REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 28th July, 2026

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

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

PRAYERS

QUORUM CALL

Speaker: Clerk, confirm if we have quorum.

(Lack of quorum confirmed)

Speaker: I direct that the bell be rung for ten minutes.

(Quorum bell rung for 9 minutes)

Speaker: Clerk, confirm if we have quorum now.

(Clerk confirmed achievement of quorum)

Speaker: Thank you. Now that we have quorum, I direct that the bell stops ringing and without much ado, we proceed with the business of the day.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

VISITING DELEGATION FROM MURUKU SECONDARY SCHOOL

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Members. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the presence in the Speaker's Gallery this morning, of visiting teachers and students from Muruku Mixed Day and Boarding Secondary School in Salama Ward, Laikipia County. The delegation comprises of two teachers, Mr. George Mwangi and Ms. Mwai, and 49 students who are in the County Assembly for a one-day academic exposition.

Hon. Members, in our usual tradition of receiving and welcoming visitors to the County Assembly, I extend a warm welcome to them. On behalf of the County Assembly and on my own behalf, I wish them a fruitful time as they learn with us today.

PAPERS LAID

FOURTH QUARTER REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I have the following papers to lay:

a) Fourth quarter report and financial statements for the period ended 30th June, 2026 for the emergency fund.

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b) Fourth quarter reports and financial statements for the period ended 30th June, 2026 for the County Government of Laikipia.

Thank you.

(Hon. Stephen Ndiritu laid the papers on the Table of the House)

Bwana Spika, nachukua pia hii nafasi kuwakaribisha wanafunzi ambao umewataja. Iwapo nimesikia vizuri, umesema Muruku Mixed Secondary School. Hio ni shule ambayo nilisomea na naielewa. Kwa hivyo, nafurahi sana kusikia kwamba watoto kutoka shule hio wako kwenye hili Bunge kwa sababu watajifunza mengi kuhusu uongozi na yale tunayoyafanya kwenye hili Bunge. Nawakaribisha kwa moyo mkunjufu. Hata kama niliondoka upande huo, nashukuru kwa kuwaona na nawakaribisha hapa Nanyuki. Wajue kuwa Nanyuki ni mwisho wa reli na ni pahali pazuri sana. Kwa niaba ya mwakilishi wao wa wadi ambaye yuko njiani, nawatakia kila la heri. Asante.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Stephen for laying the papers. I want to commit the paper on Fourth quarter report and financial statements for the period ended 30th June, 2026 for the emergency fund to the Finance and County Planning Committee. I commit the paper on Fourth quarter reports and financial statements for the period ended 30th June, 2026 for the County Government of Laikipia to all sectoral committees. Thank you very much.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

APPROVAL OF THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY FUND MONTHLY DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE FOR THE 2026/2027 FINANCIAL YEAR

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

THAT, AWARE THAT Article 207 of the Constitution of Kenya and Section 109 of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) provide for the establishment of the County Revenue Fund and respective county public funds;

FURTHER AWARE THAT Section 109E (1) of the Public Finance Management Act mandates the County Treasury to disburse monies to the County Assembly Fund at the beginning of every month, and not later than the fifteenth day from the commencement of the month;

NOTING THAT Section 109E (2) of the Act requires these monthly disbursements to be made in accordance with an annual schedule prepared by the County Treasury and submitted to the County Assembly for approval;

RECOGNIZING THAT the total annual budget ceiling approved for the County Assembly stands at Kshs. 610,630,878 under the County Appropriation Act 2026;

NOW THEREFORE, this Assembly approves the attached County Assembly Fund Monthly Disbursement Schedule for the Financial Year 2026/2027, to guide the monthly flow of funds from the County Treasury directly to the County Assembly Fund.

Thank you.

MOTION

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APPROVAL OF THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY FUND MONTHLY DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE FOR THE 2026/2027 FINANCIAL YEAR

Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I beg to move the following motion:

THAT, AWARE THAT Article 207 of the Constitution of Kenya and Section 109 of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) provide for the establishment of the County Revenue Fund and respective county public funds;

FURTHER AWARE THAT Section 109E (1) of the Public Finance Management Act mandates the County Treasury to disburse monies to the County Assembly Fund at the beginning of every month, and not later than the fifteenth day from the commencement of the month;

NOTING THAT Section 109E (2) of the Act requires these monthly disbursements to be made in accordance with an annual schedule prepared by the County Treasury and submitted to the County Assembly for approval;

RECOGNIZING THAT the total annual budget ceiling approved for the County Assembly stands at Kshs. 610,630,878 under the County Appropriation Act 2026;

NOW THEREFORE, this Assembly approves the attached County Assembly Fund Monthly Disbursement Schedule for the Financial Year 2026/2027, to guide the monthly flow of funds from the County Treasury directly to the County Assembly Fund.

Mr. Speaker, this has been forthcoming because this is a discussion that we have had severally because of the availability of funds in this Assembly. We said we need direct flow of funds from the Treasury to the Assembly. The late disbursement of funds due to hiccups caused by the National Government is the reason why we requested to have autonomy of County Assemblies in this country. The County Assembly of Laikipia being one of the County Assemblies, having autonomy of funds will create free flow of service delivery within this Assembly and the County. The MCAs will be paid through this fund as well as the staff of the Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, when there is no timely disbursement of funds to this establishment, it creates hiccups in service delivery by the various departments of the Assembly. That is why we requested for autonomy of the County Assemblies within this country. Funds for salaries will then be availed on time so that Members as well as staff can clear their loans in a timely manner, and we will achieve harmony in this Assembly. This is a great and positive move by the National Treasury, giving County Assemblies autonomy and ensuring availability of funds within the counties. I call upon the Majority Whip to second this motion.

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Hon. Mwaniki who is also the Majority Leader of this House, for the great move of tabling this motion. This is a motion that is required to be passed by this Assembly, according to the PFM Act and according to Article 207 of the Constitution of Kenya.

Hon. Speaker, County Assemblies in Kenya need their independence. Remember, County Assemblies have been colonized for a long time by the Executive arm of the government. When you look at the constitution, it says that there are two arms of a County Government; the County Assembly and the County Executive.

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Hon. Speaker, you find that sometimes there are hiccups when it comes to receiving money on time. That is why I am standing here to support this motion because it is very clear that Assemblies should be given autonomy. We have fought for years to get this autonomy. Therefore, it is time for us to pass this motion without any delay.

Hon. Speaker, independence is something that should not be joked with by anybody. Therefore, I am requesting this House to approve this motion as early as today. The Assembly has been given an amount of Kshs. 610 million to meet its expenses. Therefore, I am standing in support of this motion and I will stand in support of it until it is passed. Thank you.

Speaker: Do you second the motion?

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Hon. Speaker, I stand to second the motion. Thank you.

Speaker: Hon. Members, the motion on approval of the County Assembly fund monthly disbursement schedule for the 2026/2027 Financial Year has been moved and seconded.

(Question proposed)

Speaker: Hon. Members, I now open the floor for Members who may wish to participate in contributing to this motion. The floor is open and I want to give the first shot to Hon. Daniel Mugweru, the Member representing Umande Ward.

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Thank you, Hon. Speaker for the opportunity given to me. I stand in support of this motion. In fact, these Members should by now be showing faces of celebration because we have been delivered from bondage. So, today will be one of the greatest days in this County Assembly and probably all the County Assemblies in Kenya. It is a great day and a great honour by the Government of Kenya to acknowledge the independence of County Assemblies.

Hon. Speaker, before I make my remarks I wish to acknowledge, welcome and congratulate the students of Muruku Mixed Day and Boarding Secondary School who have come here to learn more about how the Assembly is run. The reason why I am happily saying that I need to welcome them is that, myself I studied at a day school. So, when I see students from a day school, I always feel good and always remember to tell them that they can make it because I also made it. It is not stories; I made it. I did not go to a day school because of failing in KCPE exams. In fact, I was number 12 in the whole of Laikipia but I went to a day school and I am always proud of that.

It also happens that the school was mixed. So, Muruku Day and Boarding is just like the school I was in, which is Ngenia and I am proud of that. Maybe the teachers in Muruku today will be transferred to a national school next year and those in a national school transferred to a day school. So, teachers are the same and education is the same. It is now upon the students to decide whether to do their best or whatever they want. So, I wish to welcome them and may they feel much welcome to this County Assembly of Laikipia. These are the people who make decisions on behalf of the people of Laikipia.

Having said that, Hon. Speaker, today is a great day not just for the Members but also for the people of Laikipia County. That is because having autonomy of the County Assembly means that service delivery in Laikipia will be better than before. We may try to hide but the truth is that most of the County Assemblies which claim to be independent; I do not see how you are independent to perform oversight of the county executive yet at the end of the day you expect

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salaries, allowances and everything from the person you are oversighting. You just find yourself bowing to the wrong people.

Hon. Speaker, the County Assembly attaining its independence today means that even oversight will be better, strong and more efficient than ever. I will not be requiring the County Executive in whatever I will be doing as an MCA. Let me give an example using Machakos. In the previous Assembly, Members of the County Assembly of Machakos together with their staff stayed for more than a year without salaries or anything. Makueni County Assembly experienced the same thing due to differences with the Governor. At the end of the day, they were forced to bow down and collaborate in doing wrong to their counties.

Mr. Speaker, attaining independence today means that they can do their work independently without relying on the County Executive. They will tell them confidently that this is right or wrong because they do not need them anywhere. It is unfortunate that since devolution started more than ten years ago, County Assemblies have been relying on county executives. That is why I am saying that today is a day for celebration. It is a great day for the County Assembly as well as for the people of Laikipia because oversight will be done with efficiency and courage. I am sure that the Hon. Members will now stand with their shoulders high, knowing that they are following the law in whatever they are doing, without fear or intimidation from the County Executive.

Hon. Speaker, I support and believe that the more than Kshs. 610 million shillings will be utilized by this Assembly to work for the people of Laikipia independently, without intimidation, coercion or fear. That is what we have been praying for and our prayer has been well answered today. I support the motion and really congratulate its mover because this is a legacy that will be remembered by the MCAs who will come here in years to come. Not just now, but even the next Assembly will celebrate you for this. I wish that all the Members will support this. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Mugweru. I now give the floor to the Member representing Mukogodo East. Hon. Paul Shuel.

Hon. Paul Leshuel: Thank you, very much Mr. Speaker for this opportunity. We are here today to approve the autonomy of this Assembly. Before I contribute, I wish to welcome the students and teachers and tell them that they will learn a lot in this Assembly. Each and every person has their own career, so I know majority of them are coming here having it in their minds that they will be here one day. This is Laikipia and all of us will pass through this Assembly, and it will accommodate all of us even as we are all in the process of getting to the right place.

Mr. Speaker, we have been fighting for this for long and we are happy that as the Third Assembly, we are here today to pass this motion. Devolution came but we still have gaps in the law. We are happy that today we are fixing one of the serious gaps. We have been requesting for salaries and other needs of this Assembly from the Executive. So, we have been depending on the Executive, whether they give us Kshs. 40 million or 20 million. Now, it is here. What we have passed it in this Assembly as the budget is now in this document. So, each and every person here will be knowing how much they will be receiving every month. So, it is clear that we are no longer dependent on the Executive, and that is the way to go.

We cannot say we have two arms of the government, which is what gives us checks and balances, yet we still rely on the Executive. You cannot push them yet you rely on them for your

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salary. Today, however, when you have everything, you can push anybody including the CEO of this county. So, we are very happy and it is clear that every Member can testify that it is clear how much we will be receiving every month.

However, Mr. Speaker, the amount can change. All of us understand that there are some changes in the circular which came out the other day. So, I know changes will be there but they are minimal, and the supplementary budget will try to fill those minimal gaps. I stand to support this motion. I appreciate the Majority Leader for bringing it in time so that we can move ahead knowing what to expect every month, which will enable us to arrange ourselves.

I want to say that this is a plus for all County Assemblies in this country. There are fights in every corner between governors and County Assemblies. When you read about the problem facing Isiolo, it is a lot. So, without autonomy, assemblies will suffer for long. Now, however, they are very independent, and the independence starts from what we are getting.

Mr. Speaker, when somebody reports to you, and their salary is paid by someone else, you are only lying to yourself that you are that person's employer. Their employer is the person paying them. So, we cannot say we are independent when we are still dependent on the Executive for our salaries and other facilitations. Today we are very independent and this is now another arm of the government which will make the Executive work hard. So, I am very happy and I want to appreciate the government for this. Thank you very much, and I support.

Hon. Dennis Kaniaru: Thank you, Mr. Speaker for giving me this opportunity. I stand to support this motion. Before I give my views and support, I just want to take this opportunity to welcome the students from Muruku school. It is a bold achievement that they have visited this House to learn and understand how this House operates. Because I believe that most of them will one day be seated in this House discussing and making decisions for the people of Laikipia, I congratulate them because they are ready to learn and understand how we work.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to echo what Members have said pertaining to this motion. We have waited for long. It is now a decade, but this motion has come at the right time. Now County Assemblies in the entire republic have the autonomy to do their things right and in their own way. County Assemblies are now independent.

As you all know, it has been very hard for County Assemblies to oversight the Executive because most of the time they rely on them on issues pertaining to any money. Now, however, this independence has made County Assemblies to stand firm and I believe they will now be able to work confidently without any intimidation or fear because they will be running independently. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I support this motion and believe that County Assemblies will now be able to move with speed and work well, and things will be alright. I support, thank you.

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to support the motion by the Majority Leader. Before that, however, I welcome the students from Muruku to the Assembly. They are lucky to be able to visit, and I thank the devolution of government because previous learners never had such a chance unless they went to the Parliament. Now with devolution, they can come to the Assembly and learn how it is run; it is similar to what they would learn at the National Assembly. I also thank their teachers. I am from Marmanet in Laikipia West and I know where Muruku is. It is a privilege because the school is in the interior but now, they have been brought to the light to see how we operate here.

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On the motion of the day, Mr. Speaker, we are really lucky at this moment. Having been here even during the previous regime, there comes a time when the Governor can punish the Assembly. If he can feel that you are not obeying his orders or you are trying to be independent yet you rely on him for allowances or other things; sometimes we get challenges.

Mr. Speaker, the autonomy that is coming our way now whereby we will be getting our disbursement every month will enable us to properly implement our oversight role. There is an ODM MP who testified to us that whenever they want to impeach somebody, there are some things that change hands. That will no longer happen when we have autonomy. Everybody will be able to make the right decision and do things in the right way. I wholeheartedly support the motion.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Members. I now want to give a chance to the mover of the motion to reply.

Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I do thank the Members for their contribution to this motion. As they have stated, this is very important to County Assemblies because we play the role of oversight. We oversight the Executive, and there is no way we can have an Assembly which is not independently oversighting a body that is paying them or providing for them. When we have autonomy or a freehand, then Members will be able to put the Executive to task on matters of funds management, project implementation as well as oversight of projects on the ground.

Mr. Speaker, having been given a schedule on how funds will be flowing monthly from July to June, because that is how a financial year runs, it shows that before the 15th day of every month we will have funds availed to this Assembly. That will enable us to implement the works that have been mandated upon us by the electorate. I appreciate everyone for giving me a chance to move this motion. Thank you.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: The sittings of this House now stand adjourned until later today, Tuesday, 28th July, 2026 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 10.51 a.m.

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