REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 12th May, 2026

The House met at the Assembly Chambers at 10.00 a.m.

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

PRAYERS

Speaker: Order Members! We now proceed with the business of the day.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

WELCOMING REMARKS FROM THE RECESS

Speaker: Hon. Members. I want to take this opportunity first to welcome you back from the short recess that we have had. I believe that you have accumulated the energy and you have been able to interact appropriately with the electorates.

VISITING DELEGATION OF TEACHERS AND STUDENTS FROM INOORO GIRLS

Equally, Hon. Members, I want to take this time to recognize the presence of 50 students from Inooro Girls Secondary School in Thingithu Ward. May you rise up, students. This is in Thingithu Ward, Laikipia East Constituency and they are accompanied by their teachers, namely Mr. Ndung'u and Ms. Mary.

Hon. Members, on my behalf and of that of the Assembly, I wish to welcome them to the County Assembly of Laikipia and I wish them fruitful engagement during this visit to learn more about how things are done in our local Assemblies. May you be seated and welcome. Thank you.

PAPERS LAID

ANNUAL DEVELOPMENT ESTIMATES AND RECURRENT EXPENDITURES

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Asante, Mheshimiwa Speaker. Kwanza ninachukua hii nafasi kuwakaribisha wanafunzi kutoka Shule ya Upili ya Inooro ambao wametoka Wadi ya Thingithu. Tunawakaribisha hapa ili waweze kusoma mambo mengi na kazi tunayofanya baada ya kupatiwa kura na wananchi ili tuweze kuwaakilisha katika Bunge hili. Karibuni sana na mjisikie mko mahali ambapo panastahili.

Hon. Speaker, I have the following papers to lay;

a) Program based Annual estimates of development and recurrent expenditure for the year ending 30th June, 2027 for the County Government of Laikipia.

b) Public Participation report for annual estimates of development and recurrent expenditure for financial year 2026/2027 for the County Government of Laikipia.

Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

(Hon. Stephen Ndiritu laid the papers on the Table of the House)

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Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Members. The two papers stand committed to the County Budget and Appropriation Committee.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

ALTERATION OF THE ASSEMBLY CALENDAR

Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki: Thank you, Hon. Speaker for giving this chance to…

Speaker: Hon. Stephen, switch off your microphone.

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I am sorry.

Speaker: Proceed Hon. Mwaniki.

Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. We just came out of recess and that's why you can see we have a little bit of interruptions here…

Speaker: What is it Hon. Ndiritu?

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Hon. Speaker, my colleague here Hon. Leshuel was asking whether you have committed the Budget to the committee and I'm telling him yes, you have committed. So, Hon. Speaker for clarity you can commit once again so that he can feel comfortable.

Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Leshuel, it is indeed true that I have committed to the County Budget and Appropriation Committee. Thank you.

Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki: Thank you, Hon. Speaker for making that clarification because Members are very attentive these days on matters that involve budget making process Mr. Speaker, that is what drives this county and this Assembly. Hon. Speaker, I beg to move the following motion;

THAT, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 29(4), this Assembly resolves to alter its calendar as adopted on 24th February, 2026, so as to;

a) Have a short recess break from Wednesday 13th May, 2026 to Monday 1st June, 2026.

b) Resume its regular sittings for the second part of the Fifth Session on Tuesday 2nd June, 2026.

Hon. Speaker, I beg to call upon Hon. Leshuel to second this.

Hon. Paul Leshuel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to second the motion from the Majority Leader so that we can we can go to complete our recess and then we come back for serious business. Thank you.

(Question proposed)

Speaker: Members, I now open the floor for debate for those who may want to contribute to the motion. Hon. Stephen.

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Bwana Spika, ninasimama kuunga mkono hoja ya kuweza kuahirisha Bunge mpaka Juni. Ni vyema Waheshimiwa na wananchi waelewe ya kwamba leo ilikuwa ni siku ya kuja hapa ili Bajeti iweze kukabidhiwa kwa sababu bado hatujamaliza likizo yetu ambayo tulikuwa tunafaa kumaliza Juni.

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Kwa hekima ya Waheshimiwa, Spika na Bunge nzima tuliweza kuafikiana tuweze kufika katika kikao cha leo ili tuweze kuendelea na mambo ya bajeti. Bwana Spika, sisi ambao tulichaguliwa na tunafanyia wananchi kazi, wakati mwingi ni lazima tuwe pamoja na wananchi ili tuweze kujua mengi ambayo yanafanyika na yale ambayo yanafaa kufanyika. Huwezi jua hiyo kama hujaongea na wao.

Bwana Spika, hiyo ndio maana tuko mashinani kusikiza wananchi. Sisi zote tunasikiza mashinani. Mpaka wewe Mheshimiwa Spika, unafaa kusikiza watu mashinani ili uelewe ndio wanaongea. Bwana Spika, hatuna jambo lingine ila tutasikiza watu mashinani mpaka tufike mwisho. Kwa hayo machache, naunga mkono kuahirisha vikao vya Bunge kwa kubadilisha kalenda na turejee mwezi wa Juni. Asante.

Hon. Salim Edung: Bwana Spika, ninashukuru kwa kunipatia nafasi hii kwa sababu ya ule mjadala ambao uko mbele yetu kuhusu bajeti na kuangalia kwa ufasaha. Kwanza, ninatambua wanafunzi kutoka Shule ya Upili ya Wasichana ya Inooro. Karibuni katika Bunge hili. Msome yale ambayo inaendelea katika Bunge hili. Bwana Spika, ninaunga mkono mswada wa leo kwa sababu hakuna kazi ambayo inaweza kufanyika bila utaratibu ama pumziko.

Ikiwa unafanya kazi, ni lazima kuna siku ambayo unaweza kusema ya kwamba utapumzika kwa sababu mwili unahitaji pumziko. Pili, katika Bunge hili tumeletwa na wananchi hapa ili kupitisha miswada ambayo wanatupatia huko mashinani. Kuna mambo ambayo inaendelea katika mashinani kama vile miradi. Kwa sasa, kuna barabara ambazo zinaendelea kutengenezwa, kuna bwawa na visima zinawekwa katika wadi tofauti.

Hii ni fursa yetu kuenda kuangalia kazi ambayo inafanyika mashinani. Tusipoangalia, hakuna kazi itaendelea. Katika Biblia, Mungu aliumba nchi kwa muda wa siku sita na siku ya saba akapumzika. Nasi pia tunahitaji pumziko ili tusikize wananchi wanasema nini. Tutakapokuja Juni, tujue ya kwamba kuna mambo ambayo tumeelezewa na wananchi mashinani kama wanapotuambia tukawaakilishe na tuwaonyeshe vile watasaidika.

Nikiangalia wanafunzi, juzi walikuwa likizo ndogo ili kupumzisha akili. Nasi pia katika Bunge hili tunaambatana na wapigaji kura ili tuulizane maswali ili tukirudi katika Bunge hili tuwe na jambo ambalo limefanyika katika eneo letu. Bwana Spika, ninaomba wenzangu pia wachangie kwa sababu kila mtu ako na wazo ambalo wanajua ni mjadala wa leo tunaongea kwa sababu ya jambo moja au lingine. Asante Bwana Spika.

Hon. Joseph Gitahi: Thank you, Hon. Speaker for this opportunity. I rise in full cognizance of the students that we are having from the gallery. Hon. Speaker, we thank this culture for the purposes of mentorship. Having said that, Hon. Speaker, so that I drew context to the issues that I want to place, I have a lot of greetings for you because it has been some time since I stood on the floor. I have been to Githiga Ward. We had the leasing machines and it also coincided with the contract roads that we have been building in our wards.

So, it has been a lot of work. Hon. Speaker, when we go to the ground, like one of the Members have alluded to, we try and paint a picture of how this government works. So, when you are making all these roads, whether it's from Matuiku to Kariaini, from Kariaini to Kamwenje, from Kamwenje to Rubere and from Mufao to a place called Kisima. Hon. Speaker, I tell these men and women that it is how I come here and talk to you.

Hon. Speaker, you have even taught them your name it is only that in our locality it is very difficult to pronounce Lantano Nabaala. So, they only say the Speaker. Receive greetings from all these sub-locations. I have been there and I have told these people that once I get back to Bunge, I will talk to you so that we extend on issues that we have not constructed. Hon.

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Speaker, as we are speaking, in view of the last budget, we are waiting for the construction of Rubere ECD Centre.

Once it is done, Hon. Speaker, we will be able as a County Government to count three things in that village. Additionally, our town is growing and from the budgets we passed last year, we have a morgue in Kinamba. We also have un operationalized ICU Centre in Kinamba, due to other stakeholder lobbying, we also have a maternity ward worth Kshs.50 million that we are being constructed by the Safaricom Foundation.

So, it is a lot that we have engaged in that ward, Hon. Speaker, and I rise to support that we have an adjournment so that I am also able to write these things down and pass it to my clerks in the committees and also pass it to the Budget Committee. What I would wish that the budget committee does, once we have committed this budget, I wish that this committee would listen to Members so that every other Member in the 15 wards is included in this budget.

Hon. Speaker, remember that we are speaking from a context where some Members were disgruntled. They were annoyed with how the committee undertook its activities and some of our Members went to court. So, the Budget Committee, a lot has changed Hon. Speaker and I cannot tell the Chairperson of the Budget Committee but I want to ask the Budget Committee to adopt a conciliatory tone that there is diplomacy in how we handle issues so that nobody feels not attended and they rush to court blocking a lot of issues for Hon. Members.

I would wish that they listen to us. I have a lot of literature from the ground, and I wish that the Budget Committee would also listen to me because by virtue of Article 1, I represent the people of Githiga. So, I rise in support of the adjournment in full cognizance of the budget being committed to the Budget Committee. We will be active so that we understand all these issues that our issues may be put in the budget because that is the co- mandate of us as Hon. Members.

Otherwise, I wish to appreciate all the Members, Hon. Speaker, and I also wish to talk to the Budget Committee and tell them to whom much has been given much is expected. We wish that we make the best budget. Hon. Speaker, it is only that I don't want to offend the Standing Order that says that we don't talk in other languages but it is the last end. Hon. Speaker, we are ending.

We would wish to end in merry having served our people. Having said that, Hon. Speaker, I don't wish to say much. Hon. Leshuel is here. He is my senior and I am sure he has a lot to say. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Gitahi and welcome with your good remarks. I now want to give the floor to Hon. Paul Leshuel.

Hon. Paul Leshuel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I just want to give the Members the information on the procedure of this budget. Mr. Speaker, today the Committee of Budget and Appropriation have received the budget. I want the Members and especially this time because this is the last budget, I want them to engage seriously on this budget. It is the responsibility of each and every Member here to make sure you have gone through the budget.

We have been given mandate in this House to pass the budget with or without amendments. So, we have a responsibility. First, as a Committee on Budget, I am privileged to be a member of that committee, we will give the sectoral committees the budget to go through before we make a final report. As an individual, we are representing people from different areas. What people from Mukogodo East want is different from what people from Githiga want.

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So, we want to be serious on engagements and we must also understand the timeline. So as much as we are engaging as individuals at the level of the committee, we also need to know the timeline so that we meet the cycle timeline. Mr. Speaker, it is our responsibility as a committee and Members of this House to go through the budget. We all understand the budget generated from the Executive.

It is now our responsibility to see what exactly is in that budget based on the areas that we are representing and whether the budget is giving us a priority that is wanted by the people of the area. Those are the key things that we need to understand. So, Mr. Speaker, as much as we want to go home, before we come back, please come back when you are very informed on what people want so that we can pass the budget as we close our term. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Leshuel. I now take the opportunity to invite the mover of the motion to reply.

Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as you have understood, there is a lot of pending issues that are within this House that needs some serious discussion on matters that affect our Members in this House. I really appreciate the Members who have contributed, because it shows they are very attentive of what we are doing in this Assembly.

I urge them to keep on because this is a House of Law, this is a House of Rules and this is a House that drives the development across this county. The agendas that we raise in this Assembly are matters of serious concern to our citizens and that is why I should thank the Members because of their attendance today and their keen interest on matters of budget making process.

First of all, Mr. Speaker, I'm not the chairman. Previously, I was the Chairman of the Budget Committee and the seat has changed hands because previously the Members gave me the position of the Majority Leader. Mr. Speaker, I had to relinquish the seat. Now it is being held by Hon. Stephen Ndiritu Kamau. He is the Chairman of the Budget Committee.

Previously, Mr. Speaker, as you have heard, I have seen the crisis that have been in the Assembly of some of the Members going to court as the Hon. Gitahi have raised. This is a matter of concern within the Assembly of going to court because of being disgruntled on the budget making process. The Members going to court were the then Members of the Budget Committee. Before anyone goes out to the court, there should be amicable discussion and agreement between the Members of this House on matters that are affecting each and every one of us that are within the budget.

Mr. Speaker, this is an open book. Budget making process is an open book for every person in this House to go through it and understand and question because there can be changes. That is why the Hon. Leshuel has stated we pass this budget with changes or without changes. Mr. Speaker, we have been given that mandate. If at all the changes will be made, they should be made within this House. That is why each and every Member does consultation before passing this budget in this House.

We see the Members concerned, both elected and nominated in this House. Mr. Speaker, we can have a sitting with them so that they can go through the budget. They can see if at all what is in the budget agrees with all that is within whatever views that were forwarded by his electorate. Mr. Speaker that he himself or herself as a Member of this Assembly forwarded as a Member. If at all there is any changes or any disagreement or some things that you find in the budget that are outside your views, that is why you should bring in your concern.

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Mr. Speaker, we are there to listen and to discuss and consult the budget so that we can see if at all that concern of yours can be able to be met or agreed upon because budget is a matter of finance. Mr. Speaker, your project must be within the budget because funds are there but they are not there for each and everything. Mr. Speaker, this is a very slim budget within the departments. That is why we set ceilings. You cannot go above the ceiling because the funds are not set.

So, that was a concern that emanated a lot of conflict in this House. Having those conflict, Mr. Speaker, I know as of today we have tried to solve those issues and we have found solutions. What I urge all Members is to consult seriously. Even if you have a discussion with the Executive, the House Members are there for consultation so that we can be able to put projects that are within budget lines. So, I would urge all Members. Mr. Speaker, this time around, we have tabled the budget.

Having tabled the budget Mr. Speaker, I call upon each and every Member of this House to come on board so that we can have a discussion within the budget that is set. This will allow us to align all projects that are within that budget so that Members do not feel disgruntled. At the end of the day, we will pass the budget on this floor. After it is passed, it will be a little bit difficult to change anything in it.

So, the process has started and we will have serious consultations about it. First of all, it has been committed to the Budget Committee. We will go through that budget and see whatever the Executive has recommended. If it conforms with what the Members have recommended or discussed with the electorate; the projects that have been requested by the electorate should be within that budget.

After that, we will have a discussion with each and every Member. It is called a Committee of the Whole House, so that they can go through that budget and make changes so that it can conform with whatever the ground is saying. Members have said they are going for recess so that they can listen some more to the ground. Hon. Gachagua has said that people must listen to the ground, and that is what the Members are going to do when they are on recess.

During the recess, Hon. Speaker, we will have serious sittings with Members on matters of budget. When we come back on 2nd June, we will come to pass the budget on the floor. After passing the budget, what follows will be implementation. So, when we are on recess, we will be meeting with Members to have discussions so that we can have an agreement and avoid conflicts in the next financial year. Next year will be a campaign year and most of the Members will be absent from the Assembly, doing campaigns and interacting with the electorate.

So, we want to give them ample time and a good budget that will work for them in the next year. I would love to have these Members on board in the next session after elections. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank all the Members.

(Question put and agreed to)

PROCEDURAL MOTION

ADJOURNMENT OF THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY

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

THAT, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 29(3) this Assembly do adjourn until Tuesday 2nd June, 2026.

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Hon. Speaker, this adjournment is timely because we just interrupted our recess break to come on board and move a motion on the budget so as to table the budget from the Executive. If we did not do that, we would jeopardize the operations of this County Government. So, we had to interrupt our recess and come to table this budget so that it can be committed to the committee. During the recess, we will have discussions with Members and agree so that when we come back on 2nd June, we can pass the budget.

I thank all the Members who have come today. As we resume our recess, I want all the Members to go and interact with their people and perform oversight on the projects that are ongoing because there are a lot of ongoing projects across all wards. That is where an MCA comes in to ensure there is quality work, quality discussions with the people and overview from the residents to ensure that quality work is done across all wards. That is what will enable Hon. Shuel or Hon. Ndiritu to be re-elected to this Assembly. I call upon Hon. Leila to second the motion.

Speaker: Hon. Leila, the floor is yours.

Hon. Leila Hussein: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I second.

(Question proposed)

Speaker: Hon. Members, I want to open the floor for those who may want to contribute. Hon. Stephen?

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Thank you, Hon. Speaker, I stand in support of this adjournment. As I said earlier, we are proceeding for our recess. Therefore, mine is just to support the provision of Standing Order 29 (3). I would like to remind the Members of this House that when we are on recess, it does not mean that we are going to rest. We are still working.

Hon. Speaker, the budget has been committed to this House and Members are aware of it. I would request all the Members to liaise with the committee and avail themselves when they are called to those meetings. We have been having a trend whereby when the committee asks Members to attend its meetings to discuss the budget, some Members are busy elsewhere. When we come to the House to table the budget you will hear Members complaining about the budget process.

I am requesting the Members who are present today as well as those who are absent to make sure that they are present when we are discussing this budget. It is my humble plea to these Members that they agree with this motion and proceed on recess up to Tuesday, 2nd June 2026. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Stephen. I now want to give the floor to Hon. Gitahi.

Hon. Joseph Gitahi: Thank you once more, Hon. Speaker. I stand to support the motion on adjournment of this House up to the date that has been cited by the mover of this motion, which is 2nd June. We have a lot of business. I sit in the Public Accounts Committee with Hon. Catherine Umija and we have a full in-tray. There are a lot of issues that we have to discuss.

Additionally, if I am right, we have to discuss water companies. We also have to discuss FLLoCA. There is a lot about the food resilience program. Additionally, Hon. Speaker, we sit in other committees. I sit in the Committee of Agriculture though on a disputed mandate, and we have a lot of issues to discuss. I have talked to the Managing Director of NYAHUWASCO and we are trying to connect water for people in Githiga ward.

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I know there is a lot of committee work that we have to do. I have to sit under Hon. Mugambi Gatati in the Cohesion Committee. H.E. the President was in our area and there is a lot that we discussed about security. We have to fast-track it through committee work. Even the time that we have stipulated, from today till 2nd June, will not be enough.

Hon. Speaker, we request the chairs of the various committees to coordinate us so that we can have a seamless flow of activities and business. Thus, once we get back, we will have a lot of business to discuss in this House as mandated by the people of Laikipia. The less I say, the better. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Speaker: Members, allow me now to call upon the mover of the motion to reply.

Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I would like to thank the Members who have contributed towards this motion. It is high time that Members moved out of this House to go and commit themselves to the people who elected them and do what needs to be done. The committee works continue even when Members are on recess. So, lots of engagement will be done within the committees while on recess so that we can have amicable solutions towards problems affecting our people and this Assembly. I thank all the Members as well as you, Hon. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Members, I want to refer you to Standing Order No. 29 (3) which states as follows: *"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 now stand adjourned until Tuesday, 2nd June, 2026 at 10.00 a.m.

The House rose at 10.50 a.m.

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