

**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**  
**MANDERA COUNTY ASSEMBLY**

**THE HANSARD**

**Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2020**

*The House met at the Assembly Chambers  
County Assembly Buildings, at 2.32 p.m.*

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

**PRAYER**

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR**

**RULING ON QUORUM AND MASS TESTING**

**Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Farah Abdi): Honorable Members, I want to give direction on the issue raised by honorable Abass with regard to quorum. Honorable Members, we are aware that the House resumed its Business yesterday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2020 in order to attend to urgent legislative issues.

You are also further aware that because of the threat of Covid-19 pandemic, it has become necessary to issue the guideline on Covid-19 on return to work protocol in order to minimize and curb the spread of Covid-19. The guideline was a modification of the health advisory and Presidential directive issued on 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2020. The guideline therefore, has not changed or altered any provision of our Standing Orders.

Our Standing Order 34 (1), states that; -

“A quorum of the County Assembly or of a Committee of the whole County Assembly shall be a third of its Members”.

We have also contacted the Senate and the National Assembly on the issue of quorum vis-a-vis the sitting guideline on Covid-19 and they have confirmed that there was no change with regards to quorum requirement. I, therefore, reiterate that the quorum of the House shall remain the same.

Honorable Members, the other communication is on the concern raised by honorable Kulow on mass testing of all the honorable Members and staff. Having consulted all the stakeholders including the House leadership and the ministry of health and other stakeholders, we have agreed to respect the Speaker’s guideline and we will not have compulsory testing for our staff and honorable Members.

Next Order!

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## STATEMENTS

### STATUS OF REVENUE COLLECTED FROM WATER SOURCES IN KHALALIO WARD

**Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Farah Abdi): Honorable Members, we are on statements. Statement number one is a statement to be issued by honorable Abdinoor Dakane Rafat Member for Khalalio ward. Honorable Rafat is he around?

**Hon. Abdinoor Dakane** (Khalalio): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker for giving me this opportunity. There have been concerns in Bula Haji, Dareqa, Khalalio and Gadudia in Khalalio ward that there is lack of transparency in regards to water revenue collection.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 44 (2) (c), I wish to seek a statement from the chairperson of Water, Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee on; -

(a) How much revenue on water does the department collect from the ward every week?

(b) Why the department collects revenue generated from water agents in the ward without any documentation for verification?

(c) Any evidence to show whether the water revenue collected from the ward was deposited in the County Water Service Resource Account.

Thank you.

**Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Farah Abdi): Chair for water? The vice chair honorable Yussuf.

**Hon. Yussuf Dakane** (Alungu Gof): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I am the vice chair of water. We will bring a response in three weeks' time.

**Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Farah Abdi): In three weeks?

**Hon. Yussuf Dakane** (Alungu Gof): Yes.

**Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Farah Abdi): I think this statement does not require a lot of time. I can see it is a direct question and they can easily get direct answers. What do you want to say honorable Minority Whip?

**Hon. Ahmed Gabnan** (Waranqara): Mr. Deputy Speaker, if you look at the guidelines, this question sought by the honorable Member touches on revenue collection and as far as I am concerned water department is not responsible for revenue collection. Is the statement directed to the right department?

Thank you.

**Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Farah Abdi): I think honorable Minority Whip you are right. If we go back to the questions, the first question is asking how much does the department generate from water revenue collection per week in the ward for the last 12 months. Why the department collects revenue generated from the water agents in the ward without any documentation and any evidence to show whether the water revenue collected from the wards was deposited in the County water service resource account. Hon. Kulow, what do you want to say?

**Hon. Kulow Alio** (Rhamu): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I think there is no consultation as per the Speaker's direction. I do not know what the honorable Member for Khalalio is doing. It is not allowed. This is one of the predicaments that this House has been ailing from since we started because this was the reason why an Ad Hoc Committee was formed

during that time before it was thrown out by this House. It should have solved this kind of problems. This question can only be answered by the department of finance and not water.

**Hon. Abdinoor Dakane** (Khalalio): Mr. Deputy Speaker, from the department of water there is a person who is designated as Mandera East water officer who goes personally to those water agents and collects money directly. That is why we are not directing these questions to the department of finance.

**Hon. Kulow Alio** (Rhamu): It is the ward administrator who collects.

**Hon. Abdinoor Dakane** (Khalalio): No the ward administrator is on maternity. She has not collected any money. Finance department does not know when money was collected because there was no documentation.

Thank you.

**Hon. Alinoor Derow** (Wargadud): As a former chair of water and being a Member of the Ad Hoc Committee, I have information for the honorable House regarding the statement raised by honorable Abdinoor Dakane. There are two levels in terms of revenue generation. The revenue generated from boreholes mainly used for ring-fencing of the borehole expenses and then there is monthly collection of submission which is done to the revenue department. These are the levels. It is the mandate of the water department to run that borehole in terms of expenditure and at the end of it the money which was being accrued is either kept as a contingency or it is submitted to the revenue department. So, I think this is the same reason why an Ad Hoc Committee was formed and that report contains a lot of information and it could have answered and solved this problem amicably.

With that I say the statement is in order and procedural. Let the water department come clear on this matter.

Thank you.

**Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Farah Abdi): Honorable Members, having listened to what you have said, I redirect this statement to the Committee on Finance since it is touching revenue collection. Chair for finance? Vice chair for finance, any Member from finance.

**Hon. Alinoor Derow** (Wargadud): Thank you, honorable Deputy Speaker. I think you will give us two weeks to respond to the statement with your direction. We might invite all those concerned authorities regarding the same whether it is revenue or water department to provide adequate and efficient information concerning the matter.

Thank you.

**Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Farah Abdi): Thank you, very much. I think two weeks is very fair. We go to the next statement honorable Adan Maalim Abdullahi.

#### STATUS OF PAYMENT OF PENDING BILLS

**Hon. Adan Maalim Abdullahi** (Township): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Pursuant to the provision of Standing Order 44 (2) (c), I wish to seek statement from the chairperson of Finance and Economic Planning Committee to; -

1. Provide the Assembly with the list of the pending Bills as per Auditor General's report of 2017/2018.
2. Provide the lists of companies that were paid from the last payment of Kshs 150 Million as per second Supplementary Budget of Financial Year 2019/2020.

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3. Provide the list of those to be paid in the current disbursement to offset the pending liabilities.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

**Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Farah Abdi): Thank you, honorable Majority Whip. Chair for finance, vice chair, any Member? Honorable Alinoor!

**Hon. Alinoor Derow** (Wargadud): Thank you, honorable Deputy Speaker. I think the questions are in order but number three is not clear let the honorable Member substantiate that question.

**Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Farah Abdi): Honorable Adan!

**Hon. Adan Maalim Abdullahi** (Township): Mr. Deputy Speaker, the third question is about second Supplementary. If I am not wrong we had 150 Million shillings in the Budget that was approved by this House. This money was disbursed as the first phase of pending bills. In the third Supplementary, we had around 200 Million shillings that is yet to be paid and it is about to be paid in my opinion. So, the third question is about this last bit of pending bills so that the entire pending liabilities are cleared.

Thank you.

**Hon. Alinoor Derow** (Wargadud): Mr. Deputy Speaker, on the same issue, I thought more or less this is a repetitive question because question number two seeks to provide the list of companies that were paid from the last payment of 150 Million shillings as per the second Supplementary Budget 2019. So, again the third question is also asking the same question to provide the list of those that are to be paid. I do not know if there is other budgetary allocation regarding the same beside the 150 Million. Can he substantiate whether there is also another supplementary budget regarding the same.

**Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Farah Abdi): Yes, honorable Member representing Malkamari.

**Hon. Abdi Hassan** (Malkamari): Mr. Deputy Speaker, as much as I respect the honorable Member who asked the questions, but I conquer with the acting chair of finance, Member representing---

**Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Farah Abdi): I think he is a Member. He is not an acting Chair.

**Hon. Abdi Hassan** (Malkamari): Yes, he is a Member. I said he represent the chair for finance. The third question is similar to the second question. So, since the second question is asking for the list of those who are already paid the 150 Million, I do not see why the third question should appear again?

**Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Farah Abdi): Honorable Abdullahi!

**Hon. Abdullahi Siyad** (Lafey): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. What I want to clarify is that the questions are in order because there are two trenches of pending bills payment that are supposed to be made by the County Government. One was the initial payment of 150 Million then there is another trench of 200 million which is currently ongoing. So, the questions are in order.

Thank you.

**Hon. Alinoor Derow** (Wargadud): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think it has to be very clear as the vice chair for budget stated. If the amount has been specified in the second disbursement, is it one shilling, ten shilling it has to be very clear. It has to be specific because if we are forwarding the same to the finance department it might not be clear to them. It is good to substantiate the amount that we are to enquire. This is going to involve a lot issues. I request for three weeks.

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Thank you.

**Hon. Kulow Alio** (Rhamu): This is a very important question that needs to be answered very urgently because what the Member is requesting is just a list and the list is already there. The Auditor General has provided it and it is actually with finance department. The list of those to be paid is with finance. It is just a matter of submitting the list. So, I do not think whether that requires three weeks. In fact you require even less than a week. So, three weeks will not be fair to this House.

**Hon. Abdinoor Dakane** (Khalalio): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. On the issue of pending bills, we are aware that there was a file which was opened here in the Assembly where all people with pending bills brought their documents and their companies. Nothing was done about that. The way Hon. Kulow said, the list is there. I have followed up myself and I have seen the list. Auditor General's and those to be paid and those who will not be paid are there with the procurement director. So, this issue is a click away. They can get it by next week.

Thank you.

**Hon. Yussuf Dakane** (Alungu Gof): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. This issue of pending bills in this county is becoming urgent. I do not see any reason as to why the honorable Member will take three weeks while the list is with the finance department and they can bring it in less than two days because they have the list of what they have paid for and what they have not paid for. I do not see any reason why they require three weeks.

**Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Farah Abdi): Honorable Members, I think the issue of pending bills has created a lot of confusion to our people and we all remember the budget that we have passed had some money; 150 Million. I think getting that list is very simple because they have already paid them and the list is with them. As we are approaching the main Budget, it is fair to respond to this statement.

I, therefore, direct the Committee on Finance to respond to this statement in two weeks' time.

We go to the pending statement. He is the Member of finance. He is the representative of the committee. Honorable Members, we had pending statements and the first one is statement raised by honorable Yussuf Maalim Dakane to the Committee on Health Services. Chair for Health Committee! Vice chair! Hon. Noor, do you have this response?

**Hon. Noor Mohamud** (Rhamu Dimtu): Mr. Deputy Speaker, as per the information, we already have the response. We will discuss it at the committee level and bring the response next week.

**Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Farah Abdi): In one week?

**Hon. Noor Mohamud** (Rhamu Dimtu): Yes.

**Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Farah Abdi): Thank you, very much. I think one week is very fair. We go to the next statement raised by honorable Abass Abdille Mohamed to the Committee on Public Service, Cohesion, Integration and Conflict Management.

**Hon. Kulow Alio** (Rhamu): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have the response with me. This is the response to statement sought by Honorable Abass Abdille to the Committee on Public Service, Conflict Management and Devolved Units. In reference to your letter dated MCA/EX/walbasas dated 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

**Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Farah Abdi): What do you mean by Walbasas?

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**Hon. Adan Maalim Mohamed** (Elwak North): As the Honorable Chair for Public Service, Conflict Management and Devolved Units is responding to statement raised by a Honorable Member, I heard him saying something like "Walbasas". I do not know it is from which dictionary. Can he define for us that term?

**Hon. Kulow Alio** (Rhamu): Mr. Deputy Speaker, the reference is very long and I was unable to finish. I had to use my mother tongue so that I could drive my point home. I apologize. In reference to your letter dated MCA/EX//WEE\$NR/GEN/VOL.1(036) 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 regarding the statement sought by Hon. Abass Abdille on 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2020, below find the response to the statement raised by the honorable Member.

(1) Whether the department has complied with SRC Circular No. SRC/TS/NCPD/3/18./(80) which gave a flat rate of Ksh. 20,000 per month payable as part of the monthly remuneration to the Public Officers with disability for categories of Deaf, Blind and Wheelchair Users (Physically Disabled)

Response is that; yes, the department has complied with the provision of the circular. Currently only one staff by the name Nur Abdi Omar P/NO 197801076 is benefitting from the guide allowance of Kshs. 20,000 per month. Nevertheless, we are not sure whether this officer has complied with the conditions by paying his guide the same amount. He has also not provided the name of his guide which in turn may disqualify him from getting the allowance.

It is upon others to apply for personal claims. However, the Public Officer with such disability as Deaf, Blind and Wheel chaired must fill certain conditions for them to apply for this benefit.

a) He/she must be registered with the National Council for persons with disability (NCPWD). It is only then that, His or Her eligibility can be determined.

b) They must also provide the names of their respective personal guides. It is also important to note that the personal guide must be a form four leaver.

c) This allowance is for the Public Officer to pay his personal guide and not to benefit him.

(2) Provide list of public Officers with disability who have benefitted from this review and their department.

Response; a) So far only one officer has benefited with the name Nur Abdi Omar from Finance Department.

b) The following other officers did not benefit from the personal guide allowance since they did not make personal claim.

1). Hussein Bulle Hassan of P/NO 20150012650, nature of disability is wheel chaired and from the department of Education.

2). Mohamed Abdile Madey of P/NO 20160152540, nature of disability is wheel chaired and from the department of Education.

3). Shafaa Nur Guliye of P/NO 20140116052, nature of disability is Blind and from the department of Education.

4). Gabane Ibrahim Ahmed P/NO 20150046567, nature of disability is wheel chaired and from the department of Education.

5). Nurdin Ali Golise P/NO 2015009103, visually impaired and from the department of Education.

6). Abdi Salat Hassan P/NO 20140116865, hearing impairment and from the department

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of Education.

7). Abdinasir Ismail Daud P/NO 20140114209, nature of disability is wheel chaired and from the department of Education.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we even went further to the member who sought for the statement to get his view. He has clarified and was satisfied with the questions as answered. As the chair for people with disability we wanted to know if he is aware of this seven members and whether they are actually informed of this benefit that they are supposed to benefit. He has conquered and was satisfied with the statement as answered.

Thank you.

**Hon. Abdinoor Dakane** (Khalalio): Mr. Deputy Speaker, on this issue of disability as you can see from the response all of them are from Education. Do you mean there are no disable people in other departments?

**Hon. Abass Abdille** (Nominated): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. The remuneration is for people with wheel chairs, blind and deaf. I have personally confirmed with education department. The 7 staffs are there. They have not been given the guideline. I request the chair for education to help us in achieving this because they can liaise with the department since all the 7 cases are from the department of education. I can clarify to honorable Rafat that the remuneration is not for all disabilities but for only three categories of which they have made the clarification. If there are other disabilities not captured here the honorable members can raise.

Thank you.

**Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Farah Abdi): That statement is very satisfactory and we go to the next statement raised By Hon. Ahmed Gabnan Ali, Member for Waranqara ward to the Committee on Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries.

**Hon. Bashir Ibrahim** (Kiliwehiri): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We had the response to the statement before we went for recess. We discussed it as a committee and I thought the response would have been here today but we are going to respond next week.

**Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Farah Abdi): Next week?

**Hon. Bashir Ibrahim** (Kiliwehiri): Yes.

**Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Farah Abdi): Yes Honorable Yakub.

**Hon. Yakub Hassan** (Derkhale): Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is not in order for the Chair for Agriculture to say the response is not ready because they had 90 days to respond to pending questions. They were just here in Mandera doing nothing. Ideally being away from Mandera does not stop them from doing their committee work. Mr. Deputy Speaker, let the Chair for Agriculture provide the response and by extension what he was doing for the last one, two and three months when the Assembly is not in recess or he was working from home.

Thank you.

**Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Farah Abdi): Honorable Gabnan.

**Hon. Ahmed Gabnan** (Waranqara): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker for giving me the opportunity. One month ago when I raised this statement and described the type of disease that we are experiencing in some parts of the county which I described as a mysterious disease and some members made a joke out of it. Today that disease is in all part of this county including the area the member for the committee comes from including Burduras, Kiliwehiri and other parts of this county.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the economic back born of this county is Livestock and once you

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are experiencing such mass death of camel we should be very much worried. Today, the Chair of the committee is telling us that the committee has deliberated, it is in his desktop and also in the clerk's office and he does not want to present it. I request him to go outside, get it if it is in the precincts of the Assembly and come back with the feedback. We should not allow him since he said he has it and there is no further deliberation needed. He should bring it to the floor of the House.

Thank you.

**Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Farah Abdi): Honorable Adan!

**Hon. Adan Maalim Abdullahi** (Township): Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is not good to push the Chair for Agriculture to the wall when over the Covid-19 lockdown, the committee that was given the mandates to work is only the Ad Hoc Committee and the Health Committee. Agriculture Committee Chair was at home resting and like every other person we are doing self-quarantine. The committee Chair is so much in order when he asked for two weeks to start the job a fresh.

Thank you.

**Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Farah Abdi): Honorable Kullow!

**Hon. Kulow Alio** (Rhamu): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have not said the honorable member was staying at home doing nothing. The Chair for Agriculture confirmed that the response is within the precincts of the Assembly. I do not think he needs two weeks. He can only get one week so that the committee can deliberate and table the report.

Thank you.

**Hon. Abdi Adan** (Neboi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, the members need to be very serious. The issue of camels dying has been in the social media and we have been discussing it in our forums. I do not want to push the chair for Agriculture but without being told by the members he should take responsibility. Since this is a matter that concerns the livelihood of our people and animals are dying in all the wards in this county, even if it is working on weekends, be serious and bring the report by next week so that we can know the way forward.

Thank you.

**Hon. Yussuf Dakane** (Alungu Gof): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not see the reason as to why the chair will take more than a week because he has already said the response is with the committee and they have deliberated it. I do not know why they should request for more time. Let him explain to the House if he they have really deliberated on it.

**Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Farah Abdi): Let me give the last chance to honorable Rafat and we will get back to the chair.

**Hon. Abdinoor Dakane** (Khalalio): Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is a House of rules and procedures and the issues raised by the Majority leader are very serious. There was COVID-19 issue and most of the members were going through social media and some of them know the answer. The samples were sent by the department and the answers were not received up to now. However, we know the issue is very serious and the committee has not yet sat since that time and they are tabled to sit tomorrow and check the report and if they are not convinced they have to return to the department. The issue of one week is to see if the response is genuine to tell everybody in Gither, Waranqara that this is what we found out. If it is wrong we have to seek for more time with the department and say this is not the right one and please bring the right answer. That is the time we face the House and say this is what we have found out. For all those reasons,

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give us timeline up to next week.

Thank you.

**Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Farah Abdi): The Chair.

**Hon. Bashir Ibrahim** (Kiliwehiri): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I do not know why the Members are shouting because we said the response---

**Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Farah Abdi): Order honorable Member! You are out of order. Withdraw that statement. It is not a matter of fighting. Withdraw and we proceed. Address the chair and proceed.

**Hon. Bashir Ibrahim** (Kiliwehiri): I have withdrawn and the House will get the response next week Wednesday.

**Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Farah Abdi): Thank you, very much. The committee has all the reasons to make excuse because they were not working when we were away from the Assembly. So, next week if they bring the response it is very fair. The Committee on Agriculture should take this matter very seriously because we are receiving a lot of outcry from our livestock keepers. We now go to the statement raised by Yussuf Maalim Dakane to the Health Service Committee.

**Hon. Noor Mohamud** (Rhamu-Dimtu): Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are asking for two more weeks.

**Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Farah Abdi): Two weeks is fine and we pray the response will be ready after those two weeks. That is the end of statements and we go to the next order.

## MOTION

### ADOPTION OF THE REVISED MANDERA COUNTY ASSEMBLY CALENDAR 2020

**Hon. Abdi Adan** (Neboi): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I beg to move the following motion; -

Pursuant to the to Standing Order 28 of Mandera County Assembly Standing Order, and as adopted by House Business Committee of the Assembly on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2020; the County Assembly approved the revised Mandera County Assembly Calendar for 2020 as set out in the schedule below:

PERIOD	DAYS
FOURTH SESSION	2 <sup>ND</sup> JUNE,2020 - 2 <sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER 2020
FIRST PART	
A: Sitting Days Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June, 2020 – Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> August, 2020.	Tuesday (Afternoon) and Wednesday (Afternoon)
B: Short Recess	
Thursday, 13 <sup>th</sup> , August, 2020 –Monday 31 <sup>th</sup> August, 2020.	

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C: Sitting days	Tuesday (Morning & Afternoon) and Wednesday (Morning & Afternoon)
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2020- Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> October, 2020.	
D: Short Recess	
Thursday, 15 <sup>th</sup> October, 2020 - Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> October, 2020.	
SECOND PART	Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> October, 2020– Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December, 2020.
E: Sitting Days	Tuesday ( Morning & Afternoon) and Wednesday ( Morning & Afternoon)
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> October, 2020 – Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December, 2020.	
F: Long Recess	
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December, 2020 – Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> February, 2021.	

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in this timetable we have considered so many factors. Recesses are not too much and we only have short breaks. August we have from 13<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>. If maybe HAJJ is opened and the issue of COVID-19 comes to an end, members who want to go can go. We also have a short break in October from 15<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> October which is just 11 days. This was done to recover the days lost due to the change of the calendar as a result of Covid-19.

I beg the House to adopt this calendar and ask Honorable Gabnan to second.

Thank you.

**Hon. Ahmed Gabnan** (Waranqara): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I stand to second the Motion by the Majority Leader. As members of HBC we deliberated extensively and we are satisfied with this schedule before the House. I request the honorable members to support.

Thank you.

*(Question proposed)*

**Hon. Abdinoor Dakane** (Khalalio): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker for giving me the opportunity to contribute to the Motion on the County Assembly calendar. As member of the HBC, the deliberation on the House calendar has taken long just to recover the time lost during the COVID-19 and that is why the recesses were made very short so that honorable members will have time to represent their electorates. That is why we find it fit for all honorable Members to support the calendar as it is.

Thank you.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

**Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Farah Abdi): We go to the next Motion by Honorable Abass.

**Hon. Abass Abdille** (Nominated): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. As we recall on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020, this House constituted an Ad Hoc Committee to oversight measures taken by the

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county government to address the spread of COVID-19 and to table progress report on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the presidential directive on curfew and containment of 5 Counties including Mandera has hampered the movement of people to and from the county. The committee invited some of the Executive committee members and Chief Officers to appear before it in order to respond to issues related to COVID-19. However, some of the CECs and Chief Officers were unable to appear before the Committee as they were outside the county.

The House expects the Committee to provide detailed report and we are yet to meet critical Stakeholders who requested to appear in two weeks. It is in light of the above situation and pursuant to the provision of Standing Order 182, I request your office to grant us an extension of three (3) weeks. We are requesting for three (3) more weeks because the CEC is not within the county. We wrote to him and he responded to us yesterday and requested that he will appear before the Committee on 10<sup>th</sup> June. We requested some critical information from Health department and the response they gave is that most of the field workers who were doing assessment are on the field and they are to report before 24<sup>th</sup>. So, I kindly request your indulgence.

Thank you.

**Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Farah Abdi): Hon. Adan.

**Hon. Adan Maalim Abdullahi** (Township): The Ad Hoc Committee is a committee that is charged with a very important mandate of oversight on behalf of the House. They are doing important job outside there and we are eagerly waiting for a complete report. What I hear from the Chair of the Committee is that very important information are still lacking because of constraints that are put in place by COVID-19.

I support the request made by the Chair that the Committee be added more time.

Thank you.

**Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Farah Abdi): Hon. Gabnan!

**Hon. Ahmed Gabnan** (Waranqara): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We have heard the Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Committee on COVID-19. We understand that we had some challenges. CEC Finance is locked up in Nairobi and it is a valid decision. The Committee's lifespan is a period of six (6) months. We are just requesting for the first report. It does not mean that everything concerning COVID-19 in this county is exhaustively done in one report. We just want the first report and then they will continue. That is not the end of the lifespan of the Committee. Also the representatives of the CEC are here. He can share all the necessary documents through his office and those documents can be availed. Even if they are requesting for extension of time, we give them one (1) week. We just want them to take one (1) more week and bring us the first report.

Thank you.

**Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Farah Abdi): Hon. Adan.

**Hon. Adan Maalim Mohamed** (El-wak North): I rise to support the request that has been put across by the honorable Chair representing the Ad Hoc Committee. Because of the issue at hand, crucial documents are missing for the report to be tabled in this House. The issue at hand is budget and finance, and it is very critical—a lot of issues revolving in that Ministry and the person leading that ministry is away.

I also want to suggest to the committee that in future, and to the honorable members, that during this COVID-19 issue that there are Teleconference System to engage somebody wherever he is, even if he is outside the county. The Ad Hoc Committee can sit and invite him through the Zoom which is now Conference Call and then you can take information that you need to have so that you compile the report instead of sitting back and waiting for it. But for this case, I suggest that we give them the three (3) weeks for them to compile the report. I understand that most of the committee members are analog and they do not understand how to use Google chart and those things because they are over 50 years.

**Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Farah Abdi): Have a seat. There is another honorable member. Honorable Rafat, what is your---

**Hon. Abdinoor Rafat** (Khalalio): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. As has been said, we support the three (3) weeks. Whenever we talk about Corona Virus in this Assembly, reference is made to Hon. Rafat, that his age. I am not getting any allowance from the Corona Virus Committee and they are not putting me anywhere. We want the committee to see such situation that Corona Virus and old ages in the Assembly are paid.

Secondly, we want the wards to be considered because the people of Mandera have done their part. We have put up masks and everything, and they were able to buy them on their own. We have not seen the county putting up sanitizers and those things. We need those things to be done so that it also goes to the Wards.

**Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Farah Abdi): Hon. Yakub.

**Hon. Yakub Hassan** (Derkale): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I stand to oppose because what are we dealing with first? We are dealing with COVID-19. We are not dealing with the normal statements of this Assembly where honorable members or Chair of a committee can stand and say give me three (3) weeks or 2 weeks. Tumezoea hiyo maneno.

**Hon. Kulow Alio** (Rhamu): The honorable member for Derkale is actually going against the Standing Order by using different languages. He should withdraw that.

**Hon. Yakub Hassan** (Derkale): Thank you. I will continue with English. If you look at the briefing from the World Leaders, and by extension the Ministry of Health in Kenya, the briefing on Corona and Corona related issues is on daily bases. It should be after every 24 hours. This is a situation where the Committee on Health can be able to do this work. But because of our own intelligence, we formed an Ad Hoc Committee to work on this. And now, they are telling us after working for a whole month, they want three (3) weeks, two (2) weeks or one (1) week to bring a simple report. This House is not even briefed. Let them tell us the preliminaries. How many sittings have they done? Where have they reached? Do they have challenges? This House does not know what is happening in the County after the Committee is formed after four weeks without even bringing an actual report. Let the Chair stand up and give us the briefing on where they have reached, and the challenges they are facing. They are postponing this issue every now and then. This is not a normal statement, this is an emergency and they should treat it as an emergency response.

Thank you.

**Hon. Kulow Alio** (Rhamu): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I want to add my voice on what the Chair for Ad Hoc Committee on COVID-19 said. When Hon. Yakub was the Chair for Water, he actually requested for more time and the Assembly considered. When he was the Chair

for education, he also requested for more time, the Assembly considered. But when other committees----

**Hon. Ahmed Gabnan** (Waranqara): The honorable member is misleading the House. The honorable member is saying that when honorable Yakub was the Chair for Ad Hoc, he requested for more time to submit a report. He has never done that. He only requested the extension of the lifetime of the committee then. Now, we are not ending the lifetime of this committee. It is never the same.

**Hon. Kulow Alio** (Rhamu): Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is what I want to say, this is an Ad Hoc Committee which has got a serious mandate to undertake. First, the honorable member should learn that there is a whole department under the County Government which is dealing with the issues of COVID-19. Ours is just an oversight of what they are supposed to be doing. We want to update the honorable members that things have been done this way and that way.

Secondly, we are going from the unknown to known. And for us to get a credible report to this House, we must gather information. And for us to gather information there has to be exchange of letters between the various departments and the committee of which we are progressing. It also needs the invitation of different stakeholders on COVID-19 which is also ongoing. We have done a lot and we can present that in the next week. But we want to present a report, where, if the honorable members read, they will be satisfied with the work that we have done. We do not want to present a shoddy report that is going to be thrown out of the window by the honorable Members. That is why because of the challenges we have and because of the crucial information that honorable Members want to hear, we must make them hear on the floor of this House. That can only be done if we get credible response from the specific departments that we have targeted. We are yet to get information from those particular departments. But if they are ok that we go ahead and present in the next one week and that they will not chase us with that report then we are ready. But for us to give a credible report, we are requesting for more time and we need honorable Members to consider us.

Thank you.

**Hon. Abdi Adan** (Neboi): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. As much as we listen to the Chair for Ad Hoc Committee on COVID-19, I think the Chair is aware that we gave him all the guidelines when we formed this committee. And that he is supposed to report to this House in a month's. They are supposed to be working because when they are making their programmes, they would have made their programme in such a way that at the end of the month, they would have had their report even if it is a draft report, something that they can present to this House. We formed the committee, we make procedures and rules and people are not following these rules because if you were told to report within one month, you are supposed to be working in such a way that at the end of that month, you have something that can be presented to the House. You bring it and you say this is the report but there are some parts missing.

**Hon. Fatuma Kasai** (Nominated Member): The committee depends on information from other departments. And if other departments requested for more time in giving us information then how can we come up with a report to present to the House?

**Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Farah Abdi): Take that as information and proceed.

**Hon. Abdi Adan** (Neboi): I said even if the information you are looking for is missing, whatever you have got, you cannot tell us one month, you have been looking for information,

and you have not got information. I think it is not that way according to me. Does it mean that, for one month, you have not got any information?

**Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Farah Abdi): Hon. Chair, you will be given chance to clarify.

**Hon. Abdi Adan** (Neboi): That is one point we want to make as a House. Next time, if we give a task to a committee then that committee must take that responsibility. And because you are using taxpayers' money you cannot be outside the whole month visiting Quarantine Centres and Isolation Centres and then come back to this House and tell us that you have no information. Next time, we might not form Ad Hoc Committee if this trend continues.

Secondly, now that they have asked for and it is their first time to ask for an extension, and what they are telling us is they are missing crucial information, three (3) weeks is a lot of time. We have already given them a month and it has elapsed. And three (3) weeks is almost another month; it is another life of the Ad Hoc Committee.

I propose that we give them two (2) weeks so that they give us that report. And if they do not give us within those two (2) weeks then we need to come up with measures or actions to be taken against this committee.

**Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Farah Abdi): Hon. Sokorey and then Hon. Abdullahi.

**Hon. Sokorey Maalim Issackow** (Nominated Member): Thank you. We have heard what the Chairman for Ad Hoc Committee requested. And to me, it is fair for us to listen to what he presented. I know when there was COVID-19, the Chairperson for Ad Hoc Committee was among the members who are up to the task looking for information. We know our role is oversight and I think oversight is something that is not limited and we can ask question at any time. When it comes to emergency things, the Executive has powers to do what they can do. There is nothing that will stop them from doing anything when it comes to emergency. So, can we allow them the three (3) weeks? Maybe there are reasons for them to have stated the three (3) weeks. So, let us be fair enough so that whatever we have requested for will be answered adequately.

Thank you.

**Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Farah Abdi): Thank you, very much. Hon. Abdullahi Siyad.

**Hon. Abdullahi Siyad** (Lafey): I think we need to be fair to both side; the House and the Committee. The mandate of the committee is very clear. They are supposed to bring full report after six (6) months but the House has given them up to 5<sup>th</sup> to bring a progress report. I think a progress report is not the final document. They should have brought us basic information like the number of Quarantine Centres and the people who are quarantined. I am sure they have a lot. But now, my brother is telling us he has nothing and he is asking for more time. It is very unfair to this House. There is a lot of anxiety over this issue of COVID-19. In fact, as honorable members, it is like we have nothing to tell the public and it is our mandate to update them. Other technical matters and the full report can come later. But this committee has disappointed us. My suggestion is that we give them one week. They put their act together and they bring a progress report and then we give them some more time to bring the full report.

Another thing, Hon. Abass was the Chair of the rejection of the Ad Hoc Committee report. But now that the shoe is in the other leg, he should be careful.

Thank you.

**Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Farah Abdi): Hon. Abass.

**Hon. Abass Abdille** (Nominated Member): I want to make three things clear;

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As you know the Assembly has not been given the mandate to conduct sittings virtually as per the National Assembly and other areas. That one should come clear. There is no way we can engage the CEC through Zoom, and the Assembly has not given us that mandate so far. And any committee was not given that mandate as per the Speaker's guideline.

The reason why we requested the extension of three weeks is that there is contentious issue like relief food. The relief food is not one month's food distribution; it is intervals of three months and each month there is a distribution. So, in the wisdom of the committee, we just found out that we cannot give issues of relief in the next six months for a report because we have to capture the first one month. We need to bring report on the first distribution. So, that one is very important. And custodian of that is the CEC for Finance who is not around.

In terms of what we have covered, we have covered quarantine areas. It is with the committee. But in the quarantine areas, there are some basic information that is required from finance department. So, we cannot bring half-baked report. We will be questioned tomorrow. We will be asked where the contract agreement is. These are questions that we cannot answer.

So, I want the members to understand how serious this issue is. We know it is contentious. We know many people are waiting for the report as said by Hon. Abdullahi. But we request that you understand the situation that we are in.

With that, thank you.

**Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Farah Abdi): Honorable Members, we are going for prayer but before that, we need to be very sincere about what we are doing. I think what we are doing is issues related to health. When the Speaker formed this Ad Hoc Committee, even the public was expecting a lot of information from this Ad Hoc Committee. Actually when the Speaker was saying that let the committee report back to the House by 5<sup>th</sup> of June, what we were expecting is a progress report and not a final report because the committee went round Quarantine Centres and they had meeting with officials of the Department of Health. They also made a visit to the County Store. We are aware that they have a lot of information.

But what we want is a progress report to be tabled before the House. I understand that most of our members are in the dark about this issue. What we want is, as an oversight body, to know how the money was spent. How far are we prepared for this COVID-19? Because border Beled Hawa and Ethiopia and we are getting information that in Beled Hawa the issue of COVID-19 is very serious. We also need to get that information; if there is any threat that is likely to cross from the borders. These are information that we want to get from the members.

For the request of honorable Abass, we cannot allow three (3) weeks. What we want is a progress report and basic information so that we will be reading from the same page. Still we consider your request. I know there are a lot of tasks before the committee.

I, therefore, give the committee two (2) weeks and by the end of those two weeks, we need a report before the House.

Thank you.

#### ADJOURNMENT

**Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Farah Abdi): Honorable Members, having exhausted today's business, we adjourn our House to next week, 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2020 at 2:30 p.m.

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