REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 31st March, 2026

The House met at the Assembly Chambers at 10.10 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: Without quorum, I direct that the bell rings for ten minutes.

(Quorum bell rang for ten minutes)

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

(Lack of quorum confirmed)

Speaker: I direct that the bell continues ringing for another five minutes.

(Quorum bell rang for three minutes)

Hon. Salim Edung: Mr. Speaker, we have quorum now.

Speaker: Clerk, confirm if it is true indeed we have quorum.

(Clerk confirmed achievement of Quorum)

Speaker: Now that we have quorum, I direct that the bell stops ringing. Without much ado thereafter, we will proceed with the business of the House.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

WELCOMING REMARKS AFTER RECESS

Speaker: Hon. Members, allow me to take this opportunity and time to welcome you back into the House after a two weeks recess. Believing that we've had very nice and robust trainings for the two weeks. I believe we are now sharper and more prepared to undertake this session after the trainings. Welcome back into the House.

NOTICE OF MOTION

RELOCATION OF KPLC ELECTRICITY POSTS FROM ROAD RESERVES

Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki thru' Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. On behalf of Nicholas Muturi, I beg to give notice of the following motion;

THAT AWARE THAT some electricity posts installed by the KPLC are located within road reserves and pose a safety risks to load users;

FURTHER AWARE THAT such posts hinder road construction and maintenance;

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This House URGES the County Government to liaise with the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum, Kenya Power and Lighting Company and or other relevant National Government Agencies to identify and remove or relocate electricity posts located within the road to enhance road safety and facilitate road development.

Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Next order.

MOTION

RELOCATION OF KPLC ELECTRICITY POSTS FROM ROAD RESERVES

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

Speaker: Hon. Stephen, kindly switch off your microphone. Thank you.

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

THAT AWARE THAT some electricity posts installed by the KPLC are located within road reserves and pose a safety risks to load users;

FURTHER AWARE THAT such posts hinder road construction and maintenance;

This House URGES the County Government to liaise with the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum, Kenya Power and Lighting Company and or other relevant National Government Agencies to identify and remove or relocate electricity posts located within the road to enhance road safety and facilitate road development.

Mr. Speaker, this has been a challenge within our wards on matters of road construction and road maintenance. Mr. Speaker, as we move machines within our wards, you encounter KPLC posts that have been erected within roads. This poses a challenge because you cannot be able to grade a road within a locality like Nanyuki Town and our small towns that are within our wards. There are hindrances that are posed by those electricity posts.

Mr. Speaker, you cannot also be able to either move a post. A grader hits a post or an electricity wire because it also poses a danger to the person operating the excavator, the grader or the people who are operating the tractor. These are tippers and when off-roading the murram, the tipper may encounter or touch cables which have high voltage which thus poses a health risk, danger or death to the people operating those machines.

As a county, we are urging the relevant body which is the Kenya Power and Lighting Company to review their policies on matters of relocating posts within our county. Previously, I had a discussion with the CECM and the CO of Infrastructure Department and the CO advised me on, first of all to identify the post then picking the location. Afterwards, I write a report so that the Department requests the Kenya Power and Lighting Company to relocate the post.

Mr. Speaker, this entails the Kenya Power and Lighting Company writing a quotation to the County Government, which entails the cost of moving that post which will be undertaken by the County Government itself after paying the cost of moving that post. That is when the Kenya Power and Lighting Company will come to the ground to relocate that post. So, the Kenya Power itself having erected a post, which was done long ago, it was erected on the wrong place hence the County Government undertakes the cost of removing that post.

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We are wondering on what kind of a rules or a policies guide on the same. The Kenya Power does a mistake and on rectification of the same mistake, the County Government undertakes that cost. So, these are the kind of policies that should be reviewed, because this is a mistake. The mistake was not done by the County Government on erecting the posts. It was done by the Kenya Power and Lighting Company who erected a post on the wrong location. Then they are saying they have to be paid to remove that post.

Mr. Speaker, those are the kind of policies that should be reviewed. This is the process that should be undertaken by the relevant board members so that they enhance smooth upgrading of our roads within our county. This has been a challenge and it is still a challenge, because in the last financial year when I was constructing a road in Tigithi Ward, in Castle, I was not able to grade those roads because the posts are erected within roads.

So, this is posing a risk which can cause death. If at all the County Government engages on the removal of the same post, we are liable to be prosecuted by the KPLC. Mr. Speaker, if at all, it poses a prosecution on the people who will be able to remove those posts from the County Government, then the relevant body should do its work. There were supposed to do survey before the erection of those posts. They were supposed to do thorough survey work on the locations they are supposed to erect those posts.

So, if at all it wasn't done, that shows the mistake of the County Government. It is the mistake of the Kenya Lightening Power Company because they have their own surveyors and they should do whatever needs to be done so that that they can put or erect a post where it is supposed to be where it will not pose a risk to the people.

Mr. Speaker, if our people cannot enjoy good roads because of a company that erected posts where they are not supposed to be erected, then it's time we do something as a county government on review of these matters. This should be escalated to the Department of Infrastructure. It should be escalated to the Kenya Power and Energy Company.

It should be escalated to the National Government, so that the Assembly or the National Assembly can review this policy on matters of relocating electric posts within this county. These are the challenges that are faced by Laikipians, and still, if at all that's the policy that guides Kenya Power and Lighting Company on the same, then these are challenges in the whole country. So, we should review, there should be a review of policies, policies that guides Kenya Power and Lighting Company on erection of electric poles within this country, Mr. Speaker, and within Laikipia County.

If at all it comes down to Laikipia County, there should be a review on how they operate within Laikipia County. So, having had that challenge, I wasn't able to construct and upgrade roads within Castle Village.

We urge relevant bodies to do their work, and if at all it's a matter of reviewing those policies, that policy should be reviewed so that we can be able to give our electorates the best services ever we can be able to, to give out on matters of road maintenance and road construction, Mr. Speaker. I would like to call upon Hon. Umija to second this.

Hon. Catherine Umija: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to second the motion brought about by the Majority Leader on the issue of erected posts within the roads. Just as he has alluded that it's posing a great danger, especially when they are doing the road works, which, as you know, we are a developer-orientated county. We are supposed to be giving our people the roads that they need. These posts are in the middle of the road that means that the works

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that were scheduled to be done within a specific period of time will cause delay. And of course, when these delays are there, the *Mwananchi*, will start saying that we are not working for them.

It's high time the County Government talks with the Kenya Power and Lighting Company so that they can conclude to ensure that these posts are moved on time so that the road works can continue within our county. I know that Kenya Power, when they erect these posts, just initially when they were doing the last mile, they just put posts everywhere. I know that the County Government had not demarcated areas where the roads are, and they erected their posts within the roads.

I think when the surveying is being done in the road, I think it's also important that Kenya Power is also involved so that they know and they give timelines on when they are going to be removing these posts. I support the motion that Kenya Power and Lighting Company should remove the erected posts within the middle of the roads so that the construction works can continue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I second the motion.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I take this opportunity to thank you for giving me this opportunity to make my contribution in regards to the motion brought by a Majority Leader in this House. Hon. Speaker, even before I make my contribution, I wish to say that we are happy that you are back in the House. We have started in the way you can see, and I hope everybody can see how we have started, hoping that now that we have started the first day. The first day is so important in everything that you do. If you don't take the first step, you will never take the second one. If you want to travel to Nairobi, you will never reach Nairobi until you jump the frame of your house. So, the frame is so important than anything else, Hon. Speaker.

[The Speaker (Hon. Lantano Nabaala) left the chair]

[The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Paul Leshuel) took the Chair]

Hon. Speaker, it's a great day that we are back to this House to do what we expected to do as an Assembly. As an Assembly, this Assembly is like a ship. Not Kagondu, that ship that goes in the sea, and a ship, everybody who is in is always ready. If the ship will sink, we might find ourselves dying.

There is a story that was given in the Bible of somebody who was called Jonah, and Jonah was sent to Nineveh, but he chose to get into a ship that was going to Tarshis, and the ship had a lot of problems. There were waves and all that, Hon. Speaker. The only solution for the ship to go was to throw Jonah in the sea. I don't know whether I'm giving the right story, but that is how it is, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker, when this is a House, and as a ship, it is so unfortunate when today somebody gets into a ship going to the wrong direction. This ship of ours, Hon. Speaker, is sinking. Many might fail to say that, but we are sinking. We are sinking because we have somebody in the House who is in our ship who is not supposed to be in our ship, Hon. Speaker.

As much as we sing a song that we are in the same ship, if we are not supposed to be in the ship, the only solution is to throw you in the water so that we may reach the destination. The destination of us as a House was to work for the people of Laikipia, to fulfil the agenda that the people of Laikipia brought us here to do. One of the agendas that brought us here is working for those people, bringing development to them through budgets and all that, Hon. Speaker.

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Hon. Speaker, if you wake up and tell us that we are not going to use our budget from today, then you are Jonah in our ship and you are supposed to be thrown in the sea for us to reach the destination. If you wake up and say that today, I'm not supposed to, because when you affect the budget it means I'm not supposed to be paid. When we talk of payment, some people think that we are talking of wrong things.

It is good to, you get paid for work done. When you come to where you touch where I'm supposed to be paid for work done, Hon. Speaker, then I feel that you are Jonah. We need to think whether Jonah came from your constituency, because your constituency, which is Laikipia North could have a Jonah. The only solution is to throw Jonah in the sea so that we will be able to reach the destination, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker, some of these people, some of the Members here, they speak when they are outside, but they fear to say it openly. But the good thing, many might hate me, but I never care, because I speak what is in my heart and I speak it for myself. Nobody has a responsibility to speak for me. The Bible says you should only speak for those who cannot speak for themselves. I can speak for myself. So, whenever I say something, I always mean it from my heart. That is the only way. As a leader of the House, you are supposed to take responsibility and communicate that you have Jonah in the ship. The only solution is to throw him in the waters so that we may reach the destination.

Having said that, Hon. Speaker, today we are having a motion that has affected most of us directly. Like myself, today as I am working for the people of Umande, there are so many roads that I cannot do. Just because the Kenya Power erected a post somewhere, only to be told that I must pay for them to remove the post which they erected in the wrong place. They are the ones who erected on the road reserve. Some are even in the middle of the road, Hon. Speaker.

I am told that I am supposed to pay them for doing wrong, for correcting their mistakes, Hon. Speaker. That is very wrong, Hon. Speaker. If it was not criminals who erected those posts, if you are the one as Kenya Power and Lighting Company who erected posts on the middle of the road, you are not supposed to be paid anything. In fact, you are supposed to be fined for doing that.

You have already obstructed us. You have delayed development for our people for careless mistakes that you did. So, as a House and as a county, we need to change. Hon. Speaker, I don't think this is a policy. These are just criminals who sat down. I don't think there is somebody who has ever made a law that when you make a mistake, when the time of correcting your mistake, you get paid and be paid by the people you aggrieved. I have never heard such a law. I don't think there is such a policy.

Those are just a few people who sat down together and thought of how they can solicit funds from the government and the people in the community. Because today, if I see an entire road of five kilometres will stop because of one post and then I'm told to pay an amount of money; I'll be forced to pay. I'll find myself paying. I'm paying a criminal who intentionally did that or who carelessly did that. They are supposed to be answerable. They are supposed to remove those posts and not just removing. They are supposed to pay for the pain they have caused for the people around that area.

Right now as we are talking, I have a post that is in the middle of the road and that road goes to the school, a primary school. What is expected of me to do? Somebody is telling me that I'm supposed to pay for them to remove the post for me to make that road for the children to access the school. I pay them for the wrong they did, many years. Nowadays, as we are doing

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our roads, you can see what we are doing as a county. Every road that we are doing, first of all we are bringing a surveyor and they are supposed to do the same.

We need electricity yes, but we don't need it in the middle of the road. Just like water, we need water so much. But you cannot come and pipe your water in the middle of the road and then we celebrate that you are helping us with water Hon. Speaker. Water is needed and roads are needed. Electricity is needed and everything has its part.

Therefore, everybody should take responsibility. I don't know how we are going to communicate this to the people of Kenya Power. Currently Hon. Speaker, because now you are the one who is seated there and luckily enough, you are the Chairman for the Implementation Committee. We need to sit down and ask ourselves how we are going to implement this because it is affecting all of us. It is affecting everyone here.

Not just even the roads, the Kenya Power people have been even encroaching people's homes. You see that they are erecting a post, two posts, then their cables go on top of the houses. You know very well they have contracts of wayleave. They are not even thinking about wayleave. They are just coming and erecting posts. Because the Kenyans are desperate for electricity, they just keep quiet because they need electricity.

You cannot take advantage of the weak. We know we don't have electricity and we need it. We know we are not that strong. You come and intimidate us that if you don't allow us to close this place, then you will not have electricity. Then the poor Kenyans and the poor Laikipians kneel down and says now go ahead only to find that they installed in the wrong places.

Hon. Speaker, we need to wake up as a House and see the best we can do to make sure that the Kenya power has removed the posts that they have erected in the middle of the roads. In future, any time they are doing it, let them involve our surveyors so that we may not have such problems in future.

Hon. Speaker, I really support and I really hope that we as a House, this will not end here. We will make a serious follow-up and if possible maybe this week. Already I'm affected as we are talking.

I'm interested in this motion Hon. Speaker because as we are talking, I need several posts removed. I support and because the motion came from the Majority Leader, you being the leader of the House, make sure that you get the best solution. We approve this motion, we come together and get the best solution to face the Kenya Power people for taking advantage of us. Thank you, I support.

Hon. Salim Edung: Nashukuru Bwana Spika kwa kunipatia hii nafasi. Mjadala wa leo, Kiongozi wa Walio Wengi ameleta mjadala ambao umekanganya watu wengi katika vijiji na miji, kuhusu haya mambo ya kuweka vikingi kwa barabara au katika maeneo ambayo haistahili.

Mwaka Uliopita, kuna watu ambao walikuwa wametumwa kutoka Serikali Kuu kuja katika kijiji ambacho kinaitwa Jerusalem, kuweka ua la stima lakini watu walijitokeza na kusema ya kwamba ni vizuri iwekwe kwa njia ambayo inastahili. Ilibidi wakasema ni lazima wafanye *survey* katika hiyo eneo ili waone mahali barabara ziko na wakahakikisha ya kwamba hawakuguza shamba la mtu au ploti ya mtu.

Huu mjadala umeonyesha ya kwamba katika sehemu mbali mbali, tunahitaji tuangalie kwa umakini sana. Hii ni kwa sababu watu wa stima wanapoenda kutengeneza stima mahali,

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inafaa wawe na watu wa *survey* ambao wataangalia barabara, eneo za mashule na manyumba za watu ili kazi yao iwe rahisi.

Kwa muda mrefu sana, Kenya Power wanapopatiana kandarasi eneo fulani, hao watu huwa hawaangalii shule, barabara, hospitali au kanisa. Huwa wanafanya kazi tu waweze kutimiza wajibu wao lakini hawakui makini wakiweka vikingi.

Huu ni mjadala ambao unafaa Kiongozi wa walio Wengi achukulie kwa umakini. Unapopitishwa katika hili Bunge, ni lazima uchukue hatua na barua pia ifikie wale ambao wanastahili. Kuna miji zingine ambazo hazijawekwa stima na kwa hivyo, ni vizuri wasirudie makosa. Hiyo makosa irekebishwe na mahali kulikuwa na hitilafu kurekebishwe ili watu sehemu mbali mbali wapate maendeleo kwa njia mbayo inastahili. Imekuwa ni vikwazo sana.

Mara nyingi, hata ukiingia sehemu kama ya Thingithu, unapata nguzo iko barabarani kama ambavyo Mheshimiwa Mugweru amesema. Hii inaleta changamoto kwa mkandarasi anayestahili kutengeneza hiyo barabara. Hili linafaa kuangaliwa kwa umakini au kamati ibuniwe itakayohakikisha kuwa hii kazi imefanyika vilivyo. Ni vizuri kwamba tumemchagua Kiongozi wa Walio Wengi; kwa miezi mingi, hatujakuwa na Kiongozi wa Walio Wengi anayefuatilia mijadala ya Bunge hili.

[The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Paul Leshuel) left the Chair]

[The Speaker (Hon. Lantano Nabaala) took the chair]

Bwana Spika, inafaa tuamke na kuangalia ili wananchi wa Kenya wajue kuwa kuna kazi ambayo tumewafanyia. Hata tutakapoenda mashinani kutafuta kura, tutakuwa tunajua kuna kazi imefanyika. Kama nguzo ya umeme iko katikati ya barabara, itamzuia Mheshimiwa kufanya kazi hadi hio nguzo iondolewe, na muda unayoyoma. Nashukuru kwa huu mswada ambao utawafanya waliofanya makosa hapo awali kutorudia. Asante.

Hon. Paul Leshuel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Firstly, I want to appreciate the mover of the motion, the Majority Leader, for giving us this motion today. I do not want to repeat what the Members have said but it is very true that we need to address the issue of removal of electricity posts by the Kenya Power department.

I would, however, wish to advise the House that, if possible, we bring a statement, because a statement can give us a way of engaging directly with the relevant people and deliver a report to this House. If this process cannot work, then we need to find for ourselves another way of getting out of this. Either we go to court or we challenge those guys. They cannot continue to intimidate us that in order for them to remove the posts, we must incur a cost. That is not possible.

Mr. Speaker, when we give roads to contractors, they must do a little bit of survey so that they do not construct anywhere. What is wrong with those who are contracted by Kenya Power that they just wake up and start putting up posts anywhere? I want to say that the motion is very nice, however, we want to act on it immediately without delay. The motion will follow the normal process. It will be forwarded to the relevant departments. As that process is underway, however, we need to have a statement.

The statement will help us in two ways: When we task the relevant committee of this House, they will engage with the CECM concerned. They will also find a way to engage with the Kenya Power, because we cannot allow them to continue that way. Hon. Mugweru has elaborated properly that because of our needs, we compromise, and that is what messes up everything.

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Besides roads, those guys put up posts even in the lands of other individuals, and you cannot question them. If it causes problems, I do not know whether they are ready to incur costs. We cannot just sit and wait until those things happen. They have probably even been happening, but where do those needy people go?

Mr. Speaker, my proposal is that we open up our minds. As the Chairman of the Implementation Committee, I will take this matter seriously. By next week, I will bring a report on what the CECM concerned will have told us. We, however, need more engagement so that we can come out of this. I stand to support this motion because it is very important. It is the reality on the ground. It is not just a motion. If you go to the ground today, you will find that mess in every ward. So, it is very important that we engage in a very serious way. Thank you and I support.

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

Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I thank the Members for the robust discussion that we have had on this motion. As the Members have stated, this is a very big problem in our county. We are wondering whether the agencies that have been given the duty to serve the electorate should work in tandem or separately with conflicts within this country. The only duty is to give services to the electorate. KPLC and the County Assembly of Laikipia are both serving the electorate.

Hon. Speaker, if we are all working for the people, then it is the high time for all departments in this country to work closely and have good relationships so that we can serve our people right. If it is all about service delivery, then it is high time we pinned down the relevant people so that they can wake up and serve Laikipians and this country in the best way possible. These are taxpayers and they should be able to receive the best services out of their taxes.

The people of Umande, Mukogodo East and Thingithu are still complaining because roads cannot be constructed or repaired when there is electricity posts erected in the middle of them. So, it is the duty of the Implementation Committee to do a follow-up so that we can know how to deal with this issue to its logical conclusion. Money has been allocated in the budget to construct and upgrade our roads and if we cannot expedite that fund to help our people, then it shows that we are failing as an Assembly. However, as an Assembly we are ready to fight this battle to the end. So, I appreciate and thank the Hon. Members for the support they have given towards this motion. Thank you.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: This House now stands adjourned until later today, Tuesday, 31 March 2026 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 11.02 a.m.

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