

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MANDERA COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 11th March, 2020

*The House met at the Assembly Chambers
County Assembly Buildings, at 2.32 pm*

[Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi) in the chair]

PRAYER

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): Sergeants-at-arm, ring the bell for ten minutes.

(Quorum bell rang)

(Quorum obtained)

(Orders read)

STATEMENT

**BUSINESS FOR WEEK COMMENCING
TUESDAY, 17TH MARCH, 2020**

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): House Business Committee, what is there as the business for next week?

Hon. Halima Billow (Nominated): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Pursuant to Standing Order 44 (2) (a), I wish lay on the Table the following businesses slotted by House Business Committee on Tuesday, 10th March, 2022 regarding the Business of the House commencing Tuesday, 17th March, 2020.

1. Tuesday, 17th March, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. Mandera County Urban Area Bill, 2020.
2. Wednesday, 18th March, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. Mandera County Finance Bill, 2019.

Thank you.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): Honorable Minority Leader, do you want to say something? Honorable Members, we have three new statements. The first one belongs to honorable Member representing Alungu. Put on your mic.

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WHETHER THE DEPARTMENT HAS SET UP ISOLATION AND TREATMENT FACILITIES
AND LEVEL OF PREPAREDNESS AGAINST CORONA VIRUS

Hon. Yussuf Maalim Dakane (Alungu-Gof): Mr. Deputy Speaker, in the past few months, the spread of Coronavirus has been on the rise with new cases being reported in different parts of the World.

It is on that note that His Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya, President Uhuru Kenyatta issued an executive order directing treatment facilities be set up in all level five and referral hospitals across the country by March 15th 2020 in order to upscale the level of preparedness and capacity to prevent and respond to and contain coronavirus which is a global threat. Furthermore, Mandera County remains highly vulnerable to disease outbreak as it borders two countries Somalia and Ethiopia.

Pursuant to the provision of Standing Order No 44 (2) (c) I wish to seek a statement from the chairperson of Health Services Committee on whether the department has set up isolation and treatment facilities in the county and level of preparedness in particular on cross boarder screening and mitigation measures put in place by the department in the fight against coronavirus in the county.

Thank you.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): Chair for Health.

Hon. Shaban Hassan (Ashabito): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I was to issue general statement yesterday but we deferred it because of his statement. It is true coronavirus outbreak is an issue of public health of international concern. That is what World Health Organization declared and there is also executive order of the president to establish isolation ward at all level four and five hospitals. As a county we are not badly off and we will liaise with the department and we will have a comprehensive report.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): So, one week is okay. Next statement by honorable Abass Abdille Mohamed! You have nothing to say honorable Rafat, do you want to say something about coronavirus? I think that is at the response level. Honorable Abass!

Hon. Abass Mohamed (Nominated): I am a member of Health Committee and I want to reply honorable Rafat.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): Order! Do not reply him just go to your statement.

WHETHER PUBLIC OFFICERS WITH DISABILITY WERE PAID THEIR
REMUNERATION AS PER THE SRC CIRCULAR

Hon. Abass Mohamed (Nominated): Mr. Deputy Speaker, pursuant to the provision of Standing Order 44 (2) (c) I wish to seek statement from the chairperson of Public Service, Cohesion, Integration, Conflict Management and Devolved Unit Committee on;

1. Whether the department has complied with Salaries and Remuneration Commission Circular Ref No. SRC/TC/NCPD/2018/ 80 which gave a flat rate of cash 20,000 not 200,000 as indicated in the statement. It is 20,000 cash per month payable as part of

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- the monthly remuneration to public officers with disability for categories of deaf, blind and wheel chair users' physical disables.
2. Provide the list of public officers with disability who have benefited from the review and their departments.

Thank you.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): Honorable Chair of Public Services, honorable Kullow!

Hon. Kullow Alio (Rhamu): Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker. Before I respond, I request honorable Abass to provide me with hardcopy of the said circular so that we look at it as a committee and then we can engage the Public Service department. If he does that, then I will respond within two weeks.

Thank you.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): So you said you will respond within two weeks.

Hon. Kullow Alio (Rhamu): Yes.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): You mean if he only provides. I think this statement is directed to the department not to the committee.

Hon. Kullow Alio (Rhamu): But we also need to verify what we are requesting from the department as well as a proof because we do not have to ask the department something which might not be there.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): Fine, you said two weeks. I think the Chair said two weeks and if honorable Abass has that circular you can give to the chair and that can help them at the committee level. We go to the Next Order. Honorable Ahmed Gabnan!

MASS DEATH OF CAMELS IN WARANQARA DUE TO OUTBREAK OF A MYSTERIOUS DISEASE

Hon. Ahmed Gabnan (Waranqara): Thank you, honorable Deputy Speaker. I stand to seek statement pursuant to the provision of Standing Order 44(2) (c), I wish to seek statement from the Chairperson of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Committee on;

1. Whether the department is aware of the reported mass death of camels in Waranqara ward for the last one month due to the outbreak of mysterious disease.
2. Whether the causes of these deaths have been established.
3. What measures has the department put in place to stop more death and avert the spread of the killer disease to other parts of the county? I am mesmerized why Hon. Wariyo is laughing.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): The Honorable Chair for Agriculture and Livestock.

Hon. Bashir Ibrahim (Kiliwehiri): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I hope it is not Corona Virus of camel because we are hearing of very serious disease in Waranqara. But as the Committee on Agriculture we will take up this matter and respond in two weeks' time.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): Honorable Ahmed. Allow honorable Ahmed to say something.

Hon. Ahmed Gabnan (Waranqara): Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is a matter of emergency and as you know in the past few months we lost so many goats as a result of drought and our

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number of goats have drastically reduced. We are all depending on the camels and the few we have are dying in mass and the Chair for Agriculture is asking for two weeks. This is a matter of simple questions which is an emergency and it should be responded to as early as next week.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): Honorable Rafat.

Hon. Abdinoor Rafat (Khalalio): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. On the issue of the mysterious disease for the camel, what Honorable Gabnan is saying is very true and it is an emergency. Whatever is happening now and with the situation of the drought, those issues must be addressed quickly. The committee has to sit and make sure those things are addressed before next week.

Thank you.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): Honorable Abdullahi.

Hon. Abdullahi Siyad (Lafey): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Honorable Gabnan has only asked about Waranqara ward but the problem is across Lafey Sub County. I can confirm too that hundreds of camels have died in Alungu, Lafey and Waranqara wards so far. With your guidance can the committee extend to the whole of Lafey Sub County?

Thank you.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): Honorable Minority. Order! Honorable Minority Leader is on the floor.

Hon. Jimale Abdi (Guba): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Whenever camel sickness is mentioned we get terrified. That is a serious disease. It happened like ten years ago and it is spreading very fast. We want the Chair for Agriculture to take this issue very seriously before it spreads to other sub counties. Mr. Deputy Speaker, losing a camel is very painful. We need the chair to give us a solution before things get out of hand.

Thank you.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): Honorable Bishar.

Hon. Bishar Maalim Abdullahi (Takaba): Mr. Deputy Speaker, this mysterious disease is a big threat to our economy and if it is in Waranqara and Lafey, I need to appeal to the chair for Agriculture and livestock to issue quarantine for the camels so that it will not spread to other parts of the county.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): Order! Let him finish his statement. You should not interrupt a Member who is on the floor.

Hon. Bishar Maalim Abdullahi (Takaba): Secondly, when honorable Rafat, who is a Member of Agriculture Committee, contradicts his chair, it is very bad because he is not the spokesperson of the committee. There is urgency in handling this matter with the quickest means possible because as said by Honorable Jimale camel is the backbone of our economy. As pastoralists, we need to move from one place to another. It is high time the issue that has been mentioned that the camels should not cross to stop the spread of this disease.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): What is your view about the two weeks that he has said?

Hon. Bishar Maalim Abdullahi (Takaba): The timing depends with the committee but what I am talking about is the spread of the disease. The timing of the response is not of much concern to me but the spread of the disease.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): Honorable Halima what is your point of order?

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Hon. Halima Billow (Nominated): Is the honorable Member in order to say the animals in Waranqara should be quarantined? Is the disease zoonotic? Let him clarify.

Hon. Bishar Maalim Abdullahi (Takaba): I said that because she is a veterinarian and she has been handling animal diseases. And as a veterinarian she is not talking from an informed point of view because she is talking like an ignorant veterinarian.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): Order Honorable Bishar!

Hon. Halima Billow (Nominated): Mr. Deputy Speaker the Honorable Member should withdraw that statement and apologies to me. I am not ignorant.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): Please withdraw that and give an apology.

Hon. Bishar Maalim Abdullahi (Takaba): Mr. Deputy Speaker---

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): Please do not go far. Just withdraw and give an apology.

Hon. Bishar Maalim Abdullahi (Takaba): I withdraw and apologize to her, but do you know the meaning of quarantine in terms of veterinary?

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): Just withdraw and give an apology.

Hon. Bishar Maalim Abdullahi (Takaba): Mr. Deputy Speaker what I am saying is that, Okay, I withdraw.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): Do not go far. What you are discussing is timing.

Hon. Bishar Maalim Abdullahi (Takaba): The department should take quarantine issue as a very serious thing to combat the situation.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): Please withdraw it and give an apology.

Hon. Bishar Maalim Abdullahi (Takaba): I have withdrawn Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): We have not heard. You said you have withdrawn? Honorable Bishar!

Hon. Bishar Maalim Abdullahi (Takaba): Mr. Deputy Speaker, you know “cilmu dhureyb”. What I am saying is I want to withdraw and apologize to her.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): Okay. Thank you.

Hon. Bishar Maalim Abdullahi (Takaba): But the issue of quarantine we cannot leave it at that. She knows what she is doing.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): Order! Honorable Shaban!

Hon. Shaban Hassan (Ashabito): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I am immediate neighbor to Honorable Gabnan. Ashabito ward is bordering Honorable Gabnan’s ward. I have actually not heard of mysterious disease in Ashabito ward. In order to curb spread of this mysterious disease, Honorable Gabnan should talk to the locals so that we can at least restrict movement of animals.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): Order Honorable Members! Please, get back to your seats. For clarification purpose this is a statement sought by Honorable Ahmed and Honorable Chair for livestock said he wants two weeks. So, what we should be discussing is if we can allow him the two weeks or reduce it. Only that! Honorable Wariyo!

Hon. Ibrahim Ali Wariyo (Shimbir Fatuma): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. If it is true that there is a mysterious disease as it has been said, there is need to shorten the period by the Chair. One week is fine for the Member representing Waranqara. The thing is if it is reported in this House and all of us are representing wards, thirty wards to be precise. If we had mysterious disease killing camels in mass, we should resolve that the camels from Waranqara

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and Lafey should be quarantined because that is immediate measure before it affects Ashabito. The way it is reported is a serious thing. The way Honorable Member representing government business said, we shiver once we hear deaths of camels. It is something serious as reported by Honorable Gabnan. We do not want to lose our camels. We should be concerned of the areas that have not been affected. We need to resolve it by quarantining camels from Lafey and Waranqara. And you need to put the question Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): Order Honorable Members! Let him clarify and then I will give to Honorable Amran.

Hon. Ahmed Gabnan (Waranqara): Mr. Deputy Speaker, this year we were blessed and I can confirm that there is no scarcity of pasture to necessitate our camel to cross to other parts of the Sub County and there is no need to resolve or discuss the issue of quarantine. There is no corona virus. This disease has been in existence for the last 2 to 3 weeks. It is not a killer disease and there is no cause for alarm and Members should not be worried. We have enough pasture in our area.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): Let us not make it a discussion. Let me give to Honorable Amran.

Hon. Amran Adan (Nominated): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): You are making it like a discussion and it is not. Honorable Amran!

Hon. Amran Adan (Nominated): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think all Members are aware that today is a statement day and on the Order Paper, the statements have just been brought today and I do not know why Members are debating on these statements. Mr. Deputy Speaker, can you guide the Chairman whether he will take the two weeks or one week. At the moment the Members are just preempting. We do not know if the Committee can bring the report by Wednesday. Can you please guide the Member for Agriculture and then we can continue?

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): Honorable Kula, what do you want to say?

Hon. Kullow Alio (Rhamu): Mr. Deputy Speaker, when Honorable Member for Waranqara stood and said there is mass death of camels. I think that should worry us as honorable Members because what we are relying on are livestock and we do not know the cause of death of those camels. This is new information to some of us who normally keep camels. So, when the honorable Members are saying because we do not know the cause of the death of those camels that those camels from Waranqara should be quarantined, I think they are in order because Waranqara borders Somalia.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): You have been heard. Your point is very clear. I think this is a new statement and what we only wanted to discuss is the timing. The Chair said give the committee two weeks and the owner of the statement said two weeks is too much. So, we wanted to discuss whether we can reduce the two weeks to one week or we give him the two weeks? But some of our Members started talking much about it. Clarification, this statement requires investigation. Hon. Chair, respond to this statement within one week and bring a comprehensive response by next week.

Hon. Bashir Ibrahim (Kiliwehiri): Before we just opened the Assembly, there was mass vaccination which was carried throughout the county for all livestock. The sample of the blood was taken to laboratory in Nairobi and the sample of the result will take one month. The way it

happened one time in Shimbir Fatuma and the question was raised by Hon. Ibrahim Wariyo. For us to get the result, it took us two months. We know that.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): Allow the honorable Chair to speak. Please finish.

Hon. Bashir Ibrahim (Kiliwehiri): For us to get—I am now responding to honorable member for Waranqara. Now that you want me to get the response then one week is not possible.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): You said how long? Allow him to finish. The statement is for the House now. Hon. Ahmed Gabnan, the statement is for the House and it is no longer yours. So, you said how long?

Hon. Bashir Ibrahim (Kiliwehiri): I said two weeks because I will send a team from the department to go to the area and investigate.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): Hon. Chair, the questions are simple. Order honorable Members! Hon. Ahmed Gabnan is not even asking for lab test. He is asking whether the department is aware of this disease and what caused the death. And these are very simple questions. We will give the committee one week to respond.

We go to the Next Order.

ADJOURNMENT

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Farah Abdi): Honorable Members, I now adjourn the House to next week Tuesday, 17th March, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

The House rose at 3:01 pm.