REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 11th March, 2025

The House met at the Assembly Chambers at 10.12 a.m.

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

PRAYERS

QUORUM CALL

Speaker: Clerk, confirm if we have the quorum.

(Lack of quorum confirmed)

Speaker: Without quorum, I direct that the bell be rang for ten minutes.

(Quorum bell rang for six minutes)

Hon. Anthony Theuri: Good Morning, Hon. Speaker!

Speaker: Good Morning.

Hon. Antohny Theuri: I can see that now we are ready to go. We have the quorum Hon. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Clerk, confirm to me if indeed we have quorum.

(Clerk confirmed achievement of Quorum)

Speaker: Thank you. Without much ado, we will now proceed with the business of the House.

MOTION

REHABILITATION OF STREET LIGHTS IN LAIKIPIA

Hon. John Gichuki thru' Hon. Salim Edung: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of Hon. John Maina Gichuki Member representing Rumuruti Ward I beg to move the following motion;

THAT NOTING THAT all matters related to County transport, including county roads, street lighting, traffic and parking, public transport and ferries and harbours is a function of the County Government as stipulated in Part II of the fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya;

FURTHER NOTING THAT there have been numerous cases of vandalism of the street lights in our county recently;

AWARE THAT street lighting has a lot of benefits to a population which include reduced accident rates and crimes rates at night and prevention of illegal works and anti-social activities in our streets;

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This Assembly URGES the County Government to rehabilitate the damaged street lights and also increase the number of street lights especially in areas that are not well lit.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are tabling this motion because of the problems that are affecting our areas. Bwana Spika, katika nyanja mbalimbali za Laikipia, kuna mambo mingi ambayo inafanyika. Wiki iliyopita, siku ya Jumatatu majambazi walishambulia Juakali. Walipiga risasi nyingi zaidi ya mia moja. Sijui kama walikuwa wanataka kuiba maduka ingawa tulituma NPR kwa haraka na walijibu. Mahali kwingine kuna giza na mwangaza katika barabara.

Bwana Spika, katika mjadala wa leo ningeomba Wabunge wenzangu waangalie kwa makini sana kwa sababu taa za barabarani zilitengewa pesa lakini kuna kwingine ambako taa hazijawekwa. Pia, sehemu zingine za Nanyuki ziko na giza. Balbu ziko lakini haziwaki usiku. Inamaanisha ya kwamba kuna watu ambao wanafanya kazi yao na wengine hawafanyi. Inabidi Wabunge tuamke na tuwaonyeshe ya kwamba pesa ambazo tulitenga tukiwa katika Bunge zinafanya kazi.

Bwana Spika, nimeleta huu mjadala ili niwaonyeshe ya kwamba katika sehemu ambazo hazina taa za barabarani ziwekwe na tufuatilie kama Bunge kwamba hizo fedha zimefanya kazi. Isiwe Wanalaikipia wanalalamika taa za barabarani haziwekwi kwa sababu zimekosa pesa. Wanaelewa ya kwamba pesa zimewekwa lakini hakuna kazi inafanyika. Ninaomba Mheshimiwa Leila kuweza kuunga mkono huu mjadala. Asante, Bwana Spika.

Hon. Leila Hussein: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree and I move with this motion because there are many places in this town and Laikipia County in general where you can see the infrastructures of street lights but the bulbs have been broken or they are just not functioning yet they need maintenance. Right now, it is very scary in this month of Ramadhan where we have to go to the mosque at night. We are afraid to go to the mosque because most of those places surrounding the mosque are dark.

A lot of mugging has been happening within Nanyuki Town and especially in Juakali as he says. You can see clearly that the infrastructure has not been maintained and it is at a vital point in Juakali because there are many bodaboda sheds around that area. If you want to go to a shop, you get frightened because of the darkness. I have noticed that in many places in Laikipia and I am hoping that the committee will follow up because it is something we have discussed for quite sometimes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Members. The motion has been moved and seconded.

(Question proposed)

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Members. I open the floor for Members to contribute to this debate. It is open for any Member who may wish to contribute. Hon. Daniel Mugweru.

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Thank you, Mr. Speaker for the opportunity given to me to make my contribution on the motion brought here by Hon. Leila on behalf of Hon. John. I was reading to see who was moving and who was seconding. Unfortunately, I found Hon. Leila speaking so I thought she is the one who has moved or probably she seconded. If she has seconded, it means that the mover and the seconder are the same. Either of them can be the initiator of the motion.

Hon. Speaker, I want to make my contribution on the same. This issue of street lights in Laikipia has become a challenge. I love today's morning session and I want to confirm that

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light is better than darkness. When we are speaking about streetlights and light, I can even see that our House is full.

Hon. Speaker, we have been having issues of quorum. We are not able even to contribute or speak our minds. No quorum, no proceedings. Today, now that we have quorum is the best day we can think on how we can work hard and make sure we have business in this House.

Some of us will think I am out or order but it is the beginning of everything. Today's business of the House can be conducted only when we have quorum. There is a day I was arguing here that the quorum of this House must not be argued, that it must be eight Members. Even seven can be quorum. 1/3 of 23 is 7.5. It can be eight or seven. Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate because a times, we don't go on with business when we are seven. We need to think about that. I feel when we are seven we can conduct business.

Hon. Speaker, when we prepare business for the House, it is upon us as Members to be counted among the people who are the carriers of that motion. It is unfortunate that most of the days we have business in the House that was created by House Business Committee only to find one Member from the Committee, yet the committee can even make quorum for the House. We should never lack quorum.

Hon. Speaker, I believe we should never miss quorum because HBC has Members equivalent to the quorum. I can't expect the House to lack quorum any day. We needed to brief you and especially this new session because last week you were away.

Hon. Speaker, the issue of street lights started way long ago. At least, it's improving. There was a time in this Nanyuki town we could see street lights contracted to someone and once mounted, the following day they are uprooted. That is what used to happen. Immediately after inspection, the same night they were removed and taken to another place. The contractor used to move with those lights. Put them in Nanyuki today, inspection tomorrow and the other day removed and taken to Kirinyaga, inspected and removed to be taken to another town.

Mr. Speaker, when they are installed today at least they stay for a month, two or three. If you look at the street lights in this town and the way they are mounted, not a layman or a commoner who can remove those lights. If you want to know there is something wrong drive from Timau and you will find street lights working only to come to around Peak Hotel and darkness starts from there. Then past Nanyuki town to Mlima View where the lights are on again. There is something wrong around here. I don't know whether Nyahururu is the same as Rumuruti but it is unfortunate that where we are, the lighting is mounted on KPLC posts.

Mr. Speaker, you cannot just wake up today and see Hon. Kamara who is a pastor just waking up and remove a transformer or Hon. Stephen, a Market operator removing transformers around the town. You must be working from the same quarters and understand how it is installed and removed. Most of the people who do that work are part of those who install those street lights.

We also have the Flood Lights (Mulika Mwizi). You find a floodlight not working for six months. Something is supposed to be done by the government. You find the County Governments are not paying the bills for Flood lights. Somewhere in Mwireri in Umande, there is a time the Flood Light went off for four months. When I sent someone to check, they told me it's off because of something worth Kshs. 4,500. Four months yet we are government.

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We need to speak on this loudly and call upon the Executive and the person in charge of Urban Planning, the CO Gichuki to work on this department and make sure that all the Flood Lights are working; all street lights in towns, shopping Centre and market places are working.

Mr. Speaker, there are lights that are solar powered. Some are not working. If you go to Kalalu Shopping Centre they are not working. Out of 11 of them, only 3 are working. In Umande shopping Centre, out of 9 only one is working. Jaqanaaz, Narumoru in Tigithi ward only two are working out of seven. The Hon. Members who are here can confess. If Shuel was here, he could have said that among those in Chumvi none is working. We need to take this seriously.

The Committee on Implementation should work hard to make sure the motions we approve in this House are executed. Also, the mover of the motion, Majority Leader, him being a Member of County Assembly representing the headquarters and the capital City of Laikipia, that motion is yours and you brought it here because it touched you directly. Make a follow up.

Say that I brought a motion and Members approved it. What have they done? Hon. Leila should hold your coat. You should move around offices because the motion was for us all. You move around to Chumvi, Doldol, Muwarak or wherever you want to go and ensure that all the street lights and flood lights in Laikipia are working. Also identify areas that need to be installed that have not been installed with the same. I support and believe that the mover and the seconder will ensure that even those that are in Umande will work. Thank you.

Hon. Anthony Theuri: Thank you, Hon. Speaker for giving me this opportunity to contribute on the same. Previously, as the Speaker had said, we need light in all spheres of our lives. It is clear that even during the creation, God created light before everything else. This squarely lies with administration of the County Government of Laikipia because of the vandalization that we have.

Mr. Speaker, it is only in Laikipia where the county reinforcement organ only works during the day. It is a shame because I am the area MCA in this town and I am the casualty. We have got no lights in Likii, Makutano, Town and Majengo because they are all vandalized. This is because of the laxity of our security. It is only in Laikipia where they only work during the day.

Mr. Speaker, how do you explain that when you go to Nairobi, Nyeri and Nyandarua, the county enforcement there are working for twenty hours but our enforcement organs cannot work at night. If we would have our security and they arrest two or three and they are taken to court, everything would go. We have invested highly in security lights and done what we can but it is all in vain because it is only here where we cannot find them working at night.

The other thing Mr. Speaker, sometimes back we had a problem in Kenya and it still exists but I thank God that it is diminishing. In your part, in Northern side of Laikipia, Marsabit and in all remote areas, we had a problem of early marriages where it ended up being a natural disaster. It was passed that any man marrying an underage was going to be punished severely. Because I am one of the people who usually visit our prisons, we have got quite a number of the Maasai, Samburu, Rendile and others from there who are in prison by defilement. Simply because they ignored the law, married the under age and suffered the consequences.

The one who is serving a least sentence in those jails is 14 years and above. From that time Mr. Speaker, the practice diminished. Nowadays people are marrying their own age and above and that is the discipline that we want. If the judiciary applies the same, if someone is arrested vandalizing street lights and jailed not less than 14 years and above, or punished by

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mob justice, all these things will surely disappear. It is a shame because it is only in our areas you cannot work for 24 hrs.

It is also a shame because I was late to meet my area chief this morning because I had a meeting with my people. Instead of us repairing street lights, we have discovered a new style where we are going to mama mboga's stalls and destroying them by the virtue that the robbers and idlers are using those shades to hide and maybe doing whatever they are saying. It is only one meeting and these things are forgotten.

We just call the administration CECM, give directives that now the reinforcement will be working during day and night and also to the judiciary, whoever is arrested should be punished accordingly. We will have our safety; our businesses will be working well and this kind of motion will surely will be a thing of the past. I hope that this one will be a wakeup call to our County Government. Thank you.

Hon. Samuel Mugambi: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I also rise to support the said motion because street lights are very urgent and a priority to our county but I have a different opinion. If you look at what we are talking about, we are talking about some of the street light technologies used in 1960's that we have in our county. So, I think that in Laikipia we have a problem of using old technologies.

You know old technologies are very expensive and the productivity or the impact they bring is not of the same cost that we incur. So, I would advise that we do some research and get the best technologies that are used in other towns. If you go to other countries, you get simple street lights but are working. If you go to towns in Rwanda, very simple street lights and less expensive than ours but all those street lights are working and are of new technology.

Why do we use new technologies in street lights because we will be having real time information that these street lights are working and others are not working. We cannot keep talking of rehabilitating 1960's street lights because those are old methods that cannot bring new results. This is not just in street lights but in everything.

If you remember when we came into this Assembly Mr. Speaker, there were some old technologies that we were using and there were some hitches but nowadays, you have improved. Even the lights you installed there are new ones and you can see that now the Assembly is well lit. It is just a matter of doing research. Even in your life Hon. Speaker, if you use the old techno phone, you cannot have efficiency.

So, I would like the County Government to do some new research. Let us not just talk of rehabilitating the old ones but let us be the first county to having new technology. We can even send some two people to China and get new technologies. In fact, in some of the Chinese companies you can even install street lights in the whole of Laikipia County. If our Governor can visit China for one and have some connections, China can volunteer to advertise one industry. It is just thinking outside the box but I don't want to talk much. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Mugambi, reading the mood, I don't see Members willing to continue… Sorry Hon. Mwaniki, I had not seen you.

Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to support the motion on street lighting in our county. For your information, this morning I had to donate my vehicle to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure so that they could be able to ferry staff to Matanya Town so that they can repair a flood light in that vicinity. Therefore, this is a very timely motion because it has been tabled at the right moment because we have got challenges in that

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department. Unfortunately, we do not have enough vehicles to ferry staff across our wards so that they can do repairs.

Secondly, I have been following up from the time that the street lights in Matanya Town stopped working, it has been a month. I have been doing follow-ups on that matter on a daily basis, and from the day the components that are supposed to repair that street light were delivered by the supplier, it has taken three weeks to be keyed in to the department's portal as stock. That has been the trend across departments.

Mr. Speaker, we have a challenge in the Executive on matters of service delivery to our people yet we have a budget that was passed in this Assembly and finances that have been committed towards service delivery in this county. Hitches in those departments have been rampant. That is why I wonder; Is it that we do not have a team to do the necessary or laxity in the department?

Mr. Speaker, the issue has left residents of Matanya in Tigithi Ward wondering whether they still have an MCA who is supposed to push for whatever needs to be done by the county government in that vicinity. That is why this morning I am doing so, so that I can serve my people, but I am doing it from my pocket. I am doing it from my pocket whereas there is a department that has been given that duty and we have allocated a budget for them to do so.

As an Assembly, I think we should stamp our authority and do what needs to be done. We should have a sitting with the Executive so that we can tell each other the truth. If they have no will to serve our people, then it is time some people stepped outside of their offices. All that matters in this government is service delivery. That is the duty we have been given and is also why we were elected. That is why the Governor was given that duty – to serve Laikipians.

Mr. Speaker, if we have appointees in this government, and labourers that have been employed on a permanent and pensionable basis, each and every person should be able to perform their own duty according to the rules and guidelines set by each department. I am feeling sorry for the Members of this County Assembly because if the departments fail, it is us who have failed. Before I fail, however, I will face the Executive because service delivery to our people is a must, and there will be no compromise. Funds have been set aside yet it seems that things are not working.

As Hon. Mugambi has stated, we need advanced methods of lighting our wards. Some of the materials that we are using are outdated and there are new methods that have emerged. We are in modern times. If we were to do oversight as an Assembly at my ward, when you cross the railway line to Nyeri at an area called Castle, there are modern street lights that have been erected by Mr. Wachira, the PS for Energy. When we talk about a street light worth four million, that guy has installed three street lights only which have lit that entire zone. Yet as a County Government, we install one hundred street lights which cannot even light an entire town or even a single street.

Mr. Speaker, when will we learn new tricks, more economical methods so as to economize on finances throughout the county and serve more people? That is why today I am donating what is mine to serve my residents because there is nothing else that can be done. When we speak with the department, they say there are no vehicles or fuel. When will vehicles and fuel be available so that we can get served in this county, and this Assembly has already passed the budget for it? It is very pathetic. I support the motion, thank you.

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Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Mwaniki for your contribution. Reading the mood of the House, I will now invite the mover of the motion to reply.

Hon. Salim Edung: Bwana Spika, nashukuru kwa ajili ya mjadala ambao umejadiliwa katika Bunge hili. Umesikia kuwa kuna kiwewe kila mahali, na kuna shida mbalimbali katika wadi zote za Kaunti ya Laikipia. Tungeomba wahusika, iwapo wamekuwa wakilala kazini, basi waanze kazi ili watu wa Laikipia wajue kwamba kuna kazi inafanyika.

Mheshimiwa Spika, Inastaajabisha kusikia kwamba mwenzangu, Mheshimiwa Mwaniki amelitoa gari lake na kuipa hiyo idara ili itumike kusaidia kutengeneza mataa kwenye wadi ya Tigithi. Katika kila idara, kuna gari na mafuta, kwa hivyo tunashangaa kama hayo magari ni ya starehe tu badala ya kuwatumikia wananchi wa Laikipia. Hii shida imetuadhiri sisi sote; kwa hivyo tunahitaji kazi ifanyike. Nikiangalia upande wangu wa kushoto, yupo Mheshimiwa kutoka Salama ambaye ni mwanachama wa Kamati ya Uwiano. Sisi tunahitaji kazi ifanyike. Kwa hayo machache, naomba kazi ifanyike. Asante.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: The sittings of this House now stand adjourned until later today, Tuesday, 11th March 2025 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 10.49 a.m.

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