

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

MANDERA COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 8th September, 2020

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

[Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi) in the Chair]

PRAYER

GENERAL STATEMENT

ANTICIPATED FLOODS ALONG THE RIVERINE

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): Hon. Members, let us go back to statements. Hon. Member representing Rhamu!

Hon. Kulow Alio (Rhamu): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Allow me to welcome Hon. Members to this session of this County Assembly. Some of us have never left this place. We have been fully around. I want to welcome the honorable members who were away and request others who are not here to come within this week.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, while we were on recess, I heard it on the forum that one honorable member got engaged. Allow me to congratulate her. Now we have few singles in the House and others have also graduated from being normal “askaris” to corporals and from corporals to inspectors. We have some honorable members who are having inspectorate ranks and of late we have been receiving a lot of hadith on our forums, thanks to the new inspector general.

Having said that, I want to say this, I come from a ward whose economic backbone is agriculture and I want to confirm to this House that all the way the farms from Malkamari passing through Rhamu Dimtu, Rhamu, Sala, Qunpasu, Khalalio, Neboi and Township are going to experience massive floods in the near future.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have raised this issue not once, not twice on the floor of this House and these wards solely depend on Agriculture for their livelihood. They have no animals. They have no big businesses to run. What they depend on, day in day out, is Agriculture. They have to fight their way out through their strength to put food on the table. They use the same to fend for their families and education for their children and now that the rainy season has started and part of my ward is already flooded, as I speak for the last three years or so the county government has not done anything about agriculture. They have not put in meaningful money in agriculture and we have seen it in the social media that the people of Khalalio, the people of

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Rhamu, the people Yabicho and the people of Qunpasu, where you come from, have been crying day in day out on the issues of Agriculture.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we want to appeal as elected leaders from this area that the county government should take aggressive measures to address floods once and for all.

I want to appeal to the Committee on Budget whose able chairman is on the floor of this House to take this matter very seriously because when they are going to the wards to do public participation, automatically they are going to be confronted with some of these challenges. They should take these issues of farmers very seriously. They have already laboured and planted their plants in August and early July. Now that is two or three months down the line and the flood is on its way. We are here to protect the interest of farmers and by large the interest of the people of Mandera. We have over 10 billion shillings at our disposal. Let us use this money to save the lives of our farmers.

Thank you, very much.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

ALTERATION OF ASSEMBLY CALENDAR WITH RESPECT TO SITTING DAYS

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): Hon. Majority.

Hon. Abdi Adan (Neboi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, let me also take this opportunity to welcome back Hon. Members from the recess and the Corona recess. We thank God that the Corona curve is flattening and there is no much panic. I want to thank the Members for their cooperation and prayers during the pandemic.

Secondly, I want to support what Hon. Kulow said. He did congratulate some members for being promoted but also some members were demoted especially him and several of them from being corporal to constable. We have to mention both sides.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, allow me to move this Procedural Motion-

THAT, pursuant to the provision of the County Assembly Standing Order No. 28 (4) this County Assembly resolves to alter its calendar in respect to September part 1 to October 2020 sitting days by holding two sittings each week afternoon sitting beginning Wednesday 9th September 2020 which is tomorrow up to Wednesday 30th September 2020 and thereafter resume its sittings as set out in the calendar approved on 3rd June 2020.

This is because currently because of the Corona issue we suspended most of the committee and plenary sittings and reduced the normal plenary sittings to one sitting per day and two sittings per week and each committee to sit once. According to our calendar starting 8th of September we are supposed to resume our normal calendar. This morning when we had a meeting because of the on-going vetting process and committee sittings, the Committees on Budget, the Committee on Appointments and the Committee on Lands are going to do vetting which requires space. So, we were of the opinion that we extend the normal sittings so that instead of resuming our normal two sittings per day we continue with one sitting per day until the end of September. Thereafter we will resume our normal sittings. The reason behind is because of the vigorous exercise of vetting and budget exercise which is going on which requires space.

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Mr. Deputy Speaker, that is the reason why this Motion was brought. I want to request the Honorable Members to support. There has been a lot of consultation going on that we should reduce the date from September 30th to any other reasonable date. That is the reason behind the changes and even if we resolve otherwise, then we should allow at least sometime for those Committees doing the vetting process to use the Committee rooms, enough time to make their reporting and sittings.

I beg the Honorable Minority Leader to second me.

Thank you.

Hon. Jimale Abdi (Guba): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise to second the Procedural Motion moved by the Majority Leader. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome back our Honorable Members and staffs from recess. Let us hope and pray that all will be well Insha'Allah.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, as echoed by Honorable Majority Leader, we need sometimes to fast track the businesses before us. First, there is Budget process that is ongoing that needs a lot of time. There is vetting being carried out by the Committee on Lands. The one by the Committee on Appointment has been shelved but we are hoping that it will resume soon.

Due to this, we discussed and agreed that we need time because if we resume our normal sittings then, we will require space because Committees will use the limited spaces available. For us to make sure that the business before us is fast tracked and finished, we have agreed to reduce the sittings to twice a week up to the end of the month. It is okay if we can reduce it but, as it is, that is what we have agreed on and that is what we are requesting Members to pass so that afterward we will resume our normal sittings of four sittings a week.

Thank you.

(Question proposed)

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): Hon. Rafat!

Hon. Abdinoor Dakane Rafat (Khalalio): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. A Procedural Motion is okay at this moment but my input is if the committees are said to be carrying out vetting and there is a committee scheduled to use that room at that particular time, I think it is that committee which is supposed to be affected and not the whole House. The Assembly should continue with the normal business.

As you said from Wednesday, morning and afternoon sittings should continue but when the time of the two committees fortunately or unfortunately collide, then the other committee should be given a special sitting another time. There is a special sitting which can be given to a committee but we want this issue of the House sitting morning and afternoon to come back. That is one of the issues which we need to do.

The other issue is I would like to welcome back the Hon. Members. We have been away from each other for some times.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): Hon. Bishar Maalim Abdullahi, Member for Takaba.

Hon. Bishar Maalim Abdullahi (Takaba): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. First, I want to thank Almighty Allah. We have got quorum unlike other days when we had normal sittings. So, that is a good thing that I must say.

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The other thing is I would like to make an amendment to the Procedural Motion that reads the same in terms of content but the place where we have 30th September 2020, I want it amended to 22nd September 2020 because as you know that the Corona curve has flattened in the Country. From the recent research finding about the Corona is that even burial protocols have changed. This disease can only spread through droplets. We are also going for another short recess on 15th October 2020. I think there are a lot of issues in terms of handling and dealing with statements and other House businesses that are before the House. We need this resumption of the morning and afternoon sittings to start from 22nd September 2020. That is my amendment.

I request honorable Gabnan to second me on that.

Hon. Ahmed Gabnan (Waranqara): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdullahi): Honorable Bishar Maalim Abdullahi, let me also get a copy of your amendment on the Procedural Motion.

Hon. Ahmed Gabnan (Waranqara): I also take this opportunity to thank Almighty Allah who has enabled us stay safe whenever we were, come back and once again gather here. I also in a special way welcome Members who have travelled far and wide; the team known as ‘sky team’, welcome back.

Secondly, I stand to support the amendment by honorable Member for Takaba. As he stated the request of the majority and seconded by the minority is valid.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): Order Honorable Members!

Hon. Ahmed Gabnan (Waranqara): But till 30th September is a long period,

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): Order Honorable Member! Hon. Yakub!

Hon. Ahmed Gabnan (Waranqara): It is good that we reduce it to two weeks. Most of the works will be minimal so that we resume our normal sittings. So, instead of three or four weeks, let us take two weeks for the afternoon sittings before we resume our normal sittings of the Assembly.

I humbly request Members to support the amendment.

Thank you.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): We are going to discuss this amendment before we come back to the main Motion.

(Question Proposed)

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): Hon. Kulow.

Hon. Kulow Alio (Rhamu): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I support the amendment proposed by the member for Takaba and seconded by the Minority Whip. I want to say this that Corona Virus has departed and some of us have been around for quite some time for over six (6) months. We have been attending this Assembly diligently for the last six (6) months twice a week unlike before where we used to attend four (4) times in a week. This has created a lot of idleness among the members.

I, therefore, want to support this amendment that two (2) weeks is enough for the committees to do their work and conclude their business. As from Tuesday 22nd, we need to resume the sittings of morning and afternoon as amended by the honorable member for Takaba.

I support the amendment.

Thank you.

Hon. Yakub Hassan (Derkhale): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think you have given me the chance. I stand to support the amendment. It is only that I have traveled late from my ward today, if I could have been here earlier, I could have brought an amendment that we should start sitting from tomorrow and not 22nd because we have enough space for the Committee On Appointment, Budget and Appropriations Committee and other Committees to sit if we only follow the laid down protocols and procedures and timely sittings of the committees. Why we always have problems of committee sittings is because we come late and two committees normally overlap. In that regard, there is no shortage of space for sittings of committees.

I stand to support that we reduce to 22nd and we continue afternoon sittings up to next week and then from there we will resume our normal sitting.

Thank you.

(Question put and agreed to)

(Motion amended)

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): Now, we can go back to the main Motion.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): Hon. Members, we are now going to adjourn the House to tomorrow at 2:30 pm.