REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Thursday, 3rd August, 2023

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

[The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Anthony Theuri) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

MOTION

(Resumption of a previous Motion deferred on Wednesday 2nd August, 2023 p.m.)

COMMITTEES PROGRESS REPORT BY LIAISON COMMITTEE

Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, let us continue with the debate from where we left yesterday and the floor is open.

Hon. Samuel Mugambi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker for giving me this chance to contribute towards the quarterly report that was tabled yesterday by the Liaison Committee. I have some comments on the report and there are some committees that are somehow silent yet they are very important.

It is very unfortunate that one of the committees that I will table here, I am a member but fortunate enough, we had a meeting with the Chairperson and the Clerk Assistants. We planned on how we shall engage the committee. I believe that the whole House will agree with me especially the elected Members representing the 15 wards. Now we are out of the financial year 2022/2023.

In my ward you will get that there is a certain project and the budget states clearly that this class was to be constructed in a certain primary school but the Chief Officer went ahead and constructed a classroom in the wrong primary school. Now my question is, the Chief Officers whom we vetted have now decided to be small gods. An injustice somewhere is an injustice everywhere. I would request the Chairperson of the Implementation Committee to summon all the Chief Officers to explain to us how they implemented the projects which were in the supplementary budget. They should explain all the processes they followed because the big task we have is oversight.

In my case, I called the Chief Officer and even tried to supply the documents to his office but he went ahead to construct a classroom in a well-developed school. In fact, that school was built by the National Government five years ago. We have other areas in Laikipia County and specifically in my ward without even a single permanent classroom.

Looking at the quarterly report here by the Liaison Committee, I think we need to be proactive in committees because I was the only one who was fighting and the whole Committee of Implementation could not even help me. I think that as a House, we need to work through the committees because even if we summon the Chief Officer, I am not the one who will question him. He will be answerable to the whole committee. That is why I am saying that I have serious concerns.

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Because of that, I would advise the House, let us summon all the Chief Officers. Let them come with a record of what was supposed to be implemented in the budget and the timelines. Something else that happened is that all the Chief Officers never implemented the projects until the last one or two months to the close of the financial year. That is also a big concern. Why do you wait to implement something until the budget is remaining with only one or two months?

Hon. Speaker, I beg for your indulgence since you are also the Chairperson of the Liaison Committee, and the Liaison Members are the ones who are representing the fifteen wards. We are suffering because if a Chief Officer can go and implement a project in a wrong venue, I think that is a serious thing and we should summon even others so that we can see what they are doing in their budgets.

Another concern from the report is another committee like Cohesion. I am the Chairperson of the Cohesion committee and it is like the other bodies that constitute it, and I will specify one – the previous project that was called AMAYA, these guys are not taking us seriously. Last week I was invited to a meeting that was to happen in Lewa. We were in Nairobi, so I travelled from Nairobi to Nanyuki and upon arriving in Nanyuki, the director called me saying that the meeting has been cancelled.

Imagine! Fueling my personal vehicle for him to cancel the meeting a few meetings before the agreed start time. I think some of the people we vetted here and those who were not vetted here are taking us for a ride. We now need to come out of our cocoon and face them head on. For Laikipia to continue, this are the people accountable and we need to bring them to book and also remind them on the oath that they took. How can you can sermon a whole Chairperson to come to a meeting then cancel the meeting? I think they are not taking us seriously. If we do not take our oversight role seriously as a House, Laikipians will suffer.

The fundamental and the most important thing is to make our committees effective and strong so that if we sermon a Chief Officer here, he should take it seriously. Hon. Members, the decision of a committee is equivalent to that of High Court order. So, if we were to summon a Chief Officer here and maybe fails to come, we now need to be serious and sacrifice one or two people so that it is a wakeup call.

Hon. Speaker, we have visitors from Nyandarua County and I need to introduce them because we have been together with them in the last 2-3 hours in the boardroom. They are the Finance Committee from Nyandarua County Assembly. They came for a peer learning from the Revenue board. I think they have a good time learning. Hon. Speaker, I believe that you are going to welcome them but I take this opportunity to welcome them.

Let them feel at home. This is Laikipia County, the land of meat, milk and honey. Welcome and feel at home. Nyandarua is a good neighbor of Laikipia. There is this current trend that Nyandarua's *cash crop ni mawaru*. They should make more good policies for their cash crop. Our biggest cash crop in Laikipia is milk, meat and honey. Some of us are maize farmers, tomato farmers and others

Hon. Speaker, as I continue with my submission, I beg this honourable House to take us through more training on committees so that we can know our roles well because this will make this House active. Hon. Speaker, I will give other Members a chance to contribute. I wish to congratulate you and thank you for the time you have given me. Thank you.

Hon. Catherine Umija: Thank you, Mr. Speaker for giving me a chance. I thank the Liaison Committee for ensuring that we have quarterly reports for the last two quarters. I hope

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other quarters will come on time so that we will be able to discuss some of the short falls that we have. The committees that I sit in, I know some committees have not submitted their reports yet we have been going for report writing and fact-finding missions.

I know submission of some of the reports are in the pipeline. I know it was not captured this time but I know in the coming reports, they will be there. I will cite that there have been challenges in some of the committees that I sit in, but I know that is something we are working on especially on budget. I sit in the CPAIC Committee and that is one of the most challenging committees.

As a matter of fact, we have over 50 reports that we have to go through. They are supposed to be submitted. We have been summoned severally by the Senate and we have been told to speed up on some of these reports. We have cited our challenges to the Senate and we are going to be getting support from them and learning.

I thank the Senate, so you will be seeing some improvement on that particular area as we table our reports. I want to add as we discuss these challenges with our committees, I hope we will be able to discuss the challenges earlier so that we can curb these shortages early enough and we will be able to do our mandates as committees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I support the report.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

VISITING DELEGATION FROM NYANDARUA COUNTY ASSEMBLY

Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, allow me to rearrange the Order Paper. There is a communication to recognize the Members' Delegation from Nyandarua County Assembly. Hon. Members, I wish to introduce you the delegation from Nyandarua County Assembly, the Finance, Economic Planning and ICT Committee. The delegation comprises of Hon. Members and Staff in the County Assembly.

They are here to interact more with Finance and County Planning Committee. They are as follows;

1. Hon. Zachary Njeru - Chairman, MCA Nyakio Ward.
2. Hon. Benson Kiarie - Vice Chairperson, Nominated MCA
3. Hon. Cathyrn Nyawira - Nominated MCA and Former Nominated MCA, Laikipia County Assembly
4. Hon. Mwangi Nyagah - Member and the Majority Leader
5. Hon. Mwangi Kagwe - Member and Deputy Majority Leader
6. Hon. Babu Juliana - Nominated MCA
7. Hon. Wambugu Kingori - MCA North Kinangop
8. Hon. Muhindi Kariuki - Nominated MCA.

Also, in in attendance we have the staff of the County Assembly; Nancy Muthee (Committee Clerk), Cecilia Ndegwa (Senior ICT Officer), Leah Njenga (SAA) and Hannah Wambugu (Research Officer). Thank you.

Deputy Speaker: Is there any other Member who would like to contribute towards the motion?

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I now call upon the mover to make a reply. Hon. Lempaira, I have gotten your message and I think that there has been a bit of confusion on that.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Deputy Speaker: The sittings of this House now stand adjourned until next week on Tuesday, 8th August, 2023 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 2.48 p.m.

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