# REPUBLIC OF KENYA

# COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

## THE HANSARD

**Tuesday, 14th February, 2017**

*The House met at the Assembly Chamber at 2.30 p.m.*

*[The Speaker* (*Hon. Mariru) in the Chair*]

PRAYERS

## PAPERS

**Hon. Kabaci:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I lay this paper, I welcome these Members for this fifth session and the very last one in this County Assembly. I wish that Members would be very keen so that we can finish well. I beg to lay the following papers;

1. County Fiscal Strategic Paper, 2017/18 and 2019/2020
2. Public Participation report on 2017/18 on the County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP)
3. Laikipia County Fiscal Strategy Paper, 2017/18

*(Hon. Kabaci laid the documents on the table)*

**Speaker:** Those are committed to the relevant committees particularly the Budget Committee. On the Fiscal Strategy Paper, I am sure Hon. Wakahiu will be guiding the members formally on the next step and I will be saying something in my Communication in that regard.

## COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

SPEECH BY THE SPEAKER

It is my greatest pleasure to welcome us all back for the final session of this 1st Assembly. As you all know, this Assembly had its first session in 2013. We have since then had many successful sessions. We have now come to our final session and I am confident enough to say that I am exceedingly proud of what we have achieved so far.

This Assembly still remains the leading Assembly having passed many laws and over 300 motions since its inception. Indeed, I am proud to say that we have been pacesetters for the other assemblies and even greatly influenced the laws and policies passed by other counties. These are great achievements which we must celebrate.

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This being the last session, we must ensure that we remain committed to our course. We cannot afford to drop the ball now. We must toil to the end. Be that as it may, we cannot ignore the reality that we are in. This is an election year and as a matter of fact the general election will be held in six months.

Consequently, there are a series of election related events that are likely to impact on our Assembly business. Therefore, it cannot be business as usual. We have to make certain changes in the way we conduct our business and not just for the Members but for the staff as well. In this regard, there are some critical issues that I would like to highlight that require immediate attention.

First, the County Fiscal Strategic Plan and Budget, 2017/2018; as mentioned above in the coming months we expect a series of activities which are likely to impact on the usual order of business. Consequently, the National Treasury has had to make a few changes on the budget calendar especially on the timelines and dates.

As per my Communication to you dated 1st November, 2016, the CFSP and the Budget Estimates need to be considered and approved by the 31st March, 2017. As we all know, this process is complex, time consuming and therefore we shall all be required to put a lot of effort so as to adhere to these timelines. Both the members and the staff are going to be required to work around the clock on some days.

I therefore appeal to all of us to stay committed and to do whatever is required of us so as to meet these timelines. Please note as per my communication on 1st November, 2016 the budget needs to be approved in the next one month or so by 31st March, 2017. I am happy to note that the County Fiscal Strategy Paper has been tabled this afternoon.

Hon. Members, we also have other pending business which we must conclude before the end of this session. This includes Statements, committee reports and Bills. It is critical that we finalise all of these businesses. The committees need to work with their Clerks to ensure that all pending reports are tabled and dispensed with. The pending Bills also need to be dispensed with noting that all the Bills that will be pending at the end of the session, cannot legally proceed to the next second session of the House. Therefore Hon. Members, we must stay committed and I will once again call on every one of us to do what they must to ensure that we complete all these pending businesses immediately.

The House Business Committee will have to take a lead on this. It needs to come up with a calendar that fits all these businesses into this session. In the coming days we expect guidance from the House Business Committee on this. Hon. Members, it is the elections period. On this note, it will be prudent for me to mention that the Members of staff are not allowed to engage in active politics. They must remain neutral during this period. Of course, this is not to take away their constitutional right but just to ensure that the Assembly remains operational and effective in this election period.

Hon. Members, as I have aforementioned this in the final session of the first Assembly, this experience has been new to all of us. We have learnt a lot, achieved a lot and sometimes we have been faced with enormous challenges. The life of the County Assembly does not end with this session. We must therefore take time to reflect on the last four years and what we have been doing. First, we must celebrate the achievements of this House. Then we must go further and think about the challenges that we have faced and how we dealt with them.

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Finally, and most importantly we must interrogate the mistakes we have made along the way and put them on record for reference by the subsequent Assemblies. We must think of ways to improve the County Assembly of Laikipia. We must find lessons that we can pass on to the next House. We must have a structured process of picking and listening to every stakeholder on how the Assembly has been, what has been our success, what has been our failures and challenges and most importantly what would be our recommendations moving forward to the next Assembly.

To this end therefore, in the coming few weeks, I will embark on a structured conversation with everyone on this subject. I will have a series of meetings to stir up this conversation. First, I will engage the Hon. Members at different levels including the leadership of the House, the committees and plenaries as well as members of staff. This conversation should also loop in the Executive Arm of the Government as well as the National Government. In sum, what I will be seeking to have are forums where we can contribute to having a better second Assembly after August, 2017.

Hon. Members, my point is that it will not be good for us to fizzle out in August this year when we haven't put our experiences on record. It will be important for the next Assembly to learn from our mistakes but also celebrate our achievements. My proposal is that we will have conversations. In fact, my proposal is that when the committees meet, it will be good to record your lessons as a committee. Let it be recorded by the Committee Clerks so that the next committee will learn from your lessons. They will learn from your mistakes and successes.

Finally, at some point I will bring to this House a detailed report itemizing the highlights from these conversations. At the dissection of this House, the Members will have an opportunity to contribute at the plenary on the past, present and possibly the future of the County Assembly of Laikipia. We have a responsibility to share our experiences with the next Assembly. Those conversations that will be happening at the staff level, committee level and plenary level I hope to bring that into a detailed report that I will table here. Members will have one or two days to discuss it and they will be recorded on the HANSARD so that the next Assembly can celebrate and learn from our lessons. Members, I am emphasizing this because it will be wrong for us to just have this Assembly end its term and the next Assembly can't know what we achieved, our mistakes, challenges, successes and most importantly our lessons.

Finally, Hon. Members, I would like to take this moment to thank various groups of people who have made this institution a success up to this point. First, I will start by thanking you Hon. Members. You have worked tirelessly and remained committed to your constitutional mandate. I must honestly thank the Hon. Members. Secondly, I would like to thank the Clerk's office and the staff members. They have performed well and we hope that this will be carried on even to the second Assembly. Thirdly, I would like to thank the Executive Arm of Government even if the two arms of the Government must work independently. Mutual respect and principled collaboration and cooperation between the two arms is paramount.

I would like to thank the Members of the public for their continued support. They are the main reason why this institution exists. We have constantly called upon them on various occasions and they have always responded. We do not take that for granted. It is our hope and prayer that this overwhelming support shall carry on up to the end of this season and into the next Assembly. Once again Hon. Members, let me welcome you back from the long recess as we resume today. It is my hope and prayer that we shall remain committed to our course on this final session. I thank you.

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DEDICATION OF THE ASSEMBLY

**Speaker:** Hon. Members, as you may have seen outside we haven't had an occasion to dedicate this Assembly. We have invited some religious leaders to help us dedicate this Assembly. You can tell from Hon. Kinyua that he is excited about that because he is known to be a religious man. We will sort of dedicate this House. After the session, we will walk out to the corridor and have our members of staff come and then we are going to unveil the plaque. We will come in and have just a few minutes of prayer led by our religious leaders so that then we can have this officially dedicated and unveiled. As I walk out, Members will also walk out and we come in together with members of staff for just a few minutes of prayer.

## ADJOURNMENT

**Speaker**: The House now stands adjourned until tomorrow Thursday, 15th February, 2017, at 9.00 a.m.

The House rose at 2.45 p.m.

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