REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 11th May, 2022

The House met at the Assembly Chambers at 9.00 a.m.

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

PRAYERS

MOTION

QUARTERLY REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS BY THE COMMITTEE LABOUR, SOCIAL WELFARE & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Speaker: Who is moving the motion on behalf of the Chair? Any Member of the Labour Committee? Hon. Simon Kanyutu, switch on your microphone.

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Thank you, Hon. Speaker, it might be the campaign mood that is really disturbing us. Maybe our minds are still on the ground. Kindly bear with us this season.

I beg to move the following motion;

THAT this Assembly adopts the quarterly report and financial statement for the period ended 31st December, 2020 by the Sectoral Committee on Labour, Social Welfare, Community Services dated 5th May, 2022, On behalf of the Chair Hon. Patricia Muthoni.

Speaker: You are supposed to discuss the report then second it kindly. I hope you have not forgotten the way we deal with business in the House.

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: I have not forgotten because I do not even have the document with me.

Speaker: The document is in your iPad, remember we are learning. Kindly just assist him.

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: It is only that I have been ambushed being a Member of the committee and I was not aware the report was being brought. I have just been ambushed but I will try to my level best.

Speaker: It is in the spirit of collective responsibility, as a Member of the Committee you should defend them.

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The committee comprises of the following Members;

1. Hon. Patricia Muthoni - Chairperson
2. Hon. Christopher Mark - Vice Chair
3. Hon. Irene Wacuka - Member.
4. Hon. Lochimidi Esokon - Member

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5. Hon. Joseph Suge - Member
6. Hon. Robert Maina - Member
7. Hon. Simon Kanyutu - Member

The committee held a meeting to scrutinize the document as required to prior table in the House. Mr. Speaker, when the committee went through the document, it had budget execution by programmes and subprograms. On page 5, there is a table with description on how money was utilized. The committee made the following observations;

1. There is an increase in the Compensation to Employees vote. This vote encompasses the Basic salaries of permanent employees, Basic wages of temporary employees, Personal allowances paid as part of salary and pension and other social security contributions.
2. There were no payments done under the sub programme of Talent Development Service, Sports Promotion Service, HQ Administrative Services and Alcohol Control Committee.
3. There was no payment done under the Enhanced Staff Welfare Program.
4. In this quarter, the department has a pending bill of Kshs.150, 604,517.

Committee recommendations

1. The Department should ensure that optimal staffing levels are maintained so as keep the current wage bill at manageable levels.
2. The Department should strive to minimize the increasing pending bills.

Committee conclusion;

That this House **Adopts** the Committees' Report on County Government of Laikipia (County Executive) Quarterly Report and Financial Statements for the period ended 31st December, 2020.

I wish to call upon Hon. Esokon to second the report.

(Hon. Esokon Lochimidi seconded)

(Question proposed)

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to make my contribution on this report. I also wish to thank the Labour Committee for coming up with this report and also giving the true picture of how things are in this county.

Mr. Speaker, if Members can go to the second last page on committee observations and recommendations, on top there is overall, i.e. the department spent a total of Kshs.1,800,764,361 in the 2nd quarter as compared to Kshs.513,735,320 in the 1st quarter. I really don't know about this rise of 3 times of Kshs.513,735,320 against 1,800,764,361.

I wonder why the big difference? What we are talking about mostly in the report is the recurrent. The variance is a big margin and questionable. Having said that, it is so unfortunate that in such a department in that quarter, they had a pending bill of Kshs.150, 604,517. When we see pending bills in this department, probably it includes the people who were retrenched and stopped from working.

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When planning to send people home you should also plan to have their money as they go. It's unfortunate if today you terminate our contract yet you don't have the amount of money to pay to send that person home? This tells us that there are so many people suffering out here because of the huge pending bills.

Kshs.150,604,517 means there are people out there demanding their money, not working and probably they are the ones going mad in towns. This person was or has been working for many years and earning salary to be frustrated one day and yet you are not properly prepared to send him home.

Probably they are the ones who are going mad in town. This person has been working for many years, earning a salary only to frustrate that person in one day yet you are not properly prepared to send him home. Mr. Speaker, we should always have plans. If you want to send me home like if today when we say that this Assembly is expiring on 8th August this means you are supposed to have money at hand because as I go home, I should carry my package the same day.

Why are you sending me home and then you are left with my money. You are sending me home to go suffer. Mr. Speaker, there are some departments that we should not mention the name pending bill. When we talk about labour we should not mention about pending bills. The committee has done a good job. It has brought the true picture and it has clearly stated what people are going through out there. They are suffering because in one way there were pensions that was supposed to be paid to them which they did not get.

Mr. Speaker, as I have been saying, we are in the process of budget making and this is an emergency case. As we prepare the budget, we need to think about such a pending bill that touches labourers in this county. As much as we say we want development and anything else, we should clear these bills so that people who are sent home should enjoy their lives out. I support and urge the Labour Committee to make sure that it presents this report to the Budget Committee so that as the Budget Committee is preparing the budget, they should understand the demands of the Labour Department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Member for Umande. Any other member contributing? If none, the mover can make a reply.

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I commend the Honourable Members who were able to go through the report and understand the tribulations our people are undergoing. Mr. Speaker, because I have been in the Budget Committee, I am sure the money is already in the previous year's budget. So the pending bills ought to be sorted as quickly as possible. I thank the Members for seeing what has been allocated has not been implemented. I am sure all will be fine.

I call upon the Members to accept the report and ensure that everything is done as per the law. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank all the Hon. Members for their contribution.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: This House now stands adjourned until later today Wednesday, 11th May, 2022, at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 9.20 a.m.

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