

COUNTY ASSEMBLY

HANSARD REPORT

Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023

The House met at 9.30 A.M

*[The Temporary Speaker,  
(Hon. (Mr.) Did Omar Apicha) in the Chair]*

PRAYERS

*(Quorum bell was rung)  
(Honourable Members steadily walking into the Chamber)*

PAPER LAID

**The Temporary Speaker:** Honourable Members, we have received the County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP) from the department of Finance and Economic Planning. The paper should be laid by Honorable Daud Tamasot and in his absence by a Member from the Budget Committee.

*(CFSP document is laid on the table by Hon. Halkano Sora Rare)*

STATEMENT AND QUESTION

STATEMENT BY HON SIBA HAILA, MCA HEILU/MANYATTA WARD

**Hon Siba Michal Haila:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, first I would like to congratulate the two nominees approved by this House yesterday. I send my warm congratulations to Hon Hussein Tari Sasura and Muse Ganale.

Honorable Speaker, in the recent Month, County Government of Marsabit is engaged in the exercise of food distribution across the twenty (20) Wards of this County. This noble exercise if not keenly oversighted is subject to misuse and might end up benefitting a few who are undeserving because of the many channels that this food has to pass through in order to reach its destination.

In view of the above, I have the following questions to ask the Principal Administrative Secretary (PAS) in the office of the Governor, who is the accounting officer in the office of the Governor where we allocated the relief food fund.

What is the total quantity of items purchased and distributed in the first round of relief food distribution in the Month of November?

What is the total cost of items purchased and distributed in the first round of relief food distribution in the Month of November?

What is the total cost of transport and storage incurred during the first round of relief food distribution in the Month of November?

Who are the beneficiaries in the first round of relief food distribution and how were they identified in the Month of November? Please provide the breakdown as per the Wards.

What is the total quantity of items purchased and distributed in the second round of relief food distribution in early February 2023?

What is the total cost of items purchased and distributed in the second round of relief food distribution in the Month of February 2023?

What is the total cost of transport and storage incurred during the second round of relief food distribution in the Month of February 2023?

Who are the beneficiaries in the first round of relief food distribution and how were they identified in the Month of February 2023? Please provide the breakdown as per the Wards.

If there are any water tracking interventions going on under this relief or any emergency allocations within the County. Mr Speaker, this is specific to Heilu/Manyatta Ward.

**The Temporary Speaker:** Thank you Hon. Siba for your Statement and Question. I hope Members have heard his Question. The matter is before us and Members can add comments.

**Hon. Bernard Leakono (Majority Leader):** Thank you Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the Statement by Hon. Siba. It is true this House appropriated a lot of funds meant for relief food distribution, water tracking and livestock feeds. They have a plan of how they are going to use this but they just gave us a paper which is not authentic.

I also want to add that when monies are given for saving lives, its supposed to be used prudently. It is the duty of this House to know what the Honorable member is asking. It's not only giving out money, but also oversight how it's being used.

In addition to the question nine of the statement...water tracking, they should add this information. If there is any water tracking, they should give places, number of trips taken for distribution, the cost of water distributed, amount of water distributed and the companies which distributed this water.

Mr Speaker, I am asking this because it's the drought season and everybody needs water during this time. We had monies for drought mitigation and other for climate change. In its wisdom, this House allocated a lot of money to help the people of Marsabit. We want to know how the money we have given is being used.

In Laisamis, we have only one Water bowser from NDMA which is distributing water to Korr, Namarei. I am not certain of other places but there are lots of outcry about shortage of water which is contributed by drought. Wells are drying up, others breakdown. Little animals remaining gets grass from far hence also need water.

I also want to add details on the amount of animal feeds distributed, places distributed to and the amount of monies used so far.

**Hon Ebise Waqo Golicha:** Mr Speaker, I think it is our work to oversight the executive and in this times that our people are suffering because of the ongoing drought, we cannot just sit normally as usual business, we should work and ensure everyone is held accountable for the work they do and ensure it is done in the right way.

It's very unfortunate if we as a House just let things slide and not look at things in depth. We must stand and be counted and make sure that one kilo of maize goes to where it's supposed to go.

Therefore Mr Speaker, I support the question and we must hold people accountable. Even if things are done the right way, transparency is very important for us to know how things are being and whether it is done rightly.

**Hon Danila Lenatiyama:** The question by Honourable Siba is very reasonable; it's our responsibility to oversight the Executive. I think the next thing that we need to do as Members of the County Assembly is to come up with a policy to ensure that the nine hundred million that was appropriated will be guided by the policy as cash transfers to our people which is sustainable than getting half a kilo of maize without oil!

**Hon Halkano Sora Rare:** Mr Speaker, the questions are right because we are the over-sighting body. But the Hon. Member who raised the Statement is focused on the misuse of funds but we also need to focus also on the positive side.

The other issue-I don't see the reason of question four (4) and eight (8) because during the flagging off of the food, the beneficiaries for each Ward was one thousand.

The other question about the number of beneficiaries in each Ward, it is the responsibility of that Ward to identify the beneficiaries but not the department to do it for you. The two questions should not have been included in this Statement. Thank you.

**Hon. Bernard Leakono (Majority Leader):** Mr Speaker, it's very unfortunate that questions are asked here and some Members take the position of Executive to answer.

The Member specifically asked, even if the beneficiaries are one thousand who are these beneficiaries?

I know in the Wards the beneficiaries are one thousand or less. But we need to be given while distributing. I know in the last distribution, Laisamis, Logologo and Kargi Wards got less than a thousand but as a Sub County, Laisamis got the total five thousand required and we have no question on that because we have a bigger ward than the other and when a population is high in Korr, then it should get more than others. That's right. But who are these beneficiaries because we have a place where Ward administrators write relatives...if its chiefs, they write the most vulnerable and write their relatives.

**Hon Tura Ruru Elema:** Mr Speaker, I take this opportunity to congratulate those we have approved in this House to take the positions of the County Secretary and CEO of the County Public Service Board.

I also support my younger brother from Heilu/Manyatta for raising a very good Statement. The only concern about this is we approved the budget in December and Government gives report quarterly. To me, it's too early to question why the report is not here. It is a good question!

When we give Statements, let Members know when something is missing within the duration that it is not supposed to be delayed, and then we ask for Question and Statement. I hope this is not a replica of the Senate question that was posed by Senator. Thank you.

**The Temporary Speaker:** Honourable Jacob Elisha?

**Hon. Jacob Elisha Godana:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like the Hon. Majority Leader not to leave when the Hon. Member for Saku is speaking. First and foremost, I would like to thank and congratulate the two Nominees, Hon. Sasura and my brother from another mother Ganale, the current C.E.O.

I think this question came at the right time and I want to echo my brother, the youngest MCA in the House for this question. The figurative language that we are using outside this House is different from the one we are using in this House.

The job of an MCA is to oversight, legislate and represent. The people that I represent, the people of Marsabit Central Ward are waiting for this question. I have witnessed distribution of food in Marsabit Central Ward. I am not ready to answer some questions. It is good if the Executive gives us the list of the beneficiaries. I know the beneficiaries of Marsabit Central Ward are one thousand. They might say it is three thousand. I don't know! Let us wait for them to answer the question.

I know many people have raised eyebrows in Marsabit County about the MCAs. We need to come out clearly as the members of the County Assembly. It is not that we are opposing the County Government. Let us continue with that spirit and if there are other questions....

*(Hon. Tura interjects)*

**Hon. Tura Ruru Elema:** Point of order Mr. Speaker! I would like to ask my brother from Marsabit Central what eyebrows we are raising as MCAs?

*(Laughter)*

Let us just not give ourselves names that we don't understand. What eyebrows are we raising? Can you clarify this!

**Hon. Jacob Elisha Godana:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. The eldest Member in the House should know what is happening around the local radio stations. This is not something new now that it is your second term in this House. You know very well what they are talking about on the local radio stations.

That is why I am saying our work is to oversight, legislate and represent. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Siba Michal Haila:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Honourable Rare, the MCA for Obbu Ward should get my question clear. I did not ask for the number of beneficiaries...

*(Hon. Rare interjects)*

*(Laughter)*

**Hon. Siba Michal Haila:** Through the Chair, I would like to address the Hon. Rare, Member for Obbu Ward

*(Hon. Danila interjects)*

**Hon. Siba Michal Haila:** Thank you Hon. Danila. Hon. Speaker protect me!

**The Temporary Speaker:** Order! It is in order that you have to address the Chair. Just continue.

**Hon. Siba Michal Haila:** I have asked for the beneficiaries and not the number. When giving out the food, we would like to have the list of those that benefitted. We know every Ward had about one thousand beneficiaries. The total beneficiaries from all the twenty Wards were around twenty thousand.

Concerning Hon. Tura's statement, I think this is the right time to ask the question because this has been implemented and they have answers to these questions. Thank you.

**The Temporary Speaker:** Thank you. I think we are aware that we only contribute once.

Yes, Hon. Adhi?

**Hon. Adhi Bino:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I support Hon. Siba's questions. The issue is that if we do not do our oversight in the right way, there will be a big problem. Before we were sworn in, there was estimated KES. 850M for relief food. The elected Members were robbed this money and all channelled towards relief food.

I feel that the members of this House should be more concerned about the use of this money. With KES.850M, then KES.50M and KES.37M per Ward is a lot... We have to know how every coin has been spent. That is our work. I support these questions. We need answers for every question he has asked. Thank you.

**The Temporary Speaker:** Thank you Hon. Adhi. Thank you Hon. Members for your contributions, opinions and views that you have gave.

I commit the matter to the relevant Committee for Administration so that they give us this report in fourteen days time.

Thank you.

*(Applause)*

Next order!

QUESTION BY HON. ADMEN LERUK- MCA, KARARE WARD.

**Hon. Tura Ruru Elema:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this County is endowed with enormous natural resources. If properly utilized and proper mechanism put in place, it can generate local revenue for this County. It is my belief that the current level of reported local revenue is not the true reflection of what can be collected. There is a lot of revenue wastage either deliberately by revenue collectors or lack of proper mechanism and strategy employed by the department.

The amount earmarked for collection either as a cess, rent or rates as proposed in the Finance Bill is charges levied on the poor 'mama mbogas' and hard working traders of this County. It is very unforgiving if such collections are misused or not put in proper use that benefits these people.

For this Hon. House to be in picture of how revenue collection exercise is being conducted, we need to have sufficient and accurate information regarding the collection of local revenue which in turn will enable us to play our oversight role properly.

Honourable Speaker, in this statement, I request the Chairperson for Budget and Appropriation Committee to inquire on the following;

1. How much was the local revenue collected in the Last Financial Years i.e FY 2021/2022 and the last two quarters of FY 2022/2023.
2. What strategy and technology are the departments employing to maximize on the local revenue collections?
3. How many revenue collection points are there in the entire County and what is their individual collection in the last Financial Years i.e. FY 2021/2022 and the last two quarters of FY 2022/2023?
4. A receiver of revenue for a County Government is tasked with providing quarterly report to the County Treasury as provided for in section 158(3) of the Public Finance Management Act No. 18 of 2012. Can the revenue department provide that report for the Financial Year 2022/2022 and the last two quarters of FY 2022/2023?
5. How the local revenue collected is managed? (Account managed for this purpose and at what point the fund is utilized for its intended purpose).

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Temporary Speaker:** Thank you Hon. Tura for your Statement and Question. Honourable Members, it is your time to contribute in order to register your views and opinions on the same.

Honourable Rare!

**Hon. Halkano Sora Rare:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I support the question. This sector has a lot of problem. When we look at our budget, there is a revenue target every Financial Year. We never hit that target. This does not mean that no money is collected in Marsabit County. The reason is that these funds are misused. There are loopholes. We have seen cess collectors who are earning less than 20,000 living in bungalows and driving heavy vehicles.

The money collected from that poor mother who is selling charcoal, firewood, miraa is just going into someone's pocket instead of the County. So Mr. Speaker, this statement is timely and we need that sector to be interrogated even further. Thank you.

**The Temporary Speaker:** Thank you.

**Hon. Kiya Chana Jillo:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. As I support the statement, in Moyale you will find that there are more than thirty tax collectors but only less than ten are active. I don't know the criteria the department of Finance is using to distribute these tax collectors.

My additional point in that Statement, is how those revenue collectors were placed in each station, because most of the time you'll find one person collecting revenue in a particular station in Moyale Township, that means there is something that is not adding up! How is it that there are 30 Revenue Collectors, whereby 20 are at home while the rest are collecting revenues in that area? While I support the Statement I call upon the Hon. House to thoroughly investigate the Department of Finance, thank you.



**Hon. Adhi Bino:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, I support the Statement because when we were taken through the induction on budget, we were told that every Financial Year revenue targets are never met, the Department of Finance lack clear guidelines on how to collect revenue. Secondly, there is problem of pilferage, because if they don't use the ETR receipts, anyone can make receipts similar to the one issued by the Department of Finance and pocket the money! Unless they adopt automation, I think they should just forget about revenue collection, because it will never reach the Accounting Department. So, the Statement is timely and we need clear answers on this, thank you.

**Hon. Jacob Elisha:** Thank you Hon. Speaker, I support the Statement, We had the Public Participation on Finance Bill here in Marsabit Central Ward, it is unfortunate that the business community are complaining on the services rendered by the County Government of Marsabit is opposite of what they are doing! There is a Businessman who pays single business permit of KES 3,000 while what is in the paper is KES 2,000, So, it seems KES 1,000 goes to someone's pocket.

Our neighbouring Counties of Meru and Isiolo are using a new system-the automation! It is only in Marsabit County that uses Vasco Da Gama's style of revenue collection! We are requesting the CEC Finance to appear before this House and answer these questions, these stories of the CEC being on the way to the County Assembly and he is not reaching is something of the past, we are here to oversight and we expect this from the Department of Finance, thank you.

**The Temporary Speaker:** Thank you Hon. Members for the contributions, I hereby commit the same to the Committee for Budget and Appropriations and to report to this House in 14-days time, thank you.

### STATEMENT AND QUESTION

STATEMENT AND QUESTION BY HON. TURA RURU, MCA NORTH HERR WARD ON THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT STAFFING, SALARIES AND WAGES

**Hon Tura Ruru:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Salaries paid to the workers by the County Government consume a big chunk of the revenue that we get annually from the National Treasury as witnessed in the recently passed budget. This further deprives this County the resources required for development projects.

For this County to thrive, we must balance Recurrent and Development expenditure, which as at now the development allocation is so little and if nothing is done, development allocation will continue to shrink further.

I request as Chairperson of Committee of Administration and Coordination of County Affairs and ICT to inquire and report on the following;

What is the total monthly wage bill for all the County (both on permanent, casual and contract terms of employment; and please give a breakdown as per the department;

What is the total number of staffs working for the County Government?; Provide the list for each department and stating their terms of contracts and the job group;

What is the optimal staffing level for each department based on the approved departmental Organo-gram? Kindly attach the approved Organo-gram for each Department by the County Executive Committee Members, and;

What are the criteria for promoting staffs working for the County Government and was the said promotion done as per the criteria? Provide the copy of scheme of service and also the list of staff who were promoted from the period F/Y 2017/2018 up to 2021/2022. Thank you.

**Hon. Adhi Bino:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. We know there are 'ghost' workers in this County and this is the ample to get rid of them because they are not working but drawing thousands of shillings every month! I am concern about the Health Department, out of the KES 1.8B for Financial Year 2022/2023, KES 1.4B goes to the salaries, I don't know if the House is aware, only KES 400M is allocated for drugs and other things! I am really concerned about Health Department; the answers provided to these questions will help us get rid of the 'ghost' workers, thank you.

**Hon. Ebise Waqo:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, I would like to support the questions, it is unfortunate if Department like Health where people pocket money while health facilities in the rural centres do not have drugs and worse when someone is not working. I think it is our duty to ensure the money goes to the right place, like allocating such monies for drugs thank you.

**The Temporary Speaker:** Thank you Hon. Ebise, I still commit this matter to the Budget and Appropriation Committee and to report back to this House in 14 days time.

Next order!

Having no any other business, the House remains adjourned till today afternoon at 2.30pm, thank you.

*(The Assembly rose at 10:20AM)*