REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 3rd June, 2025

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: Without the quorum, I direct that the bell be rang for ten minutes.

(Quorum bell rang for two minutes)

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Mr. Speaker, I think we now have the quorum. Today we have balanced by four Members on both sides.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Kanyutu. Clerk confirm if indeed we do have quorum.

(Clerk confirmed achievement of Quorum)

Speaker: Now that we have quorum, I direct that the bell stops ringing and we immediately move to the business of the day.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

WELCOMING REMARKS FROM RECESS

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Members. First, I want to take this opportunity to welcome the Members of the County Assembly of Laikipia back from recess. I believe that you had a robust time to visit your electorates and equally you have benefitted from the various trainings we have gone through.

VISITING DELEGATION FROM PCEA NANYUKI GIRLS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Secondly, Hon. Members, I wish to recognize the presence of 42 grade 9 pupils from PCEA Nanyuki Girls Boarding Primary School in Nanyuki Ward, Laikipia East Constituency. They are accompanied by teachers. I request that they all be upstanding. They are accompanied by the following teachers and perhaps I will have to identify them by raising their hands; Nancy Muteithia as the Head Teacher, Margaret Kahiato, Mwangi Mukunda, Kelvin Mutuma, Jennifer Ndegwa. Thank you, very much.

Hon. Members, on my own behalf and that of the Assembly, I wish to welcome them to the County Assembly of Laikipia and I wish them a fruitful engagement during their visit with us. You may be seated. Thank you.

BILL

Second reading

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THE LAIKIPIA COUNTY FINANCE BILL, 2025

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I take this opportunity to thank God for this far we have gone. First of all, I would like to go through today's business. I beg to move;

THAT the Laikipia County Finance bill, 2025 (Laikipia County Bills No. 2) be now read a second time.

Thank you.

Asante, Mheshimiwa Spika. Kama nilivyokuwa nimesema ni kwamba ninachukua hii nafasi kushukuru na kuwakaribisha Waheshimiwa katika muhula huu wa pili wa kuendesha biashara ya Bunge la Kaunti. Vilevile, ningetaka kuwashukuru wanafunzi waliofika katika Bunge hili ili kuweza kuona vile Waheshimiwa wa Bunge la Kaunti wanafanya biashara yao nikijua kwamba ndio watakuwa viongozi wa Kesho na wataweza kuangalia na kujua ni yapi yanafanyika katika Bunge letu la Kaunti.

Bwana Spika, nikubalie tu niweze kuingia katika biashara ya leo ya Muswada ya Fedha katika Kaunti ya Laikipia. An ACT of the County Assembly of Laikipia to provide for the imposition or variation and collection of various permit fees, cess, licenses, fees or charges financial year 2024/2025 for the and for connected purposes.

Enacted by the County Assembly of Laikipia, as follows— PART one has preliminaries, Short title and commencement. This Act may be cited as the Laikipia County Finance Act, 2025 and shall come into operation on the date of publication in the Kenya Gazette as an Act of the County Assembly.

Hon. Speaker, there is the interpretation. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires "Agricultural produce" means any agricultural crop or animal produce; "Campsite" means a collection of tents, huts, or other temporary structures used for travellers to sleep in, outdoors. A tent is a portable shelter made of fabric and supported by a frame or poles. Could also be an open space with manicured lawns where the tents could be set up temporarily.

Bwana Spika, nafikiri Waheshimiwa wako na hii nakala. Kama tunavyokumbuka Waheshimiwa, tuliweza kuleta ripoti ya *Public Participation* na kila Mheshimiwa aliweza kupitia na kuona vile mwananchi alisema. Sisi kama wale ambao tumepewa jukumu na mwananchi, ni haki yetu kutetea wananchi ambao wako nje.

Bwana Spika, Bili ya Fedha ni sheria ambayo imekuwa ikileta changamoto sana na imekuwa ikiguza wananchi. Juzi tumekuwa na msukumano wa wananchi wakijaribu kukataa Bili ya Fedha ambayo ilikuwa inapitishwa katika Serikali Kuu. Hii yetu ni kama yao ilhali tunaokota pesa kulingana na sheria ambayo imewekwa.

Wakati wowote tunapitisha sheria, sijawahi kusikia ikiwa na changamoto ya kwamba wananchi wanalalamika zaidi kwa sababu sisi tuko makini sana kwa sababu tunapenda kusikiza wananchi na tunataka kujua mwananchi anataka nini na anafanya nini. Sisi katika Kaunti yetu hatuwezi taka kuona watu wakienda kwa barabara kufanya maandamano kwamba kuna pesa ambazo wanatoshwa kodi ambayo haifai kuwa ikitoshwa.

Kwa hivyo, ningetaka kuwakumbusha Waheshimiwa kwamba hii ni sheria ambayo inatupatia nafasi nzuri ya kuweza kuokota pesa na vilevile kuhakikisha ya kwamba Serikali ya Kaunti itaokota pesa na iweze kuleta maendeleo. Bwana Spika, ni vizuri nieleze Waheshimiwa kwa sababu wakiwa hapa, wanawakilisha wengine wengi ambao wako nje. Wakati tunaokota pesa tunasaidia serikali kuleta maendeleo.

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Bwana Spika, leo nikiingia katika wadi ambayo ninawakilisha, Thingithu, nikipitia Baraka, Njoguini na sehemu zote ni lazima wananchi waniambie yale maendeleo ambayo wanataka. Maendeleo haiwezi kupatikana kama hatutaokota kodi. Bwana Spika, hakuna pesa serikali inatengeneza. Serikali inapata pesa kupitia mimi na wewe. Bwana Spika, tukikosa pesa, hakuna maendeleo ambayo itapatikana. Bwana Spika, tunauliza kama wananchi kwamba tukiitishwa pesa, wale ambao wanatuitisha waifanyie kazi kulingana na vile inastahili.

Wakati mwingine, unapata tunaokota pesa na wale ambao wanaokota wanaweka kwa mfuko. Sasa ndio ile changamoto ambayo tunapitia na ambayo mwananchi analalamikia. Mwananchi hana shida na kuitishwa ushuru ila kwamba ushuru ambao umeokota imepelekwa wapi, inafanya nini na ni nani anaweka na anaweka wapi. Bwana Spika, unaweza kuwa unaokota na unaweka kwa mifuko.

Ninashukuru Serikali ya Kaunti ya Laikipia kwa sababu wameboresha ukusanyaji wa ushuru kwamba siku hizi ukilipa unalipia kwenye mtandao. Zamani, watu walikuwa wanalipa pesa taslimu na ukilipwa unaweza kuamua kupeleka nusu na ubaki na nusu. Hayo ndio mambo ambayo tumeweza kuona katika Idara ya Fedha. Wameboresha na hakuna shida kama hizo.

Bwana Spika, jambo la pili ambalo ningetaka kuelezea Waheshimiwa ni kwamba hii nakala imetoka Serikali ya Utawala. Sisi tuko na haki ya kuchambua na kuangalia ni wapi pesa imewekwa ambayo itafinyilia mwananchi wa kawaida. Vilevile tunapochambua Bili ya Fedha na kupitisha tunafaa kuangalia ni akina nani wanalipa ushuru.

Bwana Spika, tumezoea tukianza kulipisha, badala ya tulipishe wale watu ambao wanafaa kulipa, tuwalipishe pesa kulingana na uwezo wao, tunakimbia kwa mama mboga. Katika hili Bunge, leo utasikia mtu akisimama na kusema wengine watoe na wengine wasitoe. Bwana Spika, unashindwa mama mboga ambaye yuko hapa kila wakati akiuza nyanya yake ni lazima alipe kodi. Unakuta Mzungu ambaye yuko na shamba kubwa la mamia ya ekari yuko na shida kutoa ushuru.

Ningetaka kuwatahadharisha ya kwamba wakati huu hatuna mchezo. Kila mtu atatoa ushuru. Uwe mzungu, uwe Mwafrika, uwe mweusi au mwekundu, ni lazima ulipe ushuru. Wakati huu ni lazima tutoshane. Kama mama mboga atatoa pesa, ningetaka kuona mwenye ranchi akiwa Borana, akitoa ushuru na si kama ya mama mboga. Mama mboga akitoa ishirini, yeye atoe milioni kwa sababu pesa yake ni nyingi.

Hilo ndilo ninataka tuangalie na tuhakikishe ya kwamba watu wote wanalipa ushuru kulingana na uwezo wao. Vilevile Bwana Spika, kuna ushuru ambao ni leseni na tungetaka leseni zilipishwe kulingana na sheria. Kama yako ni duka, ulipe leseni ya duka. Kama ni malipo ya ardhi, ulipe kulingana na sheria ambayo iko. Ninaomba Waheshimiwa kwa sababu hii bili imesomwa kwa mara ya pili, ikija kusomwa mara ya tatu ambapo tutafanya marekebisho, ninaomba mjitayarishe na mfanye mabadiliko muhimu.

Hon. Speaker, that is my submission to this Act and I urge Members to take this bill seriously because it affects the lives of the people and electorates who gave us the mandate to be in this Honourable House. With those few words, I rest my case. I thank you, Hon. Speaker. Hon. Speaker, I was directed that I have to call a seconder.

Therefore, I would like to call my senior Hon. Leshuel who has been in this House for many years and who has been a councillor during our early age. I know he is familiar with this document. I call upon Hon. Leshuel to second this bill to go for second reading. Thank you.

Hon. Paul Leshuel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to thank Members for their commitment. I can see the House is almost full. I want

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to appreciate them. Mr. Speaker, we have been with the people who elected us for a number of weeks and I am sure we are ready to debate and deliberate on issues that concern the people we are representing.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here to second the Finance Bill. We all know that Finance Bill is a bill that guides us on Revenue Collection. Mr. Speaker, without a law, you cannot just wake up in the morning and ask people for money. They must know who you are and who is guiding you to collect money. That is why we have two arms of the government in devolution. Mr. Speaker, we have the Executive and the Assembly.

Our role as an Assembly is to have the Finance Bill and approve or pass it here so that the Executive will be able to implement and collect money through this Finance Bill. Mr. Speaker, the Finance Bill Draft generated from the Executive. When it came into this House, it is our responsibility now to analyse the Finance Bill and see whether there are areas that need amendments or if there are areas that we scrap or add.

We have also been given the mandate to amend, add and remove. Mr. Speaker, today we are here to analyse. I am privileged to be in the Finance Committee and I want to assure Members that we shall analyse the bill and we will give guidelines on the areas that we need to amend. Mr. Speaker, the Finance Bill is a document that makes all of us equal and fair in terms of revenue collection.

We need to balance this county. Mr. Speaker, we have farmers and pastoralists who sell their animals in markets. We have ranchers, we have tourism and there are many categories of areas that we collect revenue. Mr. Speaker, we need to balance all those areas. We do not want to convince the Executive. We want to be very specific on areas and items that collect money so that we do not make people to be confused.

There is a business that combines for example, you have a business that does M-pesa and sometimes you are selling a shop. We need to see which is bigger than the other so that we can be able to say the bigger is the one to pay revenue. The smaller one will be carried by the bigger one so that we do not confuse our people that you are paying here and there. You will come at one shop and get five licenses.

That is very wrong, Mr. Speaker. It is our responsibility now to see how we separate them, guide them, and make sure a person doesn't go there and collect money in a way because the finance bill is not clear on where to collect money. That is our responsibility. We are here today to analyse and we have time. Members will carry their documents and go and analyse.

Mr. Speaker, every person here is representing someone. We have special people representing special people. We have people representing their ward. I am representing everybody in my ward. I am representing the disabled and the women but we also have a special team here who are representing very special people. It is now our time so that we can be able to analyse the document. Again, Mr. Speaker, we need to educate our people and give information because in the last finance bill, we had a group of ranchers calling themselves LCA.

They went around giving the group ranchers wrong information that we are passing a Finance Bill here that will be charging group ranchers community 60%. That was very wrong. And for your information, Mr. Speaker, I want to be on record here that we have moved from the group ranches, we are in a community land. Our people are not in the category of ranchers. We have moved from ranching; we are now in the community land according to the act.

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So those people who mix those things should come clear. Those ranchers don't want to pay the tax. They don't want to come clearly so they refuse to pay the tax. They want to hide themselves behind the community. They want to mobilize the community so that the community will come up accusing the government that you have passed a bill that makes us pay a lot of money but that is not the reality.

Mr. Speaker, if you have a big land as a rancher and you are not able to pay the tax to the government, why don't you release part of the land to the public? We have so many squatters here who don't have somewhere to live. Why do you hold a big land that doesn't generate any income to you? If your ranch is giving you income, why don't you pay the government tax, Mr. Speaker? If you go to the airport and analyse how many guests come to Oljogi, on their website, that can tell you.

How can that rancher tell us that he is not generating income yet you can see the number of guests coming to their ranch? The so-called Conservancy, Mr. Speaker, is also another way of fundraising. They are fundraising, and they are also using their community names. Mr. Speaker, why don't you just be honest and pay this amount of money to the County Government?

All of them are demanding better roads. Today, Mr. Speaker, I am investing the little money that I have for the road; to construct the road that passes the Borana Ranch. Why? Because the road is unpassable. Mr. Speaker, for your information, that road is a National Government Road but it's impassable. So, they demand for services but they don't want to contribute.

Mr. Speaker, we want to come clearly. We are politicians. We can change things to another way. If the ranchers don't want to respect the government, then we'll take the direction that they want. I don't want to incite members, but we must collect money. Why do we force the mama mboga to give us Kshs.50 every day and we leave a big fish not paying money, Mr. Speaker?

It is not possible. Today, we have a memorandum that they are complaining that you have increased the land rate to 100%. It doesn't matter. How do you pay Kshs.20 for the rest of your life? When I was a councillor, they were paying the same amount of money. Today, they are paying the same amount of money.

Why is the economy not changing? The economy grows. You cannot tell me, in 1960, you buy a sugar with two shillings, and today you want us to go back there. It is not possible. I don't want to dwell on that, because the time will come, but I want just to alert members. Let's analyse the finance bill and let's look where it is not possible, we amend. Where it's possible, we agree.

So, Mr. Speaker, I stand to second, and I want to appreciate the Chair for his commitment, and I want to tell him, we must wake up and see how we can tempt those people who don't want to pay their money. I also want to alert the Executive side, we cannot pass a finance bill and after passing it, you go to the hotel and negotiate again. It is against the law. You cannot negotiate when the bill has already become an act.

If you want to negotiate, you could have negotiated before it came here. When it becomes an act, you cannot go to the hotel and negotiate for the prices or for the payment. How? If we allow the government, the Executive to do that, then we will be irrelevant. We cannot allow that.

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This is final. You have time to generate the finance bill as a bill, and you have time to negotiate with whoever you want to negotiate. When it comes here, it is now ours. We pass it here; it is an act. You cannot amend an act, even a comma, without bringing it to this House. Mr. Speaker, I want to say, we are here, we want to make this government firm, because without money, the government is not a government.

Mr. Speaker, the finance Bill is a document that guides us to get money. The National Government is giving us money based on the percentage of the amount that we are getting from the County Government. We have a responsibility of collecting money. Thank you, I second.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me this chance to contribute towards the second reading of the Finance Bill. Mr. Speaker, without firm laws in this government that guides on revenue collection, we cannot be able to achieve growth. Having these laws being passed in this Assembly, it is our duty to make laws as an Assembly. This will guide on how we will be able to collect revenue that still guides us on how we make a budget for the growth of the services of Laikipia.

Mr. Speaker, Finance Bill should be reviewed as time goes by because of the changes in the dynamics of our House and across the county. Having had this Finance Bill in our Assembly, Mr. Speaker, is a great thing. It guides us on the items that are being used by Revenue Department on matters of collection of revenue across our wards.

If we go to part two of the Finance Bill, it has a general provision. We have an item on rent. This guides on how and how much you should pay per house or per store, in this county. We have rental houses as a County Government. This Finance Bill guides on how much per house or per store should be paid and revenue that should be collected per house.

We also have an eviction part on eviction and deposition. A tenant who fails to pay the rent payable under part 11, of the schedule for three consecutive months shall be issued with one month notice to vacate from the house. These are the guidelines that guide us, the rules that guide us on matters of how we can be able to repossess a house, or a store in this county, if at all a person fails to remit revenue to the revenue department.

Mr. Speaker, we have tourist sites and sanctuaries. These guides on how much the tourists are supposed to be charged in tourist sites across this county. We have the tourists and the foreigners who visit our county and we have the local tourists that visits our sites in this county. This still guides us on how much should be charged per person or per vehicle to access our sites across the county.

Mr. Speaker, we have fisheries and licenses. These are among the number of licenses that we have that as a county we issue to our people as they do business in this county. It guides on how much a person should be charged or per business should be charged across this county. We need to collect revenue in the premises that our people do businesses in.

If at all we don't have a law that guides on this, we will short change our people because we have the big and the small businesses. We have the mama mbogas in this county and having a rule that stipulates to the last digit on how much each person should be charged, it is a step forward so that we don't jeopardize our business fraternity in this county.

Mr. Speaker, we have fees for the waste and measures. This one guides us on the weight on how we'll be able to measure the items that we are selling. The weight on the amount that we are selling to our people matters on kilograms, tonnes so that we don't oppress our customers

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in our business. These fees are charged per weighing machine that are in our businesses and they should be inspected annually so that we don't oppress on matters of weight to the people we are selling to or we are serving to.

These are some of the provisions that are provided for by the Finance Bill so that it can guide on how we serve our people, how we collect revenues in this county. If we don't collect revenues, we cannot achieve growth. Mr. Speaker, some of the funds that we collect are still incorporated in the budget process making. As the Chairperson for Budget Committee, I do appreciate the Finance Committee on this timely bill because they have achieved the second reading.

On achieving the third reading, we will be able to pass this bill so that it guides on how we will be able to collect more funds so that we can make a proper budget that can be able to serve our Laikipians. Also, as Hon. Shuel has said, this is something that we discussed and we passed in the Assembly.

It is still aching some people in this county. Mr. Speaker, they don't want to pay the hefty amount of revenue that they should be paying. There is no way we can have a person paying the same amount that he was paying in 1999 and now we are in the 21st century; that person is still paying the same amount.

Mr. Speaker, this Finance Bill guides us and them on how much they should be paying per year. That is why I said we should pass it as quickly as possible so that we will be able to achieve more funds and so that we can make a proper budget that we can be able to do more development across the county. I rest my case and I support the Finance Bill. Thank you.

Hon. Anthony Theuri: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to air my views on the same. Before I make my contribution, I want to appreciate the PCEA girls, which is from Nanyuki Ward. I'm really proud of them, Mr. Speaker, I being the son of a woman and also a father of girls, I take this time to welcome them. I also urge them to take the opportunity to learn a lot.

Some of us didn't have the opportunity to come here even before. Mr. Speaker, you can only understand the struggles that we had to go through before coming to this place, Mr. Speaker. I welcome them and I want to say that I'm really honoured to have them here. I know at the end of the day they will have a lot of knowledge that they need from this place.

Mr. Speaker, I don't want to dwell much on the Finance Bill because they usually say a man forgets very much especially when you are full. I mean when you are hungry and you take food; you tend to forget the days you had hunger. A year ago, to be exact Mr. Speaker, we were not here if you can remember. In the whole Republic, we were one of the casualties, or maybe Laikipia and Embu, because of the Finance Bill.

We need to do a lot of saving because whatever was being peddled out there and whatever was on the papers was very contrary. On the same, I take the blame as a leader and I also want to put the blame on every elected and nominated leader in Kenya because it is very funny that we forget what we came to do here.

We are here to represent the citizens because we are their eyes and ears as we represent their views here. Whatever we are doing is for the benefit of the people. As much as the bill has been prepared by the Executive and we are here to amend it or pass it as it is, does it really represent the needs of the citizens? Does it really affect the generations to come especially the girls who are here today?

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Mr. Speaker, we need to ask ourselves, are we leaders or dealers because most of these things merely benefit the leaders. How do you take the example which Hon. Leshuel has just given here on the ranches? I happen to come from the slum as much as you would want to sugar coat anything because Likii is a slum in a 40 by 80 plot. I have been airing my views here crying day and night that my people where I come from, are paying not less than Kshs.5,000 annually and every year it is reviewed. Maybe even in this year it is going to be reviewed higher.

One white man from the North holding more than 1,000 acres is paying Kshs.20 per acre per year and on the same, they are hiding behind the conservation of wildlife now that we are struggling to keep livestock. He does not disseminate the wildlife nor have veterinary services for wildlife but they are just God given. May be because they colonized us, they are taking advantage of the same. We are earning peanuts from them and yet they are dictating on what they are going to pay.

I take the blame to the Executive Mr. Speaker. Just as someone has said, after I am done with the bill, you will meet them at top hotels negotiating the future of this country with some lawyers and magistrates who are very crooked. I say that because I am very much protected here. Therefore, we can do nothing about it. After yelling here and doing everything, now they go behind the doors, cut deals and we are back square zero.

We need good education and roads and we need to take money to our people but the revenue that we are collecting from our people is all the same. The last time I checked my pay slip is when I took the oath and I am told that 37% goes to the government. I don't have a problem with that because even the bible tells us that we should pay taxes but does it really work for the citizens. How much have we done for the citizens since we came here yet every year the collection goes higher but the livelihood of our people is deteriorating every day.

As we are speaking, we do not have medicines in our hospitals and I am made to understand that in a few minutes, we are going to have our CECM for Health here. I can predict that it will not end well though I am not a prophet. He will be demanding more money and we will be demanding for more services. Yes, we have allocated according to him. As we are speaking here, the transition from primary to secondary schools to university have been downgraded due to that finance bill.

We are not innovating and we are the corrupt lot in the society. Even the church at the same time and I say that with a good heart because I am a Christian. It is my desire that one day I will be sitting behind my saviour Jesus Christ, even in the church, the manner in which we are collecting everyone is murmuring. We are becoming so disoriented that we have forgotten the core value of our nation and working for the citizens. We are making individuals and companies but we are not improving our nation and society but only serving ourselves by collecting money from everywhere.

If we are honest with ourselves and had candid conversations with ourselves, we must work for our people and the finance bill must reflect whatever is on the ground. We cannot be going on year by year doing upwards and nothing is being reflected on the same. For this, I have got no option but to support it because there is nothing else that I can do. At the end of the day, the students who are in school, we have to support them. We also have to support the projects which are ongoing.

We have to pin them and also look at ourselves reason being not only reflecting on this House but also on the National Government. I rest my case and once again, I take this opportunity to welcome our dear girls here. I would want them to aim higher and not to start

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from where I started. I am very sure that we have our President here, our Senator or our best news anchor. I have to urge them that we might not be the best model for them to look upon but as I finish, I would like to quote Apostle Paul, he said; *"follow me as I follow Christ".* Let your love for this country and patriotism lead you as we turn our Kenya that we will be one of the best countries and county in this country. I rest my case.

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to contribute on this Finance Bill. Before that, may I first of all congratulate the students of PCEA, Nanyuki and also the teachers who have organized for coming here. It is unfortunate because most of the students in our county have never made a step in this Assembly. It is good for them to learn. Unfortunately, even most of us just came to step here once we got elected because previously, we did not have that chance. So, the students should be very happy for that opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, we are speaking of the finance bill for this Financial Year and I am happy because whenever we want to hide some of the things, we don't hide the hard copies because we have the gadgets here. By the time we are ending the session, I won't take away my gadget to go perusing to see where the concerns are but I would refer the Chair to go to page 28 whereby we have the charges of mega agricultural, forestry or fish produce.

There are exporters with over 20 employees. My concern is on the last table where they have proposed that there will be medium, large and small. I am sure that that is where the things will not end up well because I will be colluding with the person collecting the revenue to determine whether my export is large with over 20 employees, or small. I think that we need to have a single quorum. If it is over 20 employees, let us have a certain amount.

I am also concerned with another issue on page 88 on direction sign. During the last Financial Year, the charges were Kshs.2,000. Now it has increased from Kshs.2,000 to 10,000. I would like to know the criteria that has been used to come up with such an increment. Maybe we need to get hard copies for us to peruse properly because at the end of the day we are the ones who represent our people and once we pass this finance bill, we will be the ones to be reprimanded by our people whom we represent.

If for the few minutes that I have been able to go through the document I have noticed those two, might be there are other hidden ones. Our role is to oversight and represent our people. I am sure that we need the hard copies so that by the time we will be coming for the 3rd reading, we will have sorted all the concerns that are oppressing our people. Our role here is to ensure that our people are being charged fairly without any oppression.

So, I support the bill but we need to change wherever we feel because our people are being oppressed. So, we need the hard copies before the 3rd reading to ensure that if there are changes that need to be made, we ensure that we do them accordingly. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, concerns are well taken and I will direct that the Members receive the hard copies of the finance bill.

Hon. Nicholas Lempaira: Thank you, Hon. Speaker and the Members of the House, good morning. It has been long since we saw each other and it is good to be back. It is good to agree with what Hon. Shuel was saying that a group of people have decided to come together in the name of Laikipia Conservancy Association so that they can be going to write petitions and rush to court to ensure that they don't pay the agreed fee when it comes to the land rates.

Hon. Speaker, when I was going through, I saw there is a place where we have land rate penalties. I would wish to challenge the Chairperson for the Finance Committee that in our next meeting if it is possible to bring us the report of all the conservancies that complied with

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the last Finance Bill. This way we can determine how many are supposed to go for penalties and what the County Executive is doing because we have a funny Executive that when we agree on a matter here, they go back and negotiate.

When the bill has already passed, you are called for a meeting in the middle of the year to come for negotiations on land rates simply because somebody can afford to pay something small so that they can go somewhere and listen to them. It is funny because one day, I attended a meeting at the Governor's office and a good number of ranchers had agreed with us that they were comfortable with paying the Kshs.60 as long as we agree on the timelines.

This morning when I woke up, I saw on the media that some of them have not paid their land rates and the Executive side is trying to expose them. It is not a matter of exposing them but charging them and also this House needs to enact some serious laws on what happens if you have a big land that is not being utilized and not paying the land rates so that if it is a matter of auctioning this land, then we be serious for once and ensure that whatever needs to be done is done.

Hon. Speaker, in the last Financial Year and the last finance bill, we agreed that we avoid petty politics and specify the community land that is not chargeable. This Finance Bill has forgotten to put that because Shuel has just said that some people are going with public forums saying that we are charging the community lands which is wrong. Some people were trying to defend themselves using the community land as their cover.

Hon. Speaker, we need to agree on what to do with this Laikipia Conservancy because I am not sure whether it is serving the best interest for the people of Laikipia or serving the interests of several individuals. Every time we have the finance bill, they always write petitions and when you look at what they are petitioning the Assembly, it is crazy. The Chairman can agree with us because the other time we were looking at the petition they had written to us, we could not even get what was happening.

I tend to understand that the CO was once a nominated MCA and maybe he is getting bored outside there and so he is trying to exercise what he learnt when he was here by writing too much petitions which don't add value to his members of this same association and not the people of Laikipia County. It is unfortunate because a number of them are within this association so that they ensure that the Laikipians do not get to collect the money for service delivery.

Hon. Anthony has just said that a plot of 50 by 100, we are proposing to pay 700 per year but for an acre, we are asking somebody to pay Kshs.60 shillings and he is rushing to court complaining that it is too much. That is an indication that someone has much land to an extent that he cannot manage. Therefore, some of us are labelled as against these people which I honestly don't mind what they are saying. The thing is that everybody must pay these taxes and they need to understand that it is Kasongo's time and he is all about these taxes.

Some of us are being charged and we are not complaining. So, if they are complaining, they should help us bring this government into force. I understand that they were the financiers of the Zakayo or Kasongo government to come into place. So, let them bear the fruits that Kasongo or Zakayo must be given…

Speaker: Hold on, Hon. Lempaira. Hon. Anthony, what is it?

Hon. Anthony Theuri: Mr. Speaker, I stand on a point of clarification. As much as we have freedom here, I do not recall whether we have anyone by the name Zakayo or Kasongo. We, myself included, might have our own differences with my party and my president but it is

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always good to address the person with respect. Even if you do not love the person or you have an issue with them, just respect their office. Hon. Lempaira should address the President by his name: Dr. William Samoei Ruto, or as Mr. President.

We do not have those funny names here. We are not here for drama festivals, so he should apologize or withdraw the same and address the issues, not the person. We are here for the good of the country, not an individual.

Speaker: Thank you. I did not hear him mention the President, I wonder who he is referring to. The chance is yours, Hon. Lempaira.

Hon. Nicholas Lempaira: Hon. Speaker, I think somebody is reading too much. I did not mention the name Ruto anywhere; I said Zakayo. Unless you want to tell me that you are the small Zakayo around here, then I will withdraw the statement. I can mention Zakayo or Kasongo anywhere as long as we know who we are referring to.

Speaker: Hold on, Hon. Lempaira. What is it, Hon. Mugweru?

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Hon. Speaker, it is not about the President or what, but whatever he is saying is unparliamentary. Those are stories that are supposed to be said deep in the forests of Mukogodo West, but not in the Assembly. In fact, for you to believe that it is unparliamentary, standing while I am speaking is also unparliamentary. He is training us bad things in a House of law. He must behave honourably because he is an Honourable Member.

Speaker: Hon. Lempaira, the floor is still yours. Kindly proceed.

Hon. Nicholas Lempaira: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. Let me just respect the broad-based government because our party leader has just asked us to be a little polite to these people. If I am supposed to distract them… Let me just concentrate on the finance bill. We have issues with this…

Speaker: Hon. Lempaira, Hon. Mugweru has a burning matter. What is it, Hon. Mugweru?

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Hon. Speaker, before he says anything, he is supposed to withdraw and apologize unconditionally without adding other stories. Then after that he can tell us stories about broad-based and whatever else he is telling us. That is the Standing Order; it is very clear. That is the way he is supposed to behave.

Speaker: Hon. Lempaira?

Hon. Nicholas Lempaira: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I intend to focus my energy on the finance bill which is on the floor of the House, other things are sideshows. We are saying we cannot charge 50 by 100 plots seven hundred per year and charge sixty shillings per acre and someone rushes to court. We have to agree that we need the Executive to adhere to what we pass in this House. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Lempaira. While you were standing, I gave a blink to Hon. Mugweru; he wanted to say something. Now, I will take this opportunity to allow him to take the floor and air the sentiments that he may have and probably contribute to the motion. Welcome.

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Hon. Speaker, I am not on the finance bill. If he does not apologize and withdraw that one, you as the Chair will also be found to be in contravention of the law for allowing him to speak without withdrawing. You will also find yourself failing to follow the laws of this House. We cannot allow such people to behave that way yet we are

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training Kenyans to follow the law. How can we be the people making laws yet we do not follow them? If you do not make him apologize, you will also be found to be in contravention of the laws of this House. However much you want to protect him, Mr. Speaker, protect yourself also and the image of the House.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Mugweru. I would request that you cite for us the Standing Order that may be used on Hon. Lempaira. Hon. Shuel?

Hon. Paul Leshuel: Hon. Speaker, I do not want to say that this is not a House of order, but when you say *"honourably",* we should also know that Mr. Lempaira is addressing well. The only thing he has mentioned beyond what he is supposed to say is *"Kasongo".* He has never abused anybody in this House. So, there is nothing wrong he has done. However, when you take it as a big thing, it gives us an alarm as though we have abused the government. So, it is a simple thing if we take it as simple, and we only want to concentrate on issues that come here.

Mr. Speaker, what we want is to be guided on this is, all Members of this House should stick to the motion. Whenever they step outside of the motion, guide them back to it so that we do not step outside of the motion. That is the law. When you do not use abusive language or other language that is not clear; the name "Kasongo" is all over, but we do not want to bring it here because that is not the motion. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Members. You have spoken, Hon. Lempaira. Do you have a question?

Hon. Nicholas Lempaira: It is not a question, Hon. Speaker. I just want to advise Hon. Mugweru that we should not dwell on or focus our energy at the wrong target. We are here because of the issue of the finance bill and whether you like it or not, the name Zakayo or Kasongo must come up. We are talking about money collection here and I want to be very clear and categorical that I did not attach Kasongo to anybody. Unless you know who Kasongo or Zakayo is, stop defending the air; unless you want to put words in my mouth. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Lempaira. Perhaps you can allow me to read Standing Order No. 1 which states that: *"In all cases not hereinafter provided for and subject to the Constitution and all other written laws, the Speaker shall decide having regard to the orders of the Assembly, the usages, forms, precedents, customs, procedures and traditions of the Assembly and the National Parliament and legislative assemblies from other jurisdictions in view of the constitutional principles, the practices in other parliaments in so far as the same may be applicable to this Assembly."*

This Standing Order allows the Speaker to determine the direction that matters take which is not directly given in the Standing Orders. On this matter, Members, I do not want us to belabour much about it. I will now proceed and invite the mover of the motion to reply.

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Asante, Mheshimiwa Spika. Ningependa kuchukua hii nafasi kuwapongeza hawa Wabunge kwa kutoa maoni yao. Mswada wa fedha ni hoja iliyo na uzito hasa tunapoenda kuwaitisha wananchi kodi. Tunapozungumza kuhusu muswada wa fedha, tunafaa kuzungumza tukijua kwamba yale ambayo tutapitisha hapa yatawaathiri wale tunaowawakilisha kwa njia moja au nyingine.

Nimeweza kusikiza maoni ya kila Mbunge na kuna mambo ambayo yamejitokeza. Malalamishi yametokea, nasi kama kamati tutaketi chini na kuangalia makosa yanatokea wapi na ni shida gani imefanyika. Nimesikia Mheshimiwa Kanyutu akisema kwamba kuna ada

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zilizoongezwa kiholela kutoka elfu mbili hadi kumi. Hilo ni jambo tunalofaa kuangalia kwa makini na kuhakikisha kuwa iwapo kuna tofauti kubwa kiasi hicho, tujue tutakavyofanya.

Mheshimiwa Spika, ni vizuri kuwaeleza Wabunge hapa kwamba huu muswada wa fedha tunayozungumza kuhusu hapa ina umuhimu wake kwa sababu inaeleza vile serikali itakusanya pesa. Hio pesa itakayokusanywa ndio itatumika kwenye bajeti. Kwa hivyo, kama wamesema wanalenga kukusanya bilioni moja, sisi tukoroge huu muswada wa fedha hadi waokote milioni mia tano. Hio inamaanisha kuwa tutakuwa na upungufu wa nusu bilioni ambayo itakuwa changamoto katika utendakazi wa kaunti yetu.

Ikizingatiwa kwamba bajeti tunayopitisha, baadhi ya pesa tunazotenga zinatumika kwenye barabara, hospitali, dawa n.k.. Kwa hivyo tukitoa, tujue tutakuwa na changamoto upande mwingine. Nawaomba Wabunge kwamba tunapozungumza kuhusu huu mswada wa fedha*,* hebu tuiangalie tukijua kwamba kuna kazi ingine inayofanyika hapo mbele.

Jambo la pili. Mheshimiwa Spika, ni kwamba aliyeleta mswada wa fedha hapa ni waziri, baada ya kuketi chini na Gavana. Sheria inayotuongoza hapa ni kwamba wanapotengeneza hii bili, wanaileta kwenye Bunge la Kaunti ili lizungumziwe zaidi ili ionekane iwapo ina changamoto. Sheria inasema kwamba tunaweza kupitisha huu mswada wa fedha baada ya kuifanyia marekebisho au pasipo marekebisho.

Kwa hivyo, ni juu ya Wabunge sasa kuamua kama tutaifanyia marekebisho au la. Sisi kama kamati tuko hapa kuketi na kusikiza kila Mbunge. Iwapo unaona kuna changamoto itatokea kwenye wodi yako tukipitisha huu mswada wa fedha*,* ni vizuri ulete malalamishi mapema kwa sababu kesho au kesho kutwa tutakuwa na *Third Reading* ambapo tutafanya marekebisho. Mahali ambapo unaona pana shida, tafadhali enda ukae na karatasi na kuchambua huo mswada vizuri na utuletee marekebisho nasi tutafanya kwa pamoja.

Jambo la pili, Mheshimiwa Spika: nimemsikia Mbunge mmoja akisema tunaweka miswada kwenye mashine na hawawezi kuibeba. Nakubaliana nao kwamba hawawezi kubeba mashine. Hata hivyo, ikiwa hapa unaweza kusoma na kuweka kwa akili. Tunaondoka kutoka *analog* na kuenda *digital,* kwa hivyo nawaomba Waheshimiwa Wabunge wasome na kuweka akilini, ama ubebe kwenye simu mfukoni.

Mheshimiwa Spika, mazungumzo yote ambayo nimeyasikia hapa ni mazuri na yanatuelekeza vizuri. Nimemsikia Mheshimiwa Lempaira akilalamika kuhusu hii bili, kwamba kuna Kasongo au mambo mengine. Hayo yote ni sawa na tunakubaliana. Ni vizuri tujue sasa kwamba serikali tuliyo nayo ni *broad-based.* Akina Lempaira wa chama cha ODM na wale wengine wako ndani. Wengine kama mimi ambao ndio tuliunda serikali tumetengwa. Sisi tumefinywa na kufurushwa, na tunaangamizwa na watu ambao wamekuja juzi.

Mheshimiwa Spika, ni vizuri tuelewe kwamba sisi sote tuko hapa kulinda mali ya mwananchi na kuhakikisha kwamba Kaunti yetu inaendelea vizuri. Naomba kwamba tutakapoketi chini kuzungumza kuhusu huu mswada tufanye marekebisho pia. Nashukuru Wabunge kwa mchango wao. Tukiketi chini tutafanya marekebisho yote yaliyo mbele yetu. Mungu awabariki na kuwapa mchana mwema.

Tunashukuru, Mheshimiwa Spika, kwa uongozi wako mzuri. Unayo roho safi na unatabasamu kila wakati. Tunashukuru sana. Vilevile, kuwakaribisha wageni katika jumba hili ni jambo tunalolichukua kwa uzito, na kutarajia kwamba wanafunzi pamoja na walimu wao wameweza kuona tunayoyatekeleza katika Bunge hili. Kwa hayo machache, Mungu atubariki.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Members for a robust contribution on this debate.

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(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: The sittings of this House now stand adjourned until later today, Tuesday, 3rd June 2025 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 11.14 a.m.

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