REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 11th May, 2021

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

[The Speaker (Hon. Patrick Waigwa) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

VISIT BY NURSING STUDENTS FROM MATHARI, NYERI

Speaker: I have a Communication to make. Before then let me recognize in our gallery nursing students from Mathari, Nyeri. We have Job Karue, Purity Mwaura Silvana, Daniel Esther, Catherine Muriu, Catherine Karue and George Chibret. Welcome and enjoy the proceedings of this House.

RESIGNATION OF HON. PETER MATUNGE AS MEMBER OF COUNTY ASSEMBLY

I have another communication to make. Hon. Members, this is to notify you that on 30th April, 2021 I received a resignation letter from Peter Matunge as a Member of County Assembly of Laikipia having been appointed as a County Executive Committee Member, for Water, Environment and Natural Resources by the Governor of Laikipia, H.E Hon. Nderitu Muriithi.

In this letter, Hon. Matunge appreciated you all and the Members of staff for the support in undertaking his responsibilities as a Member of County Assembly. Hon. Members, I consequently urge the Majority Whip to communicate the same to the Jubilee Party about his resignation as a Member of County Assembly pursuant to Article 177 (1)(c) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010. I thank you.

The Majority Whip kindly communicate to the Jubilee party. That means they need to bring another person pursuant to Article 177(1) (c) of the Constitution of Kenya. Thank you.

PAPERS LAID

LAIKIPIA COUNTY LEASING FUND AMENDMENT REGULATIONS, 2021

AND

LAIKIPIA EXECUTIVE THIRD QUARTER REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR FY 2020/2021

Hon. Joseph Kiguru: Hon. Speaker, I have papers to lay;

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1. The Laikipia Finance Management, the Laikipia County Leasing fund Amendment Regulations, 2021
2. County Government of Laikipia Executive Third Quarter Reports and Financial Statements FY2020/2021

(Hon. Kiguru laid the reports on the table)

Speaker: The two reports are committed as follows;

The Public Finance management –Laikipia County Leasing Amendment Regulations, 2021 to the Committee on Delegated County Legislation and County Government of Laikipia Executive Third Quarter Reports and Financial Statements FY 2020/2021 is committed to all the Sectoral Committees. They are supposed to get report on the mirrored department then the respective committee have to submit reports to the House.

MOTIONS

AUDITOR GENERAL REPORT ON FINANCIAL OPERATIONS OF LAIKIPIA COUNTY EXECUTIVE FOR 2015/2016 BY CPAIC

Hon. Chris Mark: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. I beg to move the following motion;

THAT this Assembly adopts the report of County Public Accounts and Investments Committee (CPAIC) on a report of the Auditor-General on the financial operations of the Laikipia County Executive for the period 1st July, 2015 to 30th June, 2016 dated 9th March, 2021.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee on County Public Accounts and Investments Committee (CPAIC) as constituted then when we were doing this report had these Members;

1. Hon. Stephen Nderitu - Chair
2. Hon. Christopher Mark - Vice Chair
3. Hon. Jacob Endom - Member
4. Hon. Peter Thomi - Member
5. Hon. Robert Maina - Member
6. Hon. Catherine Kibue - Member
7. Hon. Daniel Mugweru - Member

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of County Public Accounts and Investments Committee (CPAIC), I wish to extend my gratitude to the Members of the Committee for their dedication and commitment to their work. The Committee also extends its appreciation to the office of the Clerk

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of the County Assembly of Laikipia for their support that has enabled the committee to participate in this duty and steer it on the path to accomplish its mandate.

I will read what the report on financial statement means. The Auditor General says he has audited financial statements of Laikipia set out in page 3 to 36 which comprises statements of assets as of 30th June, 2016 and the statement of receipts and payments. Statement comparison of the budget and actual amount for the year ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information in accordance with the provision of Article 229 of the Constitution of Kenya Section 35 of the Public Audit Act 2015.

I have obtained all information and explanation which to the best of my knowledge, I believe were necessary for purposes of audit. The basis a qualified opinion you see there on page 3. There is a table there which says by the end of 30th June, it reflect various variances between financial statement figures, supporting schedule balances of accusation of assets and use of goods and services. You can see the vibration there is of Kshs. 30.

The officer informed the committee that Kshs.17, 203, 704 was the actual figure as per the schedule services provided. However, during the transfer of figures in to financial statements the error indicated in the financial statement occurred leading to a variance of Kshs. 120, 000.

The Kshs.35, 221, 640 in the financial statement and Kshs. 35,221,610 in the schedule supporting the financial statement indicating an over statement of Kshs. 30. That was the explanation.

On page 8 we can see the reconciliation and table from what was done from the construction. However, as indicated in the table and with correction in the financial statement the amount indicated is that the same does not affect the acquisition of assets and that is consistent in the total figure in the financial statement. Same as table 2. On page 10, they are talking about the acquisition of assets.

Mr. Speaker, the say the approved revenue budget for the year under review was Kshs.5, 188, 879, 602. Included in the budget was projected local collection for Kshs. 710,000,000. However actual revenue realized was Kshs. 457, 279, 000 resulting to a short fall of Kshs. 242,000,000. It became as an audit report because of the short fall. They explained they did not reach the target in the revenue collection.

The issues of Human resource. Failure to observe 30% ethnic diversity.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was however only 11 or 14% of the recruits were from the ethnic community and the others were from the dominant. Mr. Speaker, you can see they are doing poorly because the law stipulates that 30% of people employed in Laikipia should be from other communities but here it was 11% only meaning there was an issue that needed to be checked. The excuse was that people from other ethnicities were not applying for the jobs. I hope they can be encouraged to be applying more.

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Then there was the issues of irregularities in staff recruitment. The County Executive appointed a new officer to the post of County Secretary on 16th June at job group T. It was however noted that the document to show how the officer was recruited such as the advertisement of the position, interview score sheets and board minutes were not availed for audit verification. In absence of these documents, the priority of the recruitment of the officer cannot be ascertained.

As a committee we had the same issue. They could not give details that helped to recruit the County Secretary at that time and how the advertisement was done and what were the shortlists. Also there was the appointment of Karundo Elijah Kamunya who was the Chief Executive Officer of the Laikipia Revenue Board. His position was not advertised so it lacked the much needed competitiveness in the position.

They could not explain and that meant that payment of November 25th to the officer's salary was irregular. There is the issue of Karani Francis Kiama who was appointed as Ward Administrator and Kiama Paul Murimi a registered Nurse III were not availed for audit verifications. Consequently, it was not possible to establish how they were recruited into their positions. Those were some of the issues that we found wanting and needing. Also there was the weakness in implementation of the County Executive Car Loan and Mortgage scheme.

We can see assets bought by borrowers were jointly owned by the borrowers and the Unison Sacco. The institution was responsible for administering the loans at the time to the Members of the County Executive. Consequently the County Executive risks losing funds in case of death or incapacitation of the borrowers. In fact, that is loss to taxpayer's money and since it is a revolving fund it denies the other people who are supposed to be coming.

There is the issue of an electric fence a contract for supply of electric fence materials was awarded to M/s Welcaps Works LTD at a contract price of Kshs. 29,699,073. Open tendering method was used and five firms responded. However there were issues. Bid document for one firm M/s Lesilai General Construction were not made available for audit review. It led to an issue and we could not ascertain that the fence actually existed.

There was the issue of the Tandara Water Project. There was no document to show how it was procured, who the bidders were and who scored high to be able to get the tenders. Same as rehabilitation of Lusiwa Earth Dam where a company called M/s Siambu Enterprise Limited in Maralal got at 13,184,490.

There were also those issues and we addressed them and made sure that these things are done. At the time of reading this, the Chief Officer Njenga Kahiro brought documents. Our question was why these documents were not availed during the time of the audit.

There was the issue of purchase of motor Grader. Mr. Speaker, it is very unfortunate that a grader was put on sale because of the issues of a single tyre or petrol. They went ahead and bought another grader. This was vandalised which is negligence of the properties of the county. There was the issue of the Ewaso Ngiro river bridge which was awarded to M/s Joy cot general contractors

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of Nyahururu at a contract price of Kshs. 128,000,107. It was however noted that the County Executive had budgeted for Kshs. 35,000,000 initially during the year under review.

At the time, the level of completion was 40%. It brought an issue of how the project was done and how it was being supervised and why the person had been paid. It is said that the project was a phased project to be undertaken in a multi period and had been budgeted for in phases.

There was the issue of construction of Nanyuki Open Air Market Sheds and undelivered motor cycles from Toyota Kenya LTD - Ministry of Agriculture. These and many other various issues that made us have a qualified report but the observations of the committee were;

1. The County Executive appointed a new officer to the post of the County Secretary on 16th June, 2015 and Job Group T.

I will go directly to the committee's recommendations.

1. The committee recommends that on the matters relating to irregular recruitment of staff, the office of the County Secretary do make a follow up and where applicable all the monies irregularly paid to be recovered. One is hired and we cannot see where he came from, no qualification and he drains money illegally from the county.

2. The Committee noted that all tender documents and awards in various departments were not availed during the time of audit hence the audit queries. This is one thing we noticed recurring in the Auditor's Report. These people are Laikipians and we do not understand whether it is intentional or it is by default because every time when the Auditor come, these documents are not available. When we call them as a committee they happen to bring the documents. I don't know whether they buy time so that they can make them but this is an issue that we must get clear tender documents. How did someone apply, and who applied.

3. In the purchase of motor graders, the committee noted that the department concerned purchased the grader which was not the priority hence recommend that in future the department should prioritise on the need to avoid wastage of public resources.

4. On matters concerning installation of high pressure bulbs, the committee recommends that solar powered lights be installed to cut cost.

The committee's conclusion is that this House adopts the committee report on financial operations of the Laikipia County Executive for the period 01st July, 2015 to 30th June, 2016. I call upon Hon. Judy Lukio to help us second this report and the Hon. Members to support. Thank you.

Hon. Judy Lukio: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to second this motion. As the mover has clearly outlined what is in this paper, this is a lengthy and bulky report. Every page is clear and for the first time I have liked this. It has talked about much from the Auditor General and therefore I second this report.

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(Question proposed)

Hon. Catherine Nyawira: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I rise to make remarks on the report of the CPAIC of the auditor general on the financial operations of Laikipia County Executive for the period 1st July, 2015 to 30th June, 2016. First I congratulate the committee. Mr. Speaker, when you look at reports that have not happened during your time of service, you feel annoyed and confused but however no vacuum exists in governments. We must continue to do our work.

Mr. Speaker, I take issues with pending bills which is live in this document especially the pending bills rising from the defunct municipal council which I am not sure whether they are usually included in our pending bills today. One thing that is very clear is that the pending bills that rose from the litigation the people who had been hired to do the litigation it was not clear how they had been hired.

If it is not clear how someone had been hired, then such pending bills should not be included and they should be thrown out. Mr. Speaker, I also take issues with recruitment of the county that happened in that year. Time and time in this county I normally see the marginalised and the minority communities complaining very much when the dominant community is hired more. However, in that year I see that there were so many of them hired. In fact 14% of the recruits in that year were from the communities that are marginalised and the minority.

Mr. Speaker, some of their complaints in those days should cease because they got their chance at that point. The establishment of the County Public Fund is also an issue that I have noted. Normally in this House when we are brought regulations, they are passed and one of the contents in the regulations is that there be established a county fund for example enterprise fund and leasing fund. I noted that many of them were established in the year ending 30th June, 2016.

However, the Executive did not avail these for oversight to the Auditor General which is very unfortunate. This takes me to what is happening today. We have passed many regulations in this House. One of the notes in the regulations is that those documents will come on quarterly basis. Mr. Speaker, I don't remember any coming before the floor of this House. It is unfortunate that the same things that were happening then continue to happen during our watch instead of us learning from such documents.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the CPAIC for the job well done and urge them to hurry up with these documents because we need to look at current documents for this current year we are serving. We do not want to leave backlogs for the next Assembly. When we come back in the next Assembly, we want to deal with issues that are from our Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: If there is no other Member, I wish to call upon the mover to give a reply.

Hon. Chris Mark: Thank you, to the Hon. Members who have contributed to this report. My members from the CPAIC had assured me that they did not ran away. They were actually

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consulting on issues that they were not understanding in this report and why it happened. Like Hon. Nyawira has said, the issues of pending bills are thorny issues and it is something like documents could not be availed at the time. Issues must be sorted, not to dwell on the money that can be used for infrastructure.

The issue of ethnicity has been looked upon. It is not a declaration but by law. 30% of members who applied for jobs or are recruited to the Executive, the CECs or the Chief Officers must come from an outside community so that there is balance; not a dominant community that we have seen. I call upon Members to support this report and assure them that this committee has fresh blood. That is why we have two reports today.

We are going to make sure that we are up to date so that the people who are in office stop telling us that they were not there. Now we are meeting them there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(Question put and agreed to)

AUDITOR GENERAL REPORT ON FINANCIAL OPERATIONS OF LAIKIPIA COUNTY EXECUTIVE FOR 2016/2017 BY CPAIC

Hon. Chris Mark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the following motion;

> THAT this Assembly adopts the report by the County Public Accounts and Investments Committee on a report of the Auditor-General on the financial operations of the Laikipia County Executive for the period of 1st July, 2016 to 30th June, 2017 dated 9th March, 2021.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Committee at the time of this report was constituted as follows:

1. Hon. Chris Mark -Chairman;
2. Hon. Catherine Kibue -Vice-Chairperson;
3. Hon. Mary Samken -Member;
4. Hon. Jacob Endom -Member;
5. Hon. Daniel Mugweru -Member.

I know my Members and the Members of this House have this report, from the day it was put as a motion, which was last week, which is because of the good work that the House Business Committee (HBC) does to notify Members of what is coming in the following week. It gives Members ample time to go through.

I will just touch a bit on the issues that I have seen there. It is good that we go together as I explain further. On page 13 there is still the issue that had been talked about, also recurring in this Financial Year, where there was still failure to comply with the 30% regional balance.

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Something called regional balance brings inequality and more marginalization so it was not checked and was still doing poorly with less than 30% ratio in that year. That was a very key issue.

When we continue there with Members we can see there was an issue of many accounts in the County. Numerous accounts that are spoken of there by the Auditor-General. It begs the question on why a County like Laikipia would have 51 bank accounts during that year against the recommended six. The Central Bank and PFM Act recommend that there be 6 accounts. You can see here on page 15 that we had 51 bank accounts during that year of review.

Worst of all, you can go ahead and see that some of these bank accounts, as we are told in page 20, were omitted, or rather their financial statements were omitted during audit. So the auditor could not even see how the operations of these accounts were. These are the various accounts which were not disclosed: The Rumuruti collection account, not disclosed, balance at the time was Kshs. 2,004,627; Rumuruti Hospital FIF account, also not disclosed; Nyahururu Hospital imprests account, also not disclosed at the time, having been with a balance of Kshs. 10,258,902. Doldol Hospital FIF imprests account also not disclosed. We can see all the way to the Laikipia County Deposit.

Consequently, the accuracy and propriety of bank balances of a total of Kshs. 128,037,596 as at 30th June, 2017 could not be ascertained or even verified. These are the issues that we as a committee found there. The other issue I would like to touch upon is the construction of the Ewaso Nyiro River Bridge. You can see the previous report, it was talked about and here it was talked about as well. They are saying the contract was awarded at a contract price of Kshs. 128,000,107 in the 2015/16 Financial Year. The problem here is not the awarding. It is that they are saying no contract agreement between the contractor and the County was made available for audit verification, therefore even the terms and conditions cannot be ascertained.

Without terms and conditions, someone can work the way they want or even be paid without working, or can be paid half. The way they were being paid was not ascertained and that issue was raised by the Auditor-General and we also saw it. In page 27, we see the issues of pending bills still arising there. They are now saying that these pending bills have been put as a lampstand. No breakdown of how it was broken down in the outstanding previous year was given. There was a deficit of Kshs. 100,112,038 in that explanation.

Mr. Speaker, this being the case, we as a Committee went ahead and came with the following observations:

i. During that Financial Year under review, the recruitment of 176 staffs out of only 25 staff came outside the dominant community in Laikipia County. This was less than the 30% which I had said that would translate into 53 of the recruited staff.

ii. The Committee observed that statement receipts and payments reflects the use of goods and services balances of Kshs. 778,426,422 for the year ended 30th June 2017. However, we also noted: Note 12 as used of goods and services reflects fuel, oil and

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lubricants balance of Kshs. 31,709,814 for the year under review. The fuel there being Kshs.3 million, or 3 thousand was drawn using fuel cards but the payment vouchers were not supported by the approved detail records. Further, there was no record of reconciliation of the fuel drawn on the mileage covered by these vehicles.

iii. The Committee observed that in the year under review there was no breakdown of outstanding amounts for the previous years which was given.

On page 32 there are still a bit of recommendations there. Regarding the issue of not complying with that 30%, that the CPSB be committed to obtaining. I do not know how they will be committed to this because year in year out it is the same issue. They need to commit that they will make sure there is regional balance. The excuse they gave my Committee and I is that no people applied from these other communities. Maybe there needs to be a taskforce to know why these other communities are not applying for this job.

On the issue of fuel oils and lubricants, the County should increase the ability of monitoring of vehicles by establishing a fleet management unit to handle and reconcile the expenditure on a timely basis. That is where a lot of wastage is on the issue of fuel curbs.

On matters related to health facilities the Committee recommends that an internal control section to be established in order to safeguard management of drugs and non-pharmaceuticals to the hospitals. Mr. Speaker, this House passes a budget for medicine but if you look at the shelves of public hospitals there is no medicine. It begs the question; where did the medicine go? Hence the reason why we would want an internal control section to be established.

On matters regarding pending bills, the Committee recommends that the process of verification be undertaken by the office of the Auditor-General and the County internal audit and a comprehensive report be forwarded to this Committee, so that we can at least know whether these pending bills are genuine.

In conclusion, we beg that this House adopts the Committee report on the financial operations of Laikipia County Executive for that period of 1st July 2016 to 30th June 2017. I urge Members to support this so that at least this Committee can do its supreme job which is making sure that monies, even Kshs. 30 that you have seen in the other report; We want to see where all the money that comes from the exchequer, even Kshs. 2, where it has gone, because that is not our money. That is the taxpayers' money. With these many remarks I call my able Vice-Chair, none other than Hon. Catherine Nyokabi to second.

Hon. Catherine Kibue: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to second this report by the CPAIC Committee. First is to congratulate the Committee for working tirelessly to compile this report. With those few remarks, I call upon my colleagues to support this report. Thank you.

(Question proposed)

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Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to support the motion on the report brought by the County Public Accounts and Investments Committee on the audit report 2016/2017. Before I make my contribution, I wish to congratulate the Committee for work well done, I also being a member of that Committee, together with other Members. The Members have done a commendable job. Without forgetting that these reports are from the previous government and that government was in place. The same Assembly that we are seated in we had MCAs who were in the same Committee, and the Committee was working for this County.

Today, in the second devolved Government we are working on the first Government reports and yet there are some people who benefitted from the same works. I wish to congratulate the current Committee for working tirelessly to make sure that the reports that were supposed to be submitted in the first Government are submitted at this time, and even to move ahead and make sure that the next Assembly will not be complaining about what we are complaining today.

Mr. Speaker, if we just table these reports and sleep there the next Assembly will continue saying that the Second Assembly never bought reports during their tenure. So I really wish to congratulate the Committee and continue asking the Committee Members to work extra hard to make sure that we are done with these reports and even move to the next level of finishing the reports that we are supposed to do.

I am talking about this because I understand what the Committee goes through, that today we are talking about health facilities during that time whereby there were no records for procured drugs and non-pharmaceuticals. Whether in the stores or anywhere else, there were no records that could show that there was purchase of drugs and non-pharmaceuticals at that time.

The most unfortunate thing is that we are talking about it today yet none of the people who were in that office at that time is in office. There is nobody we can question at this time. We are just talking about what they did and now giving recommendations of what is supposed to be done. It would be better if we are working on the reports in regards to the people who are in the office at this time because we would be questioning them directly at this time. Now that they were not questioned at that time, we have no other choice but to move these reports and start working on the current ones in regards to the current Government so that we may question them when they are still in office.

Mr. Speaker, if you look at that issue of records of drugs that are purchased, everybody in this House knows that the most expensive things in this country are things to do with health, especially drugs. When there are no records it automatically tells us that there is somebody somewhere who is enjoying money that maybe was supposed to purchase drugs but used it for his personal gains.

The most unfortunate thing is that now they are not in government, they are not in position, they are nowhere to be seen and now we are questioning the person who is in charge at this time

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who is telling you that maybe at that time he was not even of age. Maybe at that time he was under 18, and now we are questioning the same people.

Mr. Speaker, the much we can do is to recommend so that now and in future we can have proper records. That is why the Committee insisted on having the internal control section to be established in order to safeguard the management of drugs and pharmaceuticals in hospital.

If the Health Committee can stand as we are talking now, they will stand and complain that there are no non-pharmaceuticals, things like gloves and all that, that we do not have them in our hospitals. This report and the recommendations that the Committee is giving to the Executive, if they are implemented we will not have the problems that we are having at this time.

If you go to that year under review, that is 2016/2017, you will be able to see that there were so many cases of tendered documents. The tender documents, minutes, tender opening awards, contract agreements, and evaluation acceptance minutes. All those things cannot be availed because things were run as if it is somebody's market or as if you are running your own family.

Mr. Speaker it is unfortunate because the people, who did that are not in the government. However much we still complain, we are complaining to the wrong people. So everything that we do, should be timely, it is about timing. When you do the right thing at the wrong time, the results will not be beneficial to this County. However much we ask about the tender documents, how can you give out tenders without documentation?

That is why we are heading to pending bills Mr. Speaker, in this County because somebody just woke up and told you, go and supply drugs. There is no documentation, there are no records, there is no letter of award, there is no acceptance and you just get money. It could be like the same thing that is happening in the National Government today that somebody is going and saying he fasted and prayed, only to get billions of money tender. After fasting where there is no documentation, however much these are some of the things we are facing in this county.

Mr. Speaker, the much we can do in this Assembly as the Committee, is to give the right recommendations and make a follow up that these recommendations that we are giving are implemented to the letter, so that the next Assembly will not be complaining of what we are complaining about today.

The Committee recommended that the departments that do not avail all the necessary documents to the Auditors, all those departments, any department; whether it is health, whether it is Education, every department should take responsibility of the same not just the department. Even the person in charge should take responsibility because we cannot tarnish the name of the whole County, because of a single person seated in a single department only to find the whole county's name is tarnished.

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Mr. Speaker, our recommendation is very clear that any department that does not submit or avail the necessary documents should take responsibility. The person in charge should take personal responsibility, whether it is being jailed because you cannot jail the government. Seated in that office, you are the government.

I am talking about the person in charge of the department should be jailed for the same. Mr. Speaker if you look at the issue in regards to the pending bills, all these things are in relation to the documentation.

Mr. Speaker, that year there was no breakdown for outstanding amount for the previous years that was given. There is no record that could show that the government had this amount, the government is supposed to use this amount, there are these and these tenders that have been given out.

Hence when there are no such records you find yourself in bills that are not known and that's why we as a committee recommended that now, those people some of them did a good job without documents. We do not want to hurt the people of Laikipia because you as a contractor, maybe it is not your responsibility to know about documents. However, the person who was in the office told you to go and do this and do this, and supply this, without documents that is a fault by that officer.

That is why proper verification is needed. If you did a class and it is physical, then we can discuss about the documentation. The first thing we should say is that you did it perfectly and in one way or the other you need to be paid. So it is all about making your documents proper and also warning you in future not to just run for tenders because you are hearing of them and start supplying things without documents.

Mr. Speaker, as a committee that is why we are insisting that the process of verification be undertaken by the Office of the Auditor General and the County Internal Audit and a comprehensive report be forwarded to the committee. This thing also should be timely because if somebody did a road five years ago and that road has been used by the motor vehicles and everyone, then you cannot compare a road that was done two weeks ago and a road that was done three years ago. So even if we are going for audit verification, we must consider all that because there is wear and tear.

You might find someone saying that this road was never done and it was done five years ago, rain has been falling in that particular county and maybe the gravel was swept away by water and today somebody is going there for inspection. What are you doing? The road was done five years ago and today you are telling us that you are going for inspection and verification. Mr. Speaker, everything that we do must be timely. So this report is for the importance of this government and even the government to come.

So I urge the Hon. Members in this House to support this report, we move with speed so that from now we start working on the reports in relation to the people who are in the government

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of the day so that we may question them in time and work for the people of Laikipia in the best way possible. Thank you, I support and Hon. Members that we continue supporting this report.

Hon. Joseph Kiguru: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Before I support this report from the Committee of CPAIC, I would like to congratulate our Senator, John Kinyua for voting yes in BBI in Senate. I would like to support the report on County Public Accounts and Investment Committee on the report of the Auditor General Financial Operations of the Laikipia County Executive for the year 2016 to 30th June 2017.

Mr. Speaker, the reason why I must congratulate the committee is because the new team has come with a lot of energy. I even want to congratulate the Chair for making sure that today we have two reports from that committee. That is why I know that with the new energy we are going far.

As I go through this report, I can see deliberate theft in the way the 1st government operated. In the report you find unconfirmed balances. You can see that there were deliberate ways to go away with government money. The only issue I have with the committee because I don't want to repeat what my colleague has already said, in the committee recommendation I can't find somewhere they recommend for somebody to be taken to jail. In this country if you steal a chicken, the next day we will find you prosecuted and then jailed. If you steal billions for building roads and our hospitals, you will find that that is history after history and such people belong to jail.

I am happy because in our Assembly we have two or three members who belong to that Assembly. I think that it is for the better of the committee to go backward and recommend that if anybody was mentioned in this report then they should be taken to jail for us to show the Laikipians that we are serious with people who are plundering and stealing public money. So I stand with the committee but I believe that that recommendation lacks that issue of taking people to jail. For the Chair, I don't know what to say, maybe we can amend this report to add that clause of taking people to jail. If I was mentioned in any theft of public money, then I should go to jail. So I congratulate the committee and also tell the Members to adopt the report and we are also waiting for more. Thank you.

Hon. Catherine Nyawira: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. Before I put my contribution in this House, I want to recognize the presence of the Nursing Students who are with us today and welcome them to this session. Once again I want to congratulate the CPAIC Committee for a job well done. In fact, as I was going through this report I thought to myself that it couldn't have come at a timely day.

I am looking at the way the hospitals operated and how money was looted and records not kept. This morning I just learned that monies collected from the hospitals will be hitting the CRF account and going back where hospitals will be able to spend. Yes, it is a good thing because the gloves, masks and other essentials for lab operations will be bought on time but it is also dangerous if it won't be checked. This is because when the Health Committee and the Executive side is able

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to bring reports to the committee which I sit in as a vice chair on time, if it is not checked then it could be very dangerous. It is very eye opening to me as a member of that committee and also enlightening and probably has helped me to see how to solve loopholes that could occur within the hospital.

Hon. Speaker, I also take the issue with bank reconciliations. I noted that this county operated 51 bank accounts and when the Auditor General came only 29 were available. 29 could not be looked at and this was more than half. Like the Majority Leader has said, that was open looting. It was public theft and I think that Laikipians deserve a copy of this document so that when they will be electing people in the office they will be knowing what those people did. This was outright theft and I don't think that Laikipians should give people such opportunities to ruin their county again.

I have heard the Hon. Member saying that we should add a recommendation to have them jailed. This is a House of laws and legislation and a recommendation may or may not be used. It is not a Shall and therefore does not hold ground. So I put it in my words that we come up with a policy or a regulation that ensures that any public officer who steals or who is found not to have done their jobs in terms of supervision or not providing such results to the Auditor found guilty should be jailed. That can only happen if we have a policy or a regulation or a bill for that matter in place.

Hon. Speaker, I also note that it is unfortunate that government officers are very lenient when they do their work. I have noted that one person here who did the construction of an ECD in Salama Ward had poor workmanship. The roofing sheets were substandard, the walls were breaking down and the pillars were poorly done. We cannot blame the person who was given the job because a government officer is supposed to walk hand in hand with somebody who is doing the job. Unfortunately, what happens is that they get an award letter today and the next day they get a completion award without the officer having to go to the ground.

Mr. Speaker, there is a system which runs in this County Government and I believe that every officer who works within Laikipia walks hand in hand for example, when a road is being done they are there, when it reaches the next level they are there to supervise and to have quality assurance on the job. I feel so bad when I look at such a document but again there are also lessons learned. Therefore, I support the document by CPAIC and also congratulate them and also ask them to hurry up and bring the rest so that we can see and also learn so that we can do our oversight in a better manner. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker: May I call upon the mover to give a reply?

Hon. Chris Mark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Members who have supported this report. As a committee we have noted the things that have been pointed out here and there even the strict issues being taken because this is money that was lost. I will even consult with my committee so that we can have a round table with all the Chief Officers, the CECM's and

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even the Governor so that we get to know for once why documents are never availed when the auditors are here. However, when we ask them as a committee that is when they automatically pop up and that is when we see things like minutes. Maybe they were being cooked like they cook numbers so that that issue can be sorted once and for all.

There is an issue that Hon. Nyawira said about money going to CRF. Even the reason this county has automated most things is to cut loopholes. It is so ironical that in the 21st century where tickets are not collected in cash like when Hon. Wachuka was in the municipal when she was a Deputy Mayor, it was automated but we still collect less than they were collecting at their time. So these are the issues that this committee wants to look into so that money can be accounted for whether at the collection source, exchequer point, expenditure point or what have you. With that and much more, I call upon Members to support this report. Thank you.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Deputy Speaker: This House now stands adjourned until tomorrow Wednesday, 12th May, 2021 at 9.00 a.m.

The House rose at 3.35.p.m.

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