REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 19th March, 2024

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

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

PRAYERS

QUORUM CALL

Speaker: Clerk confirm whether we have quorum?

(Lack of quorum confirmed)

Speaker: Without quorum, I direct the bell to be rang for 10 minutes.

(The bell was rang for 10 minutes)

Speaker: Clerk confirm whether we have quorum now?

(Lack of quorum confirmed)

Speaker: Hon. Salim?

Hon. Salim Edung: We have quorum Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Clerk, confirm whether we have quorum?

(Clerk confirmed achievement of quorum)

PAPERS LAID

AUDITOR GENERALS' REPORTS FOR 2023

Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to lay the following Papers.

a) Report of the Auditor General on County Executive of Laikipia for the year ended 30th June, 2023.

b) Report of the Auditor General on Laikipia County Development Authority for the year ended 30th June, 2023.

c) Report of the Auditor General on Laikipia County Enterprise Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2023.

d) Report of the Auditor General on Laikipia County State and Public Officers Car loan and mortgage scheme fund for the year ended 30th June, 2023.

e) Report of the Auditor General on County Revenue fund for the year ended 30th June, 2023 for the County Government of Laikipia.

f) Report of the Auditor General on Receiver of Revenue- Revenue statements for the year ended 30th June, 2023 for the County Government of Laikipia.

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g) Report of the Auditor General on Laikipia County Revenue Board for the year ended 30th June, 2023.

h) Report of the Auditor General on Laikipia County Education Bursary Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2023.

i) Report of the Auditor General on Laikipia County Cooperative Development Revolving Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2023.

j) Report of the Auditor General on Laikipia County Leasing Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2023.

k) Report of the Auditor General on Laikipia County Business Stimulus Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2023.

(Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki laid the Papers on the Table)

Speaker: Thank you, very much for the Papers. The Papers Laid in totality are committed to the CPAIC Committee.

NOTICE OF MOTION

PREVENTION OF DRUG AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

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

THAT, AWARE THAT Cultural activities, public entertainment and public amenities, including liquor licensing is a function of the County Government as stipulated in part 2 of the fourth schedule of the Constitution of Kenya 2010;

FURTHER AWARE THAT Drugs and substance abuse is a growing socio-economic challenge that affects many societies across the globe;

NOTING THAT the challenge has particularly adversely impacted on young persons, families and communities;

CONCERNED THAT some of the social effects of drug use and substance abuse include: emotional damage, antisocial behavior, brain damage and death;

This House URGES the County Government to establish mentorship programs policy with an aim of;

i. Conducting a thorough assessment of the community to understand the extent of the drug and substance abuse problem among the youth, as well as the specific risk factors and challenges they face.

ii. Engaging with key stakeholders such as schools, community organizations, law enforcement and healthcare providers to garner support and collaboration for the mentorship program.

iii. Clearly define the goals and objectives of the mentorship program, such as reducing substance abuse rates among youths, increasing awareness about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse, and improving overall well-being and resilience.

iv. Recruit mentors who are passionate about youth development and have a commitment to preventing substance abuse.

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v. Training mentors on effective mentoring techniques, communication skills, and understanding substance abuse issues.

vi. Offer ongoing training and support for mentors to enhance their skills and knowledge in addressing substance abuse issues.

vii. Facilitate regular mentorship activities and sessions that focus on building positive relationships, fostering personal development, promoting healthy lifestyles, and discussing strategies for avoiding drugs and alcohol.

viii. Continuously monitor the progress of the mentorship program and evaluate its impact on reducing substance abuse rates and improving the well-being of participating youths.

MOTION

EQUIPPING OF MUWARAK TVET CENTRE IN THE COUNTY

Hon. Paul Leshuel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of Hon. Lekopien Parleto, I beg to move the following motion;

NOTING THAT; part two of the fourth schedule of the constitution of Kenya ,2010 stipulates that, Pre-primary education, village polytechnics, homecraft centres and childcare facilities is a function of the County Government;

APPRECIATING THAT, Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) equips individuals with practical skills and knowledge that are directly applicable to specific trades, industries, or professions which then enhances their employability and increases their chances of finding meaningful employment;

ACKNOWLEDGING THAT, Laikipia County has approximately Ten (10) TVETs;

CONCERNED by the status of Mouwarak TVET centre in Sosian ward where basic learning equipment is insufficient and learners commute to and from the institution for long distances;

This House URGES the County Government of Laikipia;

1. To equip Muwarak TVET centre in Sosian Ward.

2. To build and equip dormitories for the learners.

Mr. Speaker, as we all know TVET is a function of the County Government and the motion is self-explanatory. It is all about equipping Muwarak TVET because it is not well equipped and to build a dormitory for learners. Mr. Speaker, because this is the function of the County Government, it is important if the County Government can equip this TVET. Mr. Speaker, we know the importance of TVETs. They give people skills and we know that that area is terrain.

People walk for long distances to come to schools. If we get a dormitory, this will be a good chance for learners. Mr. Speaker, we do not have enough houses so that our students can rent. That is the reason why Members decided that if we get a dormitory, it will be better so that we can accommodate many students. I am sure that is the only TVET we have in Laikipia North. Mr. Speaker, it is very important if we can pass this motion and probably lobby from the County Government to look for some funds to do the two important areas.

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Mr. Speaker, I urge Hon. Members to support this because this is not an individual motion. It is for all of us and it will help our students in future, so I urge Members to pass this motion. If it will be done, it will help our students in the future. Mr. Speaker, we know that when you take your child to university without proper skills and especially the local skills that can give them self-employment, employment will become an issue in this country.

The moment we build capacity for our children by taking others to do electrical wiring, electrical engineering and other skills, it will help our children gain self-employment. Mr. Speaker, I want to urge Hon. Members to support this and I request the Honourable Member for Segera, Hon. Salim to second this. Thank you.

Hon. Salim Edung: Bwana Spika, nimeafiki na ninashukuru Mheshimiwa Parleto Lekopien kwa kuleta huu mswada katika Bunge hili ili kujadili kuhusu ufundi wa Chuo cha Muwarak. Katika Kaskazini mwa Laikipia, tunatambua Muwarak pekee kama shule ya ufundi ambayo iko Kaskazini mwa Laikipia na inasaidia wanafunzi kutoka sehemu hiyo. Hiyo ni sehemu iliyo mbali na watu wanatoka mbali kuja katika hiyo shule.

Kama vile Mheshimiwa wa Sosian ameleta huu mjadala, ni kwa sababu kuna mambo mengi ambayo imenakiliwa pale kuhusu bweni na wanafunzi ambao wako huko. Tukiwa katika Bunge hili, tunahitaji usaidizi katika Bunge la Laikipia ili iangalie kwa makini sehemu hiyo ili wanafunzi wapate kusoma. Pasipokuwa na haya yote ambayo yameongewa na Mheshimiwa Paul Leshuel, sisi tutakuwa tunajenga ujenzi tu pasipokuwa na maana. Ni vizuri hiyo taasisi ifanye kazi na isaidie wananchi wa Laikipia.

Hatusemi inajengwa sehemu za Muwarak peke yake kwa sababu imetoka Kaskazini mwa Laikipia, lakini ni wanafunzi wa Laikipia ambao wanataka kupata ujuzi katika hiyo sehemu. Kama Bunge hili hawataunga mkono kuhusu huu mswada, ujenzi ambao umewekwa pale na zile raslimali za serikali zimewekwa pale zitakuwa za bure.

Ningewaomba Wabunge wenzangu waunge mswada mkono ili watu waendelee na masomo na kupata ujuzi, nasi pia katika Laikipia tuendelee mbele. Kwa hayo machache, ningepeana nafasi ili wenzangu waendelee kuchangia kwa sababu ni mswada unaohitaji sisi sote tushikane mikono na kusaidia aliyeuleta huu mswada kwenye hili Bunge. Ingawa pengine yuko njiani akija, sisi tumesema tushikilie kwa sababu ni mswada unaowasaidia watu wa Laikipia wala sio mtu binafsi. Asante.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Salim.

(Question proposed)

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Members. I now open the floor for debate on this motion. Welcome. I want to invite Hon. Mugweru to take the floor.

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Thank you, Hon. Speaker for giving me this opportunity to make my contribution in support of the motion of today whose title is "Equipping of The TVET Centres in The County." I am so much interested in the title of the motion because equipping of TVET centres in the county is so important. Firstly, the issues of TVETs and pre-primary education are our basic responsibility. In education, much of our concentration and resources should go to our basic responsibility. This is one of the basic responsibilities before we even go to secondary school, colleges and university. Even if we do very well in colleges, universities and secondary schools but not do well in our basic responsibilities, we will be counted as failures.

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Hon. Speaker, if today you feed your extended family while your nuclear family is hungry, whatever you are doing will be termed as useless. So, one of our basic responsibilities is this issue of TVETs and the mover of the motion was very specific. The reason why I have said that, I also want to make some contribution on the same. The one who has the motion and the drafter of the motion seem to be two different people. The intention of the one who is moving the motion is to equip TVET centres in the county. However, the person who drafted it went ahead and made it one particular TVET and now the headline has become different.

Hon. Speaker, I am making my contribution towards the equipping of TVET centres in Laikipia. We have so many TVET centres in this county and it is our basic responsibility to make sure that we get the best in this county. In Laikipia North, this is one of the TVET centres that I probably know. For most of us who are from Umande, and probably people from Mukogodo East and the neighbouring county of Meru, the only polytechnic that helps us is the Ethi Polytechnic. If you mention Ethi Polytechnic in Umande Ward, everybody will tell you about it. If you mention it in Meru, everybody knows about it.

Hon. Speaker, why we normally mention it is because it is well equipped. Besides it being a public polytechnic, it is also directly linked with the Anglican Church. That is probably why it is well equipped, and it really helps so many young people in Daiga Division and parts of Meru. If we wake up today as a County Government and get to know our basic responsibility, and decide that almost every ward ought to have a TVET centre or polytechnic, that would be the best thing for our young people.

Today, there are so many people who have chosen to go for these skills simply because employment in Kenya has turned to be a major problem. Everyone is looking for skills whereby even if you are not employed, you are able to start your own business. It is a high time as a County of Laikipia we invest heavily on this.

Hon. Speaker, some of the investments we do, if we empower our people, probably in future they will not even require a lot of bursaries since they are empowered. Now that we have not empowered our people, every young parent needs to be assisted to take his child to school through bursaries. Probably, if we helped them to have skills or their own businesses, we could not be getting long queues of people demanding bursaries.

Mr. Speaker, it is high time we stop feeding people fish and start giving them the fishing nets so that people may fetch fish for themselves. As a County of Laikipia, there are so many institutions, TVETs and polytechnics; so, we should invest heavily.

Laikipia is a county where we have so many foreigners that we should get to know as an Assembly and the county. Probably, the Committee on Cohesion or Implementation should start asking them on what is their Corporate Social Responsibility. What do they do to our people? In our area, I have a flower farm by the name Kongoni. The much we get from that farm is only polluting the air with drugs. We do not benefit from them at all and so we must be honest with ourselves.

Two weeks ago, we got a very good polytechnic that was well equipped with everything. The teachers there, are employed at zero cost from the Government. There is no single shilling we got from the Government; not even employment of the teachers. Everything was done by Finley's Limited which is located in Meru.

It is very frustrating that we have companies in Laikipia that cannot show anything or even stand and say that the people of Laikipia have benefited from us in this and this. Today, in Umande Ward we are having one of the best polytechnics in Laikipia. It is the work of

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Finley's which is in Meru and not Laikipia County. We are getting donations from Meru whereas our County is the one known by so many foreign investors who cannot help our people.

Hon. Speaker, it is a high time we as a County set enough budget to equip these TVETS, polytechnics and vocational training centres in our areas. Number two, we take a step to every foreign investor who is investing in each ward to help in this too because our budget could not be enough to carter for all these. Since Oljogi is bordering Sosian, we should ask the foreigners living there what they are doing for our people.

When those investors chip-in for helping us with the TVETs for our young people, we will really benefit. As a House we need to wake up. As much as we set enough budget for the same, we should also ask ourselves what are the foreign and local investors doing to help this Government get to the standards that we want.

Mr. Speaker if we talk about taxes, we get very minimal tax from these foreigners. We get that 90% of them have constructed hotels in their farms and we here think that they are employee quarters only to find out some are industries. All these aeroplanes that go around here in Nanyuki are not for Kenya Army. Most of them go to the farms surrounding us here. They bring visitors to those places and the much we get paid is peanuts from those foreigners. It is a high time either as an Assembly we create a law on following up their social corporate responsibility in our areas so that we may help our people.

Therefore, I support that we work hard and set enough budget and also include foreign and local investors to make sure that we equip all TVET centres in Laikipia County.

In the motion, the last statement states that;

CONCERNED by the status of Muwarak TVET Centre in Sosian ward where basic learning equipment is insufficient and learners commute to and from the institution for long distances; this House URGES the County Government of Laikipia;

1. *To equip Muwarak TVET centre in Sosian Ward.*
2. *To build and equip dormitories for the learners.*

It should have stated that, concerned by the status of TVET centres in Laikipia and not specifically in Sosian but in the whole county. Then we say that this House urges the County Government of Laikipia to equip all the TVET centres that are not well equipped and also to build dormitories where necessary in all TVET centres in Laikipia. I support. Thank you Hon Speaker.

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At first, I was hesitant to contribute because I would be happy if the person who brought the motion was around. I am aware of the three TVETS that we have in Laikipia County, in Laikipia North, Laikipia East and another in Laikipia West which is my ward. I can attest on the floor of this House that this county cannot afford equipping the TVETS. Not unless the county equips the polytechnics. The machineries used in TVETS are very costly and the county can hardly afford. If we talk of polytechnics, I would wholly support but for TVETS, it is the work of the National Government.

Mr. Speaker, the already equipped materials, as a county we have been unable to utilize them. I had a chance to visit one of the TVETS in Nyeri and the population in that institution was very encouraging but unfortunately, there was no dormitories for the learners. Of late, the government is not building dormitories but encouraging the local investors. If a TVET is within your locality, you build some hostels there. Some students through the help of HELB by the government have been able to rent the hostels built by the local investors.

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I am happy because Muwarak TVET is coming up and people are going to invest in that locality. Previously, it was just TVET itself but now even the market has improved. I support but on equipping the TVET, the county cannot afford the machines for running the institution because they are really costly. Not unless we drain all our resources on the same and at the same time, we are also pushing for drugs in our hospitals. Health is already devolved and we have to work as a county.

I support but on dormitories, all the institutions we have in the country, there is no government institution that is building dormitories. They are encouraging local investors everywhere and in Nairutia, I can see it is upcoming. If I had not used my mortgage, I would invest in building some hostels in Nairutia. I support in building our polytechnics but as for the TVETS, let's leave it for the National Government.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Kanyutu. Allow me now to give the mover of the motion to make a reply.

Hon. Paul LeshueL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also want to thank the Hon. Members for their contribution and their concerns. What the government can do, we can do it but where we can lobby for investors, it is the responsibility of the government to do that. So, I am happy for the way Members have contributed and probably in the future, if all what we are saying is done, I am sure that we are going to see the results. Thank you.

(Question put and agreed to)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR.

CONDOLENCES TO BEREAVED MEMBERS

Speaker: Before I sit down, I forgot to make a communication and specifically, in this particular period of time, we have had a bit of abnormal situations that are not good. We want to officially pass our condolences to Hon. Geroge Karuiru who lost his father and the burial is over.

I also want to let the House know that Hon. Irene Wachuka, the Member for Igwamiti Ward has lost her husband and the burial is on Monday. One of our staff members, Caroline Kirichu, lost her mother and I am notified though not officially that the burial could be on Thursday at Narumoru. I just want to pass the Assembly's condolences officially to the members who are bereaved. We are with you in your time of sorrow and in any other way. Thank you, very much.

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: The sittings of this House now stand adjourned until tomorrow Wednesday, 20th March, 2024 at 9.00 a.m.

The House rose at 3.24 p.m.

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