

Nyamira turns into theatre of the absurd with two local assemblies

- ▶ The crisis stems from a failed attempt last year to impeach Governor Amos Nyaribo.
- ▶ Each faction has its own Speaker and Clerk, operating from two separate locations.

EDWIN NYARANGI, NAIROBI

Nyamira County has descended into a political farce, with two parallel county assemblies operating simultaneously, leaving residents, stakeholders, and the national government bewildered.

The crisis stems from a failed attempt last year to impeach Governor Amos Nyaribo, which has fractured the assembly’s leadership and governance.

Trouble began when 22 Members of the County Assembly (MCAs) voted to impeach Nyaribo, falling short of the required 23 votes by one, as 12 MCAs opposed the Motion.

Frustrated, the pro-impeachment MCAs accused Speaker Enock Okero of siding with the governor and moved to oust him. This sparked a schism, resulting in two rival factions, each claiming legitimacy and running county affairs independently.

Each faction has its own speaker and clerk. One, led by Okero, operates from the County Assembly headquarters, while the other, led by Ekerenyo MCA Thaddeus Nyabaro, holds sessions in venues gazetted as Bunge



Mashinani across the county.

For five months, this standoff has deepened confusion and disrupted governance.

On Tuesday, both factions appeared before the Senate, which, unsuccessfully, attempted to mediate. Kisii Senator Richard Onyonka emphasized the need for a political solution, urging the groups to reconcile

Thaddeus Nyabaro, who claims to be the legitimate Speaker, before a Senate committee on Tuesday.
[Boniface Okendo, Standard]

for the county’s sake.

“The Nyamira County Assembly faces a political problem that requires dialogue to resolve,” he said.

Governor Nyaribo, addressing the Senate County Public Accounts Committee, warned that the prolonged crisis might force him to request President William Ruto to appoint a special committee to manage the county or dissolve it entirely. Nyaribo accused Nyamira Senator Okongo Omogeni and some MCAs of fueling the divisions, despite his efforts to unite the factions. Nyaribo recognized Okero’s faction as legitimate, citing court orders reinstating him, while dismissing Nyabaro’s group as illegal.

Okero recounted his ousting to the Senate, explaining that his troubles began when the 22 MCAs who supported Nyaribo’s impeachment accused him of bias.

In October last year, he was ejected from the assembly chambers during a session and later impeached in a process he claims was unfair and legally contested.

“The High Court’s December 16 or-

der preserving my position as Speaker remains in effect,” Okero said, noting that contempt proceedings against his rivals are ongoing, with a ruling expected on May 8.

Okero argued that his faction’s decision to hold sessions outside the assembly precincts was lawful, as they had gazetted alternative venues for safety reasons. He insisted that Nyabaro’s claim to the speakership, while serving as an MCA, violates court orders and constitutes contempt.

Nyabaro, however, defended his faction’s actions, asserting that Okero’s impeachment followed due process. He accused Okero’s group, backed by Nyaribo, of illegally conducting assembly business outside the official Nyamira town precincts.

“Official duties are carried out where the county mace is, in Nyamira town,” Nyabaro said.

The Senate expressed dismay at the spectacle. Nominated Senator Margaret Kamara called the situation embarrassing, noting that the factions’ squabbles deprive residents of essential services.

“The people who elected these leaders deserve better,” she said. Senator Peris Tobiko described the crisis as unprecedented, urging Nyamira’s elected leaders to resolve it collectively.

Senator Omogeni, addressing the Senate last week, highlighted the chaos caused by the rival assemblies.

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MOMBASA

Another blow to contractor of demolished 11-storey building

The contractor who executed the 11-storey building that was demolished on Wednesday in Mombasa has suffered a fresh blow after Governor Abdulswamad Nassir suspended the construction of 20 high-rise buildings they were working on.

Nassir, however, failed to name the contractor despite questions from the Press.

He said the contractor will solely be held liable for the death of one person, who was trapped in the rubble.

The governor said the contractor failed to use standardised steel and materials. He also did not name the buildings whose construction was suspended amid mounting questions about his adminis-

tration’s earlier laxity to stop the project that claimed one life.

“We have suspended 20 building works under construction of the contractor behind the condemned building. All works by the said contractor have been and will be stopped, and once the preliminary report of the steel bars used comes out, we shall ensure they don’t work anywhere in the country,” said Nassir.

Nassir said experts spent four hours collecting samples of steel bars used on the pillars, and once the preliminary report comes out, action shall be taken against the contractor.

“We cannot allow our

emotions to take over and not hold people to account. Let us ensure people are safe first before we take action.

“We are rushing to see the steel bars used and if they meet the standard and quality mark. That is why we took four hours to take the samples,” said Nassir.

The governor said he will ensure that the contractor’s licence is revoked and he does not operate anywhere in the country.

The governor was reluctant to answer the set limit of floors allowed on the island for high-rise buildings. Mombasa’s skyline is dotted with 15- and 16-storey buildings.

[Joakim Bwana]



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF MARSABIT

NOTICE OF APPROVAL HEARING OF NOMINEES OF THE SELECTION PANEL

PURSUANT to Section 58(1) (a) and (b) as read with Section 58A of the County Governments Act, 2012 H. E. Hon. Mohamud Mohamed Ali submitted a list of nominees for the selection panel to select suitable candidates for appointment as Members of the County Public Service Board. Following the receipt of the notification of nomination, the County Assembly of Marsabit **HEREBY NOTIFIES** the public and the Nominees that **the vetting of nominees for the position of the Selection Panel** will commence on **22nd April 2025** at the **County Assembly of Marsabit Chambers from 09.00 a.m.** The nominees are invited to appear before the Committee on Vetting and Appointments as per the schedule below;

NOMINEES	DESIGNATION TO THE SELECTION PANEL	TIME
22 nd APRIL, 2025		
1. Wario David Dida	Chairperson to the Panel	9.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m.
2. Sadio Okille Galgallo	Representative from the Private Sector	10.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.
3. Abdilatif Mohamed Jarso	Advocate of the High Court of Kenya	12.00 p.m. to 1.00 p.m.
4. John Itantian Galimogle	Certified Public Accountant	2.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.
5. Mariam Challa Horse	Representative from an association representing workers	4.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.

The nominees are required to collect the questionnaires from the Office of the Clerk during official working hours starting from **April 14, 2025**, and submit them along with copies of the following documents on or before **April 21, 2025**, at 5:00 p.m. to the Office of the Clerk (address provided below):

1. Certified copies of ID card or Passport;
2. Curriculum vitae, personal credentials and academic certificates;
3. Current Tax Compliance Certificate from the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA)
4. Current Compliance Certificate from the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB)
5. Current Clearance Certificate from the Credit Reference Bureau (CRB)
6. Current Valid Certificate of Good Conduct from the Department of Criminal Investigation (DCI).
7. Current Clearance from Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC)
8. Current Clearance Certificate from respective professional bodies
9. Accreditation from Commission of University Education for foreign degrees (where applicable)

Nominees are advised to bring the originals of the aforementioned documents on the vetting day. Any person may, prior to the approval hearing, and by written statement on oath (sworn affidavit), provide the Clerk with evidence contesting the suitability of the candidate to hold the office to which the candidate has been nominated. The Written statement on oath to be sent to info@marsabitassembly.go.ke. Or addressed to:

**The Clerk
County Assembly of Marsabit
P.O. Box 29-60500
Marsabit**

The same to reach the office of the Clerk on or before **21st April, 2025** by **1:00 P.M.**

**CPA CHARE MATO
CLERK/SECRETARY, COUNTY ASSEMBLY SERVICE BOARD**