REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 14th October, 2025

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

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

PRAYERS

QUORUM CALL

Speaker: Clerk, confirm if we do have quorum.

(Lack of quorum confirmed)

Speaker: Being so, I direct that the bell rings for 10 minutes.

(Quorum bell rang for one minute)

Hon. Anthony Theuri. Good morning, Hon. Speaker. I can see that we have the quorum.

Speaker: Clerk, confirm if indeed we do have quorum.

(Lack of quorum confirmed)

Speaker: The bell to continues ringing as directed.

(Quorum bell rang for seven (7) minutes)

Hon. Mary Gathoni: Mr. Speaker, we have quorum.

Speaker: Clerk, confirm if we do have quorum.

(Clerk confirmed achievement of Quorum)

Speaker: Thank you. Now that we have quorum, I direct that the bell stops ringing and we proceed to the orders of the day.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

VISITING DELEGATION FROM MURUKU MIXED SECONDARY SCHOOL

Speaker: Hon. Members, I rise to make a communication. Allow me to request all our guests to rise up. Honourable members, I wish to recognize the presence of the 47 students from Muruku Mixed Day and Boarding Secondary School in Salama Ward, Laikipia, West Constituency. They are accompanied by their teachers, namely Mr. George Mwangi and Ms. Anne Mwangi. Kindly raise your hand. Thank you.

Honourable Members, on my own behalf and that of the Assembly, I wish to welcome them to the County Assembly of Laikipia and wish them a fruitful engagement during their visit with us as they learn. Thank you so much. May you be seated.

NOTICE OF MOTION

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CONDUCTING A COMPREHENSIVE RESEARCH AND MAPPING EXERCISE ON THE AVAILABLE MINERAL ORES

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

THAT, Aware that Article 69(1)(a) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, obligates the State to ensure sustainable exploitation, utilization, management, and conservation of the environment and natural resources, and to ensure equitable sharing of accruing benefits;

Further AWARE that the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution assigns the County Governments the responsibility of implementing specific National Government policies on natural resources and environmental conservation;

NOTING that Laikipia County has vast land with potential mineral deposits whose quantity, location, and economic viability have not been properly documented;

APPRECIATING that conducting research and mapping of mineral resources will provide accurate data for planning, investment promotion, and environmental protection;

THIS House urges the County Government in collaboration with the Ministry of Mining and other relevant agencies, to initiate and conduct a comprehensive research and mapping exercise on the available mining ores within the County, and to develop a framework for sustainable mineral exploitation and value addition for the benefit of the county's residents.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MOTION

CONDUCTING A COMPREHENSIVE RESEARCH AND MAPPING EXERCISE ON THE AVAILABLE MINERAL ORES

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

THAT, Aware that Article 69(1)(a) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, obligates the State to ensure sustainable exploitation, utilization, management, and conservation of the environment and natural resources, and to ensure equitable sharing of accruing benefits;

Further AWARE that the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution assigns the County Governments the responsibility of implementing specific National Government policies on natural resources and environmental conservation;

NOTING that Laikipia County has vast land with potential mineral deposits whose quantity, location, and economic viability have not been properly documented;

APPRECIATING that conducting research and mapping of mineral resources will provide accurate data for planning, investment promotion, and environmental protection;

THIS House urges the County Government in collaboration with the Ministry of Mining and other relevant agencies, to initiate and conduct a comprehensive research and mapping exercise on the available mining ores within the County, and to develop a framework for sustainable mineral exploitation and value addition for the benefit of the county's residents.

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Mr. Speaker, I want to say that coming up with this motion is based on what I have been seeing on the media in regards to mineral exploitation. One of the things that I've come to realize is that Laikipia County data in terms of mineral is scanty, it's not available. So, we are not aware of the amount of minerals that Laikipia County owns. One of the things I came to see, one of the experts had come to Laikipia County just to know what are the potential mineral exploitation areas within the county.

I think it had been hard for the Executive to really pinpoint where the natural ores are within Laikipia County. I am looking at some of the research that was done initially. The only thing that they had found is the huge deposits of a particular iron in Naibor, Muguoni area. When they took the sample, it's only 75% of iron and some of the small minerals that they were looking at, also was mica, marble and granite.

Those are some of the samples and they could not tell the amount of quantity that those minerals are in within Laikipia County. Looking at other potential countries which are actually exploring their mineral wealth within Africa, noting that Africa is among the richest continent in the world, we are not actually using our potential of minerals to actually exploit them well and sell to other nations.

This is something that Laikipia County can really look at because with the vast amount of land that we have, I am 100% sure that we have minerals in this county. It is something that we need to explore. It is something that we really need to think about as a county and exploit it well so that it can benefit the citizens in terms of Laikipia County. It can benefit the country and it means that our economic status as a nation will change because we have enough mineral deposits to sell to our neighbours and to other nations.

I can give an example of a country like Burkina Faso. Right now, Burkina Faso's president has ensured that the minerals within their country is exploited for the benefits of the people of Burkina Faso. That means that countries like France which was initially benefiting, Burkina Faso is going to develop more than Kenya because they are now exploiting their minerals in the right way.

It is the high time the National Government and the County Government looks and maps well where our minerals are. If it is commercially and economically viable, then it is high time as a nation that we exploit what God has given us for free. That means that our country will be rich like other countries like Saudi Arabia where they only exploit oil. They only have one mineral that they exploit well and they are living good lives compared to other nations.

I would like the County Government to take a keen observation in terms of researching and knowing the kind of minerals we have in Laikipia so that be able to exploit what we have. Apart from that, I know we do not have county policies on mining. This is something we need to look at as we are exploiting those possibilities in the event that we know what is our strength in terms of minerals.

It is the high time as a county we develop policies which I know will come later. We also need to look at the environmental impact as we are doing our exploration. Our environmental impact assessment should be to make sure that we conserve our environment. We should not destroy it. In the event we are mining, we should make sure that our environment is well catered for. With all these, I would like to call upon Hon. Kanyutu to second my motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Honourable Kanyutu, the floor is yours.

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Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to second. Before that, may I first of all welcome the students from Muruku, which is from our area, Laikipia West. I thank the teachers who have been able to organize for the students to be here. They are lucky to have teachers who can see far, for them to learn on how legislation is done in the Assembly. I'm sure most would wish, but Muruku students are lucky to have the teachers who have organized on the same.

Mr. Speaker, I second that motion by the Hon. Umija that we need to exploit our resources. I don't know why sometimes we pass issues in this Assembly and they are not properly utilized. During the previous regime, we had even a very mega event planning on how we will exploit the resources that we have in Laikipia North. There is a company which I had proposed that they would utilize, and they would have exploited whatever we have.

Mr. Speaker, anybody who has used Athi River - Namanga Road, can attest to me that that in that route, the country has been able to exploit all the marble that is within the County. They have brought more than five companies that are harvesting all what they have. I don't know how we are to push our government to ensure this because whatever is in Laikipia North ought to benefit me when I am in Marmanet.

I appreciate the mover of the motion because as she has said, we have to ensure the accrued benefits benefit the whole county. Every benefit that is within those areas that have been earmarked to have the minerals, ought to benefit all of us. It is unfortunate because at the moment, as I speak, were it not for the sand that we have from those areas, all the other minerals are left and un-utilized.

Mr. Speaker, I second, and I wish the government to fast-track on the exploration and extracting. It should even ensure that we benefit from all the minerals that we have in Laikipia North. So, Mr. Speaker, I second the motion.

(Question proposed)

Speaker: Hon. Members, I now open the floor for those Members who may want to delve into the debate of this motion. Hon. Daniel Mugweru, Member for Umande.

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Thank you, Hon. Speaker, for the opportunity given to me to support the motion brought by Hon. Umija, meant to help the people of Laikipia. Before I do that, Hon. Speaker, I also wish to acknowledge the presence of the students who come from my area, you know the power of devolution. Hon. Kanyutu, some are laughing and that is the truth that who happens to come from my area, which is Laikipia County.

That is how devolution works. I will say they come from my area, Laikipia County. Hon. Kanyutu will say they come from his area, Laikipia West and later, Hon. Gatati will say they come from his area that is in Salama. If there was a village elder, he/she could have said they come from Muruku, their village. That is the power of devolution. Hon. Speaker, I wish to acknowledge the presence of the students from Salama who happens to come from my area which is Laikipia County.

Hon. Speaker, it is good that the students are coming here to learn how devolution is working, and number two, how government is run in the County Governments. Hon. Speaker, them coming from Salama Ward, I'm sure they'll get something from this House and virtue of them, you know Salama Ward produced one of the young and the best MCAs in this House. I believe they produced the best because they are also good. Good people produce good people. It's a big day for us.

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The students should learn from us today because it will be of much help in the future because the ones who are in this House are just here for a specified time which the Lord Has planned. In the near future, some of you will come here because we are not going to remain here forever just as there were others ahead of us. In future you will be here and other young students will be where you are watching from. So, it is a great day that you should learn from us.

Having said that Hon. Speaker, mining is a very important thing that can be done in this county. As Hon. Kanyutu has just said, in the previous regime, we had a department for mining. We had launched it and the only thing we have been left with is a very beautiful t-shirt indicated mining in Laikipia. It was a good initiative even identifying and getting a department with a director specifically for mining. It could have helped Laikipia to at least move a step forward.

Mr. Speaker, today I thank Hon. Umija because she has brought back the issue in this House so that we may push the Executive Arm of Government to either decide or have the same department. Currently, we have the department of planning that carries natural resources, renewable energy and mining. Apart from concentrating so much on planning of land alone, we make sure that he understands that even mining is in his docket.

So, we need to question them and that is why we approved the motion here to call the ministers in this House, so that we may put them into task. We should ask them, yes you are doing roads and planning but what are you doing in renewable energy and mining? If you are given a docket that carries so many items, every item is demanded by the people of Laikipia.

Hon. Speaker, it is a good motion whereby we should push them. Apart from planning and surveying lands, they now move ahead and start doing their proper survey on the natural resources that we have. If we do proper research and mining, let us know that in a specific area there is this and that. Even if we are not going to manage or able to mine, let us know what metal or what we have and where it is located.

If it is diatomite, let us know where it is so that we may later liaise with the National Government and invite them in this county with specifics. Let us document that so that when we will be looking for resources from the National Government, we will be seen as people who know what they are doing. You cannot call people to invest in mining and you don't even have the location where you want the mining to be done.

Therefore, the motion is very clear, we should have accurate planning, research and mapping. From there, we can move to the next step of mining. I support and hope that the Executive Arm of Government will do this for the support of the people of Laikipia. Let us even have a department even if it will not be having a Chief Officer but can have a director, specifically following this because we have a lot that we can get in Laikipia. Every part of Laikipia has got a corner where we can get something.

Hon. Veronica Ikunyua: Thank you, Mr. Speaker for giving me this chance. Before I give my contribution, let me welcome the students from Muruku Secondary School. Feel welcomed to this Assembly as you learn what we do here to represent you.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank Hon. Umija for bringing this motion again to this House because sometimes, we need to emphasize on these things and the motions we pass in this Assembly. Most of the times we pass very important motions but the Executive just ignore them. It is very wrong because we are here to represent and make sure that we deliver to the people of Laikipia.

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Mining is not solely for Laikipia County but it is a shared responsibility for County and National Governments. The work of the National Government is primarily to oversight while the work of the County Government is to license the specific area where we have identified some minerals.

I appreciate this Assembly because one time they took me to Tanzania to go and represent and see what the other countries do. Many people were walking in and out of the premises and I was wondering what they were doing. I decided to enter and find out what they were doing and when I entered, I learnt a very great idea that was meant for developing the people of that area.

The minerals that are there have been emphasized. They have allocated money and did research to identify specifically where those minerals in Tanzania are. People of that area are benefiting. They are no longer loitering around due to lack of jobs. We are complaining that our youths have no jobs to do and we are not ready to be aggressive to identify where we can get such minerals so that we can be able to accommodate and employ our people.

Mr. Speaker. I therefore want to emphasize that the Executive must take an action. Last regime, as you had the last speaker saying, we had a big launch of identifying minerals. Mr. Speaker, after changing of the government, I do not know what happened. I wish to encourage the people who are responsible to work on it so that we would be able to enrich our county. Mr. Speaker, with that I support the motion.

Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Members, I want to give the floor to Hon. Mugambi, the Member for Salama Ward.

Hon. Samuel Mugambi: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I stand to support the motion. I am happy to hear that we have a secondary school-Muruku which is in my ward. Hon. Speaker, the good thing with Muruku Secondary School in the whole ward is that it is the only secondary school with a school bus. This is a prestigious in our ward. It is like when you go to Naivasha we have Braeburn. This is a very good school and I want to welcome them here. I am happy to see them.

Being their MCA, I know some of them might get to understand that their area MCA is Mugambi Gatati yet Hon. Mugweru is saying that I am one of the youngest. I am not young. It is only that I look young. Some people might think I am a Gen Z. I am not a Gen Z. I am even above 35 years old. I want to welcome them here and I am happy to say that the students visit this House for learning.

Hon. Speaker, before we talk about learning I want also to inform the students, that the County Government of Laikipia or the County Government function in a secondary school is very limited to bursary allocation or any other small developments like washroom constructions. Their teacher was requesting me to do some levelling of the playing ground, and I promised them to do so. Some of these people will also be voters in the year 2027.

Hon. Speaker, they neighbor Muruku Primary School and a month or two months ago, we did a very clean and nice ECD Classroom which is already finished. In the same area we are also doing construction of some roads that come from Gwa kung'u to Muruku Primary School gate. It is under procurement stage and we shall build it because it is in a very deplorable state.

We also have some other development we are doing in Muruku Centre. We are putting up Muruku multipurpose borehole at the trading centre to serve the Muruku Cooperative. We have a Milk cooler somewhere there that we want to develop it and make it good for all the

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farmers to bring their milk there. When you put up a milk cooler in one place, the farmer will get benefits.

So, I want to welcome them and also to inform them and the House that today we are discussing about mining. When you mention mining to me, it is nostalgic. We also have mining in High School. It is a topic in Form 1 or Form 2 in Geography. I was a small boy in Karima Boys School being taught by Mr. Wanjau about Mining

It was a very nice topic. I know some of these students are taking Geography and can relate to what I am saying. The third thing, I would encourage them on is that, being Muruku Secondary School, they are in the right track. I was born in Mutara. I went to Raya Primary School, a very poor school. I used to walk from our home to the school, a distance of about 15 km one way. So, I used to walk 15 km in the morning and 15 km in the evening. During our time we did not have PP1 and PP2, so all of us attended nursery school. Imagine a seven-year-old kid travelling for 15 km to go and learn.

Nowadays some of these students are lucky because in their area there is Muruku, Kianjogu, Muthiga and Nganoini primary schools; all in a short distance of about 5 km. So, I do not think any of them travelled far to access their primary school education. When you reach high school, you are then a grown-up and have energy, you can even walk for 30 km.

I want to wish them all the best. I do not know which form they are in, but I wish to inform them that we are planning for motivational talks for the candidates. We will come to their schools and have their role models in the area; people who attended those schools, and some of us will also chip in to motivate them. I wish to tell them that no one is special. It is all about determination and effort, and you will get success.

Hon. Speaker, I now wish to speak about the motion. If you research about some of the richest countries in the world, all what they do is mining. When I was at the university, there was one lecturer who taught us the difference between the rich and the poor. I think it is the poverty index or something like that. When you look at all the countries with poor people, they rely only on agriculture. Those are the poorest countries in the world. The richest countries in the world rely on mining and manufacturing.

Hon. Speaker, a very good example is China. There are also the USA and Russia, and in Africa there is South Africa. You know very well that South Africa does very well in mining and farming. You come from Laikipia North, Hon. Speaker, and you know that most of the farmers there are now abandoning the traditional sheep and going for the Dorper sheep from South Africa. I think if we can take up mining as a country, especially in Laikipia…

Hon. Speaker, there was something that appeared in the papers about five years ago concerning ranchers. There was someone called Kuki Gallman who had written funny statements that some ranchers were doing illegal mining in their ranches. I tend to agree with the statements because some of these ranchers do not even accept visitors. It seems they might be doing some illegal mining and benefitting from it. I am sitting here with one of the ranchers; Hon. Leila is one of the ranchers in Laikipia. She needs to stand and assure us that they do not practice illegal mining in our land.

For you to do mining in Kenya, you need a license as well as to be inspected on what you are doing, and you also need to pay taxes. Hon. Speaker, if Laikipia County embraces mining, I think we can change the economy of this country. We can even put up secondary schools with a lot of good structures. Before I forget, it is good I inform the students that last year I gave the school Kshs.354,000 worth of bursary.

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Hon. Speaker, it is good that I announce to them that we might not give out bursaries this year because the National Government took the counties to court and argues that the bursary function is a function of the National Government. Now we have to obtain a court ruling giving us the greenlight to issue bursaries. So, they might have to depend on CDF bursaries alone. I support the motion and wish the students well in their studies and a safe journey back home. When they go home, let them tell their parents and siblings to receive greetings from their MCA, Mugambi Gatati. Thank you.

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

Hon. Catherine Umija: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the House for supporting the motion on research on mining potential. I know I did not greet the good students from Muruku Mixed Secondary School in Salama Ward. Just as the area MCA has encouraged them, they should get encouraged and know that we are here to work for them, and they too have the potential to become people who represent others in different forums. Thank you.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: The sittings of this House now stand adjourned until later today, Tuesday, 14th October 2025 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 10.51 a.m.

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