REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 3rd November, 2020

The House met at the Assembly Chambers at 2.30 p.m.

[The Speaker (Hon. Patrick Waigwa) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

PAPER LAID

Hon. Mutahi Muritu: Thank you Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the Majority Party Leader I would like to lay the following papers: -

County Government of Laikipia Executive, First Quarter Report On Financial Statement for the period ended 30th September 2020 Financial Year 2020/2021.

Speaker: The report is committed to all Sectoral of Committees. Hon. Wakahiu.

Hon. Wilson Wakahiu: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I wish to lay on the table, the report of the County Budget Implementation Review Report for nine months for the financial Year 2019/2020 dated 23rd October, 2020.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Hon. Wilson Wakahiu: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I beg to give notice of the following motion:

That this House adopt the report on the County Budget Implementation Review Report for nine months for the Financial Year 2019/2020 by the Select Committee on Budget and appropriations dated 23rd October 2020.

MOTION

[Resumption of a previous debate dated Thursday 29th October 2020]

ANNUAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Speaker: This report was moved, seconded and the question proposed. It is time for members to depend on the same.

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise in support on the adoption of the report by the committee on implementation on annual development plan on implementation in the

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Departments of, Trade and Tourism Enterprise Management, County Administration, Education, Sports and Social Development and also the medical services.

Mr. Speaker, Last session we had the same and I believe it is a continuation of the farthest we have gone last week. I wish to make my contribution as I support this report. It is surprising that today is a House of Representatives of people. As we are talking about the implementation of Projects in our wards, it is encouraging because we are talking from a point of view and understanding from our wards.

Mr. Speaker I wish to congratulate the committee, because it mentioned on the critical areas and gave the right recommendations. If you go to recommendation number three, the issue of disbursement of funds to Projects is very essential to make sure that our projects are implemented at the right time. Apart from implementing the projects, it is also important to implement those projects at the very right time.

Today we are in the month of November, almost through with the second quarter. It is really frustrating that we heading to the half of the year, no project has been implemented as at now for this Financial Year. However much the representatives, the honourable Members work on implementing those projects, already the people on the ground, the people we represent are complaining. You promised them that this year you are going to deliver, but we are at the half of the year, having implementation a zero project.

The disbursement of funds should be very timely so that, whenever we implement the projects we implement them on time before we are injured by the community. Today, the Laikipians are complaining of roads, ECDs classes. As at now, I expect that we should also be half way in implementation being half of the year. We should have implemented half, but we are at zero. This is affected by the disbursement of funds. This is the right recommendation, that the disbursement of funds should be timely.

The other thing, they were able to recommend about the County Government seeking more partners like the World Bank and other institutions to help us as a County to implement what we had promised the people of Laikipia. In the same recommendation, it is also important to add that, whether it is money from the NGOs, World Bank or any other place money comes from we as representatives of the people, should be involved.

When it comes to money from World Bank or other NGOs, you find some of us or almost all of us or even all of us, are not involved of this. Whenever you go asking that question, you are told that this money does not come from the County. It is from the World Bank, UNDP and all that.

We as the representatives of people should be involved, even the money from partners and donors. This is because the partners were not partnering because of us but because of Umande and other wards. We are being involved squarely in implementation whether the funds came from wherever it came from. The citizen engagement and public participation is something we need to

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improve on. It should be timely and also in order. At times you find the Budget is released to the people then afterwards we hear of public participation. What is the use of public participation asking people what they want yet the budget is already released to the people?

Mr. Speaker, the budget is released to the community yet we are having another stage of consulting and the part of the Assembly should have sequence of these things. This is because I do not expect that today the Government have released a Budget that says that we are doing this or that road but when it comes to me I ask for priorities for the people. The community also have their priorities.

When you turn to what has been released to priorities, it becomes another bone of contention and there is always war between the Representatives, Executive and the People we represent. This is because the people we represent start saying it was in the budget without forgetting there was another stage for the community to highlight their priorities. The participation should be orderly. Let us engage the public. Let us also have the Executive and the Assembly having their input so that we give a complete and perfect document for the people of Laikipia that does not require any more changes.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee were able to give such good recommendations hoping that these recommendations will be taken seriously and be implemented. If you look at the Observations; the budget does not accommodate the development plan prepared and adopted in the House. I don't know what comes first. We are supposed to budget for what we have. We are giving a list of so many projects only to realise we have little money to implement the same.

The story we keep talking about, the Bills of Quantity, we set money and give Kshs. 2,000,000 only to realize that the Bill of Quantity is coming later with another Kshs. 3,000,000. The budget you set for class is not sufficient for the works you propose. We need to have such things being done before so that we can set enough money for specific projects.

Mr. Speaker, it is an important thing that our budget should accommodate the plans we have and this House adopted. The budget we have should be able to accommodate all that. The other thing is about us, as Members on oversight. It should be timely. You find we are oversighting a road done two years ago. What are we oversighting? Erosion has happened. We are oversighting a work that was already paid. Oversight should also be timely.

If you go to recommendation No.1, The County Executive should be guided by the expected income. Let us not promise heaven yet we cannot offer what we cannot. We should promise guided by the expected income. That will be our safety. We will also be safe to this Government of Laikipia. We won't find ourselves promising something we cannot deliver or have enough income to facilitate and implement.

Mr. Speaker, I support the report and encourage Implementation Committee to continue bringing such reports so that we can see the situation we are in. This will help us to work more efficiently. I support. Thank you.

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Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I rise to support. However, I have a concern. When the projects are being implemented yet the committees in this House are supposed to oversight, it is unfortunate because sometimes unless the specific Members give us the activities going on in their wards we rarely get to know when implementation is being done. Sometimes you see a project was done a previous year and the time we are going for oversight it is already late. That's a concern.

Mr. Speaker, I am also concerned with the time of implementation of projects. We get to see by the time projects are being pushed to be quoted, it is December. The implementation and verification of projects is around April. They are implemented in the month of March, April and June. By then they even progress to the financial year. We need to come with a way to see that immediately after the budget is passed on the floor of this House, the implementation is done immediately. If we don't follow up we will continue fighting for implementation of other project.

Mr. Speaker, sometimes we do pass a supplementary budget on the floor of this House. You find the projects passed in the main budget are moved. You get to see the projects are not implemented. I would wish the implementation can be streamlined and ensure that the House is informed on the project being implemented in the first, second and third quarter.

To some extent, we get to see some of the major projects are the ones that are implemented. The minor or the ones the Hon. Members have earmarked for a certain area are not done. I support the report. I wish we work as a team to ensure implementation is properly done. Thank you.

Hon. George Meshami: Asante sana Mheshimiwa Spika. Nasimama kuunga mkono ripoti iliyoletwa na hii Kamati Tekelezi. Kulingana na idara zote tatu naona kama idara mbili zimefanya kazi nzuri. Mimi niko na swali kwa upande wa idara ya elimu. Kuna darasa mbili ambazo zinajengwa; Kimanju ECDE na Munishoi. ECDE ya Munishoi bado haijajengwa hadi wa leo. Kimanju ndio tu imekamilika. Bwana Spika, niko na hio hoja kwamba ECDE ya Munishoi haijajengwa hadi saa hizi. Asante sana. Naunga mkono.

Speaker: May I call the mover to give a reply.

Hon. George Karuiru: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Let me take this opportunity to thank you on behalf of our able Chair the Hon. Suge. Before I continue I wish to give a message of condolences to his *'Cucu'* who was involved in a motorbike accident yesterday. Today he wasn't able to be with us. I take this chance to appreciate the Members for their various responses towards the report from the Implementation Committee.

It has been quoted many times about the report. We have gone down to the ground and enquired on reports from various departments. According to the findings I get, Members say they have the actual evidence of the projects done and those not done. I appreciate that they will adopt the report.

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Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Governor, H.E. Nderitu Muriithi for cleaning his house. I can see some of the departments touched here are on education; ECD classes, workshops and the latter. I beg as one of the Hon. Members has said, we still have more departments to work on like the Trade department. As far as the Implementation Committee is on, I think the responses we have heard from Trade Department is not tangibly what is on the ground.

According to the Governor's report, you have seen many projects being in their complete form to be supplied in progress, ongoing, other cancelled like on page 13. One of the Wards, Olmoran Livestock market that has been an issue in this House is being cancelled. We cannot talk about it because the motion is pending in this House.

The Hon. Members, as Hon. Kanyutu has said during implementation is to identify what is going on in the ground. When the project is said to be ongoing, we must be informed. We must know what is happening. Is it on papers or on the ground? We must know what is happening.

Mr. Speaker, on page 26 there is a hairdressing workshop in Sipili. I think some of these projects need a clean and clear follow up. Because of the adoption of this report in this House, I know this will not just stop in this House. There will be communication from you, the Chair through the Clerk to internalize once it goes back to the Executive to see what we have debated. I'm sure they will act or give concrete information to specific departments so that Members can know their stand.

Members, as long as we might not have a clear law guiding us on the principals of social media, there are propagandas that say there are projects that are ongoing. The Governor's report is accessible by *wanjiku* and once they get information, like Marura ECD in Marmanet ward is ongoing you find they start complaining. Sometimes you cannot sue the bloggers that is why there is need to follow up before they give the report to the Governor. I appreciate and honour the Hon. Members for the adoption of the report. I thank you.

(Question put and agreed to)

Speaker: Before we leave I want to emphasize to us though I know a number of communications have been made on the same in various gatherings on the issue of COVID-19. We don't want to be part of politicians going round holding rallies, greeting people, wearing no mask and not keeping social distance. I think we should take care of ourselves.

I know that as far as Laikipia County is concerned, the effect of COVID-19 is higher than when we had the first wave. I know and every one of us know of a person who has suffered of COVID-19. Therefore, it is important for me to emphasize to my Members that we continue observing those guidelines. When we go to these ceremonies let us not take long, mingle with people or greet people. A times you cannot ignore the people who elected you, it is good you have your sanitizer with you.

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We have a responsibility and we are leaders. We should lead from the front. I continue to ask you we do that. There was a plan to do mass testing but you were informed that there were no enough kits to undertake the exercise. Lack of enough means there are more people who have been tested causing the scarcity of the kits. We will be informed when we will do it. It important we know our status. When you are safe, you save your family. Any time we have an opportunity to speak in churches or ceremonies, let us emphasize the need of following the guidelines.

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: This House stands adjourned until tomorrow Wednesday, 4th November, 2020 at 9.00 a.m.

The House rose at 3.02 p.m.

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