REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Thursday, 28th March, 2024

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

[The Speaker (Hon. Lantano Nabaala) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

VISITING DELEGATION FROM NDINDIKA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Speaker: Hon. Members, I wish to recognize the presence of 53 pupils from Ndindika Primary School in Ngobit Ward, Laikipia East Constituency. They are accompanied by their teachers namely; Paul Karite, Paul Wanjohi, Kenneth Kinyua, Erastus Murerua and Pauline Wanjugu. Hon. Members, on my own behalf and that of the Assembly, I wish to welcome them to the County Assembly of Laikipia and wish them fruitful engagements through the visit. Thank you, you may be seated.

PAPERS LAID

DMSP AND CFSP REPORTS FOR MARCH 2024

Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to lay the following papers;

1. Report on the Laikipia County Debt Management Strategy Paper 2024 by the Select Committee on Budget and Appropriations dated 28th March 2024.
2. Report on the Laikipia County Fiscal Strategy Paper 2024 by the Select Committee on Budget and Appropriations dated 28th March 2024.

(Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki Laid the Papers on the table)

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

ADOPTION OF CFSP REPORT, 2024

Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to give notice of the following motion;

THAT this Assembly adopts the report on the Laikipia County Fiscal Strategy Paper 2024 by the Select Committee on budget and appropriations dated 28th March 2024.

ADOPTION OF DMSP REPORT, 2024

Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki: I beg to give notice of the following motion;

THAT this Assembly adopts the report on the Laikipia County Debt Management Strategy Paper 2024 by the Select Committee on budget and appropriations dated 28th March 2024.

STATEMENTS

NOTICE PAPER

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Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of HBC, I would like to give the tentative business.

It is notified that the House Business Committee has approved the following tentative business to appear in the Order paper for Tuesday (Afternoon) April 16th, 2024

A. MOTION- Motion urging the County Government to beautify parks and recreational facilities by Hon. Stephen Ndiritu.

It is notified that the House Business Committee has approved the following tentative business to appear in the Order paper for Wednesday (Morning) April 17th, 2024

A. PAPER- Report by the Public Accounts and Investments Committee on the Auditor General Report on NYAHUWASCO for the year ended 30th June, 2018.

B. NOTICE OF MOTION- Report by the Public Accounts and Investments Committee on the Auditor General Report on NYAHUWASCO for the year ended 30th June, 2018.

C. MOTION- Motion urging the County Government to control noise pollution by Hon. Caroline Kihika.

It is notified that the House Business Committee has approved the following tentative business to appear in the Order paper for Wednesday (Afternoon) April 17, 2024

A. MOTION- Report by the Public Accounts and Investments Committee on the Auditor General Report on NYAHUWASCO for the year ended 30th June, 2018.

It is notified that the House Business Committee has approved the following tentative business to appear in the Order paper for Thursday (Afternoon) April 18th, 2024

A. MOTION- Motion urging the County Government to fence all water reservoirs in the County by Hon. Salim Edung.

BILL

CONSIDERATION OF THE GOVERNOR'S RESERVATIONS TO THE LAIKIPIA COUNTY FINANCE BILL, 2023

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Hon. Speaker, I wish to withdraw the Bill because firstly, I would like the Members to read and get to understand the memorandum well.

Hon. Anthony Theuri: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I take this opportunity to welcome our pupils today. I am yet to get their names because I was a bit late. I want to get the clarification from Hon. Stephen to be able to understand what we are discussing. We have already gone through the paper more than twice. We are conversant with it and whatever will be discussed here, we know the contents. Basically, we want the status quo. Whatever we decided here will be decided. So, I want clarification so that the county does not lose any revenue. The more we delay, the more we lose. Our people are waiting for the services and without money, there are no services. I wish more clarification on this because I was caught by surprise.

Hon. Nicholas Lempaira: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that Hon. Stephen must know that what was brought in front of this House is a matter of county interest and just him waking up and withdrawing the motion is so unfortunate to the people of Laikipia. That is a very sensitive thing. He is trying to buy time so that if we do not discuss today, the communication of the Governor works.

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So, it is very wrong and that calls for the removal of him as the Chairperson of Finance Committee. We are Members who come from where these ranchers are, we know what it means and therefore it is so unfortunate that somebody is not willing to pay Kshs.60 per acre, per year while I am comfortable paying Kshs.50 shillings for parking per day.

You Kagondu, your own electorates go to the market with a sack of potatoes and pay 30 bob every day, and you are here withdrawing a motion so that we do not have time to discuss it and make a sober decision. Instead of buying time, spit somethings here. It does not work like that. We need your guidance Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Lempaira and don't address the Members but the Speaker.

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I am also concerned about the same because the Hon. Member for Thingithu has said that he wants the Members to go read the papers. I don't know the Members who have not read among us and also those who have not read. If someone has not read, then that is a very lazy person because this bill was brought here months ago. If I happen to see someone raising their hands that they have not read, then that must be a very lazy person who is not supposed to be in this House. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Members. I have listened to the Chair of Chairs and I would like to hear his final sentiments.

Hon. Anthony Theuri: Mr. Speaker, we are guided by our constitution that we the people are the majority. As my colleagues, Hon. Mugweru, Hon. Nicholas and all people here, there is no way we can discuss about tycoons here who have a lot of money. Even the description itself, the *mama mboga* is paying for a small space of 1.1m Kshs.50 shillings per day and we are here discussing Kshs.60 shillings for a year. It is even negligible. If we are dividing the Kshs.60 shillings by 365, it would be a shame. So, I wish that we vote on the same and the status quo remains. I urge the Members to allow me because we are about to go for whole house committee where the rules will be relaxed, when we get there, let it be 60 per acre per year.

We know how much we are losing on revenue and also how much they are earning per day. They usually charge us in dollars, pounds and taking advantage. We need money to feed the people in schools, for the roads, water, etc. So, I urge that we go ahead with this motion and pass it as it is. I urge Hon. Kagondu that he should not be under any threat. You know they are threatening him that they will go to the court. Mr. Speaker, we are ready for the courts, even the kangaroo court, demonstrations and everything else.

Even the President himself said that we must pay taxes. I am earning negative because the government is taxing me over 30% of my salary and we are here discussing how we are going to reduce. For the respect that I have for the Executive and the Governor but on this one, we are saying that we are not going to reduce. I request that you may give me the honour of sitting on that Chair, we deliberate on this and afterwards we go for the recess. Thank you.

Hon. Benson Kuria: Mheshimiwa Spika, nasimama kuunga mkono vile Mheshimiwa Ndiritu amesema. Ningetaka kusema ya kwamba wakati umefika watu kusema na kunena ukweli. Mimi nasimamia watu wa chini. Kuegeza Magari kwa *parking* anaweza lipa shilingi Hamsini mita moja kwa tatu. Kwa hivyo, kila siku mimi hulipa shilingi Hamsini. Kina mama mboga ambaye ni wa chini hulipa shilingi Hamsini. Ni kwa nini bwanyenye awe akilipa shilingi ishirini? Sisi kama Waheshimiwa wa hili Bunge tuliona ya kwamba ametunyanyasa kama wananchi wa Laikipia.

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Bwana Spika, mabwanyenye ni lazima walipe kodi. Hii sio kitu cha kuondolewa, ni lazima walipe ushuru ili tuone ya kwamba jimbo letu limeweza kusimama. Hakuna tone la maji la ile sheria ambalo litaondolewa ili tuweze kuona ya kwamba tumesimama imara na jimbo la letu la Laikipia. Tukiwa mahali hapa tunapigania Wanjiku na tunalipa kodi. Wacha mabwanyenye ambao wamejaa Laikipia hii walipe ushuru na sio mambo ya tafadhali, ni lazima. Hata Wakienda mahakama ya juu au ya juu zaidi ni lazima walipe ushuru. Yangu ni hayo Mheshimiwa Spika.

Speaker: Members, I can see that the two of you have spoken. Let me give to Hon. Salim and then I make a determination.

Hon. Salim Edung: Bwana Spika, nashukuru kwa kunipatia hii nafasi. Siku ya leo ni siku njema kwa sababu tunaelewa ya kwamba tunaelekea mapumziko. Kile kitu ambacho nitasema leo ni ya kwamba mjadala ambao umeletwa leo na Mheshimiwa Kagondu, sisi tutaunga ule mswada vile ulivyokuwa. Sisi hatuondoi na hatuongezi. Tumeamua ya kwamba wakati tunapoegeza magari yetu kwa *parking*, tunatozwa ushuru wa shilingi Hamsini lakini bwanyenye mmoja katika Laikipia ambaye ako na ekari mia moja hataki kuguzwa. Sisi tunaunga Naibu wa Spika ya kwamba huu mswada ukae ulivyo. Hatuwezi jadiliana zaidi ya mwezi mmoja ya kwamba hatujarekebisha hapa na pale ilhali kuna watu ambao wanaumia.

Sasa hivi, mashinani utakuta madaktari wengine bado hawajalipwa pesa na pesa hutoka kwa ushuru. Bila ushuru hakuna pesa ambazo tunaweza pata. Hatuwezi kusimamishwa na mtu ya kwamba turekebishe hapa au pale. Kama ni shilingi sitini ambazo watalipa kwa ekari, hiyo ni kwa mwaka, sisi tunaangalia zile pesa ambazo tutaondoa. Ninaomba Mwenyekiti wa Bajeti ya kwamba vile tulivyoweka ikae hivyo. Kagondu, sijui kama ulisoma hiyo karatasi vizuri. Kama Mheshimiwa Kagondu ulisoma hiyo karatasi, rudia tena usome lakini sisi tunapitisha ya kwamba ikae hivyo. Bwana Spika, naomba nisimamie hapa kwa sababu wenzangu wanahitaji kujadili ili tuweze kupata suluhisho na suluhisho ni kwamba ikae shilingi sitini.

Nikiangalia kama Mbuga la Solio, limekaa na pesa nyingi sana za ushuru wa Kaunti. Kama wanakalia karibu milioni tisini, sasa hao wengine wanataka kusema ya kwamba tupunguze iwe shilingi thelathini lakini katika hili Bunge sisi ndio huunda sheria na pia kuirekebisha na tunasema ya kwamba isimamie shilingi sitini. Kama ningekuwa na mjadala mwingine, ingeongezwa iwe themanini na sio sitini.

Speaker: I am tempted to give a right of reply to a member who had thought of withdrawing. Perhaps he is changing his mind. I am giving you the floor and please do not take more than three minutes.

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Constitution of Kenya is very clear that the sovereign power belongs to the people. These Members represent the people. There is also a saying that goes *"that it is only a fool who does not change his/ her mind"*. I can read the mood of the House and I am in support of what they are saying. I wish to remind them that if they want this Bill to pass as it was, we are going to vote. Therefore, they need a certain number and I have realized that they do not have a certain number and that is why I was using my wisdom to withdraw the Bill.

In fact, if we are going to vote the way we are, this Bill will pass as early as morning. So, that is why I wanted to withdraw the Bill so that they can have enough time and the numbers. If it is their wish, I am comfortable. I will support them to vote and you know they require two thirds to reject the Bill Mr. Speaker.

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Speaker: Your time is up. Thank you, very much and allow me to do a determination. I think that I have listened to all of you... Hon. Member, what is that that is so bothering?

Hon. Nicholas Lempaira: Mr. Speaker, it is good that we have the guidance. If we could go to the Hon. Nicholas', debate first as we get the two people. We will make sure that by then we will have these two people because this is a very important thing. We are not in a rush to leave this House today because it is even our last day before we go for recess. So, we have the energy to wait and lobby for these two Members to come so that we may have the right number. We will get them because they are on the way.

So, I am suggesting that we first go to the second motion as we try to get these two people. Mr. Speaker, it is also good that we get guidance from your office on time because as you can see, this is the first memorandum we are getting from the Governor. It is good that when you read, you also give us some guidance on how it goes so that every Member who cares about Laikipia should be in the House today to make their voice to be heard.

I want to encourage the Chairperson of the Finance Committee not to be intimidated by these people. We stand with you and with the common people out there. It is the high time for everybody to pay. If he is unable to pay sixty per acre, dispose the land. Some of us are landless, we are living in communal land. Sell this land to us if you are not ready to pay sixty. Dispose the land. For your information, these people charge us five hundred per cow for one month when we graze on their land. They have taken our holding grounds, our stalk roads. They have closed public roads that pass through their land.

Speaker: Hon. Lempaira, you have made a good comment. Allow me to give direction. Hon. Members, I want to refer you to our Standing Orders No. 41. I am going to read Standing Order No. 41, Sub-standing Order No. 1 & 2. Sub-standing Order No. 1 says: *"Each day after prayers have been said and the County Assembly has been called to order, the business of the County Assembly shall be proceeded with in the following sequence: Administration, Communication, Messages, Petitions, Papers, Notices of Motions, Statements, and Motions."*

Sub-standing Order No. 2 reads as follows: *"Business shall be dispensed of in the sequence in which it appears in the Order Paper, or in such other sequence as the Speaker may determine."* I, therefore, want to use this Standing Order to order that we alter and take the current motion on the table which is on the consideration of the Governor's reservations on the Laikipia County Finance Bill, to come just before Order No. 11 which is the procedural motion. Thank you.

MOTIONS

ADOPTION OF DMSP REPORT, 2024

Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the following motion:

THAT, this Assembly adopts the report on the Laikipia County Debt Management Strategy Paper 2024 by the Select Committee on budget and appropriations dated 28th March 2024.

Preface

Mr. Speaker Sir, on behalf of the members of the Select Committee on County Budget and Appropriations, it is my pleasant duty and privilege to present to this Honourable Assembly the Report of the Committee on the Laikipia County Debt Management Paper 2023

Background

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Mr. Speaker, the preparation of county debt Instruments is guided by article 212 of the Constitution of Kenya which stipulates that a county government may borrow only if the national government guarantees the loan; and with the approval of the County Assembly. Section 123 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 provides the requirement on the preparation of the DMSP.

Laikipia County DMSP 2023 objectives

Mr. Speaker, the 2023/24 Debt Management Strategy main objective is to ensure that the county government's financing needs and its payments obligation are met at lower costs over the short, medium and long term. In addition, debt levels are sustainable and borrowed funds are used to improve the wellbeing of Laikipia County residents.

In this regard, Mr. Speaker, the County Treasury has indicated that it has no immediate plans of incurring debt. However, the same will be considered when market conditions and county fiscal position is favourable for such intervention.

Mandate of the Committee

Mr. Speaker, Standing Order 186 establishes the Budget and Appropriations Committee with specific mandate to discharge the following responsibilities-

- Investigate enquire, into and report on all matters related to coordination, control and monitoring of the county budget
- Discuss and revisit the estimate and make recommendations to the County Assembly
- Examine the County Fiscal Policy Statement presented to the County Assembly
- Examine Bills related to the county budget including Appropriations Bills
- Evaluate tax estimates, economic and budget policies and programs with direct budget outlays.

Committee's Methodology and Sittings

Mr. Speaker, in the consideration of the Debt Management Strategic Paper 2023, the Committee held meetings to deliberate on this report and other reports that were committed to the committee in line with the provisions of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012, the Public Finance Management (County Governments) Regulations, 2015 and the County Assembly of Laikipia Standing Orders.

Committee's Composition

Speaker, the Select Committee on County Budget and Appropriations is comprised of the following members:

1) Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki Muturi - Chairperson
2) Hon. Stephen Ndiritu - Vice Chairperson
3) Hon. Paul Leshuel - Member
4) Hon. Nicholas Lempaira - Member
5) Hon. Mwangi Benson Kuria - Member
6) Hon. Irene Wachuka John - Member

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7) Hon. Maina John Gichuki - Member

Acknowledgements

Mr. Speaker Sir, the Committee wishes to sincerely thank the Offices of the Speaker and the Clerk of this Assembly for the support extended to it in the execution of its mandate. Finally, I wish to express my appreciation to the Honourable Members of the Committee who sacrificed valuable time from their families and constituents to participate in the activities of the Committee including attending meetings at extended hours. Their effort and dedication made the work of the Committee and production of this Report possible.

I now request the Honourable House to adopt this report. Thank you. Hon. Speaker, I do request Hon. Shuel to second this motion.

Hon. Paul Leshuel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to second the motion. It is now clear that we do not require that bill as a county because we are not requesting for any money from the National Government. As the law requires, we must pass the DMSP report in this House. I stand to second, and want to urge Members to pass it so that we can move on to the County Fiscal Strategy Paper. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Members.

(Question proposed)

Speaker: Members, the floor is open, and I will now allow further debate on this. Thank you, Hon. Members, for your contributions. I call upon the Mover of the motion to reply.

Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to the report by the committee, the contributions of the Members of the House and the support that they have extended to the committee; I do thank all the Members for their support because they helped us to generate this report. Thank you.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADOPTION OF CFSP REPORT, 2024

Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Hon. Speaker, I beg to move the following motion;

THAT**,** this Assembly adopts the report on the Laikipia County Fiscal Strategy Paper 2024 by the Select Committee on budget and appropriations dated 28th March 2024.

Preface

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the members of the Select Committee on County Budget and Appropriations, and pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 206 (4) & (5), it is my pleasant duty and privilege to present to this Honourable Assembly the Report of the Committee on the Laikipia County Fiscal Strategy Paper 2024.

Background

Mr. Speaker, Sir, a county's fiscal strategy paper focuses on the past, the present and the future of the County Budget. It therefore means that the paper should inform readers on the implementation of the past financial year's budget and this includes information on both revenue collection and expenditure.

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The CFSP additionally seeks to answer fiscal questions such as; has the County met its revenue targets, were they realistic or too ambitious, are all government departments' spending as planned, has there been challenges in meeting targets? This information is required as part of the fiscal strategy to inform the County's thinking on revenue and spending estimates for the coming year.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the CFSP also sets out the broad priorities for the County in the forthcoming financial year and acts to encourage public debate about these broad priorities. This essentially entails decision on how much of the budget to allocate to each sector of the County's economy. It thus follows that the approved CFSP will guide the overall distribution of funds to sectors and Departments in the preparation of the annual budget estimates.

Mandate of the Committee

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in giving effect to Section 117 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012, Standing Order No. 206 (4) establishes the mandate of the Committee as being to consider the CFSP by undertaking consultations with the relevant Sectoral Committees of the Assembly, and to Table a report, containing its recommendation on the CFSP to the Assembly for consideration.

The Committee's mandate was thus established with the following terms of reference:

1. To analyze and consider the Laikipia County Fiscal Strategy Paper, 2024;
2. To consider the recommendations of the various Sectoral Committees on the Laikipia County Fiscal Strategy Paper, 2024; and
3. To compile and lay a Report on the Table of this Honorable Assembly on the Laikipia County Fiscal Strategy Paper, 2024 for the Assembly's consideration.

Committee's Methodology and Sittings

In the consideration of the Laikipia County Fiscal Strategy Paper, 2024 the Committee adopted a multifaceted approach that included holding various consultative forums with the public through the local radio stations as well memoranda, Sectoral Committees of the County Assembly and the various representatives of the Departments within the Executive Arm of the County Government of Laikipia in line with the provisions of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012, the Public Finance Management (County Governments) Regulations, 2015 and the County Assembly of Laikipia Standing Orders.

Recommendations

Mr. Speaker, from the findings, observations and considerations, the committee draws the following recommendations:

Recommended changes in departmental ceilings

1. **County Administration.**

That, the Department of County Administration to get a net reduction of Kshs. 3.6M

- The County Administration services recurrent budget be reduced by Kshs. 4.0 million
- The office of the Governor recurrent budget be increased by Kshs. 5.0 million to cater for the office of the Deputy Governor.

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- The sports recurrent budget under the department of gender, culture and social services be domiciled in the office of the Governor and be named Unity cup and KICOSCA and be allocated Kshs. 12.5 million.
- The office of the Deputy Governor's recurrent budget be reduced by Kshs. 6.0 million and be domiciled at the office of the Governor. The total amount of Kshs. 11.0 million be removed.
- The Inter-Governmental Donor liaison (Laikipia Policing Authority (LPA) recurrent budget be increased by Kshs. 2.0 million to cater for National Police Reservist.
- The County Attorney and legal services recurrent budget be reduced by Kshs. 2.0 million.
- The Special Programmes, Enforcement, Public Safety and Disaster Management development budget be reduced by Kshs. 2.1 million.

2. That, the County Public Service Board services recurrent budget be reduced by Kshs. 4.0 million.

3. Finance and Economic Planning

That, the Finance and Economic Planning be reduced by a net value of Kshs. 25.967 M.

- General Administration recurrent budget be increased by 3.033 million
- The Legal fees be reduced by Kshs. 5.0 million.
- Lease rentals for dumping and garbage trucks and other lease contracts development budget be reduced by Kshs. 17.0 million.

4. That, Laikipia County Development Authority recurrent budget be reduced by Kshs. 7.0 million.

5. Health and Sanitation

That, the Health and Sanitation ceiling be reduced by Kshs. 11.3 million.

- The General Administration recurrent budget be reduced by Kshs. 4.0 million
- Health Centres and Dispensaries (within General Administration), Ambulances and Referrals (within Medical Services Program) and Preventive and Promotive Health recurrent budgets be reduced by Kshs. 1.0 million, 1.0 million and 5.2 million respectively.
- Medical Services recurrent budget be reduced by Kshs. 9.0 million and development budget be increased by Kshs. 24.4 million to cater for constructions of dispensaries in 5 wards.
- Lease rentals for radiology, renal and theatre development budget be reduced by Kshs. 5.0 million.
- Sub County Hospitals recurrent budget be reduced by Kshs. 5.0 million and development budget be reduced by Kshs. 5.5 million.

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6. That, LHS Nanyuki ceiling be maintained at Kshs. 230,420,000.

7. That, LHS Nyahururu ceiling be maintained at Kshs. 331,580,000.

8. Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries.

That, Agriculture ceiling be maintained at the same level of Kshs. 100,590,000. The development budget be aligned as follows;

- General Administration be reduced by Kshs. 5.0 million.
- Irrigation, Drainage & Water Storage be increased by Kshs. 9.8 million.
- Fisheries Production be reduced by Kshs. 4.8 million.

9. Infrastructure and Publics Works

That, the Department of Infrastructure to receive additional amount of Kshs. 114.3M;

- Land and Physical Planning recurrent budget be reduced by Kshs. 3.0 million and development budget be increased by Kshs. 3.0 million.
- Housing and Urban Development recurrent budget be reduced by Kshs. 1.0 million and development budget be reduced by Kshs. 10.0 million.
- Road network improvement development budget be increased by Kshs. 65.3 million.
- Flood lights for 15 wards be introduced at Kshs. 45.0 million.
- Planning centers (1M per ward) for each ward be introduced at Kshs. 15.0 million

10. Education and Youth and Social Development

That, the Education and Youth and Social Development gets an additional budget of Kshs. 5.7 million. The change is as a result of the transfer of Centre for Empowerment of disadvantaged children (CEDC) from Gender, culture and social services to Education for Kshs. 2.7 million for recurrent and Kshs. 3.0 million.

11. Trade, Tourism, Co-operatives and Enterprise Development

That, Trade, Tourism, Co-operatives and Enterprise Development Department to get a net reduction of Kshs. 47 M.

- General Administration be reduced by Kshs. 1.4 million.
- Trade and Investments development budget be reduced by Kshs. 30.6 million.
- County aggregated industrial park development budget be reduced by Kshs. 15 million.

12. Gender, Culture and Social Services

That, Gender, Culture and Social Services Department to get a net reduction of Kshs. 40.3 M.

- General Administration recurrent and development budget be reduced by Kshs. 2.6 million and 3.0 million respectively.

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- Centre for Empowerment of disadvantaged children (CEDC) transferred to the department of Education.
- Sports transferred to the Office of the Governor as Unity Cup and KICOSCA.
- Culture and Social Services development budget be reduced by Kshs. 2.0 million.

13. Water

That, Water department to get a net increment of Kshs. 21.5 M

- Water Services development budget be increased by Kshs. 15.5 million to cater for boreholes maintenance.
- Rig fuel be introduced for 15 wards for Kshs.15.0 M
- Climate change recurrent budget be reduced by Kshs. 7.0 million
- Environment and Natural resources recurrent budget be reduced by Kshs. 2.0 million.

14. That, Rumuruti Municipality recurrent budget be reduced by Kshs. 2.0 M.

15. That, Nyahururu Municipality recurrent budget be increased by Kshs.1.0 million and development budget be reduced by Kshs. 3.0 M.

16. That, Nanyuki Municipality recurrent budget be reduced by Kshs.6.0 million and development budget be reduced by Kshs. 25.0 M.

17. The County Assembly recurrent budget be increased by Kshs.20.667 million to align with CARA to set the ceiling at Kshs. 565.667.

18. The percentages of recurrent to development is 67% to 33% respectively.

The Select Committee Composition.

Mr. Speaker, The Select Committee on Budget and Appropriation is comprised of the following Members;

1. Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki - Chairperson
2. Hon. Stephen Ndiritu - Vice Chairperson
3. Hon. Paul Leshuel - Member
4. Hon. Nicholas Lempaira - Member
5. Hon. Benson Kuria - Member
6. Hon Irene Wachuka - Member
7. Hon. John Gichuki - Member

Acknowledgement

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Committee wishes to thank the Office of the Speaker and the Clerk of this Assembly for the support extended to it for the execution of its mandate. The Committee also wishes to express its appreciation to the Chairpersons of the respective Sectorial Committees of the Assembly who took time to review the CFSP and who made time to appear before the committee with the respective line department for the purpose of submitting their recommendations to the CFSP.

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Finally, I wish to express my appreciation to the Hon. Members of the Committee who sacrificed their time from their families and constituents to participate in the activities of the Committee including attending meetings at an extended hour. Their effort and dedication made the work of the Committee and production of this Committee possible. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, according to this report of CFSP, a lot has been done. It has been a challenging journey but still having all the Members on deck and Chairpersons on deck from Sectoral Committees made it possible. We have tried to align various departments with various needs of several departments and also, the needs of the constituents who elected us. I therefore, call upon my vice chair Hon. Stephen Ndiritu to second this.

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Asante, Bwana Spika. Nimesimama ili niweze kuunga mkono *CSFP* ambayo ni ya mwaka huu. Haja kubwa ya kuipitisha ni kuwa; tuweze kuweka zile muhuri wa Idara. Kila Idara wawe wanajua ni pesa ngapi watatumia kwa mwaka huu. Mwenye Kiti ameweza kutuelezea ya kwamba kuna zile Idara ambazo zitapoteza pesa kulingana na vile wamepanga kazi zao.

Mheshimiwa Spika, kuna zile Idara ambazo zitaweza kuwa na mgawo mkubwa wa pesa. Wakati tulipokuwa tunajadiliana kuhusu mambo ya *CSFP* tuliweza kuangalia vile Idara imeweza kutumia pesa yake. Tukagundua ya kwamba kuna Idara ambazo zilipokea pesa mwaka uliopita na ikawa kwamba hawakutumia pesa kwa njia ambayo inafaa. Mwaka ulipofungwa hawakuweza kupeana midadi yao. Hiyo ndiyo shida ambayo Kaunti inakumbwa nayo ya maofisa ambao hawawezi kutekeleza kazi kwa njia inayofaa.

Tunakuta ya kwamba, tumeingia katika malipo yanayosubiri; ambayo yanaingia kwa sababu ya wale walio kwa Idara ya manunuzi na Afisa Mhasibu hawapeani kazi kwa njia inayofaa. Pia, tumeweza kuangalia mishahara ya wafanyikazi na idadi ya pesa ambazo wanahitaji ndio Kaunti iweze kuendelea. Lazima tuwe tumeweka pesa ili *workforce* ya Laikipia Kaunti iweze kupata mgawo ambao ni wa maana.

Bwana Spika tena tumeangalia Idara kama ya Afya ambayo inahitaji pesa ya kutosha. Tukaweza kugundua ya kwamba katika hiyo Idara ya Afya, utakuta ya kuwa unaingia hospitali unakosa dawa. Hii ni changamoto na hapa ndio nataka Wabunge tuwe makini kwa kuwa tunawapea pesa ya kununua dawa lakini mwananchi akifika pale anakosa dawa. Dawa ya aina zote zinafaa kuwa zinapatikana pale.

Sisi kama Wabunge tutaangalia na kuwa makini kama kuna pesa ambazo hazitatumika kwa njia inayofaa, tunarudisha na kuchukulia hao maofisa hatua ambayo inayofaa. Pia bajeti ambayo tunaokusudia kuwa nayo mwaka huu, tunatarajia mgawo wa zaidi ya bilioni sita. Katika hiyo bilioni sita, asilimia arubaini na nane ya hizo pesa zinaenda kwa Idara ya Afya. Hii ni Kumaanisha ya kuwa sisi kama Wabunge wa Bunge la Kaunti ya Laikipia, tumeweza kuangalia na kuhakikisha ya kwamba upande wa afya imepokea pesa ya kutosha.

Mheshimiwa Spika, katika Idara ya Wasimamizi, kuna zile pesa ambazo tumeweka zaidi ya nukta tatu bilioni sita ambazo zitatumika katika kulipa wafanyikazi wa Kaunti. Tumeangalia katika kila kona na tukawa tumehakikisha ya kuwa Serikali ya Kaunti imeweza kupata pesa ambazo zitatumika kwa Maidara. Vilevile, itakuwa ni changamoto kama Idara ya kukota pesa ya mapato kama hawataweza kuokota pesa kulingana na vile walizifanya makadirio yao, hii ni kumaanisha ya kuwa kutakuwa na upungufu wa pesa.

Mheshimiwa Spika, ningeomba wale ambao wanafanya kazi kwa Serikali na pia sisi tunaofanya kazi ya uangalizi tuwafanyie wananchi kazi kwa umoja na tuhakikishe ya kwamba pesa yao imelindwa. Tulichaguliwa hapa tukiwa tumepewa jukumu na mwananchi ya kuwa

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lazima tuhakikishe ya kuwa pesa zao tumechunga. Hizi bilioni sita tutazichunga kama maziwa yakiwa kwa jiko maana hiyo ndiyo kazi yetu.

Hatutachagua mtu yeyote, uwe mdogo, uwe mkubwa ama uwe ni nani. Katika hiyo Idara unafanyia kazi, tutakuwa ngangari na wewe na kuwa makini ili kuhakikisha hiyo pesa imetumika vizuri. Kwa hivyo, ninataka kumshukuru Bwana Mwenye Kiti kwa vile ametupitisha na kutusomea kila mahali. Kwa hivyo, hakuna haja ya kushinda nikirudia yale ambayo amesoma tayari. Sisi kama Wanakamati wa Bajeti tumeungana na tuko pamoja kuhakikisha ya kwamba kila kitu kitaendelea kama ilivyopangwa. Kwa hayo machache, nashukuru na ninaunga mkono pia huo mswada.

Speaker: Thank you Hon. Nicholas and Hon. Ndiritu

(Question proposed)

Speaker: The floor is open for debate

Hon. Paul Leshuel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker I stand to support. I am privileged to be a Member of the Budget Committee. The Fiscal Strategy Paper outlines all the areas in the County Development. The laws allow this House to pass the Physical Strategy and even the Budget itself without or with the amendments so it is our responsibility to give some changes in some areas.

The Chair has read the changes and it is very clear that we have removed some money in other areas and added a little in some areas. Why do we do that? It depends with priority in this County. The second supporter of the Motion has mentioned that the bigger amount of money is being taken by Health. Therefore, it means that it is the priority of the County and same case applies to some areas like Agriculture and Water. We have taken all these into consideration that every Department and the amount of money they are supposed to get this year.

When we get to Budget, we can only increase with 1%. This is a very critical and important Document for Members to go through and see how it gives us the priority of the county. It also depends on the amount of money that goes to the development. We all know that out of six billion, the bigger percentage goes to wages and salary and the rest would go to the recurrent. A little that remains for development is the one that we give to the departments and so it is clear that it is our responsibility.

We have engaged everybody in this Fiscal Strategy Paper including The Executive, so that they do not get surprised when they see that we have reduced their sealing probably with Kshs.120 million. We have engaged them and agreed together because this County is for all of us. I want to urge Members that we pass this Fiscal Strategy Paper so that during Budget making, we now give Itemized Budget that indicates every Ward with specification of what we are going to do in each of them. Moreover, we can now mention names of the roads that we want to upgrade and murram.

Mr. Speaker, this is a sealing that does not give us the details of the project but still you would know. In the Health Department, we know in our minds that we have its budget same to water as the Chair said, that there is every percent that goes to water drilling in every ward. The same case goes to the Department of Infrastructure. Even though we know that but still if you go through the Document, it does not give us the details because Budget is still yet to come.

Therefore, I want to stand and tell Members that we have gone through this Fiscal Strategic Paper and it is one of the indicators that tells us that we are now serious on the Budget

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Making Process. This is the beginning process of Budget Making and we are still waiting for the Budget that will give us details and everything. We want to be very keen and we have said it here severally that when we pass a Motion in this House, we must also give out the Budget because when we pass out a Motion without giving the Budget, definitely you do not expect that Motion to be implemented.

Mr. Speaker, it is our responsibility to know the areas that have challenges and gaps in this County so that we can fill them during the Itemized Budget. Therefore, I stand to support this Motion and I am sure that at the end of the day, all people of Laikipia County will be happy in one way or the other. It is after now passing the Fiscal Strategy Budget that we now go to the oversight because that is the key.

We must monitor the implementation of everything we pass in this House, so that we do not allocate money then eventually money goes back to the treasurer again. All in all, it is our responsibility and I am sure we have the energy and we are willing to do that and so I am sure we will achieve all of them. I therefore stand to support, thank you Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Thank you, Mr. Speaker for giving me this chance to support the adoption of the report of the County Physical Strategy Paper and also to make my contribution on the same. Before I make my contribution, I also wishes to congratulate the pupils of Githeka primary from Ngobit Ward in Laikipia East Constituency where I come from. I am one of the people of Laikipia East and representatives of one their Wards among the wards of Laikipia East that is Umande and so I feel honoured to have pupils from Laikipia East.

I also wish them to understand the way we transact business in this House and also to welcome them in since they are here in the House. I know they could be looking for their Member of Ngobit and so I want to let them know that she is in a committee meeting whereby she is working on our behalf and probably immediately they are done with the Committee Business, she will join us before we leave the House.

Probably, they can see that several seats are empty. It is not like that the seats are there to be empty but they belong to the Members who have gone to represent us in a committee. Hon. Catherine Nyokabi who represents Ngobit is one of the people who have gone to the committee. So, it is important to make it clear so that they may know that the seat of their Member is there and she has gone to work on our behalf and to make the work of Laikipia better than before.

Hon. Speaker, it is a great deal for the people of Laikipia as I support the adoption of the report because the reason as to why we were elected is not for any other thing but to bring development to this county. When I see that most of the ceiling for the recurrent is going down while sealing for development is going up, then it is a celebration for the people of Laikipia. They are not interested to know the so and so whom will be paid salaries but instead they are interested to see development in their door steps.

Mr. Speaker, this will be the best year for us because I know we are going to implement exact thing. When it comes to Budget process, we are going to approve a budget that is related to the Physical Strategy Paper that we are adopting today. This is a great assurance to the people of Laikipia in the fifteen Wards that they should now expect more development in their areas. They should expect as Hon. Leshuel said that anytime we make a Motion in here, it should be accompanied by the Budget of the same.

This is something that should show the people of Laikipia that in this 2024-2025 they start preparing. If they go through this one, they will be able to see the amount the ceiling set

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for the infrastructure, they have an opportunity to go and meet their Honourable Members and tell them that we can see 2024-2025 we will have millions for infrastructure. They tell him that, make sure you consider our village area and the roads that goes to primary or secondary schools.

This is a reflection of what will possibly be in the Budget, I wish to congratulate and appreciate the Committee on Budget at least they were reasonable enough and considered the interest of common *mwananchi* who brought us to this House. As we go on with the process of Budget Making, it is a high time we take this one as a mirror to make sure that the real Budget that will come in the month of June reflects what we have here today.

Having the committee increase the fund for infrastructure to that of high level, it is the best thing and it has been our prayer from the people we represent. Also, agriculture in this county is key and raising it to that level is important. In education, the bursary already adds up to Kshs.75 million. We have pupils that are now assured that they are in safe hands and they will get enough bursaries maybe next year, we will move from 75 to 100. This has always been our prayer to move to 100 because every parent in this county is willing to educate their children.

Mr. Speaker, the vulnerable ones with this one, they should be assured of doing the best for themselves since parents and Government and everyone else is out there to help them achieve the best. It is upon our children to work hard and get the best with hope and expectation that they will get to the best schools in this County. I believe that even the Budget itself will be a reflection of what we have today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Hon. Mugweru. I want to take the chance to welcome Hon. Nicholas Lempaira to the floor.

Hon. Nicholas Lempaira: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of the report from the Budget Committee that has just been read by the Chair. This is a report that has taken us quite a time to come up with. It is a report that is an eye opener to the Budget Committee because we had an opportunity to interact with the Executive that is the CEOs and CECMs on some of the matters that we are setting the sealing today. As the Hon. Stephen Ndiritu has said we got time to learn lots of things from the CEO or Executives.

I also learnt that; we have a loophole especially in the issue of recurrent budget. I do not know what we will do because most of our departments, the recurrent budget is never enough for them even though the law is very clear that we must balance between development and recurrent. If you look at some of the Budget challenge, we have here is that we have affected more of the recurrent and maintain or add more money to development. This actually goes to the Wards or County in general for the people that we represent.

Some of the biggest beneficiaries in these ceilings are the Health Department and the Water Department that has an increase because we want more boreholes across the county. This is the only sustainable way that we can be sure that our people will get clean water for their livestock, household and for drinking. Therefore Mr. Speaker, we have also considered the issues of agriculture on seedlings and breeding for livestock.

For pastoral communities, we have taken into consideration the issue of vaccines. We have realized that they are not enough. We urge that in the next Financial Year budget, we look into the Agriculture Department especially on the issue of vaccines so that our animals are free from the outbreak of diseases especially foot and mouth and the CCPP (Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia) from the sheep and goats.

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As one of the Members said, we have also considered the issues of bursaries to our pupils and students in schools so that we can support those who cannot raise the entire fees. We have maintained what we had last year so that we can give them more bursaries to pupils. On education, we have considered the issue on ECDE classes. We want every ward to benefit with an ECD class so that our children in the villages will get a good learning environment. They will also be part of the ECD system that is ongoing.

We have also considered the issues of learning materials as we set ceilings so that we consider some of ECD classes that do not have learning materials. The big thing that remains is during the final budget making, every committee must take its role and make sure we have the budget estimates so that everything will be clear on what is supposed to be done here and what is supposed to be done there. Therefore Mr. Speaker, I support this report this afternoon. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, very much. I want to call upon the mover of the motion to reply.

Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the committee Members and the sectoral Chairs of the committees for their support while compiling the CFSP report. Finances have been a very big challenge in this county and they have never been enough. That is why the County Government needs to have budget estimates and ceilings so that we can be able to plan well for our people.

We will be able to do development and recurrent expenditures to enhance the movement of funds. We will also be able to enhance development in our areas. So Mr. Speaker, I thank everyone who did work. I also thank your office for the support they have accorded the committee and all the Honourable Members for their support in this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(Question put and agreed to)

BILL

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

(Order for Committee read)

[The Speaker (Hon. Lantano Nabaala) left the Chair]

IN THE COMMITTEE

[The Chairperson (Hon. Anthony Theuri) took the Chair]

LAIKIPIA COUNTY FINANCE BILL,2024

Chairperson: Hon. Members, we sit down. Hon. Members, I want to remind you that we are in the Committee of the Whole and the rules have relaxed. Unaweza kutumia lugha yoyote, unaweza kuongea mara mingi bora usimtusi mwenzako. Kabla ya hiyo, niko na ripoti ambayo haitawafurahisha sana ambayo naunga mkono.

I am guided by our Standing Order Number 134(5). Those who have the Standing Orders can read with me. It states;

> *(5) If the Assembly passes the Bill a second time, without amendment, or with amendments which do not accommodate the Governor's concerns by a vote supported by two-thirds of members of the Assembly, the speaker shall within seven days re-submit the Bill to the Governor and the Governor shall within seven days assent to the Bill.*

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Waheshimiwa, mnaona hatujafika. I am told we cannot proceed because it is un-procedural but now, we have the quorum and I am supposed to celebrate. It is now procedural. Mheshimiwa Ndiritu, leo tunaomba uzalendo wako. Hon. Members, I want to guide you that if you are voting for yes, you must be 14 and if you are voting for no, you must also be 14. Are we in agreement?

We will be guided by our able clerks here and we can proceed with today's business and I want to remind Hon. Stephen Ndiritu that he is here to represent the people of Thingithu and most of them come from the market area, Majengo, the hawkers and the hustlers that were brought here on wheelbarrow. Today, the children are here, the people are here and also the media is here and you are going to vote individually. In fact, we are going for division. I will not take your time so we want to proceed with this matter

Now it is time for campaigns. So, you are you ready and you do not need time for campaigns. Hon. Benson you can take the seat there. The rules have been relaxed so you can sit anywhere today.

Hon. Nicholas Lempaira: Hon. Chair, we need to be guided on how the question is framed.

Chairperson: I will guide you accordingly and you should be very happy that the Speaker of the day today is on your side. We can now start. Members, can I have your attention;

The Governor's recommendations to schedule 8 part IV of the Laikipia County Finance Bill 2024;

(Question proposed)

I now give Hon. Stephen to move.

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Bwana Mwenyekiti, ningetaka kukushukuru hasa kwa kunipatia hii nafasi ili nipatiane haya marekebisho. This amendment was brought into this House by the Governor through the office of the Clerk and also committed to the Committee on Finance and County Planning. Hon. Chair I want to remind you that I was elected in the spirit of the hustlers. I was elected by the UDA Party and I am here to support bottom-up.

So, Hon. Chair, have no worries. I am just doing my work as a messenger so do not kill the messenger because this is my work as a Chair. So, Hon. Speaker, Hon. Kamara was here to do his campaigns. He was asking me for votes and I assured him that I will vote for his side. Hon. Chair, I am just a messenger so do not kill the messenger. Kill the message. Hon. Chair, this is a notice on the amendments to the Laikipia County Finance Bill, 2023.

Bwana Mwenyekiti, nilipokuwa namalizia nilisema ninaunga mkono kuongeza pesa kwa mabwanyenye. Bwana Mwenyekiti, ningetaka kukumbusha kwamba nilikuwa ninataka kukata rufaa lakini kukawa na shida kidogo ikapunguka. Mimi ninaunga mkono tufikishe mia mbili kama mngetaka kufikisha mia mbili.

Hon. Chair, I beg to move the Governor's recommendations; That the Laikipia County Finance Bill, 2024 be amended as follows;

Eighth schedule PART IV- Land rates

B. Conservancies

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That delete the figure 60 appearing on the fifth column and substitute with 35. Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I am calling upon Hon. Lempaira to second.

Hon. Nicholas Lempaira: I second.

(Question of the amendment proposed)

Chairperson: Members, it is time for debate and remember the rules have relaxed. I do not know whether you want to contribute and I was addressing to Hon. Stephen Ndiritu. The floor is open for debate.

Hon. Paul Leshuel: Mr. Chair, with the interest of time I think we can go directly to voting procedurally. Please guide us on the process so that we finish this and go to another agenda. I urge Hon. Members that there is no one else so we are for no and not yes. No is a proposal to reject from 60 to 35. Do not be confused to switch to yes. Switch no and because we are allowed to campaign, that is campaign I want to make. Thank you.

Hon. Nicholas Lempaira: Thank you Chair. I feel you need to go for a training on how to pronounce names. Because I can read the mood of the Members, I think we can go straight to voting.

Chairperson: Aright, we are the people. You can reply Hon. Stephen. I am now doubting you.

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Thank you, Hon. Chair for giving me this opportunity and I want to thank the Hon. Members for being united on this so that the bill may be amended. I also call upon Hon. Members to amend this schedule. Thank you.

DIVISION

ROLL CALL VOTING

Chairperson: Hon. Members, I will put the question then you will be guided by the Standing Orders as I read them.

Hon. Members, I am being guided by the Standing Order 68(1). We are also going to be guided by Standing Order Number 70(1-6)

Voting in the Assembly, Standing Order 68(1) states that;

Unless otherwise provided under the Constitution, a question arising in the Assembly shall be decided by a majority of the members in the Assembly, present and voting.

Roll call voting, Standing Order Number 70 states that;

(1) When the Speaker directs a roll call voting to be taken, the Division Bell shall be rung for ten minutes.

(2) The names of one teller for the "Ayes" and one teller for the "Nays" shall be submitted to the Speaker and the Speaker shall direct the tellers to take seats at a designated place.

(3) At the end of ten minutes, the Speaker shall direct the doors to be locked and the Bar drawn and no Member shall thereafter enter or leave the Assembly until after the roll call vote has been taken.

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(4) When the doors have been locked and the Bar drawn and the names of the tellers have been announced, the Speaker shall put the question again and direct the Clerk to call out the names of Members in alphabetical order in the presence of the tellers.

(5) When called out, each Member shall, thereupon rise in his or her place and declare assent or dissent to the question in the following manner "I vote Yes" or "I vote No" or "I Abstain" or use appropriate Kenyan sign language.

(6) After the Clerk has read the last name in the Division list, the tellers shall present the result of the roll call vote to the Speaker who shall thereupon announce the result of the vote to the Assembly.

By reading the mood of the House, there is no need of waiting for ten minutes. I call all the Hon. Members to be in the House as I have been guided in the Standing orders. Members, I call upon the tellers for AYES and the NAYS. I want tellers of AYES to be on my right hand so if you are voting yes be on my right side. The teller for NOES should be Nicholas Lempaira. Hon. Members, I order that you remain silent and the bars be withdrawn.

Hon. Members, I will be reading your names. May I have your attention. Hon. Stephen, the Speaker is on top if that is the correct English. I want to brief you on voting and I will vote on my seat.

(Question put and the House proceeded to vote)

AYES: Nil

NOES: Hon. Antony Theuri, Hon. Benson Kuria, Hon. Caroline Kihika, Hon. Catherine Umija, Hon. Daniel Mugweru, Hon. Eunice Salaten, Hon. Irene Wachuka, Hon. Leila Hussein, Hon. Mary Gathoni, Hon. Nicholas Lempaira, Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki, Hon. Paul Leshuel, Hon. Salim Edung and Hon. Stephen Ndiritu.

Teller of the AYES: Hon. Paul Leshuel.

Teller of the NOES: Hon. Nicholas Lempaira.

Chairperson: I allow the clerks to tally and then we are going to have the results.

Hon. Nicholas Lempaira: For the first time we should appreciate that the opposition side is full.

Chairperson: Hon. Member, it is now my privilege to read the results;

AYES: 0

NOES: 14

ABSTAIN: 0

(The question won by 14 votes to 0)

Chairperson: As guided by our Standing Orders 134(5); *If the Assembly passes the Bill for a second time without amendment, or with amendments which do not accommodate the Governors concerns by a vote supported by two-thirds of Members of the Assembly, the Speaker shall within seven days re-submit the Bill to the Governor and the Governor shall within seven days assent to the Bill.*

Hon. Members, now that we have met the threshold, I can comfortably say that the NOES have it.

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(Question put and the Schedule 8(4) as amended agreed to)

Chairperson: I now call the mover to make a reply:

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Hon. Chair, I now beg to move;

THAT the Committee of the Whole do report to the Assembly its considerations of the Governor's recommendation to the Schedule 8(4) of the Laikipia County Finance Bill (Laikipia County Bills No. 4)

(Question put and agreed to)

[The Chairperson (Hon. Anthony Theuri) left the Chair]

[The House resumed]

[The Speaker (Hon. Lantano Nabaala) in the Chair]

REPORT AND CONSIDERATION

Speaker: Hon. Members, I want to thank you for your sitting and I would like to call upon the Chair of the Whole House to report to the House.

Hon. Anthony Theuri: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am delighted to report that we have met the two-thirds of this House, the 14 out of 21.

I beg to report that the Committee of the Whole House has put its consideration of the Governor's recommendation to Schedule 8 part 4 of Laikipia County Finance Bill, 2023 (Laikipia County Bills No. 4 and its approval thereof with amendments.

Speaker: I call upon the mover to move the motion.

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Hon. Speaker, I beg to move

THAT the House do agree with the Committee of the Whole House on the said report.

I call upon Hon. Korkole to second.

Hon. Nicholas Lempaira: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to second the recommendation by the Whole House. I want to thank all the Members for putting the Laikipians in front and no personal interests. It should go out there that we are not fighting anybody but we are here to make sure that our Finance Department realizes our revenue target because we have been having serious challenges in meeting our challenges. Therefore, I support.

(Question proposed)

Speaker: I call upon the mover of the motion to reply.

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Hon. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Hon. Members for their robust debate in this motion and also supporting the motion. I have no words because they have done marvellously and we are going to make sure that everyone will pay taxes in this county including the tycoons and the *mama mbogas.*

(Question put and agreed to)

PROCEDURAL MOTION

ADJOURNMENT OF HOUSE SITTINGS

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Hon. John Gichuki through Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to move the following motion;

THAT pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order no 29(3), the County Assembly do adjourn until 16th April, 2024.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege having the Hon. Members full of energy. Having the House adjourn for two weeks, it is going to provide a break for Members to go and refresh their minds as they interact with their electorates. As we understand, this is the time when projects and contracts are being rolled out in the wards. This is an ample time where we can go and do the role of oversight on projects that are being implemented on the ground.

As an Assembly, we are the people who pass the budget and do the appropriations of the budget. If at all we don't play the role of oversight on projects, we will be doing a job that is not consistent with the laws that guide us in this Assembly. So, as we adjourn, it is an ample time to go and interact with our family members.

As we know, this is the time when schools are closing for holidays and therefore having time to interact with our people and guiding them on homework, this is the time to sit down with them and guide them on the way of life. Having a recess is very important to us. After refreshing, we come back in this Assembly full of energy so that we can conduct and push the agendas of development and serving our people in Lakipia County. So, this is a nice time and it is good that the Members do move out and adjourn. The motion is timely and I do propose Hon. Deputy Speaker to second this.

Hon. Anthony Theuri: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I rise to support that we really need time to go and celebrate with our family. In the Spirit of the Easter, we are reminded as Christians, to spend our time well. We are going to reconnect not only with our family but also as Members. We have not had the best of the moments recently in this House but on the spirit of the cross, that we are going to sit down and repurpose our purposes again on why we here serving our people.

By the time we are coming back here we are going to be refreshed and we are going to work for our people who are in dire need of our services. I support and also urge this House to support this motion in all aspect so that we can go and reconnect again and also celebrate Easter with our people. Thank you.

(Question proposed)

Speaker: I open the floor for debates.

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I rise in support of adjourning until 16th April. At this time, having an opportunity to go for recess and especially at this hour when the believers are remembering the crucifixion of Christ, this is the basis of our salvation. Were it not for His crucifixion, we would not be saved. Now that He was crucified for our sins, for that reason we got saved. Now we live calling upon him to perfect because He is the author of our faith and the perfector.

At this time, we also feel that we need to go and be with our families, communities and colleagues as we think about Christ who was innocent but died for our sins. Remembering His death and resurrection, it is so important and especially to Christians and believers. So, I support and after the resurrection on Monday, it is upon ourselves to think about ourselves on whether He Has resurrected in us or remains dead in our hearts. If it is resurrection, it is resurrection. If He died for me and resurrected, then He should resurrect in my heart.

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So, it is my high time to go to my community, to my church that I serve, my neighbours and anybody who comes across me to preach about the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus. Any other business after that is just an additional but the key thing is this, Easter. Probably because we cannot go for recess tomorrow and come back on Tuesday, the other days that are going to follow until the 16th of April are an additional. The key thing is that this is the time when we are celebrating the death and resurrection of Christ. For that reason, this is what is going to make us live again after death.

Hon. Salim Edung: Nashukuru Bwana Spika kwa nafasi hii. Katika huu mjadala wa leo, kwa likizo ambayo tunaenda kwa majuma mawili, ni kuonyesha ile kazi ambayo tumefanya katika hili Bunge. Tukienda huko mashinani, kuna kazi ambayo ilifanywa pale na kwa hivyo tutapata nafasi ya kuangalia miradi ambayo imefanywa huko. Wanafunzi pia wamefunga shule na hii ni nafasi ya kuungana Pamoja na familia na kuuliza yaliyojiri huko shuleni tukiangalia matokeo yao.

Jambo lingine ni kuhusu Pasaka. Tunaposherehekea, pia Waislamu wanasherehekea mwezi mtukufu wa Ramadhan. Ukiona dada yetu Leila akiondoka mahali hapa, pia yeye atajumuika Pamoja na familia pale kutembelea wajane na watoto yatima. Sisi pia tutafanya hivyo kwa sababu ni jukumu letu zote kufanya vile.

Wakati mwingine tunapokutana na wapiga kura wetu waliotupatia kura, ni njia moja ya kupatana nao ili kujua wanahitaji nini ili tutakaporudi katika hili Bunge tarehe kumi na sita. Ninaunga mkono tuwe na hiyo likizo ya muda wa wiki mbili kwa sababu itatupatia nafasi ya Kwenda mashinani.

Speaker: Thank you and I call upon the mover of the to make a reply.

Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker for calling me to reply on this motion. I thank the Members who have contributed towards this motion because it is our time to have a break as we head out to the communities in our respective wards. I do thank even the Office of the Speaker and the people who have helped us to serve in this House.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Mwaniki. Having moved the recess break motion seconded and replied, I will refer you to Standing Order No. 29 (3); *On a day when the Assembly is scheduled to adjourn to a day other than the next normal sitting day in accordance with the Assembly Calendar, the Leader of the Majority Party or the Leader of the Minority Party or another Member of the House Business Committee shall move a Motion of Adjournment which shall be debated for not more than three hours after which the Assembly shall adjourn without question put.*

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: The sittings of this House stand adjourned until Tuesday, 16th April, 2024 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 4.25 p.m.

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