

## PERSONAL NARRATIVE

# The towering giant of Kaeris Ward, Turkana County



By **Mekede Lomadang'a and Gladys Moru**

**H**onorable Patrick Napion Ewoton is a ranking Member of County Assembly of Turkana who has served three consecutive terms since March 2013. Before joining Politics, he was a dedicated teacher who left the Teachers Service Commission as a Head teacher. Napion is a good debater who has contributed immensely in the House Business in various Motions, Bills, Statements and participated in international benchmarking and exchange programs. Among the countries he has visited in his quest to sharpen his legislative skills are; Singapore, Malaysia and Brazil.

Immediately after swearing in his first term, Hon. Napion was selected to be a member of Budget and Appropriation Committee. Devolution being a new concept in Kenya, the inaugural Committee led by the late Hon. Moses Lomobong worked on the first ever budget for Turkana County. This was not an easy task for the committee, however with experience and

some training, they were able to deliver and Hon. Napion was among the Members who

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saw the approval of that first budget.

Besides being a member of Budget and Appropriation Committee, Hon. Napion was a member of other committees among them the Committee on Energy, Environment and Natural Resources which he chaired between 2015 and 2017. As a chair of this committee, he ensured each Ward had an established tree nursery to support tree planting initiatives to conserve the environment. From this initiative, several tree nurseries and manmade forests have thrived in the county; reinforcing the war against climate change. He also ensured that Solar PV systems were installed in most of the learning and health centers in the County, improving learning as pupils are now able to participate in evening studies. Moreover, patients can also receive treatment round the clock.

In 2017 after his re-election as a second term Member of the County Assembly of Turkana, he was selected to serve in the Budget and Appropriations Committee. Subsequently, the members of the committee elected him Chairperson for the

budgeting experience he had garnered over the period.

As the Chairperson for Budget and Appropriations Committee, Hon. Napion steered the Committee in ensuring that the ongoing development works were completed successfully. He pushed for equal distribution of resources to all Wards across the County, he was firm in ensuring Wards with lower allocation have been considered by raising their budgets. He has steered the committee in monitoring and implementation of the budgets to the cent ensuring fiscal

responsibility principle is adhered to in accordance with the law. Mheshimiwa has also ensured the minimum 30% development vote has been achieved and maintained in all Budgets he has overseen. He is also proud to have seen the budgeting process starting and being concluded at the right time as stipulated in the Constitution and PFM Act, 2012. Under his leadership, County budgets have been approved between 25th -28th of June every Financial Year.

As a Member of the County Assembly and debater, Mheshimiwa Napion has participated in bringing in motions, statements and other valuable contributions to the House Business. Among notable motions he sponsored are; the tsetse fly eradication motion that he brought in his first term in 2013 when tsetse flies were a menace among

pastoralists in Turkana County. This motion brought the interventions of the National Government, County Government and other state actors /partners who pooled their resources and successfully facilitated the Tsetse fly eradication.

Other impactful motions that the Honorable Member has brought include the digitization of the County Assembly Chamber which is operational as we speak; Construction of ECDE's Centers which has created employment for over 300 ECDE Teachers; building of animal breeding centers in Napeililim and Kerio; regulation of local content which has led to the Local Content Bill, 2023 currently being processed, among other motions and statements.

As a Member for Kaeris Ward, Hon. Napion will be remembered for developmental programs he has spread all over the Ward that include; seven ECDE's centers, seven operational Health Centers, one mega irrigation scheme at Nadung'a, a resource Centre at Kaeris, street lighting, roads that have improved business and accessibility of the area, one remarkable road linking Kakuma town and Kaeris, and boreholes drilled across the ward which have improved water supply in homes, learning and health centers.

Mheshimiwa has not been limited, at a personal level, he has come up with injective social support program supporting students joining Form One with instructional materials like books, metal boxes, mattresses, bed sheets, towels, buckets and even schools fees. He has also supported in clearance of medical bills of his constituents.

Hon. Napion has also ensured that his constituents benefit from the County cake in terms of employment. He has lobbied for employment of qualified personnel to various positions in the County such as appointment of County Executive Committee Member (CECM), Directors and uncountable lower cadre staff, a move that has seen him enjoy a solid support from his constituents and this has been the secret behind his three consecutive election as an MCA besides the strong competition he faced from his opponents.

At a personal level, the honorable member has achieved remarkable academic and career accomplishments. The member is currently pursuing his Masters' degree in Public Administration and Policy Formulation. He also intends to vie for Member of Parliament for Turkana North in the next elections.

**The Authors are Principal Media Relations Officer and Deputy Director Hansard Services**

