



OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BOMET

THIRD COUNTY ASSEMBLY

ASSEMBLY DEBATES

DAILY HANSARD

The Assembly met at the Main Assembly Chamber,

Dr. Joyce Laboso Centre at 2:30 p. m

Third County Assembly- Second Session

Wednesday Afternoon 19th April, 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

PAPERS

Hon. Deputy Speaker (Hon. L. Rotich): Hon. Robert Langat.

Hon. R. Langat (Mutarakwa Ward, UDA): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the Paper on the county assembly, report on a trip to Singapore on training on Global Public Finance, budget and expenditure management by members of the Budget and Appropriations Committee and its Secretariat I wish to lay.

Paper Laid

QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

Hon. Deputy Speaker (Hon. L. Rotich): Proceed hon. Nathan.

Hon. N. Kibet (Kapletundo Ward, UDA): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to respond to a question that was asked by honorable Josphat. The Question related to revenue collection in the county and the first question was about the total number of revenue officers in the county and the nature of employment.

The second one was the measures that the relevant department has put in place to ensure that the required number of officers are recruited.

Question number three was the total revenue collected by the county government between 1st of July 2022 and 28th February 23 2023. The current status of automation of revenue collection in account and the last one was the measures put in place by the relevant department to explore.

So, the statement concerning revenue collection account and the division of revenue is one of the units under Department of Finance and Economic Planning. Yes.

Hon. Richard Ruttoh rose on a point of order

Hon. R. Ruttoh (Chemamer Ward, UDA): Mr. Speaker, I wish to know whether it is in order for the honorable member is in order to answer the question when the seeker is not present.

Hon. Deputy Speaker (Hon. L. Rotich): Okay, the question asked was relevant to all the members. So, the absence of the member, Hon. Josphat Kirui will not stop the answering of the question today. So kindly proceed. Hon. member.

Hon. R. Ruttoh (Chemamer Ward, UDA): Hon. Speaker, last week the committee on labour was stopped because Hon. Dancel was not around.

Hon. Deputy Speaker (Hon. L. Rotich): Hon. Member, which standing order are you referring you?

Hon. R. Ruttoh (Chemamer Ward, UDA): Hon. Speaker, I wish to be guided because tomorrow I may be the one bringing the same thing. And I am told to stop because the member who sought the statement is not in. A hon. member was stopped and the report was not discussed on the floor of the Assembly. That is my humble plea because you do not want this Assembly to be confused in such a way that members cannot understand when the report is supposed to be answered.

Hon. Deputy Speaker (Hon. L. Rotich): Last week I was not around. Let us hear views from the honorable members.

Hon. S. Changmorik (Longisa Ward, UDA): When a member is aware that the question is supposed to be answered and does not show up then the question can be answered in their absentia. Not unless a member gives a valid reason of their absence.

Hon. Member, did Hon. Dancel say the report should not be answered in his absence?

Hon. R. Ruttoh (Chemamer Ward, UDA): Mr. Speaker, normally if the member is not in and there is written information from the same member that the answer to be given to the other members in his absence then it is in order.

Hon. C. Langat (Boito Ward, UDA): Mr. Speaker it is usually prudent and good practice to answer a question when the statement seeker is in so that we know whether the statement seeker was invited to the committee.

Hon. Deputy Speaker (Hon. L. Rotich): Hon. Members do you have information from Hon. Josphat? It is good that the honorable member is checking in.

When your statement is being answered it is always good practice to be within the Chambers. An item that has appeared in the Order Paper might not be postponed.

Hon. N. Kibet (Kapletundo Ward, UDA): Mr. Speaker. I want to proceed with the statement or the questions that were asked by Hon. Josphat. Hon. Josphat, you almost delayed our response but thank God you are here. So I want to respond. The first one was the total number of revenue

officers in the county and the statement concerning revenue collection in the county. The division of revenue is one of the units and that the Department of Finance and Economic Planning with a sole mandate to collect and manage local revenues for the county. the total number of revenue officers in the county and nature of employment, nature of employment and the number of staff. The permanent and pensionable staff we have 39. The staff mon contract are 164 and 116 casuals. Total number is 319.

That was the first question by the honorable member Josphat Kirui. On the second question on measures that the relevant department has put in place to ensure that the required number of officers are recruited, these are the measures that the department has put in place to ensure that the required number of officers are recruited. The following has been considered; an intent to recruit revenue staff has been forwarded to the County Public Service Board (CPSB) for possible advertisement for vacant positions in the revenue. Second, the Department of Finance and Economic Planning has reviewed the budget to accommodate more staff to be recruited.

Number three, the department has since re-designated accountants who were recruited as assistant revenue officers to create vacancies for the recruitment of new assistant revenue officers. Number four, the executive has since approved the recruitment of new staff that will be made possible up after an active case involving staff whose contract expired is determined by the labour court. That was the second question. The third one was the total revenue collected by the county government between 1st July 2022 and 28th February 2023. So the revenue collected within the same period is total Kshs. 165,656,759 and a summary of the monthly collection is as below July 2023.

Total collections were Kshs. 11,192,479 in August 2022. The total collection was Kshs. 3,000,008 1414 September 2022. The total revenue collected was Kshs. 3,169,485. For the month of October 2022. Revenue collected was Kshs. 28,468,927 November 2022. The total revenue collected was Kshs.7,335,963. For December 2022. The total revenue collected was Kshs. 11,732,531. January 2023. Total Revenue collected was Kshs. 38,737,670. For the month of February, the total revenue collected was Kshs. 61, 938,252.

Question number four, which was the current status automation of revenue collection is account and the revenue collection and management systems status. The county government is proud of having acquired its own revenue collection system. The objective of this project was to ensure that all revenues are collected in an effective and efficient manner. So far the system has been utilized

in collection of the following as structured revenue streams to produce cess, quarry cess, market dues sales and promotion advertisements, Signposts, kiosks sales, stock sales, slaughter fee, meat inspection fee, movement permit veterinary services, house rent, hire of stadium, stall rent, bus park fee, parking fee, boda boda stickers, impounding charges, grounding group, registration fee, agribusiness tractor services verification of scales. These revenues are difficult to collect because they are multiple and are charged in different parts of the county. The revenue collection management system project has greatly increased this by offering real-time tracking and reporting of payments structured revenues which include single business permits, liquor license fees, public health fees, rental incomes, hospital returns and multinational land rates.

Revenue management systems offer several key advantages. Some of these advantages are;

- i. Enhanced accuracy
- ii. Time saving
- iii. Easy accessibility
- iv. Cost effective
- v. Enhanced customer experience
- vi. Better data management

I urge the members to read in detail the advantages of the system in the forwarded soft copies.

The county has not fully utilized this resource. However, the following measures are being undertaken to maximize utilization. The county is currently seeking a dedicated hosting service for the revenue collection management system which will reduce maintenance cost.

All sub county offices have been network and they only require a microwave link to a county network in order to eliminate the need for manual books. All revenues will be collected centrally.

Thirdly, on the land rates, the challenges lie in the limited data available to us from the live forms system which only captures the names and the post office box address of the property owner. This information is insufficient for the new system. The county plans to request all the property owners to submit the relevant information so that they are captured in the system.

There are a number of strategies that have been considered as revenue raising measures. The revenue administration laws must be enacted by the assembly soonest possible. This will allow to deal with revenue evasions. There is a huge debt on land rates and crown rent. A possible trajectory is initiating a waiver so that rates payers can be allowed the principal amount. This will not only help to raise revenue but also clean up the register since ownership of plots has changed over time.

Hospitals generate about 41 percent of the total revenues. However, the county loses millions of uncollected revenues, especially from the Linda Mama revenues. The in charge should consider this item as part of the administrative agenda in facilities. The department of finance is also considering an advisory to health officers that will interrogate revenue collection.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the county government needs to fast track the valuation role exercise. This will expand the collection by five times. The process began four years ago and needs to be expedited.

The county should properly interrogate the SLAs by service providers to ensure that areas that give revenue are well captured. The USSDs can be useful in backing collections but if the cost is borne by the county government, it might not make tremendous bottom-line and perfect customer experience.

Going forward, the county should consider coming up with a data centre to give the department a capacity to host servers. Our servers are currently being hosted by the system providers yet the county has already bought the software. This will mean additional cost of maintenance and other systems support.

Lastly, the department needs to interrogate the budget to ensure that the equipment and plant have resources for maintenance since revenue is not spendable at source.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, we shared this statement last week and I know all of us understand that we have a challenge of revenue collection. So, if we have better ways of advising the department on best ways of raising revenue, I urge you to participate. However, that is the response.

Thank you for the opportunity allowed to answer the question.

Hon. J. Kipkirui (Singorwet Ward, INDEPENDENT): Hon. Deputy Speaker, thank you. I appreciate the Chair for the response. Revenue collection is critical since it supports our county in running its daily activities. If the appropriate measures are not in place, then we are likely to rely on the equitable share from the national government. In view of the current situation, there is need to ensure that revenue collection is done in most appropriate manner.

We are aware that the revenue officers contract was terminated in December last year. However, from what is reported, we have 164 officers in office. So, we need to know whether we need to have more or the number given is sufficient. I am also aware that there is no intent to the County Public Service Board for employment of revenue officers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is also an inconsistency with the collection where in a month we collect about Kshs. 3M and in another month Kshs. 61M. I wonder what is not happening so that we have that inconsistency.

Lastly, on the matter of automation, we appreciate revenue collection requires automation. However, the monies spent on this system has resulted in no value for money. A sum of Kshs.45 million was used to acquire it and another Kshs. 6 million has been use to maintain it. I believe that we will be guided by the committee so that we have the right system in place that will ensure that we have enough revenue to run our county.

Lastly, I challenge the committee that during their oversight, if you park your car in designated parking area in town, sometimes there is no fee charged. We must check on various leakages we have in this county. It is until we have proper revenue collection measures that we have a change. I have also noted that the projections we usually have led to the pending bills. If the projection was around Ksh. 305 million in the previous budget estimate and what we have at the moment is Ksh. 195 million from the communication made by the CEC then this means we will experience a pending bill occasioned by the wrong projection and the actual money available to be spent.

Hon. Deputy Speaker (Hon. L Rotich): Hon. Ruttoh from Chemaner ward.

Hon. R. Ruttoh (Chemaner Ward, UDA): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I laud the Chairperson for the good work he did. It is true information. The only issue is, to further go deeply and ensure that we get to know the rationale the revenue department is using when recruiting the staff.

The mistake that contributes to low revenue collection is the motivation of these staff. One may have not earned a salary for two months and therefore, cannot manage to do the right thing. So, the committee should have a round table meeting with the department. Before they request more staff, they should consider how they manage the few they have.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we need to know when these people are being recruited and how they are engaged. Every ward has income-generating activities but you can find staff from one area. So, with the Chair's guidance, we need the list of the revenue collection officers so that we need to know who they are. I humbly request that the committee should assist us to know who these staff are and where they are coming from. We should also know the criteria used when being recruited. This is a department that needs to assist our youth to get employment. Our youth are outside there waiting for vacancies. If in our case we have over 150 staff for this department and where you come from, there is not even one, then we should go deeply and give us the details of these staff.

Thank you. Otherwise, the Chair did a wonderful job.

Hon. Deputy Speaker (Hon. L. Rotich): Hon. Member from Longisa ward.

Hon. S. Changmorik (Longisa Ward, UDA): Hon. Deputy Speaker, let me take this opportunity to thank the Chair for a comprehensive response and more so in admitting that there is a problem in revenue collection.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, there is a problem. In the existing Finance Bill which is currently being used, even before we start using the new one, we are capable of collecting up to Kshs. 400 million. The problem that we have is identifying the loop holes in revenue collection.

One of the major loop holes in this county is the revenue collectors. It is my opinion that the Committee on Finance and ICT and the Committee on Labour and Public Service identify that these people should be put on contract for a certain period. It could be two years or three years and then assess them on performance.

The other issue is that we need to identify new revenue streams in order to increase our revenue. We have new revenue streams in this county which have not been identified. We are losing a lot of money because we have not done that. The other time I asked about our forests. We have a share of the Mau forest and there is a boundary between Nakuru, Kericho and Narok. We are supposed to earn from the forest every year. We need to check on those areas to increase revenue.

I thank the Executive for negotiating with the Multinationals on land so as to increase revenue. The new Finance Bill should incorporate all of these.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, the valuation report for asset valuation in the county was not done properly. As an Assembly, we need to review it. When there is a correct asset valuation, we will have increased revenue.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, the report is correct because it explained the truth that there is a problem. It is upon us, the Assembly to find ways on how we can streamline revenue collection.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker (Hon. L. Rotich): That was a Question asked by Hon. Josphat Kipkirui. I will allow Hon. Member from Mogogosiek to be the last Member to contribute on that.

Hon. E. Kipkemoi (Mogogosiek Ward, UDA): Hon. Deputy Speaker, thank you...

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

Hon. C. Langat (Boito Ward, UDA): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I seek your direction. We have a huge business to transact. Can we have a Member contribute for 2 or 3 minutes rather than somebody contributing for 10 to 20 minutes? Thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker (Hon. L. Rotich): I have allowed Hon. Ernest as the last Member to contribute. Kindly use the shortest time possible.

Hon. E. Kipkemoi (Mogogosiek Ward, UDA): Hon. Deputy Speaker, thank you. I won't take much time since I know that the tray for this afternoon is full. Hon. Deputy Speaker, I want to thank the Chairperson, Committee on Finance and the Statement Seeker, Hon. Josphat Kipkirui.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when you give the Chair the right of reply, I would want to know the status of those who were on contract. Are they still engaged or was the contract terminated when their term elapsed?

Hon. Deputy Speaker (Hon. L. Rotich): Thank you, Hon. Member. Actually, finance issues are emotive and I want to task the Committee on Finance to continually engage the CECM in charge of Finance so that we can know the answers to some of the questions asked by the Members.

There is one more Question that is appearing on the Order Paper. Let us give the Committee a chance to respond.

Hon. D. Busienei (Chemagel Ward, UDA): Hon. Deputy Speaker, thank you. I rise to respond to a Question raised by Hon. Charles Langat on 13th October 2022.

The Committee on Lands, Housing and Urban Planning deliberated and investigated the issues that were raised and came up with this report. In the Question, the Hon. Member wanted to know the status of waste disposal in all factories, educational institutions, hospitals and residential buildings in Bomet County. He also wanted to know if these facilities comply with NEMA rules and regulations and if not, the steps that the department is planning to undertake so that they comply.

He also wanted to understand if the department had qualified personnel, who in conjunction with National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) would ensure compliance. The Hon. Member also inquired whether the department had received any complaints from members of the public concerning the status of waste disposal in any of the stated facilities.

The Committee requested for a comprehensive report from the County Executive Committee Member in charge of Lands, Housing and Urban Planning on the issues raised. Additionally, Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Committee, together with the Chief Officer of the department, conducted a site visit Kapkwen Market, Bomet Sewerage Treatment Plant, Bomet Dumpsite and the upper Mara informal settlement areas to ascertain how waste disposal is managed.

Further, the Committee made site visits to the Tenwek Hospital, Longisa Hospital, Kapset tea Factory, Kipsigis Highlands Factory, KCC Sotik, and Sotik Market.

The committee made the following observations and recommendation;

TENWEK HOSPITAL

Tenwek Hospital manages its waste by first segregating it to 3 different bags;

1. Red – highly contagious,
2. Yellow – Sharp objects (needles); and
3. Black – General waste.

The hospital collects waste in every household every morning and incinerates. Their sewage plant is well maintained and that they sample every quarter before the waste is discharged to the river. Inventory of the samples are available. The Hospital is NEMA compliant and the current certificate is valid.

The Committee was rather satisfied with the way the hospital disposes its waste.

LONGISA HOSPITAL

Longisa Hospital Waste management system is in a dilapidated state. Their sewerage plant is old (built in 1992) and although working, does not hold the capacity of liquid waste as the hospital produces 5000 litres of waste per day.

The land that was initially meant to construct a modern treatment plant is in contention and that the case has not been resolved.

For solid waste, the hospital has a modern incinerator and have even received a donation from Finland of a modern microwave incinerator, a bio-medical shredder that incinerate 30 metric tonnes of waste per day. The end product of the waste can be used to made carbro-works.

The Committee made its observation and recommendation that were channeled to the department for implementation.

Committee's recommendations

The committee made the following recommendation on waste management in Longisa Hospital;

1. There's urgent need to upgrade the management of liquid waste in the hospital as the patients and the local residents are prone to other serious diseases.
2. The hospital should urgently prioritize purchase of another piece of land to construct a new sewage treatment plant as the court case is being finalized.
3. There's serious need of facelift of the hospital as the general outlook of the hospital is worrying. An instance old bedding spread in the sun to dry as the drier machine is long broken down.
4. Constant consultation with the stakeholder should be encouraged to gather opinions of the local residents.
5. Land should be purchased for the construction of the standard structure to accommodate the Microwave incinerator as the incinerator has a capacity to incinerate waste from all other parts of the County. Trained personnel should be employed to operate the incinerator.

KAPSET TEA FACTORY

Kapset Teas factory has wet land affluent treatment system that manages its liquid waste. The plant segregates solid from liquid. The solid waste is used as compost manure. The factory has introduced micro-organisms before the waste is released to the next stage.

The final stage of the plant hosts a number living organisms to indicate the waste is not toxic. Although the black colour of tea cannot be extracted, the liquid waste can be released to the river. The factory is NEMA certified as it complies to all the rules and regulations laid down.

The factory sells its metallic solid waste to scrap metal vendors.

Committee's recommendations

The Committee was rather satisfied with the way Kapset Tea factory manages its liquid and solid waste.

KIPSIGIS HIGHLANDS TEA FACTORY

Kipsigis Highlands initially Chemomul Tea Factory is a rather new factory as it was started in 2010. It lies in a 1500 acres of land. The factory has a Solid and Liquid waste policy in place. Just like Kapset Tea Factory, the facility has a wetland, a self-cleansing lagoon system to manage its liquid waste. The company is ISO certified, NEMA certified and certified by the Rain Forest Alliance as the waste from the factory is sampled every quarter by Waste Water Accredited Labs (GMP). The lagoon as reliably informed is one of the latest in all the factories in the County. The company has taken measures to harvest and manage storm water.

On solid waste, the factory was prequalified contractors to collect their solid waste as scrap.

Committee's observation

The committee was satisfied with the waste management in Kipsigis Highlands Factory.

Kenya Cooperative Creameries Ltd. SOTIK

KCC Sotik produces liquid waste that is treated before it is released to the nearby river. The Company's sewerage plant is an old system that needs renovation. The factory has however captured the upgrading of the sewerage plant in this financial year's budget.

KCC Sotik does not produce a lot of solid waste and burns the few with open fire.

Committee's Observations and recommendations

The committee observed that although there's over spill of affluent waste to the river due to the old sewerage plant, the factory utilizes the water from the river. It was also noted that the local residents consume the water from their river and stringent measures should be put in place to curb leakage even before a new treatment plant is constructed.

The committee recommends that the factory should fast track the construction of the sewerage plant and build a simple incinerator to burn its solid waste as open fire poses hazardous risks.

COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

The committee having made its observations from the site visits made the following final recommendations;

1. There should be more budgetary allocation for waste management in the County.
2. The department should identify and develop at least one dumping site in every sub-county.
3. Public sensitization programs on waste management are rolled out in the entire county to alert the public on how best they should individually be responsible in terms of managing their solid waste.
4. Compel all institutions and property owners in residential areas to construct waste receptacles where the garbage will be routinely picked by the department.
5. To outsource solid waste Management for effective service delivery.

That's the report that we have worked on. If you can remember Mr. Speaker, we had presented this report earlier on but we were sent back to go and check on it comprehensively. We have done a good job. We have visited some of these areas and we found out that some of them; for example, Kipsigis Highlands Multipurpose Co-operative Society Ltd that can be role model to the rest of the factories. There are also some hospitals like Tenwek Mission Hospital that are doing a good job. Longisa county referral hospital has also been indicated in this report but it has a problem in the management of waste because the hospital is located on a hill, and they are discharging the solid waste and sewage to the shops and residential areas downhill It is dangerous and it needs urgent attention in this county and more interventions.

We have tabled it and I am sure the person who raised this question is satisfied. But I would like to hear from Hon. Charles Langat. Thank you Hon. Deputy Speaker.

Hon. C. Langat (Boito ward, UDA): Thank you very much hon. Deputy Speaker, let me thank the chair for the good work that he has done. As the statement seeker, am satisfied. They have really tried. The comprehensive statement covers the entire county. And I asked with the interest of the county. We have now seen the picture of the county in terms of preparedness and how the waste is being managed. So much has been done but a lot needs to be done. Factories like KCC in Sotik is not 100% secured. It is at around 90%. But we also need to be checking. As a committee, we need to be calling on the CEC to be giving us the information on what is happening in all our factories, institutions and even buildings in town on the issue of solid and liquid waste because if

not managed well it can cause a serious health hazard. Our statement has really wakened up the county executive.

Hon. Deputy Speaker (Hon. L. Rotich): Honourable Felody.

Hon. F. Chepkirui (Nominated MCA, UDA): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to take this chance to applaud the committee for the good work they have done. I want to agree with your report and especially with the statement that more funds should be allocated for public sensitization on waste disposal management. This is because waste management should start from the individual level. If the public is sensitized well enough to manage waste from their homes, it will be of great importance. Otherwise, I support the report. Thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker (Hon. L. Rotich): Okay, that is a good work that has been done by the sectoral committee. We still have many other statements pending and I also want to urge the committees to fast-track them so that they are furnished to this hon. Assembly as soon as possible. Actually, the questions which were asked were of great importance to our county and the relevant committees have done a good job in answering the questions. It was very elaborate and I urge all of us to continue in the same spirit. Should there be anything else you would like to ask, you can always seek the statement through the right procedure. Thank you, Honourable Members. Honourable Member from Kipsonoi, you look like you have something to say.

Hon. P. Ronoh (Kipsonoi Ward, UDA): Hon. Speaker, I have a statement That was deferred to this afternoon and I rise pursuant to Standing Order Number 48.

I want to respond to a statement, to a question that was asked by the Hon. Wesley Ruto. Mr. Speaker, we did request for more time and the Speaker gave us time till this afternoon. I want to seek your permission to dispense with the matter because it is long overdue.

The statement sought by the hon. Wesley Ruto on the 28th February 2023 was committed to the Committee on Agriculture. He wanted to know the statement or the question was concerning the wilting of and withering of leaves in the Tea-Clone 15-10 that has been seen in Chepchabas ward and its environs within Konoin Sub-County.

Honourable speaker, the statement or the question read as follows;

Hon. Deputy Speaker (Hon. L. Rotich): Hon. Member we have information from the hon. member who asked the question and has requested that the answered question should be deferred to tomorrow. In fact, it answers what honorable Richard Ruttoh raised in the first question which was read by hon. member from Kapletundo Ward that the member asking the question was not present then and now we are asking ourselves this honorable Assembly that is it in order for the question to be answered when the member who asked the question is not present and we got from

members that if a member requested that the question be deferred then the question will not be read until that member is present. It is now in the case of Hon. Wesley knew that the answer to his question was to come this afternoon but he requested to be deferred to tomorrow because he is attending a funeral. I request you Hon. from Kipsonoi Ward that we defer the answer to tomorrow. However, that question has also been captured in the business for tomorrow, you furnish this Assembly tomorrow with the answer when the member who asked the question will be present, thank you.

Hon. P. Ronoh (Kipsonoi Ward, UDA): Point of order Hon. Speaker, I also want to seek clarification on the provision of Standing Order 45 (5) where while on dispensing off with questions and statements we are told that where the member who raised a question and committed to a committee is absent without the chairperson's permission the question shall be dropped. Hon. Deputy Speaker, the Hon. Wesley Ruto is a member of the committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock and the deliberation from the onset he was here with us and because he has sought that the statement be deferred to tomorrow, I stand guided but Mr. Speaker the statement is long overdue and is becoming impediment to some other businesses of the committee because it has been deferred not twice this is the third time and unless he is serious and he want he answers I am really seeking your permission. Standing Order 48 states that the chairperson of the committee is supposed to give answers to questions to the assembly and I want to believe he was not asking it for his own use but because he has said he wants to be present.

I am only giving a disclaimer so that members will be asking questions and when it is due they go absent and they dillydally the assembly then it becomes a mounting business for this case I rest my case just by warning to other members next time you read the Standing Orders and allow us to read the statement to the Assembly and the rest they will get it in the archive. Thank you.

Hon. P. Kirui (Ndanai/Abosi ward, UDA): Hon. Speaker I am in support of the committee reporting the findings. Today in the morning you actually gave direction on the same and going by the Standing Orders, we are picking notes of what is happening next time the Assembly should not agree on the member asking the question and they absent themselves when the same is scheduled to be answered. Kipsonoi ward MCA Hon. Ronoh, because f this has accepted to answer it tomorrow 2.30 pm.

Hon. R. Ruttoh (Chemaner Ward, UDA): Mr. Speaker, on the same note I want to support what the chair of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock committee has said. Some of the questions

which are asked in this Assembly are very important to the entire county and, therefore, if somebody can absent himself or herself when the same question is supposed to be answered then and then it is dropped it affects everybody. In the future, we need also to amend the Standing Orders so that it can allow us once you have asked the question we discuss them accordingly on the floor of the Assembly rather than dropping them completely

I believe you wanted to drop it completely but I request them not to drop it completely because I know it also benefits me and other people Mr. Speaker. I wanted it to come again tomorrow so that we can deliberate with the same.

Hon. Deputy Speaker (Hon. L. Rotich): Hon. member from Boito Ward.

Hon. C. Langat (Boito Ward, UDA): Thank you very much hon. Deputy Speaker. I have a different opinion. It is actually prudent to respond when the member is present so that he/she can also tell us their fashion in case the committee did not meet the standards for the question. The statement or question sought is not the property of the committee alone but rather the property of the whole Assembly. Hon. Ronoh is now free and the pressure is on our side to ensure the members are present when the statements are being responded to.

Hon. Deputy Speaker (Hon. L. Rotich): Okay that is its Hon. Members. This issue affects how we run our business here and it requires. Let us take our work seriously.

It has come to my notice that some members who appear technically contribute and disappear. It is not a good practice if you want your contribution to be heard and you don't want to hear the contribution of others. It is also not a good practice to appear in the Assembly and seek permission to contribute to something and then disappear. I urge the members we take our work seriously.

So, regarding the question which was supposed to be answered by Kipsonoi ward MCA Hon. Ronoh, I direct the Table Office to give advice regarding Standing Order 48. This Assembly should be furnished with the interpretation of that Standing Order so that it will guide our work going forward. Thank you Hon. Members for your presence this afternoon and able to listen to very important questions which were asked by the Hon. Members.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Deputy Speaker (Hon. L. Rotich): Let me ask the members that we remain a little bit in the plenary for announcements. This Assembly is adjourned to tomorrow Thursday 20th April 2:30 pm.

The Assembly rose at 3:50 pm.