REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 13th August, 2024

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

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

PRAYERS

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

RESUMPTION FROM THE RECESS

Speaker: Hon. Members, I want to take this opportunity to welcome you back into the sessions after we have had multiple recesses because of the happenings, as we all know from the demonstrations. We thank God that we are back. I trust that we have had a good time with the electorates and the trainings. You are all welcome, we may proceed with the business.

NOTICE OF MOTION

ESTABLISHMENT OF SMALL & MICRO ENTERPRISES POLICY

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. Kwanza nashukuru kwa vile tumeweza kuingia Bunge na kuweza kufanya biashara yetu kama vile tumepewa majukumu na sheria ya Kenya. Vilevile nawakaribisha waheshimiwa kwa hiki kikao kutoka siku ambayo tulienda likizo. Likizo imeisha vyema na tumefanya kazi na kuweza kuingiliana na wananchi. Tumeweza kuzungumza mengi kama vile tulisema tutazungumza na Gen-Z na wengine ili nchi yetu iendelee vizuri.

Bwana Spika, kitu cha kushangaza ni kwamba wakati tulikuwa mbali, tulikuta ODM wakiwa ndani ya serikali na kuchukua viti. Sasa sisi zote tuko ndani ya serikali na hilo ni jambo la kufurahisha kwa sababu Kenya itasonga mbele. Asante.

Hon. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following motion;

THAT, NOTING THAT Kenya's economy is largely driven by the informal sector spearheaded by entrepreneurs presenting themselves in form of Small and Micro Enterprises (SMEs);

FURTHER AWARE THAT Development of Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) therefore, is central to realization of national development goals anchored in the Kenya Vision 2030;

NOTING THAT the Sector is particularly important for providing jobs and income opportunities for economically excluded segments of the population including youth, women, persons with disabilities and low-skilled persons, who experience disproportionately high unemployment;

CONCERNED THAT MSEs in the County face several challenges which include Market access, infrastructure, legal and regulatory framework, financial constraints, weak entrepreneurial culture, human resource and capacity constraints, low survival rates of start-ups that limit their growth and development;

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This House URGES the County Government to establish Micro and Small Enterprises Policy that will seek to providing accessible, affordable and decent infrastructure for MSEs within the County.

Thank you.

MOTION

ESTABLISHMENT OF SMALL & MICRO ENTERPRISES POLICY

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I beg to move the following motion;

THAT, NOTING THAT Kenya's economy is largely driven by the informal sector spearheaded by entrepreneurs presenting themselves in the form of Small and Micro Enterprises (SMEs);

FURTHER AWARE THAT Development of Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) therefore, is central to realization of national development goals anchored in the Kenya Vision 2030;

NOTING THAT the Sector is particularly important for providing jobs and income opportunities to economically excluded segments of the population including youth, women, persons with disabilities and low-skilled persons, who experience disproportionately high unemployment;

CONCERNED THAT MSEs in the County face several challenges which include Market access, infrastructure, legal and regulatory framework, finance constraints, weak entrepreneurial culture, human resource and capacity constraints, low survival rates of start-ups that limit their growth and development;

This House URGES the County Government to establish Micro and Small Enterprises Policy that will seek to providing accessible, affordable and decent infrastructure for MSEs within the County.

Bwana Spika, huu ni mswada ambao nimeuleta ili tuweze kuzungumzia mambo ya wanabiashara wadogo. Bwana Spika, ili nchi iweze kukuwa, ni lazima wananchi wawe na mapato. Bwana Spika, nikizungungumzia SMEs (Small Scale Enterprises), mimi ni mmoja wao na ambao walianzia kazi ikiwa kidogo.

Nilianza kazi kama mchuuzi. Nikiwa mchuuzi, ninajua shida ambayo tumepitia. Wakati nilifika hapa nilipewa majukumu sanasana na wachuuzi kwa sababu walikuwa na Imani na mimi kwamba nitakapofika hapa, nitaweza kuwatetea ili serikali iweze kuwa na mipango ya kuwasaidia.

Bwana Spika, ili kuanza biashara inakuhitaji uwe na pesa. Pia inahitaji serikali kuangalia wafanyibiashara wadogo. Leo tunaongea kuhusu biashara ndogo (SMEs). Wakati tilichaguliwa na Chama cha UDA, tuliingia hapa na kauli mbio ya *Bottom-Up*. *Bottom-Up* ulikuwa ni kuweza kuinua wachuuzi, mama mboga na waendeshaji bodaboda.

Bwana Spika, tunafaa kuwa na sheria ya vile tutaweza kuwapatia pesa. Tunapoongea leo, Waziri wa Fedha ametoka Chama cha ODM na ninaona kama tutakuwa na shida kidogo.

Kabla Mbadi aweze kuelewa mambo ya *Bottom-Up*, nataka kusema ni vizuri sisi ambao tulikuwa katika mpango wa *Bottom-Up* tusimame kidete tueleze hawa watu wa ODM ilikuwa ni nini. Tusipofanya hivyo, mama mboga ataumia. Mtu wa bodaboda ataumia.

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Bwana Spika hawa ndio watu tuliochagulia kwa msingi wa *Bottom-Up*. Leo hii ukiingia miji yetu ya Nanyuki, Nyahururu na Doldol, utakuta wafanyikazi wadogo wamejaa katika hizo miji. Serikali haina mpango wowote wa kuwasaidia hawa wafanyikazi wadogo. Hawa wafanyikazi wadogo hawawezi kukwepa ushuru. Wanalipa ushuru kila siku. Ukienda hapa utapata yule mtoza ushuru akiwa na koti ya manjano amesimama kwa mchuuzi ambaye anauza vitambaa, sindano na pengine tochi moja na bado anaitishwa ushuru.

Wale wandosi wakubwa hawalipi. Ndio unaona tuko na shida katika Kenya yetu. Watu wanafanya kazi kwa bidii lakini pesa hakuna. Tulisema kazi ni kazi, pesa mfukoni. Kama hatutakuwa na mikakati ya kusaidia wafanyakazi wadogo wa Matanya, Umande, Sipili, Withare na sehemu za Naibor, wanafaa kusaidiwa.

Juzi mimi kama mfanyikazi mdogo nikiwa na mzigo wa kupeleka Debatas, leo kunyeshe tu mvua kidogo, huwezi enda. Tunajua wananchi wengi wanatembea na kuuza hayo maeneo yote. Tunaeda Doldol, Ngare Ng'iro, Kimanju, Kipsing na saa hii hio barabara ni mbaya. Tunapokosa kutengeneza zile barabara, wafanyikazi wadogo hawatafika maana wanatumia lori kupeleka Unga, Nyanya na vitu zote ndogo ndogo ambazo zinaweza haribika.

Tunaomba serikali katika ile Hustler Fund, ifike hadi hapa. Yule mama yuko hapa Nanyuki aweze kuendea zile pesa bila kuitishwa Logbook. Wale akina mama wanauza mboga pale hawana Logbook. Hawajui ni nini. Vyeti vya shamba hawana. Wamekomboa hapa Likii, Majengo na kwingine. Ni mtu ambaye anafaa kusaidiwa. Wakati tunaleta huu mswada tunaleta tukiwa na imani tutawasaidia na tuwe na mikakati katika Idara ya Biashara.

Mwenyekiti aende akae na waziri kuhakikisha zile pesa za *Enterprise Fund* zimepatiwa wafanyakazi wale wadogo na pia wale wanafuga ng'ombe na mbuzi. Bwana Spika, vijana wengi wale wanatoka kwa Maasai, Samburu na Kikuyu wanaiba zile ng'ombe ndio wapate pesa za kuanzia biashara. Lazima tuwe na mikakati ya kusaidia hawa wakulima wadogo. Naomba hii Kamati ya Biashara iweze kuangalia hio maneno na ndio tuweze kusaidia wananchi wetu.

Bwana Spika, nichukue nafasi hii nimuite jirani yangu Mheshimiwa Mwaniki aunge mswada mkono maana pia yeye yuko na wanabiashara wadogo katika huo mji wa Matanya ambao unakaribia Nanyuki na Nyahururu. Matanya kuna Sienta ambazo zinatoka pale hadi Nanyuki. Hio biashara ni ya *Hustler*. Watu wamekopa pesa. Hizi barabara kama hazitakuwa sawa hawataweza kufanya biashara zao. Kwa hayo machache, nashukuru. Asante.

Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to second this motion. First, is to welcome Members back to the Assembly. No matter the cold, they will have to endure; we have to move on serving the people of Laikipia. As I rise to second this motion on Small and Medium Enterprise Business people, being one of the business people in Laikipia County, I rose from a humble background of business.

I have served the people of Laikipia for the last 17 years in business. I have listened from *mama Mboga Chamas* and the rest; I know where the shoe pinches. Having good policies in this County will help in establishing good businesses to small traders of Laikipia. Having good infrastructure will still need good policies on businesses and how we can help our people in Laikipia County.

Mr. Speaker, we have established the industrial park in Rumuruti and I think as a Government we should have good policies on that. It is not only entitled for big enterprises. It's an infrastructure that we are building and is costing the County Government over Kshs.

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250,000,000 in the budget. Having an industrial park that will be able to serve the small and medium enterprise businesses still would be able to help our locals in Laikipia County.

This is where as an Assembly, we have to set guidance and policies that we will be able to guide on issues of this industrial park so that our young entrepreneur can be able to benefit from the godowns that are constructed in Rumuruti.

As we all know, right now there is an establishment that is going on in Nanyuki Market and I think that it should be enrolled in all wards because each and every ward should have its own market. Each ward has got its diverse business in the localities and therefore having establishment of reliable and good market infrastructure will still be able to support our young entrepreneurs.

On policies that guide revenue collection and business licencing, as you can see, some businesses that are being established in Laikipia County, they are having more than two licences and that is not conducive environment for the businesses. It puts a tall order to enable them pay for the three licenses for a single business. If at all they can be combined together to at least have one license for establishment per business, that will help in time saving and money saving for our young entrepreneurs in the county. They are the taxpayers and the people; we are depending on to drive economy in this county and country.

If at all we give them good policies and make it simpler to establish a business in Laikipia, then we will have more people establishing businesses, we will still have more returns in revenue collection in this county. So, I urge the House to support this motion because it is timely and the driving principal to our county. Thank you.

(Question proposed)

Speaker: I open the floor for deliberations.

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker for this opportunity. I welcome the Members from a long recess. I also appreciate because we have had a good time with our people though sometimes back, we were embarrassed. I don't know who had proposed to Mshamba news that we are not even capable of fuelling our vehicles. Today we are here though we have financial constraints. I also commend the whip although he feels so demoralized because he was very proud to be the whip of the ruling party. Of late, I am a bit higher unlike him because I am in the independent party. Now he is wondering because they were invaded and now, he is not so powerful as he was previously.

Mr. Speaker, I support this motion on policy on micro and small enterprises. As a guidance on how the small-scale traders would benefit from the government, it is unfortunate because sometimes we had ourselves behind these micro and small enterprises businesses and it is unfortunate because once the businesses are established by the government, they are invaded by the tycoons.

The small-scale traders are always charged to pay rent for the same. I have an experience in my area, Oljabet Juakali. It was constructed by the government but a few people invaded that place, owned it and now the small-scale traders who operates within those enterprises, they are forced to pay rent to a few tycoons who benefitted. Fortunately, we have another new building which is under construction and they are even trying to ensure that they also own it. I am happy because we have got the Chairperson of the committee and he has some work to do on the same because being a chairperson, she ought to ensure that those traders within my locality are given very fair environment to work.

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It is unfortunate because some of those who are being terrorized, are just people who do vehicle wiring, welders and hair dressers but they are being harassed by the few tycoons who own those buildings. They purport to own but the buildings are owned by the government. So, I am happy that now that Trade Committee has proposed a policy on small entrepreneurs. We will work together to ensure that we have brought a very good policy that will assist our people in doing business well. So, I support.

Hon. Paul Leshuel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to appreciate you for this chance. I also welcome the Members to our normal session. I am in support of this motion because it mentions about the policy. We need to have very good policies that guide on how small and medium enterprises benefit. In issues of policies, there is a lot of limitations. You will realize that the people who are doing small businesses, they are limited by so many things especially what guarantees them to get finances.

As a small entrepreneur who wants to start a small business, you do not expect that person to have a title deed or another asset. You don't even expect that person to have an account in a certain bank. So, we need to have a policy that allows the poor people to benefit so that they can come up from where they are to joining other Kenyans.

In this country, we have got a gap between the poor and the rich and what limits them is the policies. Mr. Speaker, if you get a shortcut of getting money, then you would benefit from other things in this country.

If you want to access todays millions of monies in the banks, you must have documents or have title deed or a log book of a big vehicle. So how do you reach there Mr. Speaker? You only reach there when you get springs but if you start from scratch, you will remain there because you only borrow small money from the Chair of Budget or the Chair of other departments. They will give you very little to start that business. Policies are very important.

The other thing, the policy must give us the index. What is the position of this County? We now almost 15 years down the line since we got devolution. What is the status of the County in terms of poverty index? Are we progressing or are we dying? We need to know because if we are dying, then what was the reason of having devolution? We need to ask ourselves a hard question, what is the position in terms of business.

What is the enterprise; the small money we are allocating for enterprise what is that doing? Are people benefiting? Who are those benefiting? Are they the right people or we are making other people rich? Or we are making rich people to get richer? We need to know so many things Mr. Speaker. We may do a very big development. You may construct a road in the entire ward but people don't have vehicles.

People do not even have money to hire a vehicle that will come and take a sick person from the grass. We need to know exactly what we are doing? What exactly that we can do that will improve the economy? It is very unfortunate to all of us as leaders to lead poor people. If you lead poor people, they will pull you until you become poor because every single day you are in *a* harambee. When a mum gives birth, you will go to a harambee to buy clothes for the child. You will be doing a serious harambee.

Until people become rich, you will stay comfortable. I want to give you an example of one County and I am sorry to mention this. If you go to Meru, during the campaigns, people are not given money. Just come to the crowd and they hear your voice and then they go. If you go to other areas like the pastoralists and other remote areas, even you will be sympathetic to

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those people because they come to your meeting but they have nothing to take back to their children. It will force you to get something to give them.

It is unfortunate to lead poor people. So how do we come out of this? We will come out of this only if we have good policies that give only the poor people a very good environment to benefit from the government money. So, I stand to support this and the reason I want to urge Members to have a very good policy is that it will give the poor person, somebody doing a small business without giving condition that you must have a group, you must have a document. People who cannot be able to join a group because to join a group you need to make a contribution.

How do we get that person down there? Development is not enough, we need to see the economy. We need to see what is the status of our people? I think the government or the governor must come up with a policy or a way that will weigh or that will think about the status of our County. Whether we are progressing or we are at the same level since devolution or we are dying because we want to know. Those are the three things that must be there. I stand to support, Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Hon. Paul Leshuel for your robust contribution. Members, allow me now to take this time to invite the mover of the motion to reply. Hon. Stephen.

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Asante, Bwana Spika. Nataka kwanza kuchukua nafasi hii kushukuru kwa vile Wabunge wameweza kutoa maoni yao na wameweza kuunga mkono huu mswada. Huu mswada wakati utapita uweze kutekelezwa, utaweza kuwasaidia wale wakulima wadogo ama wana iashara wadogo. Sote tuweze kuinua nchi yetu na tuweze kuinua uchumi wetu wa Taifa la Kenya. Asante, Bwana Spika.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: The sittings of this House now stand adjourned until later today, Tuesday, 13th August 2024 at 2:30 p.m.

The House rose at 10:35 a.m.

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