



**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT**

**COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BOMET**

**THIRD COUNTY ASSEMBLY**

**ASSEMBLY DEBATES**

**Vol. 2 No. 61**

## DAILY HANSARD

*The Assembly met at the Main Assembly Chamber,  
Dr. Joyce Laboso Centre at 2:30 p. m  
Third County Assembly- Second Session  
Tuesday Afternoon 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2023  
(The Assembly met at 2:30 p. m in the  
County Assembly Mini Chamber at County Assembly Buildings)  
[Hon. Deputy Speaker (Hon. L. Rotich) in the Chair]*

### PRAYER

**Hon. Deputy Speaker (Hon. L. Rotich):** Hon. Members, welcome to this Sitting.

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

WELCOMING KIPSUTER BOYS' SECONDARY

SCHOOL TO THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY

**Hon. Deputy Speaker (Hon. L. Rotich):** Hon. Members, I welcome you back from a long recess. Let us feel energized for the businesses that are ahead of us.

In the public gallery today, we are privileged to have been visited by students from Kipsuter Boys' Secondary School in an academic trip to our Assembly. Kipsuter Secondary School is a school in Chepalungu sub-county, Siongiroi ward. They have been accompanied by two teachers and they are candidates for the year 2023.

You are highly welcome. You will be required to follow the proceedings of this Assembly and maintain silence. Let me give this chance to Hon. Kibet Ngetich to give his welcoming remarks.

**Hon. K. Ngetich Leader of Minority (Siongiroi Ward, CCM):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to welcome them. I am an alumnus of the school and therefore when I see them, I am proud of them. Were it not for that school I would not be here. I am proud of you.

I have just noted that some of you have no ties. Next time put on your ties. Hon. Speaker, I should not be the one disciplining them because I am one of them but I should not also hide things that are not right.

This Assembly is a Assembly governed by rules and I know that one day you might be here. I had an aspiration back then that I would be a politician. I didn't know that I was coming here but

through this school and of course my good principal who happens to be the former Member of National Assembly for Bomet Central, Ronald Tonui, who mentored me, I am here today.

I encourage you to work hard wherever you are. When you go back to school tell your school mates to work hard. I will come to your school hopefully next week.

*(Hon. C. Langat rose on a point of order)*

**Hon. Deputy Speaker (Hon. L. Rotich):** Hon. C. Langat.

**Hon. C. Langat (Boito Ward, UDA):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, this is a Assembly of rules and procedures. Is it right for the Hon. Member to lecture and give the program to the school and students from Kipsuter?

**Hon. K. Ngetich Leader of Minority (Siongiroi Ward, CCM):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you. I was congratulating my students and trying to mentor the students on how we got here. That was it.

I welcome you once more.

*(Applause)*

**Hon. Deputy Speaker (Hon. L. Rotich):** Hon. Member, thank you. I have given you this chance to welcome the students from your ward.

## PAPERS

THE AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT RECOMMENDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MUNICIPALITY,  
TOWNS & MARKET AND THE 12<sup>TH</sup> REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS

**Hon. P. Kirui Leader of Majority (Ndanai/ Abosi Ward, UDA):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, I beg to lay the following Papers on the Table of the County Assembly today, 6th June 2023.

1. The Ad hoc Committee report recommending the establishment of Sotik Municipality, Ndanai, Mulot and Mogogosiek towns and market centers within the County.
2. The 12<sup>th</sup> report of the Committee on Appointments on the vetting of the nominees for the position of selection and recruitment of County Public Service Board Member.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker (Hon. L. Rotich):** Hon. Paul Kirui, thank you. I commit the Ad hoc Committee report which has just been Tabled to the Committee on Urban Planning, Lands and Housing and they are expected to report back in 14 days. Thank you.

**Hon. D. Busienei (Chemagel Ward, UDA):** I am much obliged, Hon. Deputy Speaker.

## NOTICE OF MOTION

12<sup>TH</sup> REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS

**Hon. P. Kirui Leader of Majority (Ndanai/Abosi Ward, UDA):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give Notice of the following Motions:

1. THAT, pursuant to Standing Order 197 (4), this County Assembly adopts the 12th report of the Committee on Appointments of the vetting of the nominees for the position of selection panel for recruitment of the County Public Service Board Member and pursuant to Section 58 (a) (1) of the County Governments Act rejects the nomination and subsequent appointment of Alice Chepkemoi Kirui for the position of the Chairperson of the selection panel for recruitment of the Member of the County Public Service Board.
2. THAT, pursuant to Standing Order 197 (4), this County Assembly adopts the 12<sup>th</sup> report of the Committee on Appointments of the vetting of nominees for the position of the selection panel for the recruitment of the County Public Service Board Member and pursuant to Section 58 (a) (1) of the County Governments Act rejects the nomination and subsequent appointment of Sally Chepwogen Kirui for the position of the member of the selection panel for recruitment of the Member of County Public Service Board
3. THAT, pursuant to Standing Order 197 (4), this County Assembly adopts the 12<sup>th</sup> report of the Committee on Appointments of the vetting of nominees for the position of the selection panel for the recruitment of the County Public Service Board Member and pursuant to Section 58 (a) 1 of the County Governments Act rejects the nomination and subsequent appointment of Sigei Cornelius Kiplangat for the position of the member of the selection panel for recruitment of the Member of County Public Service Board
4. THAT, pursuant to Standing Order 197 (4), this County Assembly adopts the 12th report of the Committee on Appointments on the vetting of the nominees for the position of the selection panel for the recruitment of the County Public Service Board Member and pursuant to Section 58 (1) of the County Governments Act rejects the nomination and subsequent appointments of John Mark Mutai Langat for the position of member of the selection panel for recruitment of the Member of the County Public Service Board.
5. THAT, pursuant to Standing Order 197 (4), this County Assembly adopts the 12<sup>th</sup> report of the Committee on Appointments on the vetting of the nominees for the position of the selection panel for recruitment of the County Public Service Board Member and pursuant to section 58 (a) on the County Governments Act approves the nomination and subsequent appointment of Reuben Chirchir for the position of the member of the selection panel for recruitment of Member of County Public Service Board.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, thank you.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker (Hon. L. Rotich):** Proceed to table.

*(Hon. Member proceeded to Table)*

**Hon. Deputy Speaker (Hon. L. Rotich):** The Notices of Motions which have just been Tabled stand committed to the County Assembly Business and Rules Committee to slot time for debate.

### QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

#### RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ON THE ACCESSIBILITY OF PUBLIC PLACES BY PERSONS WITH DISABILITY

**Hon. E. Kirui (Kimulot Ward, UDA):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, thank you for giving me this opportunity to respond to a Question asked by Hon. Lily Cherotich concerning the accessibility of public places by persons with disability. Hon. Deputy Speaker, before I proceed, may I conquer with my friend Hon. Kibet in welcoming the students from Kipsuter Boys' Secondary School to this Assembly so that they can follow these proceedings.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, based on the Question that was asked by Hon. Lily, the department of Gender, Culture and Social Services was aware of the road which leads to their offices that it was impassable by persons with disabilities. Hon. Deputy Speaker, the same was forwarded to the department of Roads, Transport and Public Works by the same office and the path already has been maintained. It's only that the Committee on Gender had a plan to visit the site to check whether it is up to the standard.

Furthermore, Hon. Deputy Speaker, tomorrow we shall be engaging the CECM in charge and that will be one of the questions she must answer. Hon. Deputy Speaker, I beg for more days, roughly five days, so that we can come up with a full report.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, thank you.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker (Hon. L. Rotich):** Thank you, Hon. Member. Hon. Josphat, kindly proceed.

#### QUESTION ON THE APPOINTMENT OF MR. KIPKOECH RONO MICAH AS EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION ASSISTANT IN THE COUNTY EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

**Hon. J. Kipkirui (Singorwet Ward, INDEPENDENT):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, thank you for this opportunity. I also welcome the boys from Kipsuter Boys' Secondary School. They are welcome to this August Assembly.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my Question is to the chair of the Committee on Labour and Public Service concerning the appointment of one Mr. Kipkoech Rono Micah as Early Childhood Development Education Assistant in the County Education Department. In his reply, the Chairperson should state;

1. The reason why the appointment letter dated 10<sup>th</sup> July 2021 addressed to him was withdrawn by the County Public Service Board.

2. The reason why the decision of the Public Service Commission dated 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023 on the appeal against the revocation of the appointment letter of the said person has not been implemented by the County Public Service Board.
3. Hon. Deputy Speaker, the Chairperson should state when the County Public Service Board intends to comply with the decision of the Public Service Commission regarding the said person and many others.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, thank you.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker (Hon. L. Rotich):** I commit the Question which has just been asked to the Committee on Labour and Public Service. Chairperson, kindly expedite the process and report to this Assembly within 21 days. Thank you.

Hon. Peter Rono, kindly proceed.

RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ON THE SPORADIC

SPREAD OF DODDER WEED IN KIMULOT WARD

**Hon. P. Ronoh (Kipsonoi Ward, UDA):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, thank you. Allow me to also take a minute to welcome the students from Kipsuter Boys' Secondary School to the County Assembly of Bomet. Feel welcomed and at least to learn something on your visit.

I am rising to respond to the Question asked by Hon. Eric Kirui, MCA representing Kimulot Ward on the 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023 concerning the sporadic spread of Dodder weed in Kimulot Ward. Hon. Deputy Speaker, the Question read as follows:

- i. Whether the department of agriculture is aware of the sporadic spread of the weed in the county and its harm.
- ii. Whether the department was aware of the potential threat that the weed is likely to cause to the tea growing farmers who largely depend on tea for daily subsistence.
- iii. Whether the department has noted the previous harm the weed may cause to the county economy if not acted upon.
- iv. Whether there are any mitigation factors that the department has put in place to cap the spread of the weed in the county and if not, what actions will the department take to mitigate the menace.

The Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries wrote a letter for a comprehensive report to be forwarded to the Assembly on or before Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023. Hon. Deputy Speaker in the letter dated 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023, the CECM in charge of Agriculture, Hon. Rosa responded to the issues raised by the Committee as follows. I will summarize it because the report has been shared.

That the weed is a parasitic plant that ingests many crops. The department is aware that the weed has invested not only in the tea farms but also in the bushes around the tea farms. More than one hundred and fifty species occur worldwide. Sad enough, to give a brief history of the weed, Hon. Deputy Speaker, the weed is supposed to be a tropical weed. It is not supposed to appear on equatorial soils but because of global warming the weed and the changes in weather pattern, the weed has now introduced itself in our midst. Otherwise, earlier on, it was only found in Northern America but now it is here with us.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, on the second question on the potential threat that the weed is likely to cause, in the response by the CECM, it is causing potential harm not only to tea but also to vegetation around because it is a parasitic weed. It engulfs the plant, suffocates it and finally stunts its growth.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, on whether the department has noted the grievous harm the weed may cause the department began its mitigative measures towards controlling the same when we raise the concern.

Finally, the CECM has written to us on what the farmers who come from the affected areas should do and I do not want to go through all of them because they are self-explanatory. We have non-herbicide management options, biological management options and chemical control options. I only want to make a conclusion that the department has done something although some research studies have been done by institutions such as Kenya Forest Research Institute (KFRI), there is yet to be a clear way of dealing with the weed.

The department is undertaking the following mitigation and intervention measures:

1. Sensitization of farmers or the public on the invasive need and its management option which includes the resisting from carrying dodder plants. Hon. Deputy Speaker, the plant is ornamental, is aesthetic, has brown leaves and someone can choose to plant it as a flower not knowing that this plant is invasive.
2. You are asked to destroy the parasitic plant immediately even though the plant takes time to dry up. There are several options to deal with it.
3. The department is also calling upon the leaders to escalate the issue to the national level for further serious research to be undertaken to establish effective management of the weed and the possibility of it having an economic value.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, the County Government of Bomet does not have any agricultural laboratory, none for testing soil and none for doing research on weeds, plants health and



diseases. The CEC, since we need a quick action, is therefore asking us to escalate to the Nairobi Government to assist us in populating ways on dealing with the same.

In conclusion the Committee on its sitting on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023 found out the response to the Question is elaborate and therefore satisfactory. Hon. Deputy Speaker, allow me to end there. Thank you.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker (Hon. L. Rotich):** Thank you, Hon. Member. This time round I believe Hon. Eric Kirui is satisfied with the question which has been Tabled today. Actually, the issue on dodder weed has taken a long time to be handled in this Assembly. Hon. Kirui can kindly respond.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member and Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture for the work well done. I am not sure about the steps that the department is taking to mitigate the spread. I would really want to listen to the practical intervention that they are doing or taking to mitigate and also on sensitization.

I come from a village where I have not heard anyone speak about it. I have not heard from the sub-county administrators, nor have I heard it from the pastors. It looks like the conversation is still in papers and I urge the Chair and the department to move it further to put in practical ways of mitigating the spread of the plant.

I also thank the Committee though they took a long time to respond to my Question, I appreciate that they have woken up. My request going into the future is that whenever we have something like that, that aims at pushing the economy of the county as a whole we should treat it with a matter of urgency because there is a reason why we raise those Questions. We expect that even in the current budget process we would have something that will benefit the county. Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker and we look forward to hearing from the panel.

**Hon. W. Kiprotich (Chepchas Ward, UDA):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, when Hon. Kibet was talking about students from his ward he did mention that this Assembly is governed by rules and procedure. If you follow what Hon. Eric said, he made a statement that the Committee has woken up. Does he insinuate that we were sleeping? Maybe he can elaborate on that.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker (Hon. L. Rotich):** Hon. Member, what did you mean when you said that they had woken up?

**Hon. E. Kirui (Kimulot Ward):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, thank you. I actually didn't insinuate the sleeping bit of it. I was concerned that it was taking a bit too long. Unlike what my Hon. senior is trying to insinuate, Hon. Members from the Committee of Agriculture have done a good job in good time and I didn't mean anyone is sleeping on their job. I actually said it is good work.



**Hon. Deputy Speaker (Hon. L. Rotich):** Hon. Member, thank you.

**Hon. W. Kiprotich (Chepchas Ward, UDA):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, I think he should also withdraw because he has accepted. He is also forgetting that I am a Member of the Committee of Agriculture therefore I am not inciting anybody. If it was said that we slept then we slept because it actually took too long to respond, but saying we have just woken up was uncalled for.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker (Hon. L. Rotich):** Hon. Member, thank you.

**Hon. P. Ronoh (Kipsonoi Ward, UDA):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, it is a point of concern. The Hon. Member for Kimulot Ward is in a way passing a point that it is important and should not pass the attention of this Assembly that he has not heard anybody talk about dodder weed. It is partially true for that matter.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries is understaffed and I am making an appeal on the floor of the Assembly that in the whole of Konoin sub-county, we only have one officer in charge of crops and might not be possible for him to go round sensitizing people because those are experts and whenever the threat of crops appears we consider them as the top in solving that problem.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, I asked them to hire enough extension officers across the whole county and finally to consider giving them enough money for research but we do not have a research institute. We rely on Tea Research Foundation. What about maize and any other crop that touches agriculture? I also thank them for making an effort of trying to visit the affected areas.

Hon. Speaker, thank you.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker (Hon. L. Rotich):** Hon. Member, thank you. It is clear that the issue of dodder weed has actually escalated. Hon. Member, let us also talk about the dangers to our environment. The other time I wanted the Question to be answered by the Committee on Environment but let us in our own capacity as Members of the County Assembly raise up the issue of dodder weed.

We are glad today that we have a school from our county and we urge teachers to bring up the issue of dodder weed to the students and mention clearly the dangers the weed is causing to the environment. This weed is everywhere, even around Kipsuter Boys' Secondary School. Let us team up and we escalate the issue on dodder weed. Thank you, Hon. Members, for that elaborate discussion on the response on dodder weed.

I would request that the students remain behind in the public gallery and I request one of the Hon. Members to brief the students on the proceeding of this Assembly. Hon. W. Kiprotich,

MCA Chepchabas Ward, Hon. Ernest from Mogogosiek Ward and Chairperson, Committee on Education and Hon. Kibet, Siongiroi Ward can take the students through that.

Otherwise, the Assembly is adjourned to tomorrow, 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 9:30 a.m.

*(The Assembly rose at 3:15 p.m.)*