COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BOMET

THIRD ASSEMBLY: THIRD SESSION

RESPONSE TO STATEMENT RAISED BY HON. ROSALINE CHEPTOO

Mr. Speaker Sir,

On 8th April 2025, Honorable Rosaline Cheptoo, a member representing Rongena/Manaret Ward, brought forth a matter concerning Sotik Municipal Board. Specifically, the member raised questions regarding the following:

1. Why Sotik Municipal Board has never elected its office bearers i.e the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson.
2. Why the board members have not been gazetted despite the County Assembly's approval?
3. Why has the department failed to gazette the transfer of functions by the county executive committee to the board thereby making the transfer ineffective?

Mr. Speaker, the committee requested clarifications from the CECM department of Lands, Housing and Urban Planning via a letter Ref: BCA/13/6/3(26), pursuant to a committee resolution. The CECM Lands Housing and Urban Planning responded on 23rd April, 2025, via a letter Ref: CGB/LHUP/CECM/VOL-1/019/24-25/. The following is the response from the department of Lands Housing and Urban Planning together with Committee comments

1. **Why Sotik Municipal Board has never elected its office bearers i.e the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson.**

The department has planned to carry out induction training for the Board members and thereafter conduct the election of office bearers. The induction training will enable the members to fully understand the background which the office bearers must have especially the chairperson. Section 5 of the Urban areas and Cities act 2011(amendment 2019) states the requirements for election of a board chair. This is one of the sections to be given emphasis during the training. However, facilitation for induction training has been prepared by the department pending payment. This payment is expected in about two weeks' time to enable the training and the subsequent election of Sotik board office bearers to take place.

Committee's comment

The Committee noted that there is no requirement for induction before elections are conducted and that the CECM seems unable to steer the roles.

2. **Why the board members have not been gazetted despite the County Assembly's approval?**

The gazettement of the Sotik board members will be done once the office bearers have been elected. The gazette notice will indicate the chair and vice chair.

Committee's comment

The committee observed that Gazettement was supposed to have been done immediately the County Assembly approved the Board members to give them the legitimacy to serve as the Board members and for the members of the public to be well informed.

The fact that elections have not been held does not in any way stop the County Governor from gazetting the Board members hence this is a case of omission on the part of the CECM and the department to properly advise the Governor.

3. **Why has the department failed to gazette the transfer of functions by the county executive committee to the board thereby making the transfer ineffective?**

The County Executive Committee has just finalized functions analysis and ultimately the transfer of functions to Bomet Municipality. The successful completion of the same will enable the same process of transfer of functions to be undertaken for Sotik Municipality. The transfer and gazettement of functions to Sotik Municipality is expected to be completed within the next two months.

Committee's comment

Evidence before the committee indicates that the functions were transferred on 31st October 2022 but the department yet again failed to gazette the same. The functions analysis donot procede the gazettement of functions and therefore the same is a lame excuse. In any case the functions analysis can only be done after the gazettement of transfer of functions.

COMMITTEE'S RESOLUTION AND CONCLUSION

The response to the statement was not elaborate. Therefore, the committee found it unsatisfactory and has since resolved to invite the CECM Lands Housing and Urban Planning for further clarifications.

HON. DENNIS BUSIENEI
CHAIRPERSON COMMITTEE ON LANDS, HOUSING AND URBAN PLANNING