REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Thursday, 21st September, 2023

The House met at the Assembly Chambers at 2.30 p.m.

[The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Leila Hussein) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

PETITIONS

RECONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON ANNUAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/2025 BY THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COUNTY PLANNING

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Leila Hussein): Hon. Members, section 15(1) of the County Government Act, 2012 stipulates that a person has a right to petition a County Assembly to consider any matter within its authority including enacting, amending or repealing any of its legislations. Further, Standing Order 200 (2) (b) provides that when an order petition is read, the Speaker shall in case of a petition represent it through the Clerk to report the petition to the Assembly.

In this regard Hon. Members, I wish to report that my office has received a petition from Laikipia County Civil Society Forum. The petitioner claims that on 25th August, 2023 the County Executive Committee Member for Finance and County Planning published a public participation call for written submissions and memoranda for the Laikipia County Annual Development Plan for the Financial Year 2024/2025 and the call notice was five days.

The petitioner further claims that on 25th August, 2023, there was a letter done requesting the CECM for Finance and County Planning through the office of the County Secretary to reschedule the public participation and give sufficient notice to the public but there was no feedback or action taken. Hon. Members, the petitioner is concerned that the CECM for Finance and County Planning has already committed the ADP for the financial year 2024/2025 to the County Assembly of Laikipia for deliberation and approval.

The petitioner reiterates that this is against principles of an effective public participation and stakeholder engagement and beats rationale and purpose of engaging the public in that it violated among others the following; Laikipia County Public Participation Act, 2014 Section 15(c) that provides for sufficient notice and information to stakeholders or the public in Section 20 that provides for good practises and standards in stakeholder engagement.

Hon. Members, the petitioner therefore prays;

- That the Laikipia County Assembly refer the draft ADP for Financial Year 2024/2025 back to the CECM for Finance and County Planning for proper public participation process that involves and is not limited to sufficient time frame notice.
- Access to information and deliberate all stakeholder's engagement and involvement before committing back to the County Assembly for approval.

Disclaimer: *The electronic version of the Official Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor*

Hon. Members, having established that the matter raised in the petition is well within the authority of this House and further the matter raised in this petition is not pending before any court of law, constitutional or legal body, I hereby commit the petition to the Committee on Finance and County Planning for consideration pursuant to standing Order No. 202(1). The committee is required to consider the petition and report its findings to the House and to the petitioner in accordance to Standing Order 202(2).

STATEMENTS

ACTING STATUS OF CHIEF OFFICER AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES

Hon. Parleto Lekopien: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have got a statement on the acting Chief Officer in the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries. Madam Speaker, pursuant to provisions of Standing Order No. 45 (2)(c)), I wish to seek a statement from the Chairperson for Labour, Social Welfare and Community Services regarding to the said subject.

Madam Speaker, Section 34 (3c) of the Public Service Commission Act 2017, provides that an officer may be appointed in an acting capacity for a period of at least 30 days but not exceeding a period of six months.

Madam Speaker, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries has had an acting Chief Officer whose designation is also the director in the Department of Agriculture since the inception of the 3rd County Government. The said director has acted for approximately one year which contravenes Section 34(3) of the Public Service Commission Act, 2013.

Madam Speaker, I request the Chairperson for Labour, Social Community Services to inform this House on;

- Why the said employee has held the two positions for that long.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Leila Hussein): I call upon the Chairperson for Labour. How long do you need to have a response?

Hon. Irene Wachuka: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Give us two weeks.

STALLED SIPILI WAREHOUSE PROJECT

Hon. George Karuiru: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Congratulations for sitting on the throne. What a man can do, I will not say the rest. I have got a statement on a stalled warehouse in Sipili.

Hon. Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 45 (2) (c), I wish to seek a statement from the Chairperson Finance and County Planning regarding the above-mentioned subject.

Hon. Speaker, in the Agriculture Industry, proper storage of produce is especially important. It allows seasonal products to be available all year round and reduces the chances of food spoilage and pest infestation. In our case, the warehouse would prove beneficial distribution of subsidized fertilizer by the National Government.

Madam Speaker Financial Year 2019/2020 budget proposed the construction of Sipili Warehouse. The construction began during the 2nd County Government but stalled at some point due to insufficient funds. In the report of the auditor general on County Executive of Laikipia for the year ended 30th June, 2020, there are several issues that were observed.

Disclaimer: *The electronic version of the Official Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor*

- There are only three 20 feet containers which were being fabricated and there was minimal work done.
- The contractor had sub-contracted another firm to carry out the works on indication that the firm awarded the contract may not have the capacity to complete the project.
- The contract agreement did not indicate the contract period and therefore no date was set its completion.
- The contract was terminated on 5th March, 2021.

Hon. Speaker, I wish to request the Chairperson Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources to inform this House on the following;

1. How much money was allocated for the construction of Sipili Warehouse?
2. How much was utilized for the construction of Sipili Warehouse up until it stalled?
3. Was there co-funding during the construction of the warehouse?
4. Will the current County Government continue with the construction of the said warehouse since it will be an utter wastage of the public funds if the warehouse is left incomplete?
5. How much money was paid by the residents of the area for electricity installation?
6. There was a provision of a modern drier to be installed in the warehouse. How far is the process?

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Leila Hussein): Do we have a response from the mentioned committee?

Hon. Joseph Gitahi: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. We as the Committee for Agriculture, have listened to the statement and the issues raised by the Hon. Member. If this House was to allow us two weeks, we would be able to engage the relevant stakeholders and bring a response back to the House. Thank you.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Leila Hussein): Is that okay with you Hon. Member?

Hon. George Karuiru: It is well.

ADJOURNMENT

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Leila Hussein): The sittings of this House stand adjourned until next week Tuesday, 26th September, 2023 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 2.40 p.m.

Disclaimer: *The electronic version of the Official Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor*