democratic. This is a way of destroying the religion and we are not refusing the achievement our sisters are doing but what happens is an issue which you have to look and check what this International Women's Day is and where it originated from.

Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker.

**Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Sokorey M. Issackow): Hon. Bishar!

**Hon. Bishar Maalim Abdullahi** (Takaba): Madam Temporary Speaker, it is good to commemorate this day. Women are equally supposed to be educated, they need to earn a wage, they need to actually take position of leadership but as we have seen of late how the day is being celebrated in Mandera County is not of a greater popularity. We need to make sure that the women agenda is supposed to be very prominent in the county just like any other part of the

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world. Last year and this year the celebration is just been confined in the GK prison of Mandera which would have not been the case. If we want to make sure that this women agenda is supposed to come out very clearly, we would have done it in all the sub-counties. I think it is high time next year we need to focus more in terms of preparation because what we have seen is that they would even start with procession so that that the presence of Mandera population could even understand what type of celebration is going on but once it has been celebrated within an institution and I know last we celebrated it there and there was only one woman in mate that is in that institution. We know majority of women are outside. So, it would have been done maybe at a site selected in the sub-counties where in the headquarters in Takaba, Banisa or El-wak, this thing would have been subjected to a very big celebration. So, that the women know what the women agendas are, the challenges they are facing and many leaders may converge. So, I would like to celebrate the women's day. I think it is relevant for us to come out to the open so that many women folk involve in celebrating themselves so that they have stake and they can be able to bring agendas that will actually be captured in both mental and physical development.

Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker.

**Hon. Halima Billow** (Nominated): Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker for giving me this opportunity. I would like also to say that yesterday was a big day for us since it was not even a sitting day. We celebrated World women's day at the GK prison at Mandera and in fact it was a very successful event. I remember last time honorable Bishar as you said the women prisoners were two and not one, they were two and yesterday they were eight. So, that is why we wanted to celebrate women who were in prison and were confined in that place.

**Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Sokorey M. Issackow): Hon. Abass!

**Hon. Abass Abdille** (Nominated): *(Spoke off record)*

**Hon. Halima Billow** (Nominated): Madam Temporary Speaker, *(went off record)* there are female prisoners and there are female warders so we celebrated with both. Not only the prisoners. The theme of 2021 world women's day was 'chosed to challenge'. Today I stand before this House to challenge the elected leaders to end Female Genital Mutilation Madam. Let us stop mutilating our young daughters at home.

**Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Sokorey M. Issackow): Order! Order! Order Hon. Members! Order Hon. Abass!

**Hon. Halima Billow** (Nominated): Madam Temporary Speaker, protect me from these honorable members. Especially during these holidays, since Holidays are approaching lets sensitize our people and not accept anything to do with FGM.

With that, thank you.

**Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Sokorey M. Issackow): Hon. Members, I think on general statements we only have three minutes to debate. Yes honorable Abdullahi.

**Hon. Abdullahi Siyad** (Lafey): We think we celebrate our women every day. It does not need a specific day. Women are our mothers, our sisters and our daughters. We celebrate them during the day and night. There should have been women's night also where we celebrate them.

Secondly, you know we are Africans. We should not take everything that was brought to us by the whites. We know he has confused us so much. One day is mothers' day, next one is women's day, valentine's day. Every day there is a ceremony. We celebrate the whole year. I do not know where we are heading to. I was wondering when would be the men's day so that we can celebrate with men also. Women are important, but men are equally important. I suggest we

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rename this day to human day so that we incorporate both men and women, and children also. Children's day is not even in the menu. I challenge Shankaron who is the mover of this statement, to lobby with the white men so that we have children's day somewhere in the middle of the year.

With that we celebrate our women. It will not take away the fact that we love and cherish them.

Thank you.

**Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Sokorey M. Issackow): Hon. Shankaron, what is your point of information?

**Hon. Shankaron Sheikh Ibrahim** (Nominated): Madam Temporary Speaker, I need to give this information to my colleague, Hon. Abdullahi that I did not bring the women's day to this date. It was brought by the United Nations.

Thank you.

**Hon. Kulow Alio** (Rhamu): Madam Temporary Speaker, last year, I and my tangatanga team celebrated the women's day in prison along with---

**Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Sokorey M. Issackow): Order! Hon. Kula, we do not know what tangatanga is. We do not even recognize them in this House. So, kindly whom are you celebrating with? And is 'tangatanga' an English word?

**Hon. Kulow Alio** (Rhamu): The tangatanga team is what is nationally accepted and is also a replica in this House. There are five members who are tangatangas in this House. I usually recognize them every time I stand.

**Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Sokorey M. Issackow): Continue with your statement honorable Kula.

**Hon. Kulow Alio** (Rhamu): Pardon.

**Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Sokorey M. Issackow): Continue.

**Hon. Kulow Alio** (Rhamu): Madam Temporary Speaker, last year we celebrated world women's day in prison. But I want to say this. This is the second year that the world women's day is celebrated in Mandera. It has never happened before. I want to congratulate the prison warders and their team for making sure that they recognize this particular day in prison. Our honorable members who are in this House, I want to challenge them that they should not just honor invitations and go to the prison and celebrate. They should initiate the celebration with the department of Social Service who are concerned with women affairs and that the honorable members in this House have responsibility to the women of Mandera County.

Honorable Halima Billow has just talked about FGM. FGM is something we have been practicing as Muslims and as Somalis in Mandera County and in northern Kenya. I am not saying I am condemning the mutilations of the clitoris as said by honorable Halima but in a polite language I am saying I will not subscribe to that but they should voice this thing openly. Everywhere, at baraza parks, every meeting so that this issue of FGM is stopped. But if they just want to raise it here on the floor of the House how many of them are looking at the website of Mandera County Assembly? It is high time that honorable Shankaron brings another statement again on FGM so that we discuss this thing further because it needs a lot of discussions.

*(Laughter)*

It needs a very good discussion. Because we are affected by FGM as men in this county and our ladies are also affected likewise. You do not need to read between the lines. Everybody knows what I am talking about and we are adults. It is high time that we come up with a Motion sponsored by our honorable ladies in this House so that we outlaw FGM in Mandera County.

The issue of women celebration should be taken head on by the honorable ladies in this House along with the department of Social Service. If they need any support, we are ready to support them and also as men we have got our own men's day but we have never celebrated in this country. Maybe, as Mandera County we might celebrate one day because men are also equally important in this matter. Therefore, when they celebrate, they should also celebrate us because we cannot do without each other and also for our kids as said by the honorable member for Lafey.

With that, we do support the statement but the honorable ladies should take these issues very seriously.

**Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Sokorey M. Issackow): Ok.

**Hon. Shankaron Sheikh Ibrahim** (Nominated): I have information. I am bringing information to this House that every 20<sup>th</sup> November is International Children's Day.

**Hon. Fatuma Issack** (Nominated): Thank you, Madam Temporary Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate those women who carry firewood on their back in order to educate their children. I would also like to take this opportunity to celebrate those women who have succeeded in their respective careers despite the discrimination and being looked down upon by male chauvinist. If you look at our society 80% of our families are being taken care of by women, either mother, aunts, sisters or daughters because women are nowadays almost the breadwinners of the families.

So, with those few remarks, I stand to celebrate this day.

Thank you.

#### ADJOURNMENT

**Temporary Speaker** (Hon. Sokorey M. Issackow): Hon. Members, I now adjourn the house to tomorrow 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 at 9 am.