

# COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KAJIADO



## KAJIADO COUNTY ASSEMBLY

### PRESS STATEMENT

#### THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY IS A CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICE WITH WELL DEFINED MANDATE

The County Assembly is a constitutional arm of County Government clearly defined and embedded in law. County Assemblies are established under Article 176(1) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 which provides that: - “There shall be a County Government for each County, consisting of a County Assembly and a County Executive.” This gives independence of each arm of the Government.

Article 185 of the Constitution outlines the roles of a County Assembly: - Legislation, Representation, Oversight and Approval of the County budget.

As a Constitutional office the County Assembly therefore discharges its mandate in line with law. The County Assembly cannot be coerced, threatened or scared to act under duress for expedience to approve an illegality.

It has come to the attention of the leadership of the Assembly the unsigned document, flagged by the executive, allegedly from the Governor, attacking the leadership and the select Committee on Budget and appropriations of the County Assembly. The piece entitled **“KAJIADO ASSEMBLY LEADERSHIP WAS WRONG TO DROP OUR LIVESTOCK OFFTAKE BUDGET OVER PARTISAN POLITICS,”** the piece is in bad faith and uncalled for.

Considering the foregoing it’s important that the Executive arm clearly understands the following:

- 1) Taxpayers’ funds must follow functions and must be allocated as required by law. The Executive arm is aware of the guidelines provided for in the PFM Act, 2012. The Assembly cannot allocate funds without a policy guideline.
- 2) In all fairness, and in an act of open governance, transparency and accountability the Committee on Budget and Appropriations invited two CECs of Finance and Agriculture to advice and clarify on criteria, timeliness and guideline on the way the said Livestock Offtake fund Ksh 100 million will be utilized unfortunately the heads of the said departments could not convince the Committee on the way the funds would be used without the guiding documents. This is against the PFM Act, 2012.
- 3) In order to provide a lasting solution to the drought pandemic the Committee allocated Ksh 310 million for the emergency. That will be disbursed as follows:
  - KSh 250 million for emergency to provide Hay and food during the drought
  - KSh 40 million for the vaccinations of the livestock

- KSh 20 million for the milk coolant.
- 4) On Health the Committee allocated Ksh 385 million this should be used to equip and renovate health facilities across the County. Additionally, to abate the perennial drug shortage in the health facilities the Committee increased the allocation for drugs by Ksh 50 million up from Ksh 167 million to Ksh 217million. This is in spirit of ensuring a healthy population for better economy.
  - 5) The Committee also handed the water department Ksh 166 million towards equipping water sources for availability of water for its population and livestock.
  
  - 6) The ward development funds that the executive meant to further reduce to Ksh. 10 million is pegged at Ksh. 30 million per Ward. The ward projects had already been subjected to public participation and in line to CIDP.
  
  - 7) Government grants meant for climate change Ksh 342 million also earmarked to address the drought and other emergency issues.
  
  - 8) Again, the Supplementary Budget was approved and supported by both majority and minority coalitions. The issue of party politics doesn't wash at all. Honourable Members argued objectively and passed the budget unanimously.

The Executive arm of government should therefore not cry foul on the Ksh 100 million that lacks guideline on its utilization. It is not possible to approve government funds that lack backing in law.

The County Assembly will therefore stand firm on prudent spending and allocations as it carries out its oversight and budget approval mandate without fear.

Finally, it's time for executive to accept that the Assembly shall continue playing its **oversight role**.