REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 10th March, 2021

The House met at the Assembly Chambers at 9:00 a.m.

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

PRAYER

BILLS

THE LAIKIPIA COUNTY FINANCE BILL, 2020

Hon. Joseph Kiguru: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. I want to urge members of this Assembly to support the Laikipia County Finance Bill to move to the second reading. This is because as we all know that this is the time for paying our permit and licences not unless we speed up the process. I am sure the Laikipians' are ready to pay their permits and licences instead of using the old Act.

That is why I beg this Assembly to let the bill to move to the second reading so that in the afternoon, we have the committee of the Whole House to put the amendments and whatever the community of Laikipia proposed when we went to public participation. This is where the committee have done their part; I would like to ask my Deputy Chairperson to second the motion for the Bill to go to the second reading. Thank you.

Hon. Mary Samken: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I stand to second the Bill to move to the second reading. We also regret as a committee that we are very late; we decided to take this long as the committee. Most of the time we rush this Bill, this is about the lives of the people of Laikipia. Members expressed their disappointment last week during their discussion of the public report.

However, Mr. Speaker the law has no vacuum mostly because what we bring here for approval is because the law dictates that this bill must be approved every year or annually. If you look at the bill, for example the first schedule, all the things remained the same over the years. If you move to the first schedule, you can see new things introduced. They cannot charge those charges without being approved.

Mr. Speaker, we just want to urge the Members, please let us collaborate together so that we go to the second reading and also the final stage. We should give our people a bill that each and every one of us is satisfied with, which is public friendly. We have taken our time and there are a lot of amendments coming so that we give the people a good bill or something. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I second the bill.

(Question proposed)

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Speaker: Hon. Wakahiu.

Hon. Wilson Wakahiu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the second reading of the Finance bill 2020 for the Laikipia County Government. Mr. Speaker, I remember beginning the financial year in the month of June, when we were approving the budget estimate for the financial year 2020/2021, one of the recommendations from the Budget Committee that the budget Committee brought to the attention of this House.

Mr. Speaker, as per the regulations of the PFM Act, the Finance Bill is supposed to have been approved three months after the budget estimate approval. In that case as much as I support this, I think there is also a delay as far as this committee is concerned. What we are debating here is something that our people, businessmen and even the people who are supposed to remit land rates are supposed to do within the shortest time remaining in the year.

I believe come next time as we proposed, sometimes it affects even how the people remit. Sometimes it affects also the targets of the local revenue collection in our county because of not having approved the Finance bill as per required by the law.

Mr. Speaker, as I support this bill, we and I being the Chairman of the budget Committee, when we give those recommendations they are supposed to be approved by September. We do have the reason because we do give the Executive a target on how they collect the local revenue.

Having no document on guidance on how they collect revenue, it also leaves our people and even the government may be unable to collect or even hit the targets as far as the revenue is concerned. I support this but come next financial year the committee is supposed to hasten this process and make sure that it is approved as per the law. Mr. Speaker, I support.

Hon. Catherine Nyawira: Mr. Speaker, I rise to put my voice into the second reading of this bill. Firstly, this committee is saying that they have taken their time to go over this bill but they should give us a guarantee that the views of wanjiku have been incorporated into this bill.

Mr. Speaker, in the other session that we had when we were going through the report from public participation, it was evident that there were a lot of amendments which wanjiku wanted to be done especially because they wanted to be cushioned from Covid-19 which has hit this county and the country as whole. It was in those sentiments that we asked the committee to ensure that they do not move us with speed so that we can properly go through this. I personally have not had time to go through this and I do not know whether the committee are willing to take me through it very fast so that I am able to go to the next step which will be to approve this bill.

Therefore, the committee should convince this House that they have taken the necessary changes and will bring on board the necessary amendments which were raised by the citizens during the public participation. The committee also needs to assure this House that this is the document which will be used to pay for rates and revenue in this county this year. The Executive will not use the previous one which I believe could be higher. I believe that that is the only time as a House and from my own view we should allow a second reading.

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Without that then a second reading will only mean that we are doing the same thing over and over again while wanjiku continues to be oppressed. Mr. Speaker, with your permission I ask the committee to ensure that this House understands and convinces us that they will do the necessary. If they do not do that, then I oppose the second reading.

Hon. Peter Matunge: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also wish to say a few things on this. First, I wish to thank the Committee for trying to make this document go fast as we required. I remember when we were discussing public participation on this document, we raised questions on its delay. We are approaching the final quarter of the financial year and Laikipians must be paying fees that were being charged using the previous Bill. This should be a lesson and next time a Finance Bill should be in this House by 30th September so that the views of wanjiku are taken into account as soon as possible.

I am struggling to go through this document and I have seen introduction of new fees. I have seen increase and deduction of fees being charged. This is because either the purpose was to protect the people of Laikipia from exploitation or increase the revenue of Laikipia so that this County can meet their target and provide services to the people of Laikipia.

Mr. Speaker, I hope this will be a learning process. Next time we will not have the County of Laikipia using the previous Finance Bill because the Assembly is unable to pass the bill on time. This has been an issue for some time in this county. It can also be an intentional delay so that people can charge with the rate they want rather than giving this House an opportunity to put the voice of the people of Laikipia. This House is supposed to speak on behalf of Laikipians. If this House is not given an opportunity that you pass a document that has no implications; that document can only serve three months.

Mr. Speaker, majority of Laikipians have already paid this because we are approaching the end of the financial year. Our voices is not bringing any implication. It is a challenge that we all need to take up. One of the Members said we are now being rushed through this document so that we can be able to pass it. Sometimes we need to be given time so that we make informed decisions. We need the people of Laikipia to start using this bill. I support the bill to go for the second reading so that we can finish this process and we don't waste time for the people of Laikipia. Thank you.

(Silence)

Speaker: I don't know whether we have more views on the Finance Bill? If we have no more views then I wish to call the mover to give a reply.

Hon. Joseph Kiguru: Nataka niseme kwamba kama vile Wajumbe katika Bunge hili wako na wasiwasi kubwa sana, kamati pia imepitia mambo mengi mojawapo malalamishi ya Wanjiku. Bwana Spika, nahakikishia Bunge hili kwamba kamati imesikiza malalamishi ya wananchi ndio maana hii sheria imekaa. Ningetaka kuhakikishia Bunge hili kwamba huu ni mwaka wa mwisho wa kubeba haya makaratasi. Tumeongea na Bodi ya uchukuzi wa kodi na Serikali ya Utawala na tukawaambia waje na sheria ya usimamizi wa kodi ambayo itasaidia kila idara.

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Ikiwa kutakuwa na marekebisho itakuwa rahisi kuhakikisha kabla ya kufunga mwaka kwa kila idara ikiwa kutakuwa na tofauti ya kodi watakuja na marekebisho ambayo wanaazimia kutenda. Kwa hivyo Mheshimiwa Spika, ni vizuri kwa sababu wajumbe wanaelewa ni kazi gani tunaenda kufanya na tungetaka saa nane tuwe ili tupate nafasi ya kurekebisha. Kuna mtu baina yetu angetaka jambo lirekebishwe. Pengine kama kamati hatukuwa tumeona na Kamati nzima ya Bunge, wajumbe wataona ni muhimu kubadilishwa.

Masaa ambayo tutakuwa Kamati nzima katika Bunge hili wajumbe kujeni ili maoni yenu iwekwe kwa sababu hawa ni wawakilishi wa watu. Asante Mheshimiwa Spika. Nashukuru wajumbe kwa sababu ya kuunga mkono kwamba tuingie katika kipengele na nafasi ya pili ili tupate nafasi ya kuongea kwa upana.

(Question put and agreed to)

MOTION

COUNTY ASSEMBLY CAR GRANT SCHEME FUND

Speaker: Hon. Members, that motion is removed from the order paper until further notice.

(Motion deferred)

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: This House now stands adjourned until later today Wednesday, 10th March, 2021 at 2.30 pm.

The House rose at 9.21 am.

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