**COUNTY ASSEMBLY**

**OFFICIAL REPORT**

**Thursday, 21st February, 2019**

The House met at 2.30 P.M.

*[The Deputy Speaker*

*Hon. (Mr. John Killo Dawe) in the Chair]*

**PRAYERS**

*(Quorum bell is rung)*

*(Honourable Members walked into the Chamber)*

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Honourable Member who will move the Motion on behalf of the Majority leader?

*(Hon. Tura Ruru tables the Motion on behalf of the Majority Leader)*

**MOTION(S)**

COUNTY ASSEMBLY CALENDAR

**Hon. Tura Ruru Elema:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, I hereby give a notice of Motion. Aware that 13th February 2019 marks the beginning of the Third Session of the Marsabit County Assembly. Cognizant of the fact that the House Business Committee is charged to prepare the County Assembly Calendar, monitor and oversee the implementation of the County Assembly business and programme. Further aware that Standing Order No. 152 provides that there shall be a Select Committee to be designated the County Assembly Business Committee who shall be approved by the County Assembly at the commencement of every session reflecting the relative majority of the seat held by each of the party in the County Assembly and taking into consideration the interest of the independence, request this Honourable Assembly to approve the following Members to be Members of The House Business Committee:

1. Hon. Mathew Loltome- Chair
2. Hon. John Killo Dawe
3. Hon. Halkano Konso
4. Hon. Buke Diba
5. Hon. Korie James
6. Hon. Mark Ekale
7. Hon. Elema Diba
8. Hon. Sadia Araru
9. Hon. Abdirahman Bashir
10. Guyo Duba Yaro
11. Roba Chachole
12. Tura Ruru
13. Hon. Zamzam Hussein
14. Hon. Christine Galgitele
15. Hon. Dibo Isacko Umuro
16. Hon. Bata Leakono
17. Hon. Hadija Kontoma

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Honourable Members those are the list of House Business Committee Members. There is no debate. Next order.

EXPOSITION OF THE PUBLIC POLICY-ADDRESS OF THE GOVERNOR

*(Hon. Tura Ruru tables the Motion on behalf of the Majority Leader)*

**Hon. Tura Ruru Elema:**  Pursuant to the Standing Order No. 220 Subsection 5, the thanks of the County Assembly be recorded for the exposition of the public policy contained in the address of the Governor.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you. I think Members we tabled the motion on the address of the Governor. In the first sitting we discussed several issues raised in the speech. Today is also continuation of the same from where we left.

**Hon. Hussein Abdi Wako:** Thank you Honourable Speaker.

I rise to contribute on what we have been debating about. I still want to go back to the issue of pending bills. As we are aware, as a committee and also whole House in the supplementary budget we passed, there was a promise from the County Treasury that the list of all companies that will be paid vis-a-vis the pending bills will be furnished to the House.

The promised date has lapsed and to date we have not received any name. We therefore want to know why it has taken all this long because we are expecting another supplementary budget and going forward budget process will begin and I wonder how this will happen if the request by this House is not met. It is the role of this House to deliberate on such issues in case that is not done. Thank you.

**Hon. Abdirahman Sheikh Bashir:** Thank you Mr. Speaker.

I will talk one or two issues on the Governor’s speech which had touched on several areas, progress and some of things were so nice and encouraging to the communities and the larger Marsabit County.

However, any good thing started by a Government should continue as promised and progress the way it has been put across to the public. More so, one area which was so good and communities were very happy about but now trying to pull us down a bit is the issue of ambulances. This is taking us back to where we were. It started very well but before it has even gone far, it is coming down.

We are already getting complaints from Godoma, Nana, Yaballo, Dabel. The complaints that we are getting is that the patients are paying for the fuel and token for drivers. It is too early since we have money…. I support this government but if I can’t correct it for things that go wrong, it will be a very dangerous trend.

We do not want to see our government failing. If it fails we also fail. That is why we are said to be an oversight in this House. We don’t know where the money has gone. The department of Health has a lot of loopholes and has to be checked.

The NHIF issue is also very contentious. Up to now some members who were to be registered are not yet registered. In some cases it is only one member who was registered while his/her beneficiaries were left out. This poses a very big challenge. Recently I visited a place called Gola in Dabel and none was registered up to now. I do not know if the laxity is from the department or NHIF itself. That is what I am to establish yet.

This House is fully aware that the nurses have gone on strike. I do not know if this happened everywhere but in my ward they have locked the facilities and went away. There was an incident in Godoma yesterday where a patient who was in labour was not attended to. There were only nutritionists and community health workers who had no knowledge. Another patient was rushed to Godoma hospital which had all the facilities but she also did not get help and almost died as a result. She was lucky to reach Moyale where she delivered through C-section. They paid almost 18000 for the ambulance i.e. from Godoma to Moyale. *Wananchi* contributed for the family since they could not afford.

Nurses are on strike and our people are suffering. In other Counties, the County Governments sat with the nurses and most of them are going back. You remember sometimes back we met the nurses where they gave out their grievances. It is now one year down the line and none of their grievances was resolved as promised. I enquired this from them. The chair for health is here and can confirm that this is true. None of their grievances was solved! So far I do not know if any member can tell us if there is a plan to sit with the nurses and see to it that they go back and help *Wananchi*.

We are in a very dangerous and pathetic situation as a House and Government while we watch the people suffering down there in the villages. I am told that the general hospital and health centers are being taken care of by clinical officers and few doctors. I think these needs to be looked at. It is a very serious issue which needs immediate attention.

Concerning the abattoir, the Governor had put it right. We know there is conflicting information about it. The project is also sponsored by the World Bank. They would not have funded it if proper assessment was not done. So standing here and telling us that they questioned its assessment while they have already funded it beats logic. It is therefore better that we leave it as he has proposed it.

According to reports we hear that the project is almost complete. We do not want it to be left like that for all those millions to go under the bridge because of some politics here and there. I think politics and development should not go together. Segel is just close and I came to learn that it is under Saku. It is just here and I don’t see the reason as to why people talk of so many other things.

The reason as to why the project has stalled should be put clear through reports. This government has started very good projects and if another government comes in and says they were not started well and they should not be completed, I think it will not be fair. Therefore, investigations should be done and we must have the report as early as possible.

If it is as it was said and that it should not be there, we shall question those who have started it why all the millions were put there when the project was not viable. That should be looked at.

Lastly, this Government has embarked on several issues that are important for our communities and we are happy about it. It is good that when a project starts, it progresses well. It is up to the members to give advice, oversight and make follow-up so that the Government does not fail to deliver the projects that it has started. I thank the Governor for the good projects that have been started.

Lastly in his speech I noted that he addressed the issue of Ward fund. I clicked that things are not as usual. You remember that last time we got Kshs.75M but according to the statement that I heard, there is going to be a reduction.

The last time the Wards were given Kshs.75M each, we said that it was not fair. That money was too big for some Wards but not so to others. We said that a certain formula should be used so that fairness is realized.

A Ward with one or two locations and another with six getting the same amount is not fair. I think that should be addressed. What we are now hearing is that each ward will get 50M and it will not be fair. Some of our Wards in the previous government used to get over one hundred million. This was reduced to 75 and now 50M? That is not going to be fair. It is a statement from the Governors speech.

That should be fairly addressed. We have heard that people have been on the ground and were telling *Wananchi* the same things. We have also sent some robots and we will not allow that to happen.

Thank you very much.

**Hon. Halkano Konso (Majority Leader):** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I support the address of the Governor. It is a wonderful speech. I have a few things to contribute here.

So, many things have been said about health. I always say that among the 16 departments that we have, there are two that are very crucial to the livelihoods of Marsabit residents according to my observation. Health is one of them. It is our livelihood. It is a key sector that we have to empower. It is even in the four big agenda of His Excellency the President. Health is one of the key sectors that the President has identified in his legacy items.

The NHIF issue is very true but I do understand as well that challenges are here and there in any institution. I want to task our able chair for health who is a technical person and the committee to do investigation on the same and see why some cards are missing and get more information so that they brief the House. Yes, the nurses are on strike across the country. As we strive for good service delivery for our people, our nurses have to be treated equally because they are human beings like us and they deserve that. I would like any member to may be approach our nurses so that we bring them to sit with the government so that a solution is made and the problem is solved.

On health, the Honourable Member for Sagante raised an issue which is very important. There is construction of so many dispensaries and health centers which according to his opinion is not prudent. As I have earlier said, health is a basic need and for those wards that feel that the infrastructure that they have is more than enough, they are free not to put any money. For those wards that are even bigger than Saku Constituency- my ward starts from Demo and ends in Forolle and therefore I have a lot of space to put up these structures….. There is nothing that the House can agree on and say construction of dispensaries and health centers should stop.

The needs are determined by those on the ground. If the communities that you are representing feel that they don’t need dispensaries anymore, well and fine. But mine needs it. I respect the opinion of those that raised it. We can sit, talk and say as Marsabit County Assembly that we don’t need this and pass a resolution that we are not going to have any dispensary or health center but according to my opinion, that is not right.

On the issue of abattoir that was raised by several members, there is a lot of concern and very soon we shall know the truth of the matter. Many members who have raised the issue are not from the ward where the abattoir is located. I want to put this message very clear Mr. Speaker that the first president of Kenya is Jomo Kenyatta. After Jomo came Moi. It is only a fool who thinks that today he is in power and that he can do whatever he wants at his pace. That does not warrant us not to touch a thing that was started because of political fear. The World Bank proposal is very clear and I have even said that yesterday. They identified a place called Gudas on your way to Merille but may be since it did not go well with the then Governor, it was taken to Segel.

Today some members are complaining that it is only twenty kilometers away from tarmac road. Why did we go 20 kilometers away from the tarmac when we had 0 kilometers with electricity and enough water? I do not want us to pre-empt this. Let us wait for the baseline survey and former World Bank report and behave like Honourable Members. Let us handle things like Honourable Members so that when we argue on the floor of this reputable House, we have a source from where we can make reference instead of claiming that it the abattoir was because it was abandoned because it was started by the former Governor. No! It belongs to Marsabit County. It does not belong to former government or Governor. According to my observation, a good number of my able MCAs are reading mischief in this issue.

With these few remarks, I support the speech of His Excellency the Governor and I call upon the members to give us ample time so that we discuss the issue concerning the abattoir when the report comes to the House.

Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you Honourable Halkano.

Honourable Asunta?

**Hon. Asunta Galgitele:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to comment on the Governors speech. The first area is on the scholarship. My thinking is that the scholarship started well but it currently faces a lot of challenges. we know that the number of students is going up and how they are paid makes it look like a bursary than scholarship. Scholarship in my thinking is paying three quarters of the balance. What is happening now is that we are only paying a very small portion. Most of our students are poor. For it to continue well, good amount of money should be allocated so that our students can go on well with their college and university education. We now have many students taking nursing and doctorate courses. We know that the fee is high.

The other issue is about NHIF. who will follow up with the NHIF office? I think that is where the whole problem lies. We have asked the department severally and it is not for the department to do biometrics but the NHIF office. The other thing is that, I think it is the role of each one of us to see how to get the nurses fraternity, because it seems on the other side of the Executive, there are no such efforts they are undertaking to meet with the nurses.

As the Hon. Member for Golbo has said, our people down there are suffering because all the dispensaries are closed and it is only the Referral Hospital which is working because they have tied nurses on locum and we don’t know how the nurses are being paid.

On Water, I think no we are aware that across our Wards there are water shortages, so there is a need for.........*(inaudible)* a lot of outcry from our electorates that they need water.

On Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, in the speech there were a number of animals that have been vaccinated and funny enough in my Ward two months ago a lot of cattle died of Foot and Mouth disease and it was really embarrassing because our County did not have the vaccines, we had to borrow vaccines from Samburu County.... *inaudible)* As a County we need to put measures in place where in case of such emergencies we have to stand by our people, thank you.

**Hon. Hassan Wako Jarso:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to put two issues across. The high level of disasters in our County. When we came in from the elections, just.......*(inaudible)* the heavy rains, you saw the kind of....*(inaudible)* .people went through. On the same this House was tasked to tour all the Sub Counties and also consider the level......*(inaudible)* affected families....*(inaudible)* .

What really....*(inaudible)* me is that those reports at one time came to the House, it was not fully captured, because of certain reasons we had to take back the report for further deliberations. That report is yet to come to this House, on that note I would like to request that the House be furnished with that report.

Still on the same, in our County whenever it rains we keep on crying for...*(inaudible)*. We keep on singing the song, of concern to me is *(inaudible)* Marsabit Market caught fire and because of certain parameters...*.(inaudible)* most of our people could not salvage any of their properties, because the responses that were there was no adequate because of key instruments which are......*(inaudible)*.

When disasters of high magnitude strike, whether the same framework was...*(inaudible)* we need to act...*(inaudible)* looking for appropriate way to avert such things. As the saying goes, ‘Fire is a good servant but a bad master’ on the same, I would like to ask this House, I have already crafted a motion on the same and is yet to come to the House. Mine is just to request the House that when that motion comes, the House will deliberate on it fully and give the attention it deserves.

These issues of disasters, and particularly during drought season like now,....*(inaudible)* we try to look for water bowsers within the County Headquarters, it is astonishing to be told that the only functional water bowser then and even today I believe is only one! When we say that something....*(inaudible)*, it is for the common good of the people we represent. This means in terms of disaster preparedness this County lacks the most needed instruments and we should all read from the same script. This is the County Headquarters and most facilities are not working, then you can imagine of other Sub Counties it is a place to be furnished with all the relevant instruments and apparatus for any further workable formations.

In the Governor’s speech, he ended with the word ‘Cohesion’, the issue of peace, spirit of people working together.....*(inaudible)* one another, we can still have information that our County has been going through several challenges, some of it being insecurity, on the same, I can witness, His Excellency the Governor, also mentioned on the effort the County has made to bring the people together, so that our people can live together cohesively.

On the issue of MIC (Marsabit Interfaith Council), the Religious Groups and all other stakeholders, we must say they are doing a great job. We also want to be engaged constantly, we want to see what effort or are they making any progress in relation to the task given to them.

What greatly touches me, is about the disaster preparedness measure in our County. We keep on saying disaster has strike and we need to solve this once and for all, be it in terms of fire fighting, providing necessary support for our people, just down here from this office......*(inaudible)* towards town, 200 metres from this office, you can see......*(inaudible)* across the road, this translates that our people still lack this basic commodity and I am sure we are still in early February, the whole of March- April we don’t know when it is going to rain.

So, if this kind of problems persists, then I am sure, maybe in a span of week or two all these Honourable Members will be tasking us with several information about the issue of water bowsers getting damaged, people not rescued, he or she suffering because of lack of water. These are the kind of information we really anticipate and it is good if we really*...(inaudible)* on a key note and make sure certain measures that Hon. Members will be asking tomorrow we can definitely have a positive ear for it today. As much I would support His Excellency the Governor’s speech, those are the two key items that I would like to share with the House or any further deliberations on the same, it is my hope that all the Honourable Members will read from the same script on the same matter, thank you.

**Hon. Tura Ruru Elema:** Thank you Mr. Speaker.*.....(inaudible)* on the allocation for the Wards, the Governor mentioned it, where Kshs. 75 million was given to every Ward in Marsabit County and he also mentioned as the highest Ward allocation ever given to Wards!

The issue my brother Hon. Bashir mentioned, on the reduced allocation for the Wards and he was specific that it is Kshs 50million to every Ward and then negates this....*(inaudible)* of awarding huge sums of funds to Wards and I don’t think whether it is prudent for us to reduce allocations to Wards, when we are talking of the best allocation ever given by this County.

And when we look at what was allocated in terms of development resources.....was given Kshs 1.5Billion, while Department and Flagship projects was given Kshs.2.4Billion. I still think that Kshs. 1.5 Billion allocated to Wards is very small. I suggest possibly the Departmental priorities which is a replica of Ward priority be given to flagship projects to increase so that Kshs. 2.4 Billion with other annual increments given from resource kitties be subjected to flagship projects and the Wards be given more allocation so that more resources go to the Wards and more development takes place in Wards, unlike reducing the amount.

Also the same speech that says 50-50 for Recurrent and Development projects, I think this is what we really need to work on as an Assembly to ensure that Recurrent expenditures be reduced, so that this big projects that everybody is talking about is taken care of by reduction of Recurrent expenditure unlike when we are giving 50-50 for Recurrent and Development.

I think the reduction from the Recurrent Expenditure to Development then will enable us to do more big projects, also stop people looking at the small allocation to the Wards.....*(inaudible)* again from Kshs.75million, the best is to increase this allocation.

The other thing I have noted when we talk of Drought Mitigation, this speech has not touched on Drought Mitigation and a lot of resources are directed towards this, I know..... *(inaudible)* give at a tune of Kshs. 200 million to Drought Mitigation, and this has not been mentioned anywhere in this speech and I appreciate we are funding irrigation and fishing to make sure our food basket is taken care of so that in future we will not be talking of hunger! But still with climate change and this frequency of drought it is not anywhere......*(inaudible)* that irrigation and fishing that we are now targeting take care of our problem.

In that aspect as we speak today our people are hungry, food shortages are......*(inaudible)* and I thank, some few months ago some food rations were released to the Wards to take of this and I thought the Governor will again say this food should be given every month until we get rain......*(inaudible)* I still insist that as we continue this food rations be given every month until we get the rain to ensure our people won’t go hungry, thank you.

**Hon. Guyo Duba Yaro:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Allow me......*(inaudible)* Governor’s speech. About Youths, you all know that we are gambling with high rate of Youth unemployment, it is clear in the past Kenya as a Country do not respond quickly and sufficiently the changes in the job markets demands, but now the World is changing, Kenya is changing and Marsabit too must adapt to the changes around us......*(inaudible)* approach to real changes of unemployment.

Marsabit County in the last regime they have seen that is why they come up with Enterprise Fund for Youths, it is unfortunate that Kshs.30 million allocated for our youths, the Department of Trade for FY 2017/2018, 2018/2019 which is now Kshs.60 million up to now we have not seen it!

As a Department we have interrogated the CEC for Trade, she told us- who was the former CEC for Administration, she can’t tell where that money is! They are putting blames on the Department of Finance. That money is meant for small and medium enterprises in our County, they are looking unto us and our role being oversight we are just doing nothing! It is unfortunate!

Hence as the Committee we have tried with the Department, I just want you as the Chair of this House to know that......

***(Hon. Halkano Konso stood in his place)***

Thank you Mr. Speaker, I am competent, I know my roles our able Leader of Majority, we are discussing the Governor’s speech, it is not our role! That is why in the Governor’s speech, he stated that there are challenges about Youths which is unemployment and one of the methods of these Youths getting the money, is through this Enterprise Fund! And the*........(inaudible)* we are getting is that from the Department of Finance, we are getting challenges that is the report I got from the Department. I am just explaining the report that we have and also discussing the Governor’s speech!

***(Hon. Hassan Wako Jarso stood in his place)***

Thank you Mr. Speaker, we have done that, we have not shared with the House but as a Committee Hon. Member for Uran, being the Member we went up to the CEC in his office and in between there was a recess and a long holiday. And now we are trying to discuss the Governor’s speech, but not.....the message is coming. Even yesterday I told Hon. Hassan to bring that statement.

So, we are discussing the Governor’s speech......

***(Hon. Speaker interjects)***

So, for now I want this Honourable House to know that the money2017/2018, 2018/2019 which is Kshs.60 million, our Youths have never received that money!

About Disaster.......

***(Hon. Halkano Konso stood in his place)***

***(Hon. Hussein Wako Abdi stood in his place)***

***(Hon. Tura Ruru stood in his place)***

***(Hon. Halkano Konso stood in his place)***

***(Hon. Abdirahman Sheikh Bashir stood in his place)***

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** I think we have deliberated enough, we are only nine others have left, what I wanted to give, I will not give it today because of lack of quorum, I’ll preserve it for another day.

The House remains adjourned until Tuesday at 2.30pm.

***The Assembly rose at 3.55 pm***