REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 11th March, 2026

The House met at the Assembly Chambers at 10.12 a.m.

[The Speaker (Hon. Lantano Nabaala) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

VISITING DELEGATION FROM DARAJA ACADEMY

Speaker: Hon. Members, I would like to acknowledge the presence in the Speaker's Gallery of visiting teachers and students from Daraja Academy which is in Segera Ward, Laikipia County. The delegation comprises of three teachers; Mr. Peter Wagutu, Ms. Caroline Mwangi, Ms. Maureen Kajuju; and 42 students who are in the County Assembly for a one-day academic exposition.

Hon. Members, in our usual tradition of receiving and welcoming visitors to the County Assembly, I extend a warm welcome to them; and on behalf of the County Assembly and on my own behalf, wish them a fruitful time as they learn with us.

PAPERS LAID

THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF LAIKIPIA TARIFFS AND PRICING POLICY

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I have a paper to lay:

The County Government of Laikipia Tariffs and Pricing Policy.

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

Speaker: The paper laid shall stand committed to the Finance and County Planning Committee.

REPORT ON EXTENSION OF THE LAIKIPIA COUNTY ENTERPRISE FUND AND THE COOPERATIVES REVOLVING FUND

Hon. Catherine Nyokabi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to lay the following paper:

Report on the extension of the Laikipia County Enterprise Fund and the Laikipia County Cooperatives Revolving Fund by the Trade Tourism and Cooperatives Committee dated 6th March, 2026.

(Hon. Catherine Nyokabi laid the Paper on the Table of the House)

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

PROVISION OF RAMPS IN ALL PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Hon. Denis Kaniaru: Hon. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following motion:

THAT, NOTING THAT Section 6 of the Second Schedule of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2025 provides for the duty to provide access to buildings;

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FURTHER NOTING THAT Section 6 (a) (iv) provides that any person who constructs, a building to which the public is invited, shall ensure that persons with disabilities have access through provision of ramps wherever stairs obstruct the free passage of pedestrians, mainly wheelchair users and people with mobility problems;

AWARE THAT Section 6 (a) (v) further provides that any person, who constructs, a building to which the public is invited, shall ensure that persons with disabilities have access through provision of adequate railing around hazardous areas, stairs, ramps, accessible roofs, mezzanines, galleries, balconies and raised platforms;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THAT the requirements for ramps for wheelchair access should be strict and should include the following; access must be wide enough for wheelchairs, ramps must be of a certain maximum angle; they must be made of a non-slip material and grab rails must be in place where necessary;

This House strongly URGES the County Government to ensure provision of ramps in all buildings within the county pursuant to the provisions of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2025.

REPORT ON EXTENSION OF THE LAIKIPIA COUNTY ENTERPRISE FUND AND THE COOPERATIVES REVOLVING FUND

Hon. Catherine Nyokabi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to give notice of the following motion:

THAT, this Assembly adopts the report on the extension of the Laikipia County Enterprise Fund and the Laikipia County Cooperatives Revolving Fund by the Trade Tourism and Cooperatives Committee dated 6th March, 2026.

Thank you.

MOTION

PROVISION OF RAMPS IN ALL PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Hon. Denis Kaniaru: Hon. Speaker, I beg to move the following motion:

THAT, NOTING THAT Section 6 of the Second Schedule of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2025 provides for the duty to provide access to buildings;

FURTHER NOTING THAT Section 6 (a) (iv) provides that any person who constructs, a building to which the public is invited, shall ensure that persons with disabilities have access through provision of ramps wherever stairs obstruct the free passage of pedestrians, mainly wheelchair users and people with mobility problems;

AWARE THAT Section 6 (a) (v) further provides that any person, who constructs, a building to which the public is invited, shall ensure that persons with disabilities have access through provision of adequate railing around hazardous areas, stairs, ramps, accessible roofs, mezzanines, galleries, balconies and raised platforms;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THAT the requirements for ramps for wheelchair access should be strict and should include the following; access must be wide enough for wheelchairs, ramps must be of a certain maximum angle; they must be made of a non-slip material and grab rails must be in place where necessary;

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This House strongly URGES the County Government to ensure provision of ramps in all buildings within the county pursuant to the provisions of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2025.

Mr. Speaker, this motion on the provision of ramps in the public buildings is something that has been echoed in the persons with disability Act 2025, especially in section 30, where it brings about the accessibility. You may realise, Mr. Speaker, most of social places or public areas, buildings that are in Laikipia County are not accessible. Most of these premises all have staircases. You realise that a person who is in wheelchair cannot be able to access the premises. That's why today we are saying that all public places, all public buildings that are designed under the Housing and Land Department should be designed with the lift. If not the lift, they should have a ramp.

You come to realise that when you have a meeting, you want to visit a certain hotel and it's a public place, people who are on wheelchairs cannot be able to access. You come to realise also, under the Physical and Land Planning Act 2019, it articulates very clearly on Section 56; that the County Government is mandated to ensure that every design, every building that is in place must be approved by the County Government through the County Executive Committee Member. It is this case, we wonder why they are not making sure that these buildings are accessible to everybody. We need social inclusion to everybody.

Mr. Speaker, it's not a wonder, last week, I visited the county headquarters and we were with my colleague, the Hon. Mugweru. When you are there, you realise that the Office of the Governor, it's very shameful. A person with a disability, especially a person on a wheelchair, cannot access the office. You want to see the Governor, but you cannot be able to access because the Governor is in the second floor and the way to move there, you must use the staircase. There are no lifts. There are no ramps. So, you find that place becomes inaccessible yet it's a public office.

I ask myself, if this is a public office, what about other areas? It will also be very bad. You want to go to hospital, you are feeling ill. When you are there, you cannot be able to access the premises if you are on a wheelchair, because there is no lift and there are no ramps. That's why we are saying that the County Government under the cities and urban department, should ensure that all the premises, especially the public buildings that are designed, should have ramps, and should have lifts, so that they are accessible to everybody.

It's shameful, you want services, but you cannot be able to get the services because people who are abled differently and they are in a wheelchair, they cannot be able to access the office. I'm urging the County Government to take this issue seriously because even the act that was passed by the President, the 2025 Act; stipulates very clearly that there should be accessibility. Section 30 stipulates very clearly that everybody should be able to access services in public agencies.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say that if we have all these buildings that are done, these hotels, the hospitals, public offices, whenever they are installed with the ramps; I think we can talk of social inclusion. I rest my case and I wish to call the Hon. Kanyutu to second this motion. Thankyou.

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I congratulate the mover of the motion. It's a very noble idea because you may not realise some importance of something until you are in that situation. Those of us who have no such disability, we may not realise, but the Hon. Member has realised the importance of a ramp. I am sure even this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, previously when we renovated it, there was no way somebody with disability would

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access your office. Your office is at the top until recently when we constructed a lift for the same.

Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member has a very good idea that we need to ensure not only the offices, but even the businesses that are being constructed. Since the county must approve. They have to ensure that accessibility is for all, not for a few who have no challenges. That's why I second the motion.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Salim Edung: Asante Bwana Spika, kwa nafasi hii. Kitu cha kwanza ni pongezi kwa Mheshimiwa Kaniaru kwa kuleta Mswada Bunge hili. Kabla ya kutoa mchango wangu, natambua wanafunzi kutoka Daraja Academy pamoja na walimu. Wamekuja kusoma na kujua mengi kuhusu Bunge hili. Watakapokuwa shule, watakuwa wanaelewa Bunge ni yapi yanaongelewa.

Mheshimiwa Kaniaru, nakupongeza kwa mswada huu. Kuna watu wengi wametengwa hasa walemavu. Hawa watu kufika katika maafisi mbalimbali wanapata changamoto sana. Tukija katika Bunge hili haikuwa na mashine ya kuinua. Tulikaa chini na kujua kwamba ndugu zetu lazima wasaidike.

Bwana Spika, nashukuru kwa kuwa huu mswada umekuja katika wakati unaofaa. Inafaa Wakenya wote na Wanalaikipia ambao wanahitaji kusaidiwa katika afisi mbalimbali. Wengi wanauliza watafika vipi katika afisi ya Spika ama ya Karani wa Bunge? Bunge la pili haikuwa na ile mashine ya kuinua. Bunge la tatu utafikia afisi zote.

Nashukuru kwa sababu lazima tuwatambue hawa watu. Ni ndugu zetu na wazazi wetu na lazima wapatiwe Huduma kama wengine. Katika riwaya ya Shamba la Wanyama, walikuwa wanaangalia wanyama wengine kwa sababu kulikuwa na wanyama zaidi ya wengine. Katika Sheria inasawazisha sisi wote ndio tupate huduma. Naomba Bunge hili, tunapopitisha huu mswada, tunaomba ufanye kazi. Wajumbe nawaomba tuchangie ndio ndugu zetu wasaidike. .

Bwana Spika, ni vizuri mswada unapoletwa Bunge usiwekwe kabatini. Ufanye kazi kwa sababu wananchi wanahitaji huduma. Nashukuru Bwana Spika kwa hio nafasi. Asante.

Hon. Veronica Ikunyua: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I wish to welcome the students from Daraja Academy where one of the teachers is my neighbour. So, feel welcomed to Laikipia County Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank Hon. Kaniaru for bringing this motion to this House and I wish to remind everyone that this is not the first time that this motion has been brought to this House. It was brought in 2021 and therefore, I would wish to say that people are not taking our motion seriously and that is why they are not acting immediately when they receive our motions.

Many people have limitations and those challenges and not because they are sick or old and not only because they are disabled, but most of the people here are sick. Some have got heart problems, some have got backache problems and so we are all disabled. Therefore, we don't want anybody to take this motion for granted. We want them to act and immediately. The Committee of Implementation should push this motion to the Executive Mr. Speaker, because the Department of Infrastructure is the one that will approve those buildings.

Therefore, it seems that there is some reluctance somewhere and therefore they need to pull up their socks and they need to act immediately so that we can stop complaining all the time. We need to save our people because we are here to represent them and we are here to

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fight for them. If they don't act, we need to summon them so that they can tell us what is happening. Therefore, I support and congratulate Hon. Kaniaru.

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Thank you Hon. Speaker for the opportunity given to me. I also wish to acknowledge and thank the leadership of the Daraja School from Segera for having time and managed to organize the students to come to this Assembly and to understand what we do.

I also wish to take this opportunity to thank Hon. Kaniaru for coming up with the motion. It is great and I really thank him because if you don't have a challenge, you might not find a need to think or bring such a motion. Hon. Speaker, for many years in this Assembly, the people with special needs have not been considered. In the last Assembly, we didn't have anybody representing them. Now in the first one or two years in this Assembly, we didn't have and probably that is why we didn't have time to consider such a thing. But I thank Hon. Kaniaru because you came at the right time and at least you are able to know that you didn't come here because of yourself but you came to represent others who didn't know who didn't manage to be in this House.

That is why the Bible says that always speak for those who cannot speak for themselves and stand for those who cannot stand. It is clear that you have stood and have spoken for all those people who did not manage to come to this House and God will remember you for that. Many have suffered and many have gone through hell. For example, in this Assembly today, until the time we got the lift, the Speaker used to come from top to see somebody from here at the reception. I would be told that there is someone at the reception and then the Speaker was forced to come and listen to that person. After listening, he goes back to the office and few minutes another one comes, he goes down again and so it was work of going up down.

So, Hon. Kaniaru, the motion that you have brought; we as Members of this House we are really in support of it. Not because of anything but we are supporting it because it is supposed to be that way. Today, as Hon. Veronica has said, no one knows about tomorrow. You might brag today that you are able to go up to the fourth or fifth floor but tomorrow you might fail to leave your bed. Therefore, this is the nature of human beings and so, nobody knows about tomorrow.

Prepare it, let us approve this motion and let us all support as an Assembly and make a follow-up to see that the government of Laikipia really works on it and make sure that after approval, it is implemented in every public office. As Hon. Kaniaru has said, two weeks ago we had visited the Rumuruti county headquarters. If the Governor wants to see someone on a wheelchair, he must come down from the fourth floor with very steep stairs to come and see that person.

So, Hon. Speaker, if the highest office of this county doesn't have, what do you think about the other public offices in this county? I really urge the Committee on Implementation, let us work very hard and especially not any other motion but on this motion. Let the Committee on implementation and the Infrastructure Committee work together to see that any building that will be approved must consider those people who live with the disability.

Hon. Speaker, I support this motion and if we all know that we are living, just know tomorrow you might find yourself in the same situation. Even Hon. Kaniaru was not like that from birth. He was strong and had everything. It is a bad incident that made him that way and it can happen to you or anyone in this House. Therefore, let us support him, let us support this motion and let us follow on the implementation to see that every office in every public office at the stage of approval they need to consider those people. Thank you, Hon. Speaker, I support.

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Hon. Mary Gathoni: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I do appreciate Hon. Kaniaru. This is the third time we have had this motion and that's why we are echoing to Committee of Implementation; it's high time they know that we need action because these people. I don't call them people with the disability but people with the determination. They need physical accessibility, digital, social and communication accessibility.

We do a lot of motions here but we don't see actions on the ground. It is high time we rise as Members of this Assembly and say that we need our people to get the services they need. Service delivery is the key point here. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Allow me now to call upon the mover of the motion to reply.

Hon. Denis Kaniaru: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I want to thank every Member for taking time and supporting this motion. You will realize that even Members understand that we are all candidates to disability and therefore we are not an exemption. If this motion is taken seriously, people who are concerned should implement. I call upon the Implementation Committee to follow up and ensure that all designs pertaining to buildings are followed to the letter.

I believe that if we go through that direction, everything will be okay and we will be well. Finally, I want to thank the students from Daraja. I hope that they are learning and have learnt how business is done in this House. I also believe that maybe all of them would wish to be part of this House. In the future, there are some who will become a Speaker like you and others will become Members like us. I believe that they have learnt and when they go back to school, they will also practise it. Nobody knew that a time like today most of us would be here. It takes passion and leadership. We thank them and still request them to enjoy and continue learning.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: The sittings of this House now stand adjourned until today, Wednesday, 11th March, 2026 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 10: 51 a.m.

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