REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 23rd September, 2025

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 5 minute)

Hon. Anthony Theuri: Mr. Speaker, we have the quorum for the business of the day.

Speaker: Clerk confirm whether we have quorum now?

(Clerk confirmed achievement of Quorum)

Speaker: I direct the bell to stop ringing now.

Hon. Anthony Theuri: Mr. Speaker, Hon. Stephen is not dressed Honorably.

Speaker: Thank you. He is taking cognizant of that and doing the necessary.

NOTICE OF MOTION

ESTABLISHMENT OF TRAFFIC CONTROL POLICY

Hon. Catherine Umija: Thank you Mr. Speaker. On behalf of Hon. Eunice Moile, I want to give notice of the following motion;

THAT, AWARE THAT County transport including traffic and parking is a function of the County Government as stipulated in part 2 of the fourth schedule of the Kenyan Constitution 2010;

FURTHER AWARE THAT the rapid urbanization, population growth and increase in the number of vehicles within the County has led to rising cases of traffic congestion, road accidents, poor parking management, air pollution, and general disorder in traffic flow especially within urban centers;

CONCERNED THAT, in the absence of a comprehensive County Traffic Control Policy, there exists uncoordinated traffic management, inadequate pedestrian and cyclist facilities, lack of clear guidelines on parking, limited enforcement measures, and insufficient integration of traffic control with urban planning and public transport systems;

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This House URGES the County Government to develop a County Traffic Control Policy to provide a framework for traffic management and regulation across all towns and trading centers in the County.

MOTION

ESTABLISHMENT OF TRAFFIC CONTROL POLICY

Hon. Eunice Moile through Hon. Catherine Umija: Thank you Mr. Speaker. On behalf of Hon. Eunice Moile I beg to move the following motion;

THAT, AWARE THAT County transport including traffic and parking is a function of County Government as stipulated in part 2 of the fourth schedule of the Kenyan Constitution 2010;

FURTHER AWARE THAT the rapid urbanization, population growth and increase in the number of vehicles within the County has led to rising cases of traffic congestion, road accidents, poor parking management, air pollution, and general disorder in traffic flow especially within urban centers;

CONCERNED THAT, in the absence of a comprehensive County Traffic Control Policy, there exists uncoordinated traffic management, inadequate pedestrian and cyclist facilities, lack of clear guidelines on parking, limited enforcement measures, and insufficient integration of traffic control with urban planning and public transport systems;

This House URGES the County Government to develop a County Traffic Control Policy to provide a framework for traffic management and regulation across all towns and trading centers in the County.

Hon. Speaker, just as Hon. Moile has indicated, we want the County Government develop a Traffic Control Policy. Aware that currently we are having a lot of traffic flow especially along the highways. I can give an example like within Nanyuki- Nyeri-Meru highway.

When it reaches either early in the morning or late in the evening, there is a lot of traffic jam within Nanyuki. If you look at the way we are driving across the county, you will realize that we have the bodaboda people who are going around with no control. Personally, I have never seen a traffic control officer within Nanyuki when I am around and also other major towns. They only come especially when there are accidents but in controlling and managing traffic, they are not there.

There is no clear guideline on how the bodaboda people are supposed to move. Sometimes, they create confusion and this brings accidents. Traffic control and parking being one of the functions of the County Government, in liaison with the traffic police, it the high time the government takes this seriously and makes sure that we are able to manage traffic within our county.

One thing I have also realized is that there are no adequate pedestrian crossing places where people can move around when they want to pass the roads. Some of the zebra crossings are not clear. The pedestrians are just passing everywhere and anyhow. The people who cycle bicycle pass anyhow because there are no clear measures on how they are suppose to coordinate themselves using the traffic roads.

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I know that any person who is using the road has been guided clearly on how to use the roads. Mr. Speaker, you will realize that this applies only to the major towns like Nairobi but when we come to our small towns like Nanyuki or Nyahururu, it is like those traffic rules are thrown out the window and people are just moving anyhow. It is the high time we have the traffic control policy and have somebody who will be in charge of traffic within Laikipia County and other towns. Without further ado, I would like to request Hon. Gatati to second the motion.

Hon. Samuel Mugambi: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I stand second the motion by Hon. Eunice Moile of establishment of traffic control policy in our major towns. I understand that the traffic policy is under National Government and County Government. I think it is a good thing to make sure that our towns are well controlled. For example, when you go to Nyahururu and near markets, there is a lot of chaos whereby there are lorries of loading bananas, avocados and there is no one who is controlling the traffic.

I also want to echo the same word whereby we need to provide a framework. In Nanyuki, you find that the enforcement and revenue collectors who control parking have no framework. They just do according to their own thinking. I think it is the highest time because Nanyuki is an international town. Hon. Speaker, because I know you have ever worked as a liaison officer in this county, Nanyuki is an international town whereby it is mapped in Europe because of the things we have in Nanyuki.

We have the British Army, the Air force, the KDF and now the County Assembly. This is an international town and it needs to be well planned according to things pertaining to traffic. This is a good motion and I wish the relevant departments will adhere to the motion that was brought here by Hon. Moile. Thank you.

(Question proposed)

Speaker: You may come in Hon. Daniel. Thank you. Members, I want to open the floor to be able to contribute to this motion.

Hon. Veronica Ikunyua: Thank you, Mr. Speaker for giving me this chance to air my views and to support the motion. First of all, I want to thank Hon. Moile in absentia. I want to appreciate Hon. Umija for tabling the motion on her behalf. This county is growing in a big way. The flow of traffic is increasing in this town. There is a time I was asking myself who is going to control the jam that is in town. As we remember, we want to thank our former and the third president H.E the late Mwai Kibaki.

He supported our youth with boda-bodas which are plenty in this town. Vehicles are increasing in this town and in Laikipia in general. If we do not have those policies and regulations, people will be doing whatever they want and harassing each other. Therefore, when we have those regulations and policies, it will bring control in this town.

Mr. Speaker, as Hon. Moile has put it, it is our responsibility to make sure that everything is in line. We need to have good signs in this town because you find that sometimes when visitors come to this town, they use the wrong entry, and that is because there is no good signage. If signs are put up properly, we will not continue harassing our visitors. So, we need to indicate clearly where the entry and exit is and everything will be okay.

Mr. Speaker, we need to have signs indicating the speed limits because most of the time, there are schools around; for instance, Nanyuki Primary here in Nanyuki. We do not have the signs indicating that there is a school nearby and so there should be a certain speed limit. We to have proper arrangements for that. When we do so, everybody will be safe.

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There is need to have walkways for people. We need to put up streetlighting, even for the pedestrians. Anyway, I want to appreciate the person who brought this motion. Let us continue considering and putting up good measures in this county for it to grow. Thank you.

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Thank you, Hon. Speaker for the opportunity given to me to make my contribution in regards to this motion that was brought by Hon. Moile. This is the best thing to do because this is a House of rules, and it is where all grievances are brought. A time comes when people feel like having a procedural process and they think that it is done in the streets and burials or public meetings. This is the place to do such things.

Hon. Speaker, it is a fortunate thing that our towns in Laikipia are growing. I do not think one can purchase a vehicle when they have no food. So, it means there is money around us. Some years back, you could only find about ten vehicles in the entire Nanyuki town. Lately, almost everybody has a vehicle. If you look at the border of Laikipia and Nyeri, which is at Ichuga, all the way to Makutano which is past the border between Laikipia and Meru… Surprisingly enough, the other road from Total petrol station towards Doldol is becoming impassable nowadays in the evening. Vehicles are all over.

The jam starts from Ichuga all the way to the border between Laikipia and Meru. The other day, we tried to escape the jam by using the Muthaiga road only to find that everybody had thought of the same. My thinking met with other people who had the same thinking. So, we found another jam at Muthaiga. We thought we would run away through Muthaiga and the Sportsman's Arms, and then join the Nanyuki-Meru highway only to find that that route was also congested.

So, Hon. Speaker, the traffic in this town is alarming. I believe Rumuruti and Nyahururu are in the same condition.

The motion talks of major towns In Laikipia; I don't know and maybe Rumuruti. The Members from that area can tell us if there is high traffic similar to those from Laikipia North can tell us if there is high trafficking in Doldol and, Nyahururu. Hon. Speaker, it has been stated even included shopping centres and, the shopping centres that are in Umande do not have traffic.

Hon. Speaker, I will dwell much more on the planning and the coordination in the major towns and not just motor vehicle Hon. Speaker; we need to make a bold step because everybody in this county has always feared this issue of boda-boda and you will wait for years for these issues to be addressed but nobody will. It is high time we think about it because there are so many in all towns. Either we demarcate their areas for parking in every street by putting a sign that this area is for boda-boda. In this county, you will find a boda-boda being parked in all car parks and the worst part is that they don't pay even a single shilling for parking. Someone who was to pay the parking fee fails to get somewhere to park.

Hon. Speaker, others park at the edge of the parking space and when another vehicle comes, you find that your vehicle cannot fit in that parking space furthermore, our enforcement officers come and cramps your vehicle, they don't even want to reason that there could have been a boda-boda there that cannot allow you to park your vehicle properly. So, Hon. Speaker there is something we need to discuss about in this town. That is our role, we are the ones who make decisions on those parking. Let us first deal with those things before we talk of relying on the National Government to think about the highway because this highway is not even the part of us.

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Hon. Speaker, the small things we can do as the County Government we should start doing it, even if it cost us to lose some of the parking in this town. Today in this Nanyuki-Meru highway, we can choose to either lose the parking on Sidan Bank Lane or the Family Bank Lane and use it for the vehicles coming from Meru toward Nairobi and the other from Meru toward Nyeri. However, now you want to collect Meru revenue, every space is marked as Hon. Kaniaru said. Hon. Speaker, any space in this town they have slotted for parking and we can sacrifice for us to reduce this traffic in this town.

It is our responsibility before even we move to those major roads that small spaces in this town, we can manage and make those roads passable. If you look that road that goes along Nanyuki Primary, there is nothing that stops us from making it a one way. It is only that we want to have parking there so we need to think about it and that most of our town has tarmac. We only need to organize ourselves, coordinate parking, traffic and by doing so, we will be very happy. This town has gone to a level of even having the traffic lights and people in schools have never seen the traffic lights they just saw them in books. Let us have one in this town that will control the vehicles especially in the evening. You know Nanyuki is a town full of life and especially on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Vehicles are parked on the sides of the road all over and even tomorrow if you get to start another business, people will still come. You will find thousands of the vehicles on your business. So, we need to think about it and improve our services, some of the road signs are illegible; some of them got destroyed in the Gen Z protest. They have never been restored and you will find when you don't have a sign board, when a visitor comes and parks or even a resident of this town, if you did not put a good sign board, you should not clamp his vehicle.

It is you who have failed. So, we need to improve and think of how we are going to coordinate traffic in this Laikipia and the shopping centres that have got traffic.

Hon. Dennis Kaniaru: Thank you, Mr. Speaker for this opportunity. First, I wish to thank Hon. Moile for this motion which is very important at this particular time. You will realize like one of us has said that one of the towns in Laikipia that has really grown is Nanyuki. You may find that in Nanyuki Town, vehicles are numbered and also motorists are numbered. You come to realize that there need to be traffic control.

For instance, I don't know my colleague has left but he has just said that we cannot control the Nanyuki-Nyeri highway but you may find that some of these issues, we need to speak them here and measures need to be taken. For instance, when you pass this highway in the evening at around 6 p.m. to 7. P.m., you will realize that the PSV vehicles have refused to stay in their terminus and decided to stop outside the Assembly.

You may realize that when these people are picking and dropping outside there, it is very dangerous. At night, accidents may occur and even sometimes people might be knocked down when they are looking for customers to carry. This menace has really gone to another level. Even when you are trying to move with speed because you think that you are in a highway, you find people crisscrossing. I think that the people who have been using this highway can attest to that. In the evening, you really drive very slowly and at times always stopping because along this highway, people are walking as if they are walking in a pedestrian way or a pavement.

So this is an issue that should be taken on a serious note. Our enforcement should work on it to ensure that all the PSV vehicles must be eliminated from picking people and dropping them along the highway because we have got the matatu terminus. We all know the importance and how the highway should be used.

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The other thing is the issue of parking whereby you find that most of the cases they have been misused. You find that people can leave unattended vehicles anyhow, double parking and others on the roads where they are not supposed to be parked. It is the high time these parking issues are taken on a serious note. I support this motion and it should be acted upon immediately. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, very much. I now take the opportunity to invite the mover of the motion to reply.

Hon. Catherine Umija: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the House for the contributions they have made towards this motion. It is my prayer that the County Government will take this issue seriously and act on it accordingly.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: The sittings of this House now stand adjourned until tomorrow Wednesday, 24th September, 2025 at 10.00 a.m.

The House rose at 3.10 p.m.

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