Hon. Speaker, You may approve. 16.11.23

Approved 15/11/2023 D/SNA

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT - (SECOND SESSION)

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT REGARDING HARRASMENT OF KCSE CANDIDATES IN CERTAIN SCHOOLS IN NYAMIRA COUNTY

Honourable Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 44(2)(c), I wish to request for a Statement from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Education regarding harassment of candidates undertaking the KCSE examinations in various schools within Kitutu Masaba Constituency, Nyamira County for alleged examination irregularities.

Honourable Speaker, following reported claim of examination irregularity at Nyambaria Boys High School and St. Paul's Gekano High School, candidates in the two schools have been subjected to harassment, intimidation and victimization. Whereas the Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC) is obligated to ensure proper supervision of national examinations in order to guarantee its integrity, the unprofessional and intimidating manner in which supervision of the ongoing 2023 KCSE is being done completely deviates from acceptable standards. This has subjected candidates to psychological torture, a situation which might affect their desired output in the exams.

Honorable Speaker, on Monday, 6th November 2023, KNEC dispatched undercover supervisors to Nyambaria Boys and St. Paul's Gekano High School to invigilate the examinations instead of the authorized invigilators. Subsequently, the Center Managers of the two institutions were hastily suspended without adequate consideration of the merits of the causal claims. On Tuesday 14th November 2023, students in Nyambaria High, exasperated by the harassment, protested after security teams and invigilators ordered them to strip half-naked for frisking, which is a dehumanizing and retrogressive demand.

Honourable Speaker, it is against this background that I request for a Statement from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Education on the following:

(i) Why are candidates being subjected to harassment during the examination time?
(ii) State the reasons why Nyambaria Boys and St. Paul's Gekano seem to be targeted as centers for possible examination malpractice in the ongoing examinations.
(iii) What are the supervisory measures that the Ministry of Education and the KNEC have put to mitigate incidences of examination irregularities in the ongoing KCSE and the recorded cases of malpractices, if any?

(iv) State the extent of investigation of incidences in affected schools and assurances to safeguard innocent candidates from the risk of examination cancellation without due process?

(v) What is the role of officers from the National Police Service and the Directorate of Criminal Investigations in examination centres and the extent to which they are allowed to enforce any measures against alleged examination malpractice to avoid harassment of candidates?

Thank you Honourable Speaker.

THE HON. CLIVE GISAIRO, MP

MEMBER FOR KITUTU MASABA CONSTITUENCY

DATE:.....16/10/2023.....