REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 18th June, 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 have quorum.

(Lack of quorum confirmed)

Speaker: Without quorum, I direct that the bell ring for ten minutes.

(Quorum bell rung for 9 minutes)

Speaker: Hon. Mugambi?

Hon. Mugambi Gatati: Hon. Speaker, I can confirm that now we have quorum.

Speaker: Clerk, confirm if indeed we have quorum.

(Clerk confirmed achievement of quorum)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

VISITING DELEGATION FROM ST. JUDE GIRLS SECONDARY SCHOOL NTURUKUMA

Speaker: Hon. Members, I wish to take this opportunity to recognize the visit of 42 History and Government students from St. Jude Nturukuma Girls Secondary School in Nanyuki Ward, Laikipia East Constituency. The students are accompanied by their teachers namely Mr. Elphas Gitonga and Ms. Lydia Nanjala.

Hon. Members, on my own behalf and that of the Assembly, I wish to welcome them to the County Assembly of Laikipia, and wish them a fruitful engagement with us during our live sessions. You stand welcome, thank you.

PETITION

DURABLE SOLUTION FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN LAIKIPIA COUNTY

Hon. Mugambi Gatati: Hon. Speaker, I wish to lay a report by the Committee on County Cohesion, Justice and Legal Matters on a petition regarding a durable solution to over 6,000 internally displaced persons households living within Laikipia County for over two decades dated 6th May 2025.

Sorry, Hon. Speaker for the confusion. I came in a bit late. We have the report by the County Cohesion Committee:

Background To the Petition

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Mr. Speaker, Sir, the petition as in Annexture 1 was received at the Clerk's office, tabled in the House and committed to the County Cohesion, Justice and Legal Affairs Committee for further consideration.

On behalf of the Members of the County Cohesion, Justice and Legal Matters Committee, and as required under the Petition to County Assemblies Act No. 15 of 2020 and the Laikipia County Standing Orders, I hereby present to this House the committee's report on the petition by representatives of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) regarding finding a durable solution to over 6000 IDP households living within Laikipia County for over two decades.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, pursuant to provisions of Article 119 of the Constitution of Kenya and Standing Orders 198, the petitioners sought that the County Assembly and/or through its relevant committee:

1. Invite the petitioners to present all information regarding the petition, including providing documents as proof of their grievances.
2. Investigate the subject matter raised in this petition from all relevant institutions with a view to providing durable solutions to IDPs who are the petitioners.
3. The victims be considered in government resettlement and be compensated for the losses they incurred during the displacement.
4. The victims be considered as a special group in the county and that they be given special preferences, including being exempt from paying some taxes in the county, and they be issued with special IDs to prevent infiltration.
5. The victims be provided with relief support such as food and non-food items.
6. Consider setting aside a parcel of land in the County to act as a holding ground for the victims after displacement, like refugees are usually treated.

In regards to the above, the committee report gives a detailed summary of the issues. The written and oral submissions, therefore, formed the basis of the committee's observations and the requisite interventions towards the prayers sought.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is important to mention that the County Government should appreciate that every person has a right to petition the Assembly to consider any matter within its authority, including enacting, amending, or repealing any legislation.

The Petitioners' Submissions

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the petitioners were invited to attend a committee hearing on Wednesday, 30th April, 2025 at 11.50 a.m. in the Assembly's main boardroom. The petitioners through their representatives, Margaret Wahito (IDP Secretary) and Charles Karugu appeared before the committee. They submitted as follows:

i. That they came from various places, like Molo and Kericho. Margaret came from Kericho to Laikipia camps, the Red Cross gave them food and they were recognized by the chiefs and they lived here for a long time and became residents of Laikipia.

ii. That they have written several requests for consideration since 2007 and 2008 after the post-election violence.

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iii. That they have had grievances because land was bought during President Kibaki's time in 2012. This land was to be used by the government to settle IDPs here in Laikipia. The parcels of land are still there, lying idle, yet the IDPs have continued to suffer. Many have been doing odd jobs just to survive.

iv. That when the government began distributing land, no one from Laikipia was considered. Those who were given land came from far, some form Kirathimo Camp and others form Nakuru Camp. Now, people who were brought from various places were settled here in Laikipia and given land. According to them, those of their group who have been in Laikipia for a long time were not recognized or assisted.

v. That the government had acknowledged of their presence since at the time it was giving out Kshs. 10, 000/ at Majengo through the D.O (for IDPs in Laikipia East), some of whom received it. There was also Kshs. 50,000/ that the government issued, and some received that token while many were left out.

vi. That the IDPs have continued to suffer, elderly persons amongst them who can no longer do casual jobs.

Committee's Observations

Mr. Speaker, Sir, having held a committee hearing with the petitioners' representatives and perused the provisions of the Prevention, Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons and Affected Communities Act cap 134a, the committee made the following observations:

1. That the petitioners are representing a group of people who claim that they are IDPs and that they presented a list of all members in camps across the county.
2. That the petitioners are seeking the assistance of the Assembly to develop a durable solution to their predicament, which solution should include resettling them on land, offering them support by giving them food and non-food items and offer them compensation.
3. That Section 2 of the Prevention, Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons and Affected Communities Act, CAP 134A, the Act defines a durable solution to be the achievement of a durable and sustainable solution to the displacement of persons through voluntary and informed choice of sustainable reintegration at the place of origin.

Committee's Recommendations

Mr. Speaker, the committee recommends that:

1. That the CECM and the Chief Officer, County Department of Administration, Public Service and Office of the Governor, do liaise with the relevant authorities of the National Government mandated to handle matters of Internally Displaced Persons to highlight the prayers sought by the petitioners, main among them developing a durable solution to their predicament within three (3) months of the date thereof.
2. That a report on the progress made by the Department of County Administration, Public Service, and Office of the Governor on this matter be issued to the committee within six months of the date hereof.

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Committee's Conclusion

That this House adopts the report of the County Cohesion, Justice and Legal Matters Committee.

Hon. Mugambi Gatati: Hon. Speaker, basically, what we are talking about here, you know Honourable Members can attest with me that in their wards; I can give examples of very many wards where we have internally displaced persons, including Ngobit ward where we had a case during the time of the Government of Mwai Kibaki. They bought a very big piece of land somewhere called Imenti. In that area, even nowadays, we have so many people who have never been settled. For instance, in my ward, in Muruku, we have very many people who are settled there and are IDPs.

Currently, we have one thousand Kalenjin at Thome; they just came recently and settled at Thome. They even had a conflict with the administration whereby the DCC instructed them not to stay in the area because once they stay in one area, you are sure of many diseases. There are also no schools, so the DCC advised the people to find some small pieces of land.

Whatever we are trying here is to just settle these people. I have gone through this County of Laikipia, it has very big parts of land that are idle and so many people now are grabbing the pieces of land. Instead of grabbing these pieces, it is better we settle these people there.

These are people who need somewhere to settle. They need children to go to school and they also need good sanitation and hygiene. That is why we saw that even if we did the vetting of the petitioners… because we also have a problem when we want to settle people. They can come to your office and say they are a thousand but when the time comes for settling, you will see five thousand people. That is because everyone in this country needs land.

When you gave the Chairperson's Communication, you said the students visiting us are historians, and History is something nostalgic in my life; that is where I got my ambition to become a leader. I was a very good student in History and I can remember we were learning about topics like The Scramble and Partition of Africa, and the social, economic, political organisation of communities.

The students can bear me witness that there were many interesting topics. There is a certain topic we were learning, although I am forgetting; movement of people, the Tuaregs and the Berbers. I do not know if it was trade. I was a very good student of History. I can proudly say I scored an A in history and my ambition was to become a lawyer, but I didn't have the aggregates to enrol into a university so that I can study law.

I would encourage the students also that you can become anyone in this country, but you have to have the ambition right now because you are the likes of Barack Obama. Barack Obama was born in Kenya and eventually, he became the President of the strongest or biggest country in the world. Anything is possible. Just do your things well and be good students. For those who are studying History, it is a very nice subject.

If you prevail in History, you can become a lawyer. You can also become a leader and if you end up coming to this Assembly, you will be able to argue issues well. There was another topic I loved at school and it was about the Maji Maji rebellion from 1905 to 1907. All those things were very enjoyable. Even when we went to university, if I would get a unit that was about history, I was very good at it. So, I was happy to hear we have History students here. History Inspired me to become a leader.

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If you study even in so many other topics, like even there are some other topics we were learning about, it's only that it is some years back so I'm forgetting. But that subject was very nice. I was taught by Mr. Wanjau in Karima Boys High School. And up to date, I can sit for a history exam and I will score an A. So, students, put more effort and your future is luminous. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you very much, Hon. Mugambi. I want to open the session a bit to hear the comments of the Members regarding this petition. It's a public petition. It is a petition on finding a durable solution to over 6,000 internally displaced persons or households living within Laikipia. So, members are invited. I want to give you a few minutes to contribute to this petition.

Hon. Dennis Kaniaru. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. But first, I wish to welcome the students from St. Jude and we can see the importance of them here. They have been here since yesterday and we still congratulate them as they continue learning. Because as my colleague has said, history is a good subject. Having said that, Mr. Speaker, the petition before the House pertaining to the displaced persons in Laikipia County, I wish to just say and state that it is very important if a suitable solution for these people is found.

Mr. Speaker, as they were presenting their case, they have been there for more than almost eight years now since they came in Laikipia. And as they stated, Mr. Speaker, they have gone or they have experienced various difficulties and storms. So, my point is that if a solution to these people can be found, it will be very important. They are crying that since they came to that place some of them have been able to be settled, but most of them still remain in a desperation state.

It will be easy and fine if land can be allocated to these people. They settle and they become Laikipia residents. It would be very unfair that some people are living well, others are living as if they are slaves, others are living as if they are foreigners, and yet they belong to Kenya. According to our constitution is that every person has a right to live, to stay in this Republic of Kenya, anywhere, any place that they feel comfortable. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I request the County Government and the National Government if there is a land somewhere, they be settled and their grievances, their issues will be well settled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Veronica Ikunyua: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me this chance to give my views. And before that, I wish to welcome a student from St. Jude Secondary and teachers. The Committee of Cohesion received this document and we analysed it and we would urge the County Government together with the National Government to work in speed and rescue these people. In fact, these people, they are suffering. Others, they are growing old, suffering in the camp, others, are asking friends and relatives to host them. Therefore, as the Committee of Cohesion, we are urging the County Government and the Committee of Implementation to forward the document to the relevant office so that we can be able to rescue their state. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I support.

Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I go through this report, I can see quite a good number, a very big number of people who have been unsettled in this county, and still, they are residing within the county. And as of today, I know, they are residing in slums. It's kind of a slum or a settlement. But still, this is where, as a government, we come in and do thorough investigation and verification of their documents.

They are putting a request to the County Government so that we can be able to meet these people and do thorough investigation of the documents that they have in verification so that these people can be settled once and for all. In this country, we have a history of rich people

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taking advantage of the people who have been displaced. They are be able to grab chunks of land in this country.

Mr. Speaker, it is evident on matters of Solio Settlement Scheme in my own ward. If at all you can pay a visit to the area, you can see big chunks of land that was grabbed. Whereas the people were supposed to be settled on that land, there's a team that have over 100 acres that has been fenced off as a ranch. That land was given out by the previous regime of Mwai Kibaki as a president in this country.

Having people acquiring over 50 acres, 20 acres, whereas the portions that were given to these people, each and every person was supposed to be given a four-acre land and half an acre. That being a plot where each and every person was supposed to build a house so that they can be able to settle. Then the four-acre of land, that's where everyone was supposed to go and do some kind of farming for crop production.

Mr. Speaker, in that settlement, if at all you pay a visit, you'll see some of the people in this county, that we say are 'well up' or they are 'rich,' have over 100 acres, others 50 acres, others have 20 acres, because the land was grabbed. That's why we are saying as a county we have to do the research. Thorough investigation should be done on these 6,000 residents, and that number should be the right number to be settled in the particular land as a county will acquire so that we can be able to settle them.

Mr. Speaker, if at all you visit my ward there's a chunk of land that the lease lapsed. As of today, it is over 600 acres. The land was fenced off and we don't know the particular person who fenced off the land. That land is part of Laikipia that is supposed to settle our people.

If at all leases would expire and lands were grabbed by top people who are in the government, then that is where we go wrong as a county or a country because there are people who have been disadvantaged by land conflicts, tribal clashes and unsettlements. We need to settle these people once and for all.

In my ward, we have got a land where we need to do thorough investigation so that in that particular chunk of land beside Solio Ranch, our 600 people who are residents of Laikipia who have been displaced should be settled. This is where the County Government comes in and know the people who have grabbed this land so that if it is possible we start settling these people once and for all so that they can have better livelihood in this county. Thank you.

Hon. Leila Hussein: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand in support of this report. I am a Member of this committee and secondly, we sat with those displaced people and listened to them. Post-election violence was a very scary time for the entire country. For them to feel that Laikipia is a safe haven for them, we open our hands for them. As Hon. Mwaniki has said, the land was allocated for them but has since been grabbed.

I think that is something that the County and National Government should look into because when it comes to them getting help, we find that the list does not bear the names of original IDPs but other people who are very powerful who wants to grab their space. We are all humans and therefore people should not be treated in an inhumane way and forgotten because we cannot forget the trauma they went through and that is something that we should never forget as a country.

So, I am standing here to say that this should be taken very seriously by this House and be followed in a manner that can assist everyone involved. I would also want to thank the students who have come today. History is part of law and also part of life. I wish you all the best and that you will learn more. Thank you.

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Hon. Irene Wachuka: Asante sana, Bwana Spika kwa kunipatia hii nafasi. Nashukuru Mwenyekiti wa *Cohesion* na pia nikaribishe wanafunzi kutoka Shule ya upili ya St. Jude. Wakati nimeona huu mjadala umeletwa hapa, ninakumbuka ya kwamba mashamba mengi ambayo iko hapa Laikipia inakuliwa na wanyama. Wazungu wengine walipewa hapa na watakaa halafu warudi kwao lakini Mkenya atabaki.

Ukiingia katika Wadi ya Tigithi pahali Mwai Kibaki alipatiana mashamba, ni wanyama wako huko. Ni nani wa umuhimu sana kati ya wanyama na binadamu? Wakati ambapo kulikuwa na vita, wengi wao walipita Nyahururu na huo wakati nilikuwa naibu wa meya na hadi sasa hawajawahi kupata mahali pa kukaa. Hao ni Wakenya na pia walipiga kura. Mimi nashukuru Kamati ya *Cohesion* kwa kufikiria mambo ya mwananchi. Tulikuja kwa hili Bunge ili kuangalia maslahi ya wale ambao hawana nguvu.

Hao watu ambao walifukuzwa huko Eldoret, wengi wao hukaa kama wakimbizi wa nchi na wako na kitambulisho cha Kenya. Ningeomba Serikali ya Kaunti washirikiane na Serikali Kuu kwa sababu Gavana yuko na nguvu ya kuita Bunge mkutano ili hao watu wachukuliwe. Wakati mtu amefukuzwa kutoka pande za Eldoret na Elburgon, ni shida sana. Walikuja kuomba hasa huko Makutano. Mimi nilikuwa nawangojea Nyahururu.

Nakumbuka wengi wao hasa kina mama walitoka Limuru kwa malori. Wengine walikuwa na mimba na wangezalia katika hizo lori. Walipofika Nyahururu, tuliwachangia nguo na kila kitu. Hata sasa hivi, zaidi ya miaka kumi na tano hawajawahi kupata makao ilhali tuko na shamba ambazo zinakuliwa na wanyama. Ni wanyama wako na umuhimu mkumbwa au ni binadamu? Hata kama ni ekari mbili mradi tu waondolewe mahali wako.

Ukienda katika hicho kijiji pahali wanaishi, wanajenga nyumba za makaratasi na hawana hata choo. Mimi naunga mkono na kuambia mwenyekiti wa *Cohesion* ya kwamba kama haitaenda kama anavyotarajia, tuitwe ili tuweze kutoa taarifa ili Rais asikie ya kwamba kuna watu ambao wako na shida. Sisi hatukuletwa hapa ili tunyamaze bali tusikize vile mashinani kunaendelea. Ni kwa nini watu wanaendelea kulia bali tulichaguliwa katika hili Bunge la sheria. Nataka kusema asante kwa mwenyekiti na pia kwa Spika.

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Thank you, Hon. Speaker for the opportunity given to me. I first wish to welcome the students from St. Jude girls in Nanyuki Ward next to Umande Ward. I know that they are learning something from us.

Hon. Speaker, I want to make my contribution in regards to this report that has been brought by the Committee on Cohesion. First of all, I wish to thank them for working tirelessly to have this report. They are doing the best for the people of Laikipia. One, the internally displaced people are the people who have been forced to flee from their homes and it is important to underline that.

Number two, they have been forced to flee either due to conflict disaster or human rights violation. As we discuss matters to do with the land, it is always important to flash back to where our country came from, where we are and where we want to be in the future. We should not forget the nature of our people. That our people are selfish, self-centred and use every opportunity to acquire whatever they want.

So, Hon. Speaker, when I say this, it is so important. As we move on to the next level, we make due diligence. Get proper information that it is Hon. Mugweru who was forced to flee from your home. Where was your home initially? You will find some of them, their homes are still existing and their families are moving on.

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Hon. Speaker, I am not saying this out of malice but I cannot mention people who cannot defend themselves from here. When those times of the IDP during 2007 crashes, when it was said that they are going to get land, I could see a family of a man leaving his wife, children and home and moving to the camp. Hon. Speaker, they are saying they are displaced yet his family is still settled in their own land.

Hon. Speaker, they could just sit in the camps just because it has been said that they are going to acquire land. Hon. Speaker, Hon. Kaniaru having 50 acres of land doesn't make you say that you do not have. Some of these issues of the internally displaced people, we need to get to the bottom-line.

Number two, some people were forced to flee from their land. You bought yourself a parcel with cash. Who is this that forced you to flee from your land and after being forced, who is settled there. The land did not vanish. The land is still there. You bought your two- or five-acres land and you are forced to flee. Now you have been given another parcel of land without us discussing your original land. Who is there? Who is cultivating it? Under whose instructions?

In this country, where we came from and where we are, there are so many things that are below the sand. We need to raise them up for Kenyans to know. Hon. Speaker, in the year 2008 to 2009, we assumed the people of Kenya are now in cohesion that we forgave each other. I ask myself, for example, Hon. Mwaniki took my land and settled there where I was displaced. If at all we forgave each other, why am I getting new land instead of getting my land and stay next to Hon. Mwaniki who took my land if at all we are friends.

If at all we forgave each other, why am I being taken away from my land? Hon. Speaker, some of these real cases are serious cases. Some of them were displaced from fertile land only to be brought here to Wiyumiririe. Someone was in Eldoret and Kitale harvesting over 30 bags of maize per acre only to bring him in Umande to harvest half a bag per acre. Hon. Speaker, is that justice?

Because you are moved from your land, is there justice in the person cultivating your land? Hon. Speaker, if the government is giving out land, then it should reclaim the land that was stolen from you. If I was freed from my land, if the government has to give me another land, then my own parcel of land should be reclaimed by the government. Hon. Speaker, when we do that that today I am freed from my home, somebody else settles there and I am given a new land, it is encouraging other people to displace others because they will get the land.

Hon. Speaker, this is a serious matter and the most unfortunate thing is that you have genuine internally displaced people. We have hefty criminals joining the genuine ones. Hon. Speaker, we need to scrutinize and ask you where you were freed from? What freed you? Where is your family? Were you settled? Hon. Speaker, if at all you were settled in Nanyuki and you lived in rentals, you are telling us you were displaced from which land.

Initially, you did not have any. Hon. Speaker, how do you say that you were displaced? We need to discuss this issue with a lot of soberness, without emotions and tell Kenyans the truth, we tell the 6000 people of Laikipia the truth and we do due diligence. We investigate them originally where they were, where they are now and what exactly you are supposed to be. If you had rented a house in Nanyuki and you are displaced, then you should get the same. The government should rent a house for you.

Hon. Speaker, if you rented a house in Rumuruti and now you want the government to give you a five-acre land. You never lived in a five arced land. You get equal to how you were

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displaced so that we may not entertain joyriders. Hon. Speaker, if you go to a place like IDPs in Wiyumiririe today, there are people who came there calling themselves IDPs who are richer than you seated there.

Hon. Speaker, we know them; it is only that we cannot list them here but they are there. Someone is claiming yet he is parking over six vehicles in the compound. That is the nature of our people. There are aggressive people and they love wealth. They love whatever comes on their way to grab. We must get to the bottom-line and investigate properly. The genuine ones should get and those who are not genuine should not get. They should get equal measure and that is what the Bible says.

Hon. Speaker, I support and as we move to the next stage, we should be able to investigate, do due diligence and get correct information. Let us use resources to get the information. It is very important. However much we shall use to get the correct information, it will discipline other criminals who think that they can just acquire land illegally. Hon. Speaker, I support and call upon the committee that when they move to the next level, they work on that investigation. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Mugweru for your contribution. Members, we will now move to the next order.

PAPER LAID

SECOND SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES FOR RECURRENT AND DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE 2025

Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to lay the following papers;

Second Supplementary Budget estimates of recurrent and development expenditure for the year ending 30th June, 2025.

(Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki laid the Papers on the Table of the House)

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Mwaniki. The paper shall stand committed to the Budget and Appropriation Committee. Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: The sittings of this House now stand adjourned until later today Wednesday, 18th June, 2025 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 10.55 a.m.

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