REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 22nd November, 2022

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: Serjeant at Arms please ring the bell for the next five minutes.

(The Quorum bell rung for 5 minutes)

Speaker: The quorum bell may now stop. Clerk Order of the day.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

COUNTY ASSEMBLY MEMBERS MEETING

Speaker: Hon. Members, I would like to bring to your attention that after the plenary today, I would like to meet all Members of County Assembly of Laikipia in the same Chambers. Thank you.

PAPERS LAID

1ST SUPPLEMENTARY PROGRAMME BASED ESTIMATES, 2023

Hon. John Gichuki: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay the following Paper;

County Government of Laikipia 1st Supplementary Programme Based Annual Budget Estimates of Recurrent and Development Expenditure for the year ending 30th June, 2023 dated 16th November, 2022.

(Hon. John Gichuki Maina, laid the Paper on the Table)

CONSIDERATION OF NOMINEES FOR APPOINTMENT AS A MEMBERS OF CASB

Hon. Nicholas Lempaira: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay the following Papers;

a) The report of the County Assembly Service Board on the vetting of Ms. Catherine Wambui Njoroge the County Assembly Service Board Member Nominee dated 16th November, 2022.

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b) The report of the County Assembly Service Board on the vetting of Mr. Charles Ndung'u Moiyare the County Assembly Service Board Member Nominee dated 16th November, 2022.

(Hon. Nicholas Lempaira, laid the Papers on the Table)

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

LEGISLATION AND PROGRAMMES TO ASSIST THE ELDERLY

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

THAT AWARE THAT in 2006, the National Government initiated the Older Persons Cash Transfer (OPCT) Programme, popularly known as *Pesa ya Wazee,* which is an unconditional cash transfer programme to destitute elderly persons above the age of 65 years to cater for their subsistence needs;

NOTING THAT the beneficiaries receive a monthly stipend of Kshs. 2,000 delivered every two months through appointed payment agents, and also entitled to medical insurance through the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF);

CONCERNED THAT the programme's credibility is marred by issues of delayed payments to beneficiaries, difficulties in processing of payments through the stipulated agents and payments to unregistered persons;

This House URGES the County Government to complement the efforts of the National Government and assist in resolving these challenges by: -

(i) Developing legislation and policies to protect the elderly including ensuring all elderly persons in the county are registered in the OPCT programme; and

(ii) Organise value addition mechanisms such as financial training to help the beneficiaries of the programme to efficiently utilise this allowance.

Speaker: Thank you. Before we go to the next Order, on the Papers Laid to the House, I would like to commit the County Government of Laikipia 1st Supplementary Programme Based Annual Estimates of Recurrent and Development Expenditure for the year ending 30th June, 2023 dated 16th November, 2022 to County Budget and Appropriation Committee.

CONSIDERATION OF NOMINEE FOR APPOINTMENT AS A MEMBER OF CASB

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

THAT, pursuant to the provisions of Section 12(3) d of the County Government, Act 2012 this House **adopts** the report of the County Assembly Service Board on the vetting of **Ms. Catherine Wambui Njoroge** the County Assembly Service Board Member Nominee dated 16th November, 2022.

CONSIDERATION OF NOMINEE FOR APPOINTMENT AS A MEMBER OF CASB

Hon. Nicholas Lempaira: Mr. Speaker, I also beg to give notice of the following motion;

THAT pursuant to the provisions of Section 12(3) d of the County Government, Act 2012 this House **adopts** the report of the County Assembly Service Board on the vetting of **Mr.**

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Charles Ndung'u Moiyare the County Assembly Service Board Member Nominee dated 16th November, 2022.

Thank you.

DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY PROGRAMS IN ORDER TO ADDRESS FOOD INSECURITY IN THE COUNTY

Hon. Nicholas Lempaira: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Hon. Lekopien Sammy Parleto who rushed to Sosian for a security meeting, I beg to give notice of the following motion;

THAT, Aware that Article 43 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, stipulates the rights of every person to be free from hunger, to have adequate food of acceptable quality, and to clean and safe water in adequate quantities;

FURTHER AWARE THAT there is a prevailing food shortage in Kenya which is as a result of among other factors, lack of and inadequate rainfall and the consistent decline in the number of farmers and lands committed to farming, subjecting 4.1 million Kenyans in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) to an acute food insecure situation and about 942,500 children under five years and 134,270 pregnant and lactating mothers to acute malnutrition according to the Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG) report;

NOTING THAT about 1.5 million deaths of livestock have so far been reported in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) and that the situation is expected to be dire in light of expert projections that Kenya may miss the normal cycle of rains expected in October, November, and December, 2022 and that this could be the worst drought that the country has experienced in 40 years;

CONCERNED, that the county is recording incidences of conflict between crop farmers and pastoralists over the scarce resource of water and pasture which results in the destruction of crops and deaths of livestock;

This House URGES the County Government in collaboration with the relevant ministries to develop targeted policy programs aimed at addressing the food insecurity in the county including the following;

(i) Coordinate with the relevant agencies to establish strategic grain reserves across the county, with drought-stricken areas receiving priority;

(ii) Develop livestock feeding programs in requisite regions, providing water and feeds to the livestock farmers;

(iii) Coordinate with the National Drought Management Authority to do quarterly reports to the County Assembly on the drought situation in the county;

(iv) Subsidize agricultural production;

(v) Establish abattoirs in areas affected by the drought.

Thank you.

DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL AND MICRO-ENTERPRISES POLICY

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

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

CONCERNED THAT the informal sector popularly known as the Jua Kali has different segments and categories spread out in value chains ranging from agriculture, trade, manufacturing, apparels, IT, transport, the creative economy, education among others;

RECOGNIZING THAT there is need to improve coordination of SMEs through development of an all-inclusive well-structured delivery platform that encompasses multiple solutions and all key stakeholders;

NOTING THAT this sector has a potential to create employment opportunities to over eighty (80) percent of Kenya's working population;

FURTHER NOTING THAT these SMEs have the capacity to leapfrog our nation to a middle-income economy as witnessed in other economies around the world;

RECALLING THAT strong and consistent commitment and political goodwill can deliver the needed growth for the realization of steady and sustainable economic growth;

CONCERNED THAT previous support by the Government to this sector has merely been a knee-jerk reaction in form of skewed funding and tokenism;

COGNIZANT THAT there exist no unified County policy or legislation in support of the sector and SMEs across the entire value chain;

This House URGES the County Government to develop a Policy on Small and Micro-Enterprises (SMEs) detailing recognition, funding, mentoring, expansion, restructuring and marketing of the SMEs products.

Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

PROMOTION OF MENTAL HEALTH FACILITIES FOR MOTHERS

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

THAT AWARE THAT according to the World Health Organization, globally 10% of pregnant women and 13% of women who have just given birth experience a mental condition, referred to as perinatal depression, which is higher in developing countries with 15.6% during pregnancy, and 19.8% after child birth;

FURTHER AWARE THAT women who go through still birth and those that lose their children during delivery are taken to the general maternity ward where other mothers with healthy babies are recovering, causing them mental anguish and adversely impacting their mental health;

NOTING THAT integrating mental health care into primary healthcare settings requires training in psychiatric care and providing consulting support to primary care providers, considering that there are not enough mental health care providers to meet the current and growing need for mental health services;

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APPRECIATING THAT the Health Act under section 6 (1) (b) provides that every person has a right to reproductive healthcare which includes the right of access to appropriate health care services that will enable mothers go safely through pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period which should include the integration of mental health in perinatal care as recommended by the National Mental Health Taskforce in its "Mental Health and Wellbeing towards Happiness and National Prosperity" report;

This House URGES the County Government in collaboration with the Ministry of Health to;

i. Ensure that all county health facilities with maternity wings, allocate a separate ward for recovery of the mothers who have gone through still birth or those that have lost their babies during delivery;

ii. Facilitate continuous mental health training and the provision of counselling support in the perinatal wards for all primary care providers in all Health facilities;

iii. Establish counselling facilities at all county health facilities with maternity wings to provide counselling therapy to mothers who lose their children through a miscarriage, during delivery, or through still birth; and

iv. Establish counselling facilities at all county health facilities with maternity wings to provide counselling therapy to mothers who are suffering from perinatal and postpartum depression.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MOTION

LEGISLATION AND PROGRAMMES TO ASSIST THE ELDERLY

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

THAT AWARE THAT in 2006, the National Government initiated the Older Persons Cash Transfer (OPCT) Programme, popularly known as *Pesa ya Wazee*, which is an unconditional cash transfer programme to destitute elderly persons above the age of 65 years to cater for their subsistence needs;

NOTING THAT the beneficiaries receive a monthly stipend of Kshs. 2,000, delivered every two months through appointed payment agents, and also entitled to medical insurance through the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF);

CONCERNED THAT the programme's credibility is marred by issues of delayed payments to beneficiaries, difficulties in processing of payments through the stipulated agents and payments to unregistered persons;

This House URGES the County Government to complement the efforts of the National Government and assist in resolving these challenges by:

(i) Developing legislation and policies to protect the elderly including ensuring all elderly persons in the county are registered in the OPCT programme; and

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(ii) Organise value addition mechanisms such as financial training to help the beneficiaries of the programme to efficiently utilise this allowance.

Hon. John Gichuki: I beg to request Hon. Gatati to second me on this.

Hon. Samuel Mugambi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker for giving me this chance. I stand here in support of the good motion brought by our able Majority Leader. I also want to give my sentiments on the same, that this is a very important and timely motion because most of these elderly people are suffering. Nowadays, the economy is in crisis with the most affected people being the elderly people, and the help that they get from the National Government is not coordinated.

So, I dearly support by saying that it is good to develop the legislation as well as the policies to protect these people as well as giving them some additional mechanisms such as financial training. In developed countries such as the United States of America, these people are engaged in a place such as a certain college where their health and financial matters are taken care of and they are given physical exercises. So, this is a timely motion and I thank the Leader of the Majority. I support. Thank you.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I stand to support this motion by the Hon. Majority Leader because I am sure after 40 years, I too will be a beneficiary of the same. Mr. Speaker, the only concern is on organising on value addition on this old people. I have been able to interact with a few of them and if you talk about value addition, they will just claim that the money is only for consumption and is a constant with them all. They take the stipend for something that should be consumed during that duration.

So, I am concerned but as the Hon. Member for Salama said, youth can be taken for exercise but using their stipend for other beneficial things or value addition can be a challenge. It is a noble idea; I really support it but on value addition, we need to look at the impacts. Some can barely walk unless under the help of their relatives. When you talk of value addition, you should train the caretaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I fully support.

Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki: Thank you Mr Speaker. I rise to support this motion. According to the law that was passed by the Government to support the elderly, the economic status of this country has changed as well as the dynamics and the value of Kshs. 2,000 is no longer sustainable. As we move on, this Honourable House should recommend at least an increment of that money to Kshs. 4,000 or 6,000 because of the hardships we are experiencing currently. As of today, the price of Unga, fuel, gas cylinders, kerosene and other commodities has risen and if at all we go on issuing Kshs. 2,000 per person, then the money will be of no use.

The Government has also not had another intake of the elderly people since this initiative was started while people are still aging. I suggest that the Government does the exercise yearly since the list needs to be updated regularly so as to have all elderly people covered. I am an Equity Bank agent and I issue the money to those people. The Government should be able to verify the list of the beneficiaries, because some people who purport to be the guardians of the elderly are stealing from the coffers of this Government. So, as I stand here to support this motion, I urge that both the National and County Government do more to make this course successful and support our elderly people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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Speaker: Thank you. I want to give this opportunity to Hon. Antony Theuri.

Hon. Antony Theuri: Thank you Mr. Speaker. First of all, I want to welcome you back; it is good to have you back. Warmth is already here. If I may confess, I have been enjoying the show while you were away but now I have to play my part as a representative of the great people of Nanyuki Ward. Mr. Speaker, allow me first to acknowledge that this motion has come at the right time. I being a beneficiary of the same since I have been brought up by my grandmother, I want to thank the Government of the day. Although there have been some problems in issuance of this money because the last time they got the money was June. Most of the time, the Kshs. 2,000 does not came on timely basis, they are usually late.

The other thing is I want to urge the National Government that we need to pull the right mechanisms while issuing this money just as Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki was saying. The last registration they did was more than 6 years ago. Also, noting that most of the elderly people are dead, their relatives are still receiving the money and at the end of the day, the actual people who are supposed to benefit do not. Also, on the same, I would like if it is possible that the County Government should also cheap in in one way or another because nowadays Kshs. 2,000 Mr. Speaker, if you were to walk to the supermarket today to spend your Kshs. 2,000, they will not even last for two days.

Therefore, I support this motion and I pray that our good House here will come up with ideas and a package so that we can salvage our old people. Most of this old people are dying and a country without an old generation is near to impossible. We need the wise council and we need our children to have their grandparents. We also need to come up with a proper health care policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I support it and urge this good House to support this noble motion.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Antony Theuri for the elaboration of the motion. I still keep the floor open for Hon. Members who would like to contribute. Hon. Eunice could you be having something?

Hon. Eunice Salaten: Asante, Bwana. Spika. Langu ni kuunga mkono huu mjadala. Naunga yale yote ambayo imesemwa. Asante.

Hon. Catherine Umija: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to support what Hon. Antony has just said, that a society that neglects its own elderly, it is a society that is lost. So, I am in support of this motion that we need to take care of our elderly. They are people who are helping by giving us wisdom and if we are not taking care of them, then why are we working? We are working to take care of them because they have suffered taking care of our parents and they are also our parents and so we need to support them.

Actually, what the Government is giving is about Kshs.2,000 and I would urge the National Government to review the money upwards. Kshs.2,000 is not enough because you cannot do any shopping and again it is money that cannot even support a household within a week. How do you expect poor elderly who are sitting down at home without working to be supported with Kshs.2,000 per month which is not even coming in time?

I am urging the National Government to also allocate some additional fund for the elderly because that will be very important. Apart from the Kshs.2,000, they can add some other Kshs.4,000 on top. Just to outsource that money, then we can at least be able to support our elderly in a month. They should ensure that the money comes in time although the Government money

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does not arrive on time, our elderly will be able to be supported within the county and that will be good.

As we do that, remember that we are going to be getting blessings according to our African culture and therefore, we need to be blessed by the elderly. You know when an elderly person spits on you, you get blessings. So, let us do that as a county and ensure that blessings are flowing in the county. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Umija. I still want to let Members to deliberate on this matter a little more. I know all of us come from different backgrounds where grandparents have had a lot influence in our adult life. So, I would like to keep the floor open for the Members who would want to contribute. Since the floor is satisfied, I would like to call upon the mover to reply.

Hon. John Gichuki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me take this opportunity to thank each and every Member who has contributed towards this motion, noting that each and every Member has an elderly person in his or her homestead. We need to come up with a bigger figure because Kshs.2,000 is a very little amount which cannot sustain an elderly person. Thank you.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: The sittings of this House now stands adjourned until tomorrow Wednesday, 23rd November, 2022 at 9.00 a.m.

The House rose at 3.13 p.m.

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