

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF UASIN GISHU

THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 13th May, 2020

The House Met at the Assembly Chamber at 12:20 pm

[The Speaker (Hon. David Kiplagat) in the Chair]

PRAYER

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

MINISTRY OF HEALTH GUIDELINES ON COVID-19

The Speaker (Hon. David Kiplagat): Clerk. Hon. Members, welcome to today's session which is our normal session as a result of COVID-19. I want to bring to your attention; as you realize we are living in a situation where there is a pandemic and there are some observations that I need to bring to your attention.

Hon. Members and staff, due to the spread of Corona virus all of us must adhere to the guidelines from the Ministry of Health by ensuring while in public places and the County Assembly precincts. You are hereby required to put on face masks, maintain social distance and also sanitize your hands frequently in order to reduce the spread of the virus. Make sure you adhere to those protocols from the Ministry of Health so that we can proceed with our normal business.

NOMINATION OF HEALTH CHIEF OFFICER

I also have a communication to make from the County Government of Uasin Gishu. We have received a letter from the County Secretary and I hereby want to bring to your attention the nomination for the Chief Officer of Health Services. This is to the Clerk from the County Secretary and Head of Public Service for the nomination of Chief Officer Health Services Mr. Joseph Kipkemei Karonei, ID number 12850281.

“Following the County advertisement for the vacancy of the post of Chief Officer Health Services and subsequent interviews carried out competitively, H.E Governor has nominated the above named person and recommended him for vetting to fill the said post. The purpose of this

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communication is to forward his name and credentials accompanied by the County Public Service Board recruitment and selection report to you for onward transmission to the County Assembly for vetting as required and further necessary action. Thank you for your continued support.”

I hereby commit the same to the Committee of Health for consideration and a report to be tabled in this House for purposes of approval. Clerk. Leader of Government Business.

NOTICE OF MOTION

REDUCTION OF PUBLICATION PERIOD OF UASIN GISHU COUNTY APPROPRIATION BILL No.17,
2020

Hon. Lowoi: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker Sir. I wish to give a Notice of the following procedural Motion:

Notwithstanding the Provision of Standing Order No 117, the County Assembly resolves to reduce the publication period of the Uasin Gishu County Appropriation Bill No.17, 2020 from seven days to three days. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. David Kiplagat): Thank you, Leader of Government Business. Clerk? We still have two Notices of procedural Motions.

NOTICE OF MOTION

HOUSE TO DISCUSS MORE THAN ONE STAGE OF THE UASIN GISHU COUNTY APPROPRIATION BILL
No.17, 2020

Hon. Lowoi: Thank you very Much, Mr. Speaker Sir. Allow me to give Notice of the following procedural Motion:

Notwithstanding the Provision of Standing Order No 117, the County Assembly resolves to take more than one stage of Uasin Gishu County Appropriation Bill No.17, 2020 in this sitting.

The Speaker (Hon. David Kiplagat): Thank you. Clerk? Chairman for the ADHOC committee on COVID-19 task force.

Hon. Bundotich: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the statement in a short while if given time. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. David Kiplagat): We can de fer until the end of the order of other Businesses. We shall conclude with it. Let us proceed under supplementary orders of the day: Motions and Bills. Leader of Government Business.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

REDUCTION OF PUBLICATION PERIOD OF UASIN GISHU COUNTY APPROPRIATION BILL No.17,
2020

Hon. Lowoi: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker Sir. I wish to move the following Motion: Notwithstanding the Provision of Standing Order No 117, the County Assembly resolves to reduce the publication period of the Uasin Gishu County Appropriation Bill No.17, 2020 from seven days to three days.

Mr. Speaker Sir, this is necessitated because we are currently facing two emergencies: a worldwide pandemic as declared by WHO of COVID-19 and at the same time we have rain wrecking havoc. As a result of this the only way for a government to help its own citizenry is by allowing to appropriate some cash into the emergency fund so that those who are affected can get help from the government. I requested for a reduction of the days because an emergency cannot wait as it is not a planned programme. If we take long we shall lose our people, if this pandemic is reported in greater numbers in Uasin Gishu - God forbid! - we will not be able to handle it. This is a matter of us being ready but not us appropriating money so that we can now spend but this is to enable the government to swiftly move in case an emergency occurs to make sure things are done in a timely manner.

I move this Motion and call upon Hon. Hosea Korir to second.

The Speaker (Hon. David Kiplagat): Thank you, Leader of Government Business. Deputy Speaker.

Hon. Korir, H: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I rise to second the Motion that has been moved by the Leader of Government Business basing on what he has already emphasized. Let us reduce the publication period so that we can fast track and be able to get these funds to support the programmes that we were able to appropriate and approve in this Honourable House. Therefore, I wish to encourage all the Members that let us support this so that we can have other activities being undertaken within the County as soon as possible. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. David Kiplagat): Thank you, Hon. Lamai. Hon. Members, now that the Motion has been moved and seconded I want to propose the question.

(Question proposed)

The Speaker (Hon. David Kiplagat): Ensuing debate. Hon. Talam.

Hon. Talam: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for giving me this time to give my input. I rise to support the Motion that the publication period be reduced from seven days to three days. This is because we have several emergencies; we have the corona virus and floods that have rendered our people homeless. If we reduce the publication period it will assist the executive in carrying out the mandate in trying to initiate measures to assist the members of the public who are affected. I stand to support the Motion.

The Speaker (Hon. David Kiplagat): Thank you, Honourable Talam. Honourable Pius.

Hon. Kigen: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I stand to support this Motion. Indeed as we are all aware, we have a lot challenges and emerging issues in the county. All this boils down to resources. It is therefore prudent that this House approves as soon as possible the appropriation and supplementary budget so that we get resources to mitigate this.

I would like to suggest that the Honourable House do agree with the Leader of Majority that we reduce the period to three days.

The Speaker (Hon. David Kiplagat): Thank you, Honourable Pius. Honourable Some.

Hon. Some: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to support the Motion due to the fact that we have this pandemic in the county and, as the department of health, we had not prepared well. We still need a number of things to be put in the facilities. The members of staff are complaining that they have not got the necessary equipment and the community is asking for masks. We therefore have to move with speed. Nevertheless, I know God is with us but we should also be prepared so that we get the money as soon as possible.

I support.

The Speaker (Hon. David Kiplagat): Thank you, Honourable Some. Honourable Korir.

Hon. Korir: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I support the Motion that has been brought about reduction of publication from seven days to three days. Since this problem started, we have delayed because by now we should have addressed the problem. We have faced a lot of problems in this county and we pray to God that he continues protecting us so that we address the issue and the heavy rains that have affected many people in our wards. The people need help and that help can come when we pass this Bill for implementation to take place.

I support the publication period be reduced to three Days. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. David Kiplagat): Thank you. Honourable Kirwa.

Hon. Kemboi, K: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me this opportunity.

First and foremost I congratulate the Leader of Majority for coming up with this noble Motion. The people of Uasin Gishu need help like yesterday. As we are talking our county has been affected by the heavy rains and also the pandemic and as we all know prevention is better than cure. It is upon us the county government of Uasin Gishu to move with speed and assist the people of Uasin Gishu because time is not on our side because most of our roads have been damaged. In our county, we have reported one case of corona virus and our people need all these facilities so that when time comes, we are well prepared. We have to move with maximum speed with minimal delay so that the people of Uasin Gishu get the services.

Thank you. I support the Motion.

The Speaker (Hon. David Kiplagat): Thank you, Honourable Kirwa. Honourable Goretti.

Hon. Boroswa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I want to appreciate the Leader of Majority to support the Motion that publication period of the Bill be reduced from seven days to three days so that we can get services as residents of Uasin Gishu.

I want to say that, as we all know, the pandemic that has come; no one was prepared. The less time we take to address it as a county the better for us.

I also want to say that this will allow every department execute its duty accordingly especially the department of roads. Yesterday we had residents from where I stay repairing the road using their own equipment.

I want to believe by passing this supplementary Bill to give the executive the shortest time will actually come in aid to the residents. I support.

The Speaker (Hon. David Kiplagat): Thank you, Honourable Gorette. Honourable Members, there being no further contributions on the Motion, I want to put the question.

(Question put and agreed to)

BILL

THE UASIN GISHU COUNTY APPROPRIATION BILL NO.17, 2020

(First Reading)

The Speaker (Hon. David Kiplagat): From the Chair, the Bill having read for the first time pursuant to Standing Order No.121, stands committed to the committee on Budget and Appropriation. Thank you.

Leader of Government Business!

PROCEDURAL MOTION

RESOLUTION TO TAKE MORE THAN ONE STAGE OF THE BILL IN ONE SITTING

Hon. Lowoi: Notwithstanding the provision of Standing Order No.117 the County Assembly resolves to take more than one stage of the Uasin Gishu County Appropriation Bill [Bill No.17], 2020 in this sitting.

As we all know, a Bill can take up to 14 days or seven days while being debated on but our Standing Orders gives us a room on any money Bill so that we can reduce the period of debating it to a day or two or three. We want to reduce the stages to be in this sitting because of the simple reason. This supplementary budget was informed by more than three things but two of them are very important. We had the re-appropriation or budgeting and the appropriation of the funds that had not been budgeted for in the main budget, that is, the Ksh130 Million; we received additional funds from the CARA but the important one is the emergencies that we are facing now as a county and as a country and the entire world. We have the emergency of the rains and the Covid -19 pandemic. All these will not wait for us to follow the procedures on doing what is in the law. We have been given leeway to ensure that we can speed up what is required of us and help our people when the time comes.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I wish to convince this House that let us take more than one stage in this sitting to finalize this issue of supplementary budget and allow the other procedures to follow so that we can receive the other money the soonest to help our people.

Our dams are breaking; we have dams which are full of water and are almost breaking but we do not have money in the respective department to run around to ensure that the water is released. Our roads and all the foot bridges have been washed away by these rains. People cannot access some other places or some areas. If today it is reported that there is person with Corona Virus somewhere in our villages even an ambulance cannot reach there.

Mr. Speaker Sir, Corona is also is with us here. if today it is said that you handle it ourselves any case of Covid19 in Uasin Gishu county, we cannot do it because we have not appropriated money for the same and this is the reason I am asking that we take more than one stage in this sitting so that this can start soon as possible.

I wish to ask the House to agree with me and call upon Hon Kirwa Kemboi to second.

The Speaker (Hon. David Kiplagat): Hon Kemboi.

Hon. Kemboi, K: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. I rise to second the Motion moved by the Honourable Majority Leader to reduce the publication process from seven days to one day because of the reason that time is not on our side and the people of Uasin Gishu need services like yesterday. it is my humble request that we do our part to ensure that people of Uasin Gishu get their services at appropriate time as we know most of the people are waiting for essential services from this Government. I therefore I support this Motion that we go together and ensure that people get there services to the best of their expectation.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. I do support the Motion.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Kirwa. Honourable Members, the procedural Motion having been moved and seconded, I hereby want to propose the question.

(Question proposed)

The Speaker (Hon. David Kiplagat): Ensuing debate. Honourable Sang.

Hon. Sang, K: Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to support this procedural Motion. We are aware that we are in a crisis currently and in moments like this when we have extraordinary times, we need extra ordinary measures. Approving this Motion means that we will have resources available to reach the most needy and the vulnerable groups in our society so that we are able to mitigate the issues, the problems and the challenges they are going through currently. When you go to the villages our people are going through very difficult time because they are not able to access essential services. In some areas, you not even reach the health facilities because of the bad roads. We have very vulnerable families that are not able to raise money to buy food and so we need resource and it is incumbent upon all of us to take extraordinary measures.

Mr. Speaker, I support this Motion and request the Honourable House to agree with the Leader of Government Business so that we can reduce so that we can take those many stages in one sitting.

I support and thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. David Kiplagat): Thank you, Hon. Sang. Hon Members, there being no further contribution to the Motion, I hereby want to put the question.

(Question put and agreed to)

Clerk!

The Speaker (Hon. David Kiplagat): Chairman for Budget and Appropriation Committee.

BILL

THE UASIN GISHU COUNTY APPROPRIATION BILL NO.17, 2020

(Second Reading)

Hon. Ngetich: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. I beg to move that the Uasin Gishu County first Appropriation Bill be now read a second time.

Let me take this opportunity to thank this House for what we did to approve the report of Budget and Appropriation Committee on the first supplementary Budget for this Financial Year 2019/20.

As it has been stated earlier by my colleagues, we had an additional amount from CARA of Ksh130 Million, Ksh124 Million of which is to be appropriated for the county executive and Ksh6, 000, 000 is for purposes of the County Assembly for operations. We are also in a very serious crisis in this country Kenya together with the world because of the Covid 19 pandemic. It is important as a legislative House, which approves and appropriate money for the county, does move with speed so that the department of health can equip our Hospitals so that we are ready and prepared to curb the pandemic. Though it is a challenge but I believe that everything happens for a reason. Though there are a lot of disadvantages of the Covid 19 pandemic, I think I has also taught us a lesson that we need to maintain hygiene always .

We are about to get used to wearing masks and washing our hands in every place that we visit now and I believe that sooner we will find a solution for this. I also believe that we shall continue with the same habit or with the same that we are actually getting used to of washing our hands as they say cleanliness is next to Godliness. I think we are going far.

Mr. Speaker, I also mentioned that all these things happen with a reason and we are blessed we received a heavy down pour this year, though it has come with consequences in that our bridges and foot bridges which have been destroyed. Drainage in our homes and other places is not okay. We, as leaders and people who have been given the mandate, need to move with speed so that the foot- bridges that were swept by the heavy down-pour are restored and that the drainage works in our places are also made.

Mr. Speaker, this supplementary budget will support the major departments that I have mentioned - health and the roads departments - in terms of preparedness and correcting what these disasters have brought.

Mr. Speaker, apart from that there are other department which, with the remaining time of almost one and half months, are not in a position to consume or to utilize the available resources particularly in the recurrent expenditure. This supplementary budget has corrected that in that votes have been re-allocated to other departments that have exploited their votes and they still need more and they can put proper use of the same.

Mr. Speaker Sir, apart from that we had some other programmes that were in vote lines that could not be transferred. These programmes are not limited to the following. The department of ECDE- this supplementary has corrected so that we can have a vote line that can be easily

transferred. Apart from ECDEs, we have the cattle dips programmes and some other programmes that have been transferred to institutions like the monies for water that were meant to be transferred to ELDOWAS. This Appropriation Bill has actually corrected that.

I want to urge the executive arm of the County Government now that we are in the fourth quarter of our financial year and it is at this period that almost all the programmes should have been awarded that is if it comes to tenders. Those programmes that are supposed to be transferred to institutions should have been done by now. I want to urge the Chief Officers in the respective departments, who are the users of this money as well as the accounting officers in the various departments, that They should work extra hours to ensure that these programmes are done within this shortest time possible.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I want to urge the Hon. Members; as an oversight authority let us also put our extra efforts so that we can push the other arm of government to move with speed in implementing this budget to the letter.

With those many remarks, I move that the supplementary Appropriation Bill No.17, 2020 be now read a second time and request Hon. Gilbert Tenai to second.

The Speaker (Hon. David Kiplagat): Thank you, Chair Budget and Appropriation Committee. Hon. Tenai.

Hon. Tenai: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir, for allowing me to second the Motion moved by Hon. Jonathan Ngetich who is the Chair Budget. We are in a very bad situation where as a nation and county government we are experiencing a deadly pandemic. I once read the Bible and it talks about several things: locusts, incurable disease and floods which we have experienced this year.

Coming to this Hon. House there are some funds which have been set aside to mitigate on some challenges. Just the other day every social forum across the County had photographs of Hon. Members of disasters in their places. We thank God that in regard to Covid-19 it is only one case that has been reported in Uasin Gishu and that will not stop us from taking measures to control it.

Collapsing all these proceedings, as moved by the Hon. Leader of Majority in the procedural Motion, is something very important and because of the resolution by the Hon. Members that we adopt the reduction of the seven days to three I agree with the Motion moved by Hon. Jonathan that this Bill be read for a second time.

Mr. Speaker, we need to assist our people and I know there will be other challenges that will emerge with the protocols that have been given by the Ministry of Health for people to stay home. Most people are casual workers, most have been in businesses that require them to move from point A to B and all these have been stopped. As a result what they had actually saved might be depleted in the next two to three months and, as a County, we cannot see them suffer the extent of hunger. This supplementary budget has mitigating plans that will assist the people of Uasin Gishu to ensure that life goes on. It could be sorrowful if we were not cognizant of such factors to an extent that we could not consider the supplementary budget. As a House we care about lives very much and that is why in the supplementary budget we have given provisions that will assist the people of Uasin Gishu.

I second the Motion moved by Hon. Jonathan. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. David Kiplagat): Hon. Members, now that the Motion has been moved and seconded, I propose a question.

(Question proposed)

The Speaker (Hon. David Kiplagat): Ensuing debate. Having no further contribution to the Motion, I put the question;

(Question put and agreed to)

The Speaker (Hon. David Kiplagat): Clerk.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

(Order for Committee read)

[The Speaker (Hon. David Kiplagat) left the chair]

IN THE COMMITTEE

[The Temporary Chairperson (Hon. Josphat Lowoi) in the Chair]

The Temporary Chairperson (Hon. Josphat Lowoi): Thank you very much, Honourable Members. Welcome to the Committee of the Whole House; we are now considering the Appropriation Bill. While considering the Appropriation Bill, this Committee is called the Committee of Supply. This is the place where we allocate monies to the votes as approved by the Committee on Budget and Appropriation's report.

Clerk.

Clause 2

The Temporary Chairperson (Hon. Josphat Lowoi): We can look at the clauses then later we can go to the schedules. Clerk, kindly explain what is in Clause two so that Members can follow in case of any amendment.

The Clerk informed the members that Clause 2 is below the short title written as number two and reads; 'The County treasury may issue the sum of Ksh1, 435,819, 793 out of the County Revenue fund'.

The Temporary Chairperson (Hon. Josphat Lowoi): That is what I wanted you Members to understand so that you know what you will be doing.

(Question that Clause 2 be part of the Bill proposed)

(Question that Clause 2 be part of the Bill put and agreed to)

Clause 3

(Question that Clause 3 be part of the Bill proposed)

(Question that Clause 3 be part of the Bill put and agreed to)

Clause 4

(Question that Clause 4 be part of the Bill proposed)

(Question that Clause 4 be part of the Bill put and agreed to)

Clause 5

(Question that Clause 5 be part of the Bill proposed)

(Question that Clause 5 be part of the Bill put and agreed to)

First Schedule

(Question that the First Schedule be part of the Bill proposed)

(Question that the First Schedule be part of the Bill put and agreed to)

Second Schedule

(Question that the Second Schedule be part of the Bill proposed)

The Temporary Chairperson (Hon. Josphat Lowoi): Members, kindly, when taking the ayes and the nays, we need to hear your voices because you cannot accept by being silent. We need to hear the pronouncements.

(Question that the Second Schedule be part of the Bill put and agreed to)

Short Title

The Temporary Chairperson (Hon. Josphat Lowoi): The Short Title is what is written as 1. Let us also use it to learn.

Chairman, are the numbers okay? I saw in your report it was written as number 17, or is it the one from the printers? I think that was different.

(Question that the Short Title be part of the Bill proposed)

(Question that the Short Title be part of the Bill put and agreed to)

Long Title

(Question that the Long Title be part of the Bill proposed)

The Temporary Chairperson (Hon. Josphat Lowoi): The long title is the one that starts with, ‘*An Act...*’ the one on top that is in bold.

(Question that the Long Title be part of the Bill put and agreed to)

The Temporary Chairperson (Hon. Josphat Lowoi): Mover!

PROGRESS REPORT

The Temporary Chairperson (Hon. Josphat Lowoi): Mover!

Hon. Ngetich: Thank you Chairperson.

The Temporary Chairperson (Hon. Josphat Lowoi): We are done with the Bill.

Hon. Ngetich: Honourable Chairperson, I beg to move that the Committee do report to the Assembly its considerations of The Uasin Gishu County Appropriation Bill (Bill No. 17), 2020 and its approval thereof without amendments.

(Question Proposed)

(Question put and agreed)

The Temporary Chairperson (Hon. Josphat Lowoi): We will now report to the Whole House.

(The Full House Resumed)

[The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir) in the Chair]

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): The chairperson.

The Temporary Chairperson (Hon. Lowoi): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that the Committee of the Whole House has considered the Uasin Gishu County Appropriation Bill [Bill No.17], 2020 and its approval thereof without amendments.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Mover.

Hon. Ngetich: I beg to move that the House do agree with the committee on the said report.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): I therefore propose a question.

(Question proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Mover.

BILL

THE UASIN GISHU COUNTY APPROPRIATION BILL NO.17, 2020

(Third Reading)

Hon. Ngetich: I beg to move that the Uasin Gishu County First Supplementary Appropriation Bill be read a third time.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Honourable Members, I wish to propose a question which is that [Bill No.17], 2020 be read a third time

(Question proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

(The Bill was read the third time)

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Honourable Bundotich.

Hon. Bundotich: I want to thank the Leader of Majority and the Chair Budget for going through the process and subsequently passing the appropriation Bill.

I also want to thank the Honorable Members for supporting this Appropriation Bill. As many have said, the County of Uasin Gishu is in dire need of development more so the emergencies. This goes to the committee on budget and the leader of majority. My concern, other than saying thank you to the whole House, is to urge the County Executive which is now an implementing body to speed up. There will be no need if this House can pass this budget and when it comes to implementation it takes ages. We are talking of emergencies. we ought to serve this purpose to save the situation. The ball sits on the executive to run the show.

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Honorable Member for Kimumu.

Hon. Malel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. I applaud my colleagues for having approved the Appropriation Bill so that we can act on the issues affecting people on the ground. While we have done what you have done here, it has to be noted that the money should be used appropriately so that we don't hear that money was diverted to other issues. we want executive to implement and direct the money where it is due.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): I therefore put the question.

(Question put and agreed to)

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Thank you, Honorable Members. at this juncture I want to take this opportunity to congratulate everyone who has participated in making this Bill a success. I would wish, before we adjourn the session, to inform you that we have had morning and the afternoon session all inclusive and I therefore seek your indulgence and go back to our Order Number 7 for us to get statement from the chair on the adhoc committee on COVID-19. Welcome, chair.

STATEMENT

COUNTY RESPONSE TO COVID 19 PANDEMIC

Hon. Bundotich: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to read the second statement on county response to Covid 19 pandemic.

On 6th May, 2020, the Uasin Gishu County AD-Hoc Committee on COVID-19 presented its first statement on the status of the County's response to the pandemic. As a resolution of this Honorable House, the Committee was mandated to present weekly reports to the House.

In this regard, kindly allow me on behalf of the Committee to present our second statement regarding the committee mandate.

In order to assess the status of COVID 19 response by the National Government in the County, the Committee paid a courtesy call to Mr. Abdirisack Jaldessa who is the Uasin Gishu County Commissioner at his office on 7th of May 2020. During the visit, the Commissioner informed the

Committee of the measures undertaken by his office in collaboration with His Excellency the Governor together with other agencies and well wishers.

He informed the Committee that he co-chairs the Uasin Gishu County Response Committee which he said was a committee that gives leadership in mitigating and prevention of COVID-19. He reported that the Response Committee works with NOREB committee in terms of mobilizing resources and mapping out strategies in combating COVID-19. They normally meet weekly at MTRH that was identified as the testing centre for this county and the region.

The County Commissioner informed the committee of measures put in place by the National Government at the County. These include:

1. Mapping of informal settlement areas for population and needs assessment. The report has been done and submitted to Nairobi for compilation.
2. Identification of most vulnerable households has been done and names of 7,000 vulnerable households submitted to the National Government that will provide cash transfers of Ksh1, 000 per household weekly. The programme started on 4th May 2020. The National Government is currently paying Ksh200, 000,000 to 200, 000 to most vulnerable households countrywide on a weekly basis. The identification process in our County was undertaken by the Deputy County Commissioner's office in collaboration with village elders.
3. The County Commissioner further reiterated that the National Government continues with its *Inua Jamii* programme where cash transfers are given to the elderly and critically challenged persons on monthly basis. (The last tranche was disbursed two weeks ago).
4. Concerning Public Education and Sensitization, the County Commissioner noted that his office has championed public education and sensitization on social distancing, washing of hands and wearing of face masks that has seen the spread arrested in the county with only two cases confirmed.
5. Mr. Jaldessa also told the Committee that his office together with the response committee have received donations and support from several well wishers as follows;
 - a. National Government – provided 58, 20-litre jerry cans of sanitizers and 150 Cartons of sanitizers produced by Kenya Breweries and Kenya Pipeline. These were distributed during the first week of the pandemic to prisons, police and *boda boda* operators. They have also currently received 20,000 face masks for distribution.
 - b. KVDA has provided masks and sanitizers.
 - c. Sirikwa Quarry has provided food stuffs.
 - d. University of Eldoret – provided 300 families around the university with food stuffs in Phase I of their support programme.
 - e. Hindu Council of Kenya provided food stuffs while
 - f. Dola Millers provided food stuffs.

Mr. Speaker, I think there is a new term coming in in the name of holding. There before we used to talk of quarantine and we used to talk of isolation and when we visited the County Commissioner, a new term came in 'holding facility' and for this matter Kaplelach is a holding facility; it is neither quarantine nor an isolation centre.

The County Commissioner took time to explain activities and intentions of Kaplelach Holding Centre. He told the Committee that the centre was set up for persons who violated government guidelines and also for persons who brew illicit brews and for alcoholics mainly to reform and rehabilitate them.

He said that at the initial stages of its formation he used his own funds and those from his and well-wishers. However, from the second week of its operations, Kaplelach got support from the County Government of Uasin Gishu. So far over 400 persons have gone through the programme.

There are several programmes that are currently being offered at the Centre to help those hosted there. These include; Several Religious groups who are there doing the preaching programmes and counseling, hygiene, sensitizations, life skills education, sporting activities, reformation and rehabilitation of drug addicts. There is a team of eight doctors from MTRH assisting them especially with detoxification and managing withdrawal symptoms, health check-ups and treatment, Family and friends visitations on Sundays as from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm and Socio-economic interventions.

Mr. Speaker, all programmes have got challenges and among the challenges they are facing at Kaplelach, the County Commissioner noted the following:

1. Poverty and that Many people live from hand to mouth and so can't stay at home. Those are among the things that people there are saying.
2. Many people believe that there is no COVID-19. Those who went there were not even aware of what Covid is; some justified that we have been thinking COVID is in Eldoret but not deep inside there.
3. Mr. Speaker Drug abuse in informal settlements
4. Insecurity especially during curfew hours
5. Segregation during donations
6. Lack of face masks
7. Inadequate education on COVID-19
8. Total disregard to Ministry of Health regulations such as washing hands, staying at home, sanitizing, wearing face masks and avoiding crowded areas.

Other challenges, Mr. Speaker includes:

9. Inadequate capacity to facilitate programmes at Kaplelach Holding Centre.
10. Communicable diseases at the Centre
11. Identification of needy and vulnerable persons by Chiefs and Village Elders.

Other challenges include: (This one came a little bit skeptical)

12. There was a lot of bribing involving police officers to those who are at Kaplelach.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee made a visit to Kaplelach that evening on 7th May 2020 and they made the following observations:

1. 1. Kaplelach Holding centre sitting on Kaplelach Secondary School was opened on 7th April 2020 and has so far hosted seven hundred (700) persons who have been admitted at the facility. 478 have been discharged and 222 were still at the facility of today Wednesday 13th May 2020. But I want to bring a correction. When we were there on 7th the following day 8th 100 persons were discharged home. Those who were discharged were people who had stayed for over twenty-two days. Some were very sick and after talking with the County Commissioner and the Governor, they decided that they have special persons to be discharged home. Some had very young children whom they left back at home and with the intervention of the County Commissioner and the Governor, who is the chair, they decided to discharge 100 of them
2. 2. That Kaplelach was a Holding Centre for those people who broke curfew laws and those who disregarded the COVID-19 guidelines given by the Ministry of Health. Nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, we found a lot of need for education. We found three people who complained that they were found not observing the social distance and we noted that those persons can be held in the facility for a shorter period and then discharged as opposed to holding them for a longer period. There was need for them actually to be discharged and 90% of the activities at the centre were supported by the Ministry of Health and the County Government of Uasin Gishu. There are three medical doctors, four nurses, four social workers - all from Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH) - to provide medical and social support to those who are there.
3. The categories of offenders at Kaplelach Holding Centre include:
 - (i) Illicit brewers mostly women,
 - (ii) Alcohol addicts mostly men
 - (iii) Violators of COVID-19 regulations
 - (iv) Curfew law breakers.

Those are the types of persons that are being held at Kaplelach - those petty offenders. According to Assistant County Commissioner who is the in charge of at that centre, they were discharged after a short period but some people had stayed for 22 days.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee observed that some of the essential services providers have been arrested and taken to Kaplelach but later released on the production of documents. These include the police officers, the doctors and other medical personnel.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the Committee has an intention of visiting all the screening points in Uasin Gishu and by next week this Committee will be able to give a report on the screening points within the county of Uasin Gishu.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give this statement. Thank you very much

The Deputy Speaker (Hosea Korir): Thank you, Hon Chair. I can allow some Members to give some reactions on that statement for the next five minutes. Hon Eileen.

Hon. Kendagor: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to support what Hon . Chair Bundotich has said especially I want to touch the Centre Kaplelach. As a mother when we visited Kaplelach, I found and got shocked and found about three-quarters the people who are at Kaplelach are women of Uasin Gishu, some with young children. Many, as I said, are really crying and want to go back because they have left their children back at home. We also found schools students there - form four, form three, form two as well as form one students. It was shocking and if you asked the students what took them to that that place, they frankly said that they were caught with *pombe ya mama* and so poverty has made our women to prepare *pombe* and give it to their children who happen to be the students. You can meet somebody carrying a jerry can of five litres and you may think somebody is carrying milk or something else to sell but it is *changaa* (local brew). I want to urge this House, through my able Chair Hon. Bundotich, that if it is possible the whole House can visit those people since they are your voters. We should identify people per sub-county as all of them are spread across our six sub-counties but the majority is from Soy. I urge this Hon. House since we budgeted for *Inua Mama* in every ward then I wish every Member could have considered some money in their budget for the women of Uasin Gishu since they are suffering. I asked some women how many were married, three quarters were married and I further asked if any one of them had been visited by their husbands but responded that only the children had been visited by their fathers. I want to thank the Committee as they have really worked very fast and as Hon. Members let us sit together, discuss and find a way forward on how we can help our people especially the women.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I support the report from my Chair.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Hon. Member for Soy. I have seen you, Hon. Tenai and the Hon. Member for Kimumu.

Hon. Talam: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I rise to comment on this.

First I want to commend the Chair and the Committee for coming up with this report. We support that idea that illicit brew should be done away with in our villages but the way our enforcement officers are carrying out this exercise leaves a lot to be desired. When they visit these homes they get children and visitors who are not the users. They get hold of them and take them to the holding centres. I think there should be a proper way of handling this such that the village elders are involved during the raids so that they can identify the real brewers from none users. If you can raid a visitor or arrest a child then it is a punishment to a person mistaken to be a culprit yet the parents are spared. If such a situation arises there should be a mechanism at the holding centres where interrogations should be done.

Otherwise, we support the idea and also we want to know the law-breakers of the protocol rules of keeping distance, sanitizing and they should be held responsible as this is a serious disease

that is before us. We have to take each and every precautionary measure to make sure that the disease is contained within our county so that our people can stay safe.

I rest there. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Hon. Tenai.

Hon. Tenai: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to congratulate our able chairman because I also serve in the Adhoc committee on Covid -19 and what he has read in his statement is actually true to the best of our knowledge having visited the said area. What I want to add on is the Kaplelach Holding Facility. At that particular time was holding over 400 comprising of students, men and women. When the statement on the number of offences that those particular people committed before being taken to the holding facility was being read, what further disturbed me was the number of people in the holding facility that share the provisions of the pit latrines and the washrooms. If today one particular person tests positive for Covid-19 in that area, we will be endangering many lives. The same people in the facility do co-curriculum activities as they have been supplied with footballs and the element of social distancing is not exhibited in that particular area.

Further, the other challenge that I noted is the supply of contraceptives. A one-day supply is exhausted the same day meaning that they engage in other activities while at that holding facility. How I wish the husbands, parents and the concerned people who have relationship with the offenders --- let us find the best way of removing them from that facility if they are not victims of Covid -19. It was a noble thing to have that holding centre but we should not encourage big numbers to be detained there. The only holding facility is Kaplelach; someone arrested in Chagaya is taken to Kaplelach and also from Ngenyilel they are all taken to the same facility and that is why when Hon. Eileen asked a question whether the same women had been visited by their husbands - and I think people feel guilty - even the men there had not been visited by their wives and I pray that we carry out some civic education to the people of Uasin Gishu so that they do not find themselves in such a state. I would wish that the place be decongested and let us have a holding centre in all the sub-counties for purposes of not holding all the people from the entire County to the same place. We have several police stations. If a certain police station decided to hold two people then I can tell you that all people who are in the essential services might all be found in Kaplelach and it will be a disaster.

I want to congratulate the Committee for their effort and we must focus on mitigating these challenges. While doing so, we must be aware that there are other diseases that can emerge when we create an avenue for them like what happened in the distribution of the contraceptives. I was worried of the school-going children who were also in Kaplelach.

With those few remarks, I want to say that I support the statement by Honourable Patrick Bundotich, a very able Chair. I finalize on my statement. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): I will give you time, Honorable Leader. Honourable Member for Kimumu and then honorable member for Langas. We will conclude with Honourable Leader.

Hon. Malel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to take this time to also thank the Committee for the good work they have done.

A number of questions are being unbundled slowly but nonetheless there are still issues that we still need the Committee to find out from wherever places they are going. One is the small stipend that the government gave to the elderly and the less fortunate in the society. There is an outcry in the public that they were left out and they are many in numbers. The Committee should take note of that and tell us the measures they are going to use. You will find that those being given Ksh1000 are the same people being given food stuff that has been donated by the well-wishers.

Thirdly, is the administration that was used to identify the beneficiaries of this assistance because he was biased. I don't know what we can do. I wanted this Committee to take that action to see if there is any other way that can be used to identify the real beneficiaries because it seems there is malice outside. It seems that the administration or the people concerned in identifying people have taken advantage in identifying their friends who are capable leaving out those who are vulnerable. Those are the issues that I want the Committee to find out because there is a big outcry and if possible can we know if the donations provided were fairly distributed. You can ask for report when going out like for example say Kimumu has this number of people who have benefited; and the observation of the Committee like are there people who still need to be assisted.

Lastly, last week on Wednesday, in this plenary, a report was given by the Chair and the statement has been read today. I have a feeling, through the Chair, that we may find the copies so that we can internalize these reports at our own time.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Honourable Member for Langas.

Hon. Muya: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to congratulate the Chair COVID-Adhoc Committee for the well-done job despite the overwhelming job. The issues that have been put in place by both governments, that is, the national government and the county government are immense and, as a County Assembly, we need to move with speed and do proper oversight. A case example yesterday the governor flagged off a good initiative of supporting the less fortunate. Therefore the Committee has a lot on their desk and they need to know where the donations being flagged off came from to make sure that things are done in a fair manner.

Going back to the report, when we were in Kaplelach I was surprised that I had more than 50 casualties from Langas. I did not know but there are some drug addicts - not changaa - who had to be under close watch because they can be very violent. Meaning that in our county even in slum areas, we have drugs and therefore we need to do something as a County.

What touched me most is the issue of brewers. As it has been said by previous speakers, three-quarters are women and they went there because they were brewing and they are not denying. If you hear the stories they are giving, it is touching.

“I have students in university and in college and I have a husband who is just a husband by name but he does nothing. “

They went to an extent of telling us that there are men who, after waking up, step out and on coming back, they demand lunch and dinner at the same time without putting a penny on the table. What would such a woman do? We were given testimony by a man just from Ziwa that touched me that he has more than four years without stepping to Eldoret town. The reason is that he wakes up and if there is an egg, he collects it to go and drink *changaa*. When *mama* sends a child to the *posho* mill he makes sure he listens to their conversation so that he can find the money. That is a story from man. What did I conclude or what did we conclude? We have the Uasin Gishu County Drinks and Alcoholic Board. I hear we are about to approve a budget of millions.

I will support 100% because these women are in a number that is manageable. If we can get from the administrator who is in Kaplelach all those who are going to capture, we come up with a programme of how to empower them; they identify what they can do and they are given training and supported financially. They were saying they are not happy with what they were doing because personally they do not take *changaa* but they give it to other people so that the children can eat. Meaning if given another chance, they are going to do it wholeheartedly.

Therefore I will call upon this Honorable House to try and have a programme through the Alcoholic Board to see how we can empower these people. We are going to have a County free of *changaa*- drinkers if we empower the brewers.

I totally support the Members who have spoken that we need to do something. I do not want to preempt but if that list meets the threshold, we need to pass it so that they can have another task of transforming. It was touching to find four children at Kaplelach.

The reason was he and his sister we were found with *pombe ya mama*. It really touched me. I saw them like my daughters. We need to do something. This issue is so touching and congratulations, Committee COVID. Move with speed and please I know by the end of this pandemic, though many have feared, we are going to come up with a solution on how we can help our people.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Chair and the committee and encourage it that we need move with speed and do more than what we have done because this is the time for us to try to understand ourselves and how we can help our people.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon Hosea Korir): Thank you. Leader.

Hon. Lowoi: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker Sir. I also stand here to congratulate the committee on COVID that we formed here after a lengthy consultation with sub counties.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I stand here tall today for the committee, led by the Chair, is doing well and that is the work that we gave you and we need more from you.

Secondly, I want to report that this County Assembly has resourced the Committee and we are taking it as a taskforce not just a committee. Kindly do more; make sure that you do the oversight. Do not go into the implementation part of everything but stand on your side and make

sure that you correct the wrong that you see or report to this House so that we can do what we are required to.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to congratulate the Members of this House but I have this caution to make. Mr. Speaker Sir, when the Chair was reading this Statement I was seated here. What the Chair read and what the Members have understood are two different things. There is a disconnect arising from the report and I feel like what Hon Tenai contributed was stronger than what was in the report. Is the committee one or are you two? Why should you again come to us and start asking questions that you would have brought to us so that we give the solutions? Kindly, note your concerns as committee, sit down, write a report and make recommendations. When they come to this House Mr. Speaker will us a direction if we are to adopt the recommendations and write to the department our concerns. Instead some of us who are not in the committee want to hear that Committee sat down and agreed.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Order, Hon! Order, Hon. Leader! I think I can clarify something. Hon. Members, what the Chair has read is the meeting that they met with the Chair of the response Covid 19. They then went to Kaplelach but they are yet to meet with the County Response Committee for them to present what we are getting from the Committee Members. Is it in order like that, Hon. Chair?

Hon. Bundotich: Sure, Chair. With due respect to Leader of Majority, what I said and what Hon. Tenai is similar but what we were trying to avoid is coming up with a conclusion as early as this.

I want to believe as we come and give a statement come next Wednesday, we shall give more of a conclusion. The Leader of Majority, bear with us. By next week we shall come and present a resolution to this House but as we continue, I want to agree with you, Mr. Speaker, that this Committee will be making resolutions as we go by. We do not expect this Committee to give a wholesome resolution. We shall be giving piecemeal because this is an emergency and we ought to advise the Executive as need arises.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

The Deputy Speaker (Hosea Korir): I think that clarification --- How is it, Hon. Leader?

Hon. Lowoi: Mr. Speaker Sir, I appreciate the clarification. Mr. Speaker Sir, you know you are an old and a senior person in this House. If it has not gone to the report, then let us not discuss it; in fact the Members of that Committee, can we discuss what is brought to this House? Can you make us understand what you have brought and what you have not brought? kindly when we discuss it and you bring it here, then debate it to us so that we can understand because now if the issues you are telling us about Kaplelach are so touching, we have forgotten what you met with Jaldesa which is in this House. Therefore it will be prudent - and it is the procedure of this House not to preempt what you will bring next week. Let us discuss what has come today so that what comes next week we discuss that time. I think that is the procedure and good wisdom from the procedures and rules of this House.

Mr. Speaker, these are my contributions. I want to congratulate the committee once more. Go and go and go. There are some areas you need to do more oversight on. In some of our rural

homes and small centres, bars are still open; hotels are still open; people are not observing the social distancing. Kindly when you finish with Kaplelach and the County Commissioner, also work around and see that there are still people, like you said, who do not believe that COVID is a reality. Kindly do that oversight and every resolution you bring to this House, we will stand by you and ensure that it is implemented.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. I stand I still stand to congratulate the Committee.

The Deputy Speaker (Hosea Korir): Thank you for that time, Hon. Members, that we have had over the statement that was brought by the Chair for the Ad- hoc committee on Covid -19.

I would also still encourage the Committee to pursue their oversight role and be able again to give us more reports.

ADJOURNMENT

The Deputy Speaker (Hosea Korir): Hon. Members, there being no other Business on our Order Paper, the House stands adjourned until Wednesday at 10:00 am.

The House rose at 2:00 pm