REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 11th June, 2025

The House met at the Assembly Chambers at 10.10 a.m.

[The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

QUORUM CALL

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki): Clerk, confirm if there is quorum.

(Lack of quorum confirmed)

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki): I direct that the bell be rung for ten minutes.

(Quorum bell rung for 5 minutes)

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki): Clerk, confirm if we have achieved quorum.

(Clerk confirmed achievement of quorum)

BILL

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

[The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki) left the Chair]

IN THE COMMITTEE

[The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Anthony Theuri) took the Chair]

LAIKIPIA COUNTY FINANCE BILL, 2025

Chairperson: Hon. Members, we are now in the Committee of the Whole House and as usual, the rules are relaxed. I hope we are all prepared to start the business of this day. Does everyone have this paper with him or her? Okay.

[Clauses without amendments]

Clauses 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14.

Question proposed

Question put and agreed to

Clauses 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 agreed to.

[Schedules without amendments]

Chairperson: Hon. Simon, as much as the rules are relaxed, the microphone is there for that purpose. In case of any clarity, just switch it on. Hon. Simon, I have given about five

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minutes as the Speaker to prepare myself and asked if everybody has this document. I will watch you closely. We are dealing with *schedules without amendments.*

Schedules 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 12.

(Question proposed)

Chairperson: Hon. Members, the floor is open for debate.

(Question put and agreed to)

(Schedules 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 12 agreed to)

[Schedules with amendments]

Schedule 3

(Question proposed)

Chairperson: The mover, Hon. Stephen?

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Thank you very much, Chair. I think I am guided. this is the Third Schedule. Hon. Chair, I beg to move that;

THAT the Third Schedule be amended as follows; This is the Third Schedule on Page 27. Pages 27, 28, 29 and 30, Part IV - Section A, Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing.

That is on page 27, if we can go there together, Members. That is the area where we are proposing changes. On that page, you will find the first column which is business, the second one is description, the third one is large, another large and medium, small, small, and large, large, medium. That is where we found that there might be double taxation. So, we decided to have one column, which is why we are deleting that part and remain with only one column because we cannot have two proposed charges. We as the committee agreed to have one charge and that proposed change is on page 27 and 28.

If you go to that page Hon. Members, you will find there is a 24 and 25 proposed. You find in the first column, that is Mega Agricultural forestry or fishing product in process or dealer exporter. You will find there is that column of 45, 32 and 22 and that is where we find that there might be a misuse of taxation.

We agreed to go with the taxation on 32 to put it on a flat rate. We are going to delete that part. That is, delete the 9 and 11 column, title large and small in their entirely thank you Honourable Members. I beg, yes, I beg Hon. Gathoni here to second me on this.

Hon. Mary Gathoni: I second.

(Question on Schedule 3 proposed as amended)

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I admire the wisdom of the Chair on the same because I am the one who had proposed on amendment on that and they have really done it well. My issue was that we should ensure that the taxation is done in the right way. Thank you, Honourable Chair and you have done it in the right way.

Chair: I now call the mover to reply.

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: I want to take this opportunity to thank the members for supporting these changes and the amendment.

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(Question on Schedule 3 as put and agreed to as amended)

SCHEDULE 8

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Thank you Honourable Chair. Honourable Speaker, I beg to move that the 8th schedule be amended as follows. That is 8th schedule, fees and charges for infrastructure, land, housing and urban development. Honourable members, that is on page 77, part 4. Plot rates per year.

Hon. Members, that is where we as the committee found that there are those proposed charges that is plot rates per year. if you go to that column, you will find that there is that charges of 50 by 100 and it is written 'towns', medium, small, urban centre town, medium and urban zones. We found that these charges that are proposed by the Revenue Board might be very difficult for our citizens, especially the people who live in the urban area. If somebody has a plot in Baraka or in Ruai or in Kilimo or even in Marmanet, Kalaba and other area Honourable members. We found that these charges should not be charged at this time because we understand the challenges that our people are facing right now.

We agreed as the committee to delete the entire part that is on page 77, plot rates per year. We delete the third-row title 50 by 100 in its entirety. [B], delete the fourth schedule row title that is 100 by 100 in its entirety. We also delete the fifth schedule row title half acre in its entirety and D, delete the sixth-row title one acre and above per acre in its entirety.

Honourable Members, we found that these plots are in a freehold area. But in that part, we agreed to retain the ground rent on a kiosk. Somebody might have a kiosk in Baraka or in Ruai or any other area and that person should be charged the land rent. Honourable members and that is why we are proposing to have these changes. I am requesting you Members to support me on this one because Honourable Member, at this time we have to support our people who we are representing in this Assembly

We have allowed the government to go and collect money from who have built their homes in that area and that will be very painful for them. So, I am requesting the Members to support the committee and delete the entire part.

Page 88, PART XIII- OUTDOOR ADVERTISEMENT

a) directional signs, single direction on the 16th row titled annual charges 1st square meter or less, delete the figure Kshs.10,000/ on the fifth column and replace it with Kshs. 5,000/.

b) Multidirectional signs- on the 20th row titled, annual charges 1st square Meter or less, delete the figure of Kshs. 15,000/ on the 5th column and replace it with Kshs.10,000.

Hon. Members, we found that even if we are collecting taxes, let us collect the revenue in a manner whereby nobody will not be harmed by overtaxing for direction signs. You will find that in their proposal last year, it was 2,000/ or 5,000/ on that column but now they want to charge 10,000. We found that they have overcharged with an 80% increase. This is not right and therefore we agreed to make it a reasonable charge of 5,000.

On the other multi directional on that page, you will find out how they were charging. We also agreed not to go with their proposal because they were charging 3,000/ previously and now they want to charge 15,000/. We agreed that 15,000/ is not good to charge citizens

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especially at this time which is almost 80% increase. As a committee, we agreed to charge 10,000 which is a bit reasonable. Thank you, Hon. Members. I now request Madam Amina Leila who supports her people to rise up and second this.

Hon. Leila Hussein: Thank you, Chairperson, I support the changes that have been suggested by Hon. Stephen because one, we do not want to kill the businesses in our town and two, we do not want to chase the home owners. Thank you.

(Question of the amendment proposed)

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Mr. Speaker, I support the idea of the chairperson reducing but I think we need to double the amount. Imagine from 2,000/ to 5,000. I would suggest that we need to double the amount and make it 4,000/. On 15,000/, 3,000 to 10,000. I would wish we double because whenever we are taxing our people, we should feel that the change is coming in manner whereby we are not hurting our people. On my part, I propose rather than putting more money on our people, whatever we were charging last year, we double so that the ones who were being charged 3,000 it moves to 6,000/ and the ones who were being charged 2,000 it be moved to 4,000/.

I had proposed this to the same committee. Maybe they felt that they needed to increase some money. Mr. Speaker, I propose we double but we should not do whatever the committee has proposed to increase more than double.

Chairperson: Mover to reply. Thank you, Hon. Chair. I want to thank the Members for supporting the amendments. Hon. Chair, what Hon. Kanyutu is saying is right. We thought as a committee that we reduce to that amount. Therefore, I am requesting other Members to ignore Hon. Kanyutu's decision and agree with the changes that the committee is requesting.

We were well advised that this is the right amount that we should charge. What they were charging was very little according to what they advertised. Thank you, Hon. Members. I am requesting you to support me on this one. When the question is being put, let us all say AYE.

Chairperson: Hon. Stephen, kindly switch off your microphone.

(Question put and agreed to)

(Schedule 8 as amended agreed to)

Chairperson: Hon. Simon, the Chair has ears, eyes and he is not biased. My decision was sober and correct. We do not need to go that way. If I repeat the same question, the results will not be different. You are the only person against it. On that side, I can see you are five and two on this side. That is simple mathematics. If six are against one, how can you win? The majority have the say and that is what we call democracy.

(Question put and agreed to)

(Schedule 8 as amended agreed to)

INTERPRETATION

Clause 2

(Question proposed)

Chairperson: The floor is open for debate.

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(Question put and agreed to)

(Clause 2 agreed to)

LONG TITLE

(Question proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

(Long title agreed to)

SHORT TITLE

Clause 1

(Question proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

(Clause 1 agreed to)

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Hon. Chair, I beg to move that the Committee of the Whole do report to the Assembly its consideration of the Laikipia County Finance Bill, 2025, Laikipia County Bill No. 2 and its approval thereof with amendments.

(Question proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

(The House resumed)

(The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki) in the Chair)

REPORT AND THIRD READING

LAIKIPIA COUNTY FINANCE BILL, 2025

Chairperson: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I wish to…

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki): Order Members!

Chairperson: Hon. Speaker, I beg to report that that the Committee of the Whole House has considered the Laikipia County Finance Bill, 2025, the Laikipia County Bill No. 2 and its approval thereof with amendments. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki): Mover of the motion.

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Hon. Speaker, I beg to move that the House do agree with the committee on the said report.

(Question proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Sorry Hon. Speaker. Pursuant to Standing Order No. 131 (2) I beg to move;

THAT the Laikipia County Finance Bill, 2025, Laikipia County Bills No. 2 be now read a third time.

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Hon. Speaker, I beg to request Hon. Antony Theuri to support me on this.

Hon. Anthony Theuri: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I support.

Question proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

(The Bill was accordingly read the Third Time and passed)

ADJOURNMENT

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki): This Assembly is adjourned until later today Wednesday, 11th June, 2025 at 2.30 pm.

The House rose at 10.52 a.m.

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