REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 25th June, 2024

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

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

PRAYERS

QUORUM CALL

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Members. Clerk, confirm if we have quorum.

(Lack of quorum confirmed)

Speaker: Now that we do not have quorum, I direct the bell to be rang for ten minutes.

(Quorum bell rang for three minutes)

Hon. Parleto Lekopien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now that there is quorum, can we continue please?

Speaker: Clerk, confirm if we now have the quorum.

(Clerk confirmed achievement of Quorum)

Speaker: Now that we have the quorum, may we proceed with the business of the day.

NOTICE OF MOTION

ESTABLISHMENT OF A TOURISM POLICY

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

THAT NOTING THAT Trade development and regulations including local tourism is a function of County Government as stipulated in Part 2 of the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya 2010;

FURTHER NOTING THAT the County Integrated development plan, 2023-2027 nurtures promotion of domestic tourism as one of its objectives in the Tourism Sector;

AWARE THAT Tourism remains the cornerstone of the economy, and a leading foreign exchange earner for the country, Moreover, the sector has high multiplier effects as its growth stimulates further development in other activities;

COGNIZANT THAT the County Governments are the custodians of tourism resources hence they have vital role to play in tourism;

APPRECIATING THAT a range of eco-tourism and community-based projects should form part of a diversified and enhanced tourism product, including home stays, agro-tourism and sports tourism;

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OBSERVING THAT the success of domestic tourism is dependent upon effective and creative marketing and promotion of the county as a destination;

This House URGES the County Government to establish a County Tourism Policy that will seek to;

1. Revive County Tourism through putting in place measures such as redeeming of destination image and positive publicity by employing public relation tools, product diversification, provision of high-quality standards of products and services, tourism area planning and incentives to attract investments in tourism sector;
2. Support Communities in the development of local tourism products through technical assistance;
3. Diversify, develop and implement innovative tourism products that enhance economic growth, environmental sustainability and preserve heritage;
4. Support communities in designing and developing authentic innovative tourism products at the local areas;
5. Enhance the uptake of meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions (MICE);
6. Ensure that tourism circuit roads are mainstreamed into the National and County Roads Investment Plan;
7. Give high priority for upgrading, rehabilitation and periodic maintenance and signage for access roads to local tourist destinations;
8. Develop a County Tourism Marketing Strategy to guide and inform tourism marketing and promotion in the County;
9. Fasten the development of available tourist sites like Kirimon National Reserve, Manguo Hippo Point and other available tourist sites within the County.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MOTION

ESTABLISHMENT OF A TOURISM POLICY

Hon. Salim Edung: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, I beg to move the following motion;

THAT NOTING THAT Trade development and regulations including local tourism is a function of County Government as stipulated in Part 2 of the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya 2010;

FURTHER NOTING THAT the County Integrated development plan, 2023-2027 nurtures promotion of domestic tourism as one of its objectives in the Tourism Sector;

AWARE THAT Tourism remains the cornerstone of the economy, and a leading foreign exchange earner for the country, Moreover, the sector has high multiplier effects as its growth stimulates further development in other activities;

COGNIZANT THAT the County Governments are the custodians of tourism resources hence they have vital role to play in tourism;

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8. Develop a County Tourism Marketing Strategy to guide and inform tourism marketing and promotion in the County;
9. Fasten the development of available tourist sites like Kirimon National Reserve, Manguo Hippo Point and other available tourist sites within the County.

Bwana Spika, nimeleta mswada huu katika Bunge hili kwa sababu katika nchi yetu ya Kenya, serikali hupata mapato kwa kutumia sekta za utalii. Mara mingi, tunapokea wageni kutoka nchi za nje kuja katika hayo maeneo ya utalii. Katika nchi yetu na maeneo ambayo tunaishi, Wakenya ndio wanaleta pesa nyingi katika mbuga za wanyama katika eneo hili la Laikipia na Kenya nzima.

Katika Sekta ya Utalii, sisi huwa tunapata pesa nyingi kupitia mbuga za Wanyama kama vifaru, ndovu na wengine ambapo watu kutoka mbalimbali huwa wanakuja kuangalia. Wanapokuja, huwa kuna pesa ambazo wanatozwa kuingia katika hizo mbuga. Hiyo ni njia moja ya kupatia vijana wetu kazi hasa wale ambao wamesoma. Kina mama wa kitamaduni wanapata nafasi wakati wanatumbuiza wageni. Wageni wanapoondoka, huwa wanawaachia pesa za kuwatumbuiza.

Nimeleta huu mswada nikisema ya kwamba katika eneo la Laikipia, huwa tunapokea watalii wa maeneo yetu na hadi nchi za ng'ambo. Ningeomba Serikali ya Kaunti iweke mikakati ambapo Serikali ya Kaunti itaweza kusaidika kupitia mbuga za Wanyama zilizo katika Laikipia. Kwa mfano, mbuga za Wanyama kama Lewa, Olpejeta na Solio kuna

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Wanyama wengi huko na hupatia wananchi walio karibu kazi. Wale ambao wamesoma pia na wale ambao hawajasoma wako katika hizo mashamba.

Tunasema ya kwamba kwa sababu hizi mikakati zilizo katika hizi mbuga, Serikali ya Kaunti ingetoa mikakati ambayo itasaidia wananchi wa Laikipia. Wazungu wengi wanapokuja katika hizo mbuga, huwa wanaacha pesa kwa mwenye biashara tu lakini tukiwa na mikakati ya kusema ya kwamba wakati wanapoingia pale, Kaunti yetu inafaa kuweka mikakati vile wananchi watasaidika kwa barabara, maji na ufadhili wa masomo.

Mikakati kama hiyo ikiwekwa, sisi watu wa Laikipia tutasaidika kwa njia moja au nyingine kupitia hizo mbuga. Kama hakuna mikakati ambayo tutaweza kutengeneza katika hili Bunge, basi mwenye hiyo biashara ataendelea kusaidika lakini jamii haitafaidika. Ningeomba Wabunge wenzangu tulioko mahali hapa tupitishe huu mswada kwa sababu utatusaidia.

Ukienda katika Olpejeta, imesaidia watu kwa ufadhili wa masomo na wakiwa na nafasi ya kazi huwa wanatangaza kupitia barua pepe ili watu wapate nafasi. Huwa wanapatiana sheria ya kwamba asilimia 75 wawe ni watu kutoka hiyo jamii na asilimia 25 kutoka nje walio na ujuzi katika ile kazi ambayo wametangaza. Ningeomba Bunge la Kaunti ya Laikipia tupitishe huu mswada na ifanye kazi katika Laikipia nzima. Naomba Mheshimiwa Macharia aunge mkono.

Hon. Josepha Gitahi: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I take this opportunity first to appreciate the opportunity of seconding this important motion. I want to state that I second this motion. I understand that it is in the interest of the succeeding societies to leverage on naturally and locally available resources for the prosperity of the same.

In Laikipia, we happen to have a lot of tourist destination centres. We have the plateaus that are globally known. We also have got the range lands that provide homes to a lot of tourist destination sites. Additionally, we also have got others that have not been earmarked but they are in the pipeline of development to achieve such stages.

Hon. Speaker, I wish to second this motion on the account of different things. Income generation is at the centre of today's discussion. A lot of people are discussing on how we can economize on the scarce resources but nobody is talking about the development of income, revenue which we shall again share at the national level. That is why I second this motion because it encompasses that aspect.

Secondly, it also talks about the sustainability of all these issues stepping into the future civilizations. The motion itself is very prescriptive. I have heard it robustly discussed by the Hon. Member from Segera that we have the first issue of reigniting the spirit of destination in Laikipia.

Hon. Speaker, we used to have it. It is the high time that we reignite it for the purposes of these issues stated here. The motion again states of developing the tourist destination sites that have not been properly developed to the stage of earning revenue. He has cited the issue of Kirimon, he has cited the issue of Manguo where we have the sights for observation of the hippo which again is a tourist attraction site.

Hon. Speaker, that by itself is also very important. He has also stated the issues of developing infrastructure and the roads that are circuits between different conservancies and tourist attraction sites. For that account, I also second. This motion talks about the diversification of various tourist attraction aspects. The only thing we are saying is, let us extend them. It's not only animals that are but there are even cultures.

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Towards Laikipia North and also parts of Laikipia West, we also have cultures and indigenous people that also attract a lot of revenue from outside. As I end Hon. Speaker, I want to say it is important that we leverage on the available issues. We understand that in terms of wealth, Laikipia if we do not leverage on the issue of tourism, we will not be contributing to the National Grid of revenue generation. It is on such account that I second this motion and I urge other Members to support it. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Parleto Lekopien: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I stand to support the motion and first of all to take this opportunity to congratulate the Honorable Member for Segera for bringing this important motion. As I stand to support the motion, this Country is getting the biggest share in tourism. We would also like to join as the Laikipia County Government in that share. I would also want to say that most of the tourism sectors in this County have high potential and as we speak, most of the tourism attraction sites are in private ranches while the County Government has zoned sites that are not developed.

Secondly, we also have a lot of holding grounds or land that belongs to the Government that is all fenced off in these private sectors like Ol- Pejeta and other attractive sites. I would also want to urge the County Government of Laikipia to fast-track and check and also try to invest in the land that is all enclosed in these ranches for them to get the benefits of tourism and the dollar that will also eventually raise their revenue collection.

Hon. Speaker, as we speak, there is a lot of potential in the tourism sector in this county. Being that I was active in the tourism sector before; I have worked in Maasai Mara and have seen a lot of potential in the tourism sector. I will give an example of the Maasai Mara where 19% of the collected revenue goes to the local communities, which also boosts the bursaries that are given to our kids.

I think the County Government of Laikipia should emulate and do a lot of benchmarking in places like the Maasai Mara, Amboseli and all the other attraction sites such as our close neighbours here in Samburu. Secondly, as a tourist attraction site, we should tap into the potential of these private ranches which as we speak are collecting a lot of revenues from the tourism sector and the County Government of Laikipia is not benefitting at all.

We have seen how the levies are being charged. A lot of these private sectors just do their own business which the County Government of Laikipia is not aware of. I would want to urge the County Government to please fast-track the use of the Department of Tourism and revive it so that they can collect more revenue from other sectors.

Hon. Speaker, I stand to support and thank Hon. Salim for bringing this motion. I would want to urge the County Government of Laikipia to wake up and tap into the potential of the tourism industry in this county. Thank you, and I support the motion.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Lekopien. Allow me to call upon the mover of the motion to reply.

Hon. Salim Edung: Nashukuru, Bwana Spika kwa kunipa hii nafasi. Pongezi kwa Wabunge wenzangu ambao wamechangia kwenye mjadala wa leo. Naamini kuwa watatekeleza yote ambayo tumesema kwenye hili Jumba. Najua kwamba katika Laikipia, takriban asilimia tisini ya ardhi ni ranchi. Naomba kwamba tunapojadili huu mswada, utekelezwe ili wananchi wa Laikipia wasaidike. Nashukuru.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Members.

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(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: The sittings of this House now stand adjourned until later today, Tuesday 25th June, 2024, at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 10.47 a.m.

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