REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 22nd June, 2021

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

[The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Daniel Nyausi) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

QUORUM CALL

Deputy Speaker: Clerk, confirm whether we have quorum.

(Lack of quorum confirmed)

Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, according to our Standing Orders, Part 7 (Quorum at Commencement of the Assembly), 35, I will read part (2): *If there is not a quorum present when the Chair is taken at the time appointed for a meeting of the Assembly immediately after saying of the prayer, the Speaker shall order the bell to be rung for ten minutes, and if no quorum is present at the expiration of the ten minutes, the Speaker may direct that the bell be rung for a further five minutes and if there is still no quorum present, the Speaker shall adjourn the Assembly forthwith to the next sitting.*

So then I ask the Serjeant-at-Arms to ring the bell for ten minutes.

(The bell was rung for ten minutes)

Deputy Speaker: Clerk, confirm whether we have attained quorum.

(Quorum confirmed)

Deputy Speaker: The Serjeant-at-Arms can stop ringing the bell.

PAPERS LAID

LAIKIPIA COUNTY GOVERNMENT AGRICULTURE QUARTERLY REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2018/2019 BY THE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

Hon. Patricia Muthoni: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to lay to lay the following paper: report by the Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Committee on quarterly report and financial statements for the quarter ended March, 2019 for the department of Water, Environment and Natural Resources dated 15th June, 2021.

(Hon. Patricia Muthoni laid the Paper on the table)

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LAIKIPIA COUNTY GOVERNMENT FINANCE QUARTERLY REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Hon. Mary Samken: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I beg to lay the report of the Committee of Finance and County Planning on the County Government of Laikipia (County Executive) quarterly report and financial statements for the quarter ended March 2019 dated 22nd June, 2021.

(Hon. Mary Samken laid the Paper on the table)

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

LAIKIPIA COUNTY GOVERNMENT AGRICULTURE QUARTERLY REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2018/2019 BY THE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

Hon. Patricia Muthoni: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I beg to give notice of the following motion;

> THAT this Assembly adopts the report by the Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Committee on quarterly report and financial statements for the quarter ended March, 2019 for the 2018/2019 financial year for the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries dated 8th June, 2021.

LAIKIPIA COUNTY GOVERNMENT FINANCE QUARTERLY REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Hon. Mary Samken: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of the following motion;

> THAT this Assembly adopts the report of the Finance and County Planning on the County Government of Laikipia (County Executive) quarterly report and financial statements for the quarter ended March 2019 dated 22nd June, 2021.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MOTION

LAIKIPIA COUNTY GOVERNMENT AGRICULTURE QUARTERLY REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2018/2019 BY THE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

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

> THAT this Assembly adopts the report by the Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Committee on quarterly report and financial statements for the quarter ended March, 2019 for the 2018/2019 financial year for the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries dated 8th June, 2021.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Committee was re-constituted by the House on 21st April, 2021 pursuant to Standing Order No. 191 (1). The committee's membership according to SO No. 157 comprises of the following five Honourable Members;

1. Hon. Simon Kanyutu - Chairperson
2. Hon Patricia Muthoni - Vice Chairperson

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3. Hon. Robert Maina - Member
4. Hon. Mutahi Muritu - Member
5. Hon. Wilson Wakahiu - Member

Committee's Mandate (S.O 191 (5)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Committee in the Standing Order No. 191 is mandated to investigate, inquire into, and report on all matters related to agriculture, including crop and animal husbandry, livestock sale yards, county abattoirs, plant and animal disease control and fisheries, implementation of specific national government policies on natural resources and environmental conservation, including soil and water conservation and forestry and control of air pollution, noise pollution, other public nuisances and outdoor advertising.

Limitation of Mandate

Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to Standing Order 177, the committee is limited to its mandate as follows;

The deliberations of a select committee shall be confined to the mandate of the committee and any extension or limitation of that mandate as may be directed by the Assembly and in the case of a select committee on a Bill, to the Bill committed to it and relevant amendments.

In the exercise of its functions, a select committee may not consider any matter that is not contemplated within the mandate of the Assembly under the Constitution…

Deputy Speaker: Hon. Chair, I think you skipped the first one which is the deliberation of a select committee.

Hon. Patricia Muthoni: Mr. Speaker, I was going to point by point so I think it is in order.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources, I wish to extend my gratefulness to the Members of this House for the support they have always accorded to the committee. Secondly, I wish to acknowledge the Members of the Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Committee for their continued commitment. Lastly Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize your office and that of the Clerk of the County Assembly of Laikipia for the support accorded to the committee which has enabled this committee to perform its oversight mandate.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is therefore my pleasant duty and privilege, on behalf of the Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Committee to table this report and recommend it to the House for adoption.

Introduction

Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 sections 163, 164 165 and 166, the County Treasury is required to prepare financial statements of each County Government Entity, receiver of Revenue and Consolidated Financial Statements for all County Government entities at the end of every financial year in accordance with the standards and formats described by the public Sector Accounting Standards Board.

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Financial Performance

Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the 3rd quarter of 2018/2019 Financial year, the department of Water, Environment and Natural Resources expenditures were as follows according to the 3rd quarter report for 2018/2019 Financial Year;

Table 1: Budget Absorption Rate

Name of Program	3rd Quarter Estimates	3rd Quarter Expenditure	Variance	% Absorption rate
Administration and Support Services	85,625,000	17,551,763.00	68,073,237	20.5
Crop Production and Horticulture	250,000.00	278,106.00	-28,106.00	111.1
Irrigation Development and Mgt	250,000.00	421,790.00	-171,790.00	168.7
Veterinary Services Management	1,725,000.00	357554.00	1,367,446.00	20.7
Totals	**87,850,000**	**18,609,213**		

Deputy Speaker: Vice Chairperson, since the Members have the same document you can highlight or just go to the observations. All members have the same document and they are following you.

Hon. Patricia Muthoni: So I highlight?

Deputy Speaker: Yes.

Hon. Patricia Muthoni: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Observations

The committee observed the following;

1. The allocations for Irrigation Development and Crop Production and Horticulture programs need a higher budget allocation;
2. The program with the highest expenditure is the Irrigation Development and Management;
3. No expenditure was reported on Veterinary Services and Fisheries Development and Management. Most communities in the county are livestock keepers. The budget should be increased to enable the department offer timely vaccination and disease control, and procure and distribute breeding stocks to enable improvement of the local breeds; and
4. The department was unable to spend on Administration and Support Services according to laid down plans because the program also contains conditional grants on programs that were just at inception. These programs/projects include ASDSP II, KCSAP and EU-IDEAS project.

Recommendations

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The committee recommends that;

1. More funds should be allocation to Irrigation Development and Management; and Crop Production and Horticulture programs; and Veterinary Services;
2. The House adopts the committee's report

Conclusion

Mr. Speaker, Sir, due to the persisting climate change, the county has been experiencing dry seasons and farmers have been suffering from crop failure. It is therefore prudent to increase the department's annual budget to enable supply of improved seedlings, seeds and fertilizers and do more household dams. In addition, to cushion the farmers from crop failures occasioned by unpredictable rainfall, water harvesting infrastructure and smart water technologies should be promoted.

This will also enable the department help communities in water harvesting technologies and increase on household dams. This will lead to self-sustained families and communities. Also, Mr. Speaker, there is need to enact law on climate change to enable the county deal with any change of climate any time it is experienced. This will also bring on board any willing Non-Governmental Organization to assist the farmers.

Mr. Speaker, while I conclude I call upon Hon. Catherine Nyokabi Kibue to second this motion.

(*Hon. Catherine Kibue seconded)*

(Question proposed)

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Thank you, Mr. Speaker for giving me this chance. I wish to congratulate the committee and thank them for bringing in this report. Mr. Speaker, I want to make my contributions in relation to this report and I don't understand some of the things that are in the report. I am trying to relate and it has been a concern for this Assembly about the Department for Livestock. To be sincere, this department has failed this county and everybody can confess to that.

It is very clear that this is Financial Year of 2018/2019 and I have just gone through the absorption. They are only absorbing 18% and 21%. You really wonder because we have been complaining that there is no work done, the performance is low and there is money that is not utilised. My concern is about the observations of the committee.

Having observed that no expenditure was reported on veterinary services and fisheries development and management most communities in the counties are livestock keepers, the budget should be increased to enable departments offer timely vaccination and disease control and procure and distribute breeding stocks to enable improvement of the local breeds.

Mr. Speaker, that being an observation to me, i feel this statement is a contradicting one; that no expenditure was reported. Secondly, we need to increase the budget from what to what. One there is no expenditure reported, therefore they used zero shillings and now we are talking in the same observation the committee observed that the department, the budget should be increased.

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I wonder if at least they did little that is where we could be talking of increasing their budget to do more.

Now there is no expenditure that was reported so maybe they don't have interest maybe utilizing the funds. When there is no expenditure and it is on a serious issue especially like veterinary services, and the way everybody here in this House knows that the community has been complaining on the same. The vaccination and all that in livestock only to find that there is no expenditure and then today we are talking of increasing the budget to people who are using zero shillings.

I really wonder and feel confused because when we look at it and then the committee comes here and recommends that funds be allocated to irrigation. I really did not understand how more funds should be allocated to irrigation, development management, crop production, horticultural programs and veterinary services.

I am only concerned on veterinary services whereby the committee clearly states that they observed that no expenditure was reported in that sub department. When we talk about increasing their budget, am not sure we are increasing it from what to what, what was there, what have they done to demand increment.

I do not want to comment so much because the Chair of this Committee is not here, but the Members are here. I am sure the committee did not go through the report, it was just drafted by the Clerk assistants and now they brought it just that way, without going through the report without seeing such things.

Mr. Speaker some few days ago we had the same issue, we need to think about it as a committee. We need to sit down and think even when we are bringing a report we need to go through the same report and ask ourselves, is this report meeting the threshold to be debated in the House. I can only make those contributions; I feel the report is contradictory, thank you.

Deputy Speaker: Hon. Catherine Nyawira.

Catherine Nyawira: Thank you Hon. Speaker, I also wish to make my observations and my contributions to this report. First is to thank the Hon. Vice Chair, former Vice Chair for taking us through this report. Time and again this House has complained about the projects done in the Agriculture Department, Contract farming things that rings a bell either that have collapsed which were allocated money and did not take off as they should have.

Mr. Speaker if I look at the estimate for Administration and Support Services, it was allocated Kshs. 85 million. In the third quarter only Kshs.17 million was used meaning Kshs. 68 million remained unused. This i believe Administration and Support Services is money used to pay people who support in the field work and people who use their time.

If this is the third quarter and we have many quarters in a year, they four and that means that we are away doing way below our expenditure. I would wonder why is it probably they are demoralizing their staff or what is happening. I also take note of what the Hon. Member from

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Umande has mentioned, no expenditure was reported on Veterinary Services and Fisheries Development and Management.

That statement contradicts even the table itself, Veterinary Services management was allocated 1.7, and it spent 357,554 that is a fifth of what should have been. I believe there was expenditure in that Department, the observation contradicts the table. They have placed it there and if they cannot spend that money, I also do not understand why they need an allocation to conduct timely vaccinations. I believe the answer lies in the administration, in the money put in the administration. It is not being used therefore if you are not motivating your staff, and this is just an assumption, then I believe they cannot be able to do their work on the ground well on time administration have slept so even the other Departments will be pulled backwards.

Mr. Speaker in their conclusion they continue to say that, due to the persistence climate change the county has experienced dry seasons and farmers have been suffering from crop failure. I believe one of the best recommendations they could have done, is that farmers get dams, or they do a mega dam which will sort the issue of drought and climate change.

Even if you give people a better crop, if there is no rain that crop might do well but it will not be a hundred percent of how it should do. I believe this department ought to focus on water harvesting techniques, on mega dams, on water pans and probably not even the seedlings, the seedlings can come later but water is the main issue.

Climate change is also brought about by lack of trees, lack of vegetation, which also could be a factor. I would probably urge the committee to be a little bit keener when it is doing its observations, and recommendations to the House so that they don't contradict the very work they are doing, thank you Hon. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Hon. Joseph Suge.

Hon. Joseph Suge: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I also rise in the support of the report as proposed by the Vice Chair, Hon. Patricia on behalf of the Agriculture Committee. The Committee has done their part, and I wish to congratulate them because of submitting this report though the report needs to be abit brief because since the executive have submitted the report, it was the work of the Committee to invite the Executive to also shed light on this report.

Mr. Speaker the Department of Agriculture in this county is a broad department, it has a good number of officers and having spent little amount of money is also a question. We have the two departments, the Department of Agriculture and Health Department in this County, which usually consumes a lot of money in terms of the work force.

Mr. Speaker and the department is quite critical because we know Agriculture in this county and not only this county alone, even in this nation contributes to fifty percent of the GDP. It is the departments that usually create a number of the employment opportunities in this county. When I go to the recommendations whereby the committee observed that this department spent very little money in the third quarter is questionable.

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This department usually requires a lot of money to support maybe the farmers, because there is a lot awareness that needs to be done by the Agricultural officers especially when it comes to the irrigation departments.

Mr. Speaker, these officers have to be supported by the county especially on mobility. When you go to the ground, you will see them without motorbikes and their vehicles are grounded. Having not spent the money well is a great challenge. Now that we are going to prepare and adopt the budget for next year, this is one of the issues that the committee of this House should also look into.

The Department of Agriculture has also mentioned about ADP, the KSAP and the EU ideas. We know that this department has been getting a lot of money from the donor funds. The committee should also inform the House how this money has been spent and the activities done on the ground because we know the EU ideas which provided the support for the construction of the maize driers in Ol'Moran and Marmanet Wards. Since the project started, there has been no report brought to show the progress of the project and whether the project is complete and in use. This Assembly has to look at the value for money and how it has been spent.

We also have the issue of livestock production. Laikipia is a county that is known in beef production. Making Laikipia a free disease zone will also influence markets for the products in this county. So the department should consider putting some money for livestock vaccination to make Laikipia a disease free zone. So I support the report and I would urge the committee to go deep into this report and also invite the Department of Agriculture to give a clear picture on this report. Thank you.

Hon. Mary Samken: Thank you, Mr. Speaker for giving me this opportunity to support this report by the Agriculture Committee. I just want to correct Hon. Catherine Nyawira although she is out and because it is also good for the records. The Hon. Member Patricia is still the Vice Chair of this committee because I heard Hon. Catherine saying that she is former Vice Chairperson. According to the report, she is the Vice Chair of this committee and because I am a member of the Select Committee, I know that she is still the Vice Chair.

Mr. Speaker, having said that I want to congratulate the committee for this report and taking their time to come up with this report. As the Hon. Members raised their concerns, I also want to raise a concern on page 3 on the summary of the above table. If you look at that table on summary number one, the department was able to spend Kshs. 18,609,213 against a budget of Kshs. 86,880,000 representing 21.2% absorption of the allocation.

Secondly, administration and support services, this was the highest cost centre. Wages had an allocation of Kshs. 85,625,000 in expenditure and also an absorption rate of 25%. When you go to the Members observations, they say that no expenditure was reported on veterinary services and fisheries development and management. If you look at the table on the veterinary, there is an expenditure of veterinary services of about Kshs. 357,554. I am wondering how the committee made their observations.

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From this summary table, on Administration, they are saying that Administration was the highest in expenditure which is the same percentage as the whole department. On number three on crop production and horticulture, they are saying that management programmes were allocated the lowest budget in the department and two programmes overspent the allocation by Kshs. 28,106 and Kshs. 171,790 respectively as shown in the tale. The word respectively here is misplaced because there is a variation between Kshs. 28,106 and Kshs. 171, 790. I don't think respectively is the correct English. Saying that these two programmes were allocated the lowest, this lowest they are talking about is Kshs. 250,000 and there was an over expenditure on both of Kshs. 28,106 and Kshs. 171,906. So I don't know how the committee were looking at the report. I think that it is important also to give correct observations and also look carefully.

Mr. Speaker, I can also say that this is a department that is failing this county because we know that Agriculture is the backbone of Laikipia County and Kenya and if we can concentrate on Agriculture then the people of Laikipia will be put in the map of Kenya on so many things. In observation number three that most communities in the county are livestock keepers, I don't know whether that statement is correct because I thought that most people in Laikipia are farmers. If we want to take the economy of Laikipia to a higher level, we have to take the farming higher.

We can say that administration and supportive services which were allocated the second highest budget in that second quarter could have done a lot. The extension services where we have the officers going down to the farmers to train them on good farming methods, they need to be supported in seed and a lot of things in order to help them do their farming properly. Looking at the livestock farming, we have a lot to say because I know that they have managed to make Laikipia a disease free zone but it is also good that from time to time we try to bring these vaccinations to the people so that our livestock remain free from these diseases.

Just to note, I remember last time when there were these vaccinations, there were a lot of challenges in so many areas. Mr. Speaker, I know that you will bear me witness that in so many places, vaccination was not done due to lack of cattle crushes. If you recall we launched a lot of complaints that we needed cattle crushes so that when these vaccinations comes, the officers do not have to come to the ground and go back because there is nowhere to vaccinate the animals.

So this department needs to do a lot and need to pull up their socks because there is a lot they have to do for the people of Laikipia in farming and livestock keeping so that our economy can go up. I support the committee for the good work and also urge the Hon. Members to support. Thank you.

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

Hon. Patricia Muthoni: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I first of all want to thank all the Hon. Members who supported this motion. I also want to assure the Hon. Members that I have heard your cries regarding the Department of Agriculture. As we all know, this is among the four agendas of H.E President Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta, let us all work together and build Laikipia. Thank you.

(Putting of the question deferred)

ADJOURNMENT

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Deputy Speaker: This House now stands adjourned until tomorrow Wednesday, 23rd June, 2021 at 9.00 a.m.

The House rose at 3.18 p.m.

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