REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 4th November, 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 do have quorum.

(Lack of quorum confirmed)

Speaker: Without quorum therefore, let the bell ring for ten minutes.

(Quorum bell rang for nine minutes)

Hon. Nicholas Lempaira: Hon. Speaker, I think we have the quorum.

Speaker: Clerk, confirm if we have quorum.

(Clerk confirmed achievement of Quorum)

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

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

WELCOMING REMARKS FROM RECESS

Speaker: Honourable Members, I want to welcome you back after the recess. I believe that all the trainings that we have undergone will enhance our energy to be able to robustly perform in this Assembly. I also expect you have the energy after a good rest that we are able to embark fully on our normal duties to ensure that Laikipia County citizens benefit from the deliberations of this Assembly. Thank you.

MESSAGE

NOMINATION OF CHAIRPERSON FOR LCDA

Speaker: Thank you, honourable Members. I have a message from His Excellency the Governor dated October 21st, 2025. The message reads, to the Clerk, County Assembly of Laikipia, in Nanyuki, forwarding the name of Father Paul Maina Wambugu for approval as Chairman Laikipia County Development Authority. The above subject matter refers, accordance with the provisions of Laikipia County Development Authority Act, 2014 and other applicable laws, I wish to forward to the County Assembly of Laikipia the name of Father Paul Minor Wambugu for consideration and approval for the position of Chairman of the Laikipia County Development Authority.

As you are aware, the appointment of a chairman to the Laikipia County Development Authority is a key responsibility of the Governor, as stipulated in Section 7 1a of the Laikipia County Development Authority Act, 2014 which mandates the Governor to appoint the

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chairperson subject to approval by the County Assembly. Father Paul Maina Wambugu has been nominated after a careful consideration of his qualifications, experience, and commitment to advancing the objectives of the County Development Authority.

I, therefore, request the County Assembly to consider and approve the nomination of Father Paul Maina Wambugu as the Chairman of the Laikipia County Development Authority. I look forward to the timely consideration and approval of this nomination. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Signed, His Excellency Joshua Irungu, Governor, Laikipia County. Thank you. This communication is therefore committed to the Finance Committee.

PAPERS LAID

CBROP, DEVELOPMENT PLANS, EMERGENCY FUND QUARTERLY REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Thank you, Hon. Speaker for giving me this opportunity. Honourable Speaker, I have the following papers to lay;

1. Local physical and land use development plans for nine informal settlements namely, Maina A, Maina B, African Location B, Sipili A, Sipili B, Kanyoni and Kwa Mbuzi for approval under KISIP programme.
2. First quarter reports and financial statements for the period ended 30th September, 2025.
3. Laikipia County Emergency fund quarterly report and financial statements for the period ended 30th September, 2025.
4. Laikipia County Budget review and outlook paper (CBROP) 2025.

Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

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

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Stephen. The following papers are committed to various committees as follows;

1. Local physical and land use development plans for nine informal settlements namely, Maina A, Maina B, African Location B, Sipili A, Sipili B, Kanyoni and Kwa Mbuzi are committed to Finance and County Planning Committee.
2. First quarter reports and financial statements for the period ended 30th September, 2025 are committed to all sectoral committees.
3. Laikipia County Emergency fund quarterly report and financial statements for the period ended 30th September, 2025 is committed to the Finance and County Planning Committee.
4. Laikipia County Budget review and outlook paper (CBROP) 2025 is committed to Budget and County Planning Committee.

Thank you.

NOTICE OF MOTION

PURCHASE OF A FULLY EQUIPPED AMBULANCE

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

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THAT AWARE THAT Part 2 of the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 stipulates that County health services, including, in particular ambulance services is a function of the County Government;

FURTHER AWARE THAT Article 43(2) provides that a person shall not be denied emergency medical treatment;

NOTING THAT sub-county hospitals play a critical role in providing healthcare services to residents, including emergency response and referral services;

CONCERNED THAT most sub-county hospitals lack reliable and fully equipped ambulances to respond to medical emergencies, leading to loss of lives that could otherwise be saved;

APPRECIATING THAT a fully equipped ambulance is vital for timely transportation, stabilization, and management of patients in critical conditions before reaching higher-level health facilities;

This House URGES the County Government to allocate resources for the purchase and deployment of at least one fully equipped ambulance for every sub-county hospital in the County to strengthen emergency response and healthcare delivery.

MOTION

PURCHASE OF A FULLY EQUIPPED AMBULANCE

Hon. Veronica Ikunyua: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to move the following motion;

THAT AWARE THAT Part 2 of the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 stipulates that County health services, including, in particular ambulance services is a function of the County Government;

FURTHER AWARE THAT Article 43(2) provides that a person shall not be denied emergency medical treatment;

NOTING THAT sub-county hospitals play a critical role in providing healthcare services to residents, including emergency response and referral services;

CONCERNED THAT most sub-county hospitals lack reliable and fully equipped ambulances to respond to medical emergencies, leading to loss of lives that could otherwise be saved;

APPRECIATING THAT a fully equipped ambulance is vital for timely transportation, stabilization, and management of patients in critical conditions before reaching higher-level health facilities;

This House URGES the County Government to allocate resources for the purchase and deployment of at least one fully equipped ambulance for every sub- county hospital in the County to strengthen emergency response and healthcare delivery.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we know that Laikipia is quite large and in our county, we don't have fully equipped ambulances. It is okay, we have some but we have few. We have two and Laikipia is quite large. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I'm urging the Honourable Members to allocate resources so that we can be able to purchase more.

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We know that when you go to Kimanju, if a patient needs to be referred from Kimanju and we don't have a well-equipped ambulance, Mr. Speaker, we are risking the life of that patient. Mr. Speaker, when I think of an ambulance, I think of a moving ICU and you know what a moving ICU carries. It has oxygen and resuscitation machines. So, if we don't have those well-equipped ambulances, then it seems we don't care.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard outcry from the community and we all know that we are their representatives. If we don't fight for them, then who will? I can imagine a mother who is from Muruku trying to give birth and the child is not coming out. Mr. Speaker, we all know the process and you want to immediately refer this patient to a good facility. Then you are just putting somebody in a matatu. In case of that prolonged labour pain, that mother can have fistula, the condition that occurs when you have a prolonged delivery.

Therefore, for the sake of our people, we need to have those ambulances. We have only three sub-counties in our county. It is possible and it is doable. Therefore, I'm urging Honourable Members to consider our people. I remember one time I had a patient and I called Hon. Mugweru to come and receive my patient. Hon. Mugweru came and received my patient to our referral here and because I came with a well-equipped machine, he was like, “oh my goodness, this is so nice. We need to do this for our people.”

He motivated me to fight for it, because that ambulance was well equipped, and you are sure that when your patient is put there, he or she will reach safely to the referral hospital. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I'm urging Members to consider our people. let's allocate money for those three sub-counties. Mr. Speaker, at least we have one. We cannot say that we don't have. We have one and Mr. Speaker, you can imagine when one patient is referred to Nairobi, even if it's not well equipped and even if that patient is referred to Nairobi, it turns around to come and pick another patient.

Mr. Speaker, it is ridiculous and therefore I am urging Honourable Members, we allocate, and we take this matter seriously, to allocate funds to purchase those three ambulances. Mr. Speaker, I therefore call upon Hon. Stephen Ndiritu to second the motion.

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Asante, Bwana Spika, nasimama kuunga mkono mswada ambao umeletwa na Mheshimiwa Ikunywa kuhusu gari la wagonjwa (*Ambulensi).* Ambulensi ni muhimu ikifika ni wakati wa kutunza wagonjwa wetu. Ni jukumu la kila Kaunti kuhakikisha kwamba hospitali zote zinafanya kazi vile inavyotakikana. Mwenye mswada anazungumzia ambulensi ambalo ni jambo muhimu kwa kasafirisha wagonjwa ambao wamegonjeka kupita kiasi.

Bwana Spika, kama mgonjwa yuko Doldol ama Kimanju, hizi miji midogo ya Kaunti yetu ama zahanati, na anafaa kusafirishwa hospitali kuu ambazo zingine ziko Nanyuki, Nyahururu na nje ya Kaunti. Tukikosa hili gari huenda tupoteze watu wengi. Najua Kaunti yetu ya Laikipia iko na gari moja la wagonjwa ambalo hatuwezi sema liko na vifaa ambavyo vinatakikana. Zingine tunaziona zikipita na nafikiri Kamati ya Afya inafaa ieleze hili Bunge kupitia ripoti hali ya zile gari.

Bwana Spika, Mswahili husema ‘uchungu wa mwana ajuae ni mzazi.’ Kwa hili jambo mama mwenyewe amesikia uchungu wa mwana. Mheshimiwa Ikunyua anazungumzia kuwe na gari la wagonjwa ambalo liko na kila mashine zote za afya kuhakikisha wagonjwa wametunzwa. Bwana Spika, pia amezungumzia kuhusu maeneo Bunge tatu na ni jambo muhimu. Tuwe na gari la wagonjwa upande wa Matanya, Nyahururu, Kirima, Rumuruti na Doldol ambayo itawezesha wale ambao wanataka Huduma za hilo gari kufikishwa hospitali wakiwa salama.

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Zamani nilifikiria gari la wagonjwa ni gari tu la usafiri. Kaunti yetu tuko na shida. Mswahili alisema, 'mficha uchi hazai.' Lazima uanike uchi ndio uzae. Kaunti yetu iko uchi. Zile gari za wagonjwa tuko nazo ni magari tu ya kusafirisha. Ukiingia hapo, utapata tu kiti na muuguzi ambaye hujui kama amehitimu.

Bwana Spika, nimekuwa mwadhiriwa. Nilifikiria gari la wagonjwa ni kama hizi zetu. Nilipopata ajali, nilipewa gari la wagonjwa. Pale nilipata kiti na msichana ambaye tuliambiwa ni daktari. Hakuna kitu kingine niliona. Toka hapo, tulienda hadi Hospitali ya Mathari. Pale nikaelezewa gari letu la wagonjwa ni la kusafirisha tu. Halina vifaa zile muhimu kama hewa.

Huu ni mswada tunafaa kuangalia na ikifikia ni wakati wa bajeti, tuhakikishe zile pesa hospitali zetu zinaokota na kupokea, tumezitumia vizuri. Hii Wizara ya Afya imekuwa na shida. Wako na bajeti lakini ikija ni kutekeleza, unapata ni kwa mambo ambayo si ya umuhimu.

Bwana Spika, juzi niliona katika bajeti wakisema wanataka kujenga ofisi Rumuruti. Hio inatumia zaidi ya 6,000,000. Unashangaa unajenga ofisi Rumuruti ilhali hapa tuna ofisi? Hawa mawaziri wako na magari na wanaweza toka hapa asubuhi na kufika Rumuruti wafanye kazi yao na pia kurudi. Lakini kujenga afisi wakati hospitali zetu ziko hali mbaya, mambo kama hayo tuyaangalie.

Bwana Spika, sisi tuliingia na *wheelbarrow* kama alama. Tusiwe hata gari za wagonjwa zitakuwa kama zile *wheelbarrow*. Lazima tubadilishe. Nasikia Mheshimiwa Gatati akicheka. Tuliingia na *wheelbarrow* lakini sio kusema sisi ni *wheelbarrow.* Aliingia na Roho na sasa sijui hio alama iko na nini. Lazima tuangalie mwananchi wetu inavyostahili. Wananchi wakigonjeka hatutakuwa na mtu wa kuongoza.

Naeleza wenzangu tuunge mkono na pia tuangalie zile gari za wagonjwa ziko kwa hali gani. Pia Kamati ya Afya waamke na watueleze ripoti kuhusu hizi magari na *generators* ambazo ni *back-up* zilizoko hospitalini. Pia tuelezwe hali ya *Emergency response* katika hospitali zetu.

Bwana Spika nauliza kamati zetu ziamke. Tumekuwa tukilaumu Serikali Tekelezi na kwa kweli wamelegea. Hawana mahali wanaenda kuomba kura. Daktari akitibu vibaya ama vizuri hakuna mtu wa kumpigia makofi. Akiharibu kazi hakuna mtu wa kumuadhibu. Tuangalie na kila mtu afanye kazi yake. Tusicheze na afya ya wanalaikipia. Naunga mkono.

(Question proposed)

Speaker: I now open the floor for the Members who may need to contribute to this wonderful motion. Honourable Daniel Mugweru?

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, for the opportunity given to me to make my contribution in support of this motion. The motion that has come today, I would really feel that it is one of the best motions. If implemented, the people of Laikipia would be very happy. As Honourable Kagodu has said, you don't need to hide in the sand. Laikipia County does not have an ambulance. We have fast-moving vehicles with sirens, which are not ambulances.

Hon. Speaker, maybe some people would say, no, there is an ambulance, but truly, if you have ever seen an ambulance, you would comfortably say that we don't have one. Those are vehicles written ambulance. While I support this, I'm doing it out of experience. The mover of the motion has said, I'm certainly sure that what she is saying and the motion that she is bringing in this House comes deep from her heart because, as Hon. Stephen has said, he

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experienced that. So, as Honourable Veronica, who has moved this motion, experienced so many.

Hon. Speaker, Hon. Veronica can tell you about health in this county more than any other person out of experience. In this county, there are so many people who die just because of negligence. There are people in this county, even if they are treated, they are not fully back to how they were, just because of these small things.

Hon. Speaker, I recall one day when Hon. Speaker had an issue and sometimes it is good to give experiences. Hon. Stephen has said that he was just in the vehicle, saw a lady and nothing else. Those are things which we have in this county. As for Hon. Veronica, one day a family member whom I don't want to mention, went to the Referral hospital and the first senior doctor who came there said that he is dead. In the next few minutes, another came and said, let us rush the patient to cottage hospital.

When they consulted, they said that the vehicles we have cannot get a patient of that particular status from Nanyuki Referral Hospital to Cottage Hospital because he would die on the way due to lack of oxygen. Another came and suggested they disconnect another patient from oxygen and bring it to the moving vehicle and yet it is a distance of 2 km.

I will comfortably say that we have got vehicles in this county but not ambulances. They were forced to disconnect oxygen from another patient to put it in that vehicle for them to rush to cottage hospital. The same ambulance is expected to take somebody like me to Nairobi and Kenyatta Referral Hospital.

Hon. Speaker, why I am saying that these vehicles are not fast, I had another experience during Covid. Someone who was a close friend was forced to be moved from Nanyuki to Outspan. I always remember very well that my vehicle was moving faster than the ambulance. During my life time, I have always thought that an ambulance should run very fast. Only that later, I realized that an ambulance should not even run. The things they do here are dramas.

Hon. Speaker, if the St. John ambulance came to Nanyuki, even if it goes at a speed of ten, your patient is safe because the ambulance has all facilities, a doctor, oxygen and a theatre inside. That is the kind of the ambulance we need in this county because the vehicles we have are to get people from Kalalu dispensary and bring them very fast to Nanyuki Referral so that they may get ambulances to take them to Kenyatta or Mathari.

An ambulance should not even go at a high speed because if you take a patient on that speed, we have seen so many ambulances in this county getting accidents along the road. They run to save a life and end up killing the driver.

Hon. Speaker, when I say that we don't have an ambulance here, it is true that we don't. I don't know whether we have got the Members of the Health Committee here but luckily, enough the ambulance is for the County Government of Laikipia and the people of Laikipia. Therefore, it doesn't matter whether there are Members of the Health Committee here. Hon. Speaker, we need to wake up.

Four years ago, we had the same motion when that case came to this House on a scenario of referral and cottage where we said that we need to wake up and every year, we buy at least one ambulance. A fully equipped ambulance is not cheap because it was around Kshs.30 million. If we could decide that this year we are going to purchase one, we already have six million that was going to be misused. Why do doctors need offices in Rumuruti while they are supposed to be in Nyahururu Hospital and Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital? Why do

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they need that office yet since time immemorial, they have not been working under trees but in offices?

Go to Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital, there is a very big building there that lights at night at the outpatient. We had a good outpatient that has served this place for many years but because of business, we have that big building that lights which has costed us a lot of money because we only needed lights in that hospital. I wish we woke up and did street lights around the hospital or even installed a flood light in the centre if that hospital instead of investing lot in that hospital.

They invested heavily on outpatient whereby they could have invested heavily on our wards. There are two things in this world, either you are sick or not sick. When you are sick, you are either admitted or you are told to go home and that is the stage of outpatient. Then the critical area is in the wards because when you are there, there are two things. You will either go home or die.

So, as we talk about ambulances, we need a well-equipped ambulance. We would rather have one every year because we may not manage to buy three. If we bought one last year, today we could be talking of the next one and next year we talk about the third one. At least, we should have a well-equipped ambulance with everything that is required. As the mover has said, an ambulance should not be just a vehicle but a moving ICU. You can even drive your ambulance at as peed of 20 km/hr from here to Kenyatta without worrying whether it will get there tomorrow as long as you are safe.

If you saw the ambulance that came here, you would think that it is a limousine which has carried a president to this county. Everybody could look around here to see an ambulance. Most of those ambulances are very old. They are like those old vehicles that have crashed. Therefore, it is very important as a county if at all we are serious with people's health. We need to have a good ambulance that will be able to get a patient from here to the best hospitals.

Mr. Speaker, today with the position you have, if you get to a situation where you need an ambulance, you will be taken by those ambulances including the Governor. It today he gets in a state where he requires an ambulance to take him from here to Nairobi, he would be taken by those vehicles because in the whole county, they are the only ones available. They pass here having sirens when they have patients and even when they don't. That is the question we need to ask ourselves because even the sound of siren is not good for the health of the patient.

Therefore, we need to move and get the best ambulance for this county. Even if we will be getting an ambulance per year. The moving vehicles should be taken to the dispensaries like those ones of Matanya and Kalalu so that we may be able to move those people who need little attention. Those vehicles are for that purpose but for the people who need great attention, we should get a good ambulance for that. However long it takes, let us go for it.

When the Health Committee Members it down with the Health Department Officers, tell them that they have got enough money and they only need to prioritize. They wake up and do things that are not necessary and the necessary things are left out. That is why today even the patients are complaining there because they are suffering. Sometimes, you find three people in one bed and yet we are thinking of doing offices and big structures in the name of an outpatient.

Hon. Speaker, we need to see priority. As for now, we should wake up as Members and not look at the Health Committee or individual members. Let us not say that the Nanyuki

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Teaching and Referral is in Nanyuki or the Nyahururu Hospital is in Nyahururu but we think not just about the community members but also ourselves.

That is why I have said that even if we were to require an ambulance, we will be taken by those vehicles to where we are going. You might lose your life on the way and it would be very embarrassing if a Governor or an MCA dies on the way yet we are the ones that God had given us the pen to sign the money which is supposed to do that work. In the news, it is read that so and so died on the way because he was taken by a vehicle assumed to be an ambulance.

I support this and call upon the Hon. Members to support it not just as a motion, but also when it comes to budgeting and also when we call the Health Executive Members. Let us insist to them that this is what we want however expensive. We are going to leave a legacy as an Assembly and give the best for our own lives. Thank you.

Hon. Mary Gathoni: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of the motion about purchasing a fully equipped ambulance. I understand and I have heard from other Members that we need a basic lifesaving, advance and a mobile ICU. I understand that we need a mini-hospital that has wheels. This reminds me of sometimes back when my mum was sick and I needed an ambulance. It took me hours to get an ambulance and on top of that, we had to do drama in the hospital and the ambulance we got was a mess. So, when I heard Hon. Ndiritu talking of a pickup, I understood what he meant.

I want to appreciate that last year they purchased one and this year we are looking forward to another one as Hon. Mugweru has said. Another thing, we have to consider the priority. What do we need in our hospitals?

Last time I visited somewhere and people were complaining that the General Hospital has become a village. They are building everywhere whereas we can have one building that makes sense and serves our people. I am looking at an issue whereby there is a maternity ward, and if fire broke out today inside that building, do we have an entrance for firefighters? It is all about each and every one of us in this House, not just the community. That is because if an issue occurs, it affects all of us and not just the community. Thank you and I support the motion.

Hon. Benson Kuria: Nashukuru sana, Mheshimiwa Spika kwa sababu ya hii nafasi ambayo umenikabidhi. Nasimama kwa sababu ya mswada ambao mtoa hoja, Mheshimiwa Veronica, amewasilisha kwenye Bunge letu. Nasimama kuunga mkono.

Mheshimiwa Spika, najua kwamba kuna kata tano katika Jimbo la Laikipia. Tunafaa kuwa na umakini wa kuona kwamba kuna watu wengi ambao wameumia. Naunga mswada ambao umefika kwenye Bunge letu mkono nikijua kwamba watu wengi wameumia na wengi pia wamekufa. Ningependa aliyeuleta huu mswada kuongeza jambo hili ambalo lilimpata baba mkwe wangu pamoja na mamake Mheshimiwa Karuiru. Ndiyo maana hatumuoni kwenye Bunge.

Ni mwezi mmoja uliopita ambapo nilimpata baba mkwe wangu akiwa amegonjeka na nikampeleka Nyahururu nikijua kuwa nikifika pale nitapata msaada. Ningependa Mheshimiwa Veronica kuongeza hilo hapo kwa sababu tuko hapa ili tusimame na Wanalaikipia kwenye wadi zote kumi na tano. Wakiwa na shida, sote tuna shida.

Nilipofika pale, nilipata kuwa lazima baba mkwe aingie kwenye chumba cha wagonjwa mahututi. Hata hivyo, hakukuwa na kitanda hata kimoja cha wagonjwa mahututi. Mheshimiwa Spika, ni vyema kujua kwamba nikigonjeka saa hii, ukweli ni kwamba itanibidi kuenda Murang'a, Nairobi, Nakuru au Kiambu. Hamna matibabu kwenye Jimbo letu la Laikipia. Kwa sababu tunaongea kuhusu ambulensi, ni vyema Mheshimiwa Veronica aongeze hio hoja ili

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Kamati za Afya, Fedha na Bajeti zitenge pesa ili wananchi wa Laikipia wafaidike kiafya. Wapate ambulensi kwenye kata zote tano pamoja na chumba cha wagonjwa mahututi Nanyuki na Nyahururu.

Naunga mkono na kumshukuru Mheshimiwa Veronica kwa sababu ya uungwana wa kujua ya kwamba tunayo shida ya afya na ambulensi kwenye jimbo letu. Tukipata, najua tutaonekana kuwa watetezi wa wanyonge. Naunga mkono, asante.

Hon. Samuel Mugambi: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I am in support of the motion. It is a timely motion and I am happy that the Members are discussing something very important that they would recommend to be considered in the budget and organization of the ambulance. I would like to add to what one Member said concerning the lay understanding of the word "ambulance". We usually think that an ambulance is a fast-moving vehicle, but that is a misunderstanding. An ambulance is basically a moving hospital which has such services as HDU and ICU, regardless of the speed.

For those who may have a medical background, if you are in a critical condition and you reach a hospital and are placed in an ICU, you will not die. The problem we have in Kenya is that some hospitals do not even offer ICU services. A good example is Nyahururu Referral Hospital which does not offer any ICU services for children; ICU services are different for adults and children. In Nyahururu Referral Hospital, there is not even a single ICU bed for children.

These Members, led by a Majority Whip who spoke saying that they got elected under a wheelbarrow; I think he is applying a wheelbarrow mindset here. When people are discussing important things here he is just shouting in his vernacular language. We need to put this House in order. I think the County Assembly of Laikipia has hired *Mshamba* to be airing what we are doing. Because even before we approve the motion, it has already been posted to social media. The update says that today, Tuesday 4th November 2025, the County Assembly of Laikipia is set to deliberate on a key motion seeking the purchase of fully equipped ambulances for the County. He is laying out all those issues there.

Hon. Speaker, if this Assembly is working with *Mshamba*, I think it is wise to tell him about the timing. It is very wrong for a motion to be circulating in the air when we have not even approved it yet. If you look at other Assemblies, they send out updates of what they are doing. This is like the eighth year now of the Assembly communication being dead. There is no communication or anything, nobody even knows that we are in session. Yet we have a hundred staff in this Assembly.

Hon. Speaker, the English say that a system is as good as its people. I do not blame any staff member; I blame you. It is good if every three months you would assess how the Assembly is working. We cannot have a whole system here with money being used yet we are not communicating to the world. We are in the 21st century. We cannot just be like the traditional councillors who were here. If we do not communicate to the people that we are discussing something concerning ambulances here, that is why you see people using *Mshamba* news and other means. It is because there is a gap there.

I was checking the website of Nyeri County to see the quality of work that they post. We have a problem of our own creation in Laikipia, Hon. Speaker. Even the problem of ambulances that we are talking about here is of our own creation. An ambulance costs about Kshs.15 million. Every year we would be purchasing one ambulance so that right now we would be talking of the fourth ambulance.

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However, the problem starts with our own mindset. If we cannot post what we are discussing even for a single day, then what are we doing here? Are we like the traditional councillors who used to fight in the chambers? Hon. Speaker, you need to stand firm. Do not let history judge you harshly. Even if you go and seek leadership elsewhere, people will first look at your leadership record here. Even God himself says that what you do with the little you are given is what determines whether you will receive more.

Hon. Speaker, I think I have raised this issue more than three times. So, it is very wrong that we resume our sessions here and there is no reporting or anything. 70% of our voters today have access to social media. In fact, I do not do most of the things in my ward through physical meetings. You will find that even old women have information, they will tell me for instance that they saw on Facebook that I am building a bridge. Then we ignore media in this Assembly? We do not have any reporting on what we are doing. We are just here having our cocoon meetings, because this is a cocoon meeting. Even if we tell people that we have spent a hundred million to run the Assembly, for what purpose? We have very expensive seats and whatever but are doing nothing. This work is not a private thing, it is public.

Hon. Speaker, we are not begging. We give you one week. If you do not have media people here, we shall converge and have some deliberations. We are demanding that. Especially for myself being a young person, I think it will look very wrong in history that I was in an Assembly where there is no recording or communication to the outside world. Look at how Nyeri and Nairobi Assemblies report in their websites, they even post with photos of the person bringing the motion. So, at the top today would be a photo of Hon. Veronica moving her motion.

However, now you are leaving people to rely on *Mshamba* news and other very unprofessional outlets, posting a motion even before it is approved. Hon. Speaker, I think it is high time that you take charge and organize this House. All these people who are supposed to be performing those roles, you are the person who is supposed to give them direction.

There is a Kikuyu saying which goes like; *'If a leader limps, the herd will not reach the pastures.*' A system is as good as the people in it. If the leader fails, everybody fails. These are just small things that we need to do in order to put our House in order. That is why you see that this Assembly is very boring. It is because people are saying that we are doing very traditional things and with a wheelbarrow mindset. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you so much for your contribution, Hon. Mugambi. Hon. Members, allow me now to invite the mover of the motion to reply.

Hon. Veronica Ikunyua: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to thank the Hon. Members for supporting this motion. I do not want to apologize concerning *Mshamba* because I have just seen the message after the Hon. Member talked about him. I do not even know who *Mshamba* is, and I was wondering why he put this motion before it is approved. You know Members can say that if I am working with *Mshamba*, then he can also approve the motion.

I am surprised too but I will not apologize because I am not the one who posted the motion online. I thank the Hon. Members for supporting this noble motion. It is going to help every person in this county. It is not about Veronica or Nanyuki but about Laikipia as a whole. It is our core duty and responsibility to support anything that touches on the life of the people of Laikipia. Thank you.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

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Speaker: This House now stands adjourned until later today, Tuesday, 4th November 2025 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 11.21 a.m.

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