REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 27th September, 2023

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

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

PRAYERS

MOTION

ESTABLISHMENT OF TOWN BEAUTIFICATION POLICY

Hon. Catherine Umija: Hon. Speaker, I beg to move the following motion;

THAT, AWARE THAT Article 42 of the Constitution of Kenya provides that every person has the right to a clean and healthy environment, which includes the right to have the environment protected for the benefit of present and future generations through legislative and other measures;

FURTHER NOTING THAT beautification is the process of making visual improvements to a place which will go handy with the County Government's initiative of smart towns;

AWARE THAT beautification of towns determines the level of attraction to tourists and investors;

FURTHER AWARE THAT exterior painting of both residential and commercial buildings gets affected through heat, rain, cold, pollution and changing weather conditions making the paint fade, loose colour gloss and thus looks dull;

This House URGES the County Government to establish a policy that seeks to;

i. Beautify towns by planting trees and flowers, hedging and adding decorative or historic-style street lights in order to improve their physical outlook.

ii. Ensure that every building should be painted at least once every year.

iii. Ensure that the frontage of a building is kept clean, in a good condition and well repaired.

iv. Ensure installation of security lights in the front of the building.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know whether we are having other debates in the House that are not part of this motion because I can see some interruptions going on here and there.

Deputy Speaker: Hon. Ndiritu and other Members, I pray that you are going to sit down and settle. It seems the motion is interesting since everyone wants to be beautiful in one way or another. Carry on.

Hon. Catherine Umija: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we aware that the conventional rains are here with us, we want to thank God because this is a good opportunity for us as a county to take advantage of it, so that we can also beautify our towns. Because of dry seasons,

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you have realized that most of greens have died because of lack of water and this is an opportunity for us to beautify our county in small and big towns so that we can be able to plant flowers and trees to take advantage of the rains. We plant the hedges around the town to make our town more beautiful.

Mr. Speaker, nobody wants a town that looks ugly but we all want towns that look better and towns that look better, are a tourist attraction. I know that in Laikipia County we look at towns in a way that we say that animals are the ones that bring us tourists but we can also beautify our town so that it can be a tourist attraction place. So, we are urging the county government to clean up the trashes that are around so that the waste that lies around the town is collected. I know that they clean up every day but we also expect them to continue helping us in the collection of litter across the roads and also encourage the same…

Deputy Speaker: Hon. Umija, sorry to interrupt you and I seem to agree with you. Hon. Stephen and Hon. Cate, it seems that we have got two Houses here. Kindly, Hon. Stephen Ndiritu to go back to your seat where you belong, the Chief Whip's seat, unless there are changes that I am not aware of. Thank you. You can continue.

Hon. Catherine Umija: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that if there are some debates, I think the Hon. Members are allowed to step out and have their small debates outside as we continue with the motion. I believe that they will be in a position to do that if at all it is a pressing issue. Thank you, Hon. Stephen for complying.

As I continue Mr. Speaker, we also urge the County Government to help the business people to paint around the town. With a fresh coat of paint, we will ensure that our buildings will have a new touch within the towns. With these beautiful colours, it will bring out the splash of red, blue, yellow and green that can be the part of our history.

Most of us have gone to Mombasa County and it is known for white and blue as their colour. Not necessarily that we have a specific colour for Laikipia County but we can urge the government to paint so that they may look fresh and beautiful. Even when the tourists pass along the town, they would be able to see that this is an attractive town. So that it may not look like an old worn-out town but a beautiful and freshly painted one.

Mr. Speaker, we can also urge the government to also put things like placards that talks about the historical issues of Laikipia County or specific towns. We know that we have got a history of this town and this can be a good way to tell the beautiful history of Nanyuki Town, Rumuruti or Nyahururu. So, we can have some small placards where we can have tour guides where people can just tell a small history of this town. This is the way other countries build their tourist sectors.

I want to give an example of Paris. This is a city that do not have animals or anything spectacular but they are good in beautifying their city. They have beautified their city in a way that they have given it a slogan as a city of love. Everybody who goes there knows that they are in a city of love. Why? Not because love is in the air or painted somewhere but it is because they have put a slogan within their city so that everybody who comes there is given a tour and historical stories.

The city itself is beautiful. Personally, I have not gone to Paris but through watching television, you get to enjoy it. It is one of places that are in my bucket list that I will someday go to Paris, not because they have got beautiful animals but because their city is lovely and attractive. So, beautifying our city will be very important and will set up the tourism aspect of this small towns. We can even try to create a landmark for our towns and they would be known

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for a specific and unique thing. It is something that the County Government need to think around and let us try and take the opportunity to actually beautify our cities and make them look nice so that it can also be a tourist attraction site. I would like to call upon Hon. Kanyutu to second the motion. Thank you.

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I stand to support this motion by Hon. Umija. Beautification of the town is one role we should play as an Assembly pushing the Executive on the same. I have heard her giving an example of Paris. Rather than example of Paris, I would wish the Hon. Member visits my place, Marmanet because I have done a bit of streetlighting. Kwa Wanjiku Centre or Karaba Centre or my immediate Centre, Muhotetu Junction. You will admire how they are due to those streetlights. If you now extend the issue of beautification on planting of trees and hedges, I am sure it can be one of the best.

Mr. Speaker, we have one of the Smart towns that is Oljabet. Were it not that we have not been able to fix the streetlights, there is an old man who does beautification in that town; Mr. Kinga. He has made that to be one of the most beautiful towns in Laikipia County. If we now install streetlights, there is no way we can compare any smart town with Paris. We just compare with our local towns. I second the motion. Let us push the government to do the beautification of our town and cities. Thank you.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Samuel Mugambi: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I rise in support of the motion from Hon. Umija. I have noted with a lot of concern how she is active in proposing a good motion for our good county. I want to appreciate her for her effortless concerns. I am also in support because like our headquarters of Rumuruti, we can make it to become an African Icon.

Mr. Speaker, sometimes we propose good motions but the implementers do not take this House seriously. I want to say to the Implementation Committee led by Hon. Shuel who is an experienced second time MCA. We have very good motions here. The other day we were talking about Nanyuki Municipality, Rumuruti Municipality, Agriculture but it seems it has become the order of the day. We come here make and present good and cosmetic motions but nothing is implemented.

Mr. Speaker, to this concern I would urge the House through your leadership Hon Speaker just like the National Parliament, they have rectified their Standing orders whereby all the Cabinet Secretaries can appear before the House. I think this should also happen here. Our Governor has appointed people in offices who are practicing what we call designated powers.

One year is down and have given so many motions. We sent some reports to the Executive as Implementation Committee and none of the motions we ever discussed here was implemented. If we need to be presenting motions and having good presentation from Hon. Umija yet none is being implemented, then this House is failing.

Hon. Speaker, many Members were not comfortable when the Order Paper was being read. There are some pressing issues that are supposed to be in that Order Paper. As we blame the Executive, also the leadership of this House is failing us. It is unfortunate. We have a deputy Speaker, Majority Leader, Minority Leader, Chief Whip and other leaders.

It is unfortunate that personally I'm becoming frustrated by how the leadership of this House is being carried on. This is a House of law and Order but what we discuss is not brought here. We are avoiding the reality. The people we have selected to represent us are not doing so. They are only representing their own things.

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Deputy Speaker: Hon. Shuel?

Hon. Paul Leshuel: Thank you Mr. Speaker, sorry for the interruption. When the Member talks of the leadership of the House, I can see the Minority leader seated in the wrong place. He is out order.

Deputy Speaker: Hon. Lekopien you are seated in an unfamiliar territory. Would you kindly go and sit where you belong. Every seat is labelled unless communication is done through the speaker. I wouldn't give you a chance to speak from there. Carry on Hon. Gatati.

Hon. Samuel Mugambi: Thank you Mr. Speaker. As I was supporting the good motion that Hon. Umija has brought, it is good that this House has order. Hon. Speaker, yesterday I was watching a report from the Auditor General and he said that counties have misappropriated monies. Let me say this beyond reasonable doubt that whatever counties are going through is because of failure of the county assemblies.

Mr. Speaker, we are here elected with three main roles; oversight, representation and legislation. We are not even representing our people who sent us here. Many things are going wrong including our very own Assembly. We cannot carry out a meeting then the Order Paper brought here is opposite of what we discussed. It's a failure of the leadership. I even don't know if we have the leadership here.

Hon. Speaker, if you have been elected in any capacity to represent us even the bible says '*the little that has been bestowed in to our hands, please take care of it*' and '*to whom much is given much is expected*'. I would urge all leaders including you, the Deputy Speaker, Majority Leader, Minority Leader, Chief Whip, Service Board and Chairpersons of various committees to take their duty seriously and take this Laikipia to greater heights. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker: Hon. Lekopien, sit where you belong.

Hon. Parleto Lekopien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am in support of the motion but before I support the motion, I would like to clarify one thing, that this is one House. I wanted to consult my colleague and that is why I was seated next to him. It does not mean that I left my Chair while I was consulting with him. On the same note, it is great to sit here and have a good view of the House.

I have been sitting on the lower side of the House and it seems that being on the higher side, you get a better view of the House. You even see the Members as they debate and give them the support. I apologize for leaving my seat but I was in a consultation meeting with my colleague. That is why Hon. Leshuel saw that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

In support of the motion, as the Hon. Catherine Umija talked on beautification of towns, lately if Members of this House visited Rumuruti County Headquarters, it looks nice. The environment is great even for the people who work there. You feel like you are living in a small heaven. As much as we want to make all the towns and their streets beautiful, challenge starts at home.

Where we are should be clean and beautiful. In support of the motion, I urge the Members and the County Government of Laikipia to take a leave from what the headquarters have been done. It they could make all the streets and towns around Laikipia beautiful like the headquarters, this will earn them points. Again, as Hon. Kanyutu said that the town looks clean and beautiful at night, I equally task him to make sure the town looks beautiful during the day as it looks during the night.

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In support of the motion, I would like to urge Hon. Members to support the motion and make sure we have a beautiful Laikipia. As Englishmen said that cleanliness is next to godliness, as much as we clean all towns and places…

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Mr. Speaker, on a point of clarification, the Hon. Member has said that I can try to make towns beautiful during the day and night. I would like him to clarify because I was talking about the streetlighting on whether we can urge the County Government to be lighting streets during the day. Be a bit clear.

Hon. Parleto Lekopien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to clarify that there will be no lighting during the day because that will be a waste of public resources by putting the lights on. Equally, you can plant more flowers or even do other beautiful things other than lighting. That is what I meant by making it equally beautiful during the day. As you drive through the town during the night, it looks beautiful with different lightings.

There could be a lot of trash lying down there. So, I just wanted you to know that as much as the town is beautiful at night, we should also make it beautiful during the day by planting more trees and having nice flowers around the streets. I am in support of the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I urge this House to support the motion.

On the leadership of the House, as the Hon. Gatati said we are all human beings. As discussed, we had businesses that were supposed to be in the House today. That is why we gave you the priority to bring it now because we have the motion and other businesses in the afternoon on the reports from NAWASCO and Revenue. I promise you the leaders of the House we will sit down and rectify our mistakes. We will make sure that this House will have a better future and a better leadership tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I support this motion.

Hon. George Karuiru: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to support this motion on beautification of our towns. Before I contribute, through your permission, I would like to give a message of condolences to our Serjeant at Arms for losing his brother. Mr. Speaker, last night I went through the social media and I found that there was a fatal accident in Nyahururu and we lost the brother to one of the Serjeant at Arms.

Mr. Speaker, I realized that he has been a great friend of mine, a principal and a teacher in Nanyuki High School. During the 2013 reign when I vied for MCA through GNU Party, he was one of the organizers of the foresaid. Mr. Speaker, I know we have a busy weekend but this Honourable House can organize a day tomorrow because I know there will be a team leaving for Nairobi to visit that homestead.

The Hon. Members and staff are the same. We know our staff have been always supportive to us when we need them and we should reciprocate it. I like the motion brought by Hon. Umija. Mr. Speaker, it should start from our home. I visited various homes of our fellow Hon. Members especially when sourcing votes. We always paint, sweep our homes and put cabro.

Mr. Speaker, I remember during the reign of the Former President, Nairobi City was beautified. There were flowers that were planted but I cannot forget that it was being done because we had a prominent foreign president who was visiting. As a government and especially Laikipia County, what Hon. Umija has said is a good observation and the policy said was to be put yesterday.

We have our casual laborers who clean towns. Some of our plots are beautified and we have a great challenge especially in Nanyuki where business houses are priced abnormally.

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Sometimes some of our business communities are not able to construct a big building but you don't call the right person who can polish that house with a good and durable colour.

This policy should be established and it is now in the hands of the Executive because one thing somebody might not know and I know Hon. Members have the wisdom that there are the public health officers that always look at that. When we were doing spatial planning for our towns, despite the little lighting we have, one of the architects advised me to plant particular trees in my homestead. We are at loggerheads with my wife, when she moves, I look at that particular tree and there will be a lot of peace.

Mr. Speaker, I think this should be brought to the County Government so that we have a lot of peace in our towns when we look at a particular flower. Mr. Speaker, we have decent ladies and when we put flowers Mr. Speaker, when our Honourable ladies move out with a lot of bitterness from the House, they observe the town and get a piece of mind. Mr. Speaker, the key word here that should be underlined is policy.

We need to have clear policies so that the two big towns in Ol Moran Ward, Sipili and Ol Moran are beautified. I remember one of the environmentalists planted some trees and currently they are doing well. We might not have all the money to do bodaboda sheds but now they are sheltering under those trees that were planted around 2012 or 2010. Mr. Speaker, we should go hand in hand because there are the environment projects that are supposed to be done.

There are planners and surveyors who have their own work of planning and surveying. So that we appraise them, they need to up their game. Mr. Speaker, the department that upholds this should forward a policy as Hon. Umija has put it so that we put it in place. We will not only be talking as one Hon. Member has said that there is a lot of delay when we are pushing things to the Executive. We need to give them timelines so that they put it.

Like now we are expecting El-Nino. We will not use a lot of water in spite of the little water that we might be having. We will only put it in flowers, and we pray to God that we will have good and sufficient rains which will not affect our people. Thank you and I support.

Hon. Benson Kuria: Nashukuru, Mheshimiwa Spika kwa hii nafasi ambayo umenikabidhi. Nikiunga mkono mswada wa Mheshimiwa Catherine Umija, mteule wa chama cha ODM, najua ya kwamba kuna mambo ya maana na baraka ambayo ameyagusia. Nimesikia amesema katika mswada ambao ameuleta katika Bunge hili kuhusu mambo ya upakaji rangi katika miji yetu na najua ya kwamba miji yetu itabadilika. Ukitembea katika Jiji la Mombasa, utaweza kuona Mtwapa ambapo miji yote imepakwa rangi inayofanana. Inaonyesha ya kwamba hili ni jambo ambalo Mheshimiwa Umija alilitafakari kwa undani sana na akaona inafaa aulete huu mswada ili uwe sheria katika Bunge letu. Ninaunga mkono nikijua ya kwamba jimbo letu litakuwa linatamaniwa na wengi.

Mheshimiwa Spika, kuna jambo ambalo Mheshimiwa Gatati ameligusia. Kwa sababu najua ya kwamba hii ni Nyumba ya sheria na maagizo, najua sote watu ishirini na mmoja tuko hapa kama watu ambao walikula kiapo. Najua ya kwamba bila shaka siku moja kuna mtu atanyoshewa kidole. Ikiwa hutendi kazi kwenye nafasi uliyopewa kwenye hii Nyumba, kuna siku moja utaulizwa; Je, nilipokutuma mahali fulani, ni nini ulinitendea kwa sababu nilikutuma uniwakilishe? Wakilisha walio wachache katika Laikipia Kaskazini na katika wadi yako ili iwe wewe ndiye mwenyekiti, Kiongozi wa Walio Wengi katika Bunge hili, Mjeledi Mkuu wa kunyoosha mikakati katika Bunge hili au Naibu wa Spika.

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Mheshimiwa Spika, ni vizuri wale wanaotushikilia kwenye viti mbalimbali katika Bunge letu, wenyekiti na wadogo wao waweze kutuelekeza kwa njia iliyo mwafaka ili tuone ya kwamba hakuna mjeledi utakaotufuata nyuma kwa sababu kuna maisha baada ya kutoka kwenye hili Bunge. Najua ya kwamba tukiwa watu ishirini na mmoja hapa tunawakilisha watu zaidi ya milioni moja katika jimbo letu la Laikipia.

Sisi ndio Mungu aliona ya kwamba tunafaa kuja hapa ili tufuate maagizo na sheria za Jumba hili ili tuweze kusimama na jimbo letu. Ni vizuri tujue ya kwamba baada ya hapa kuna maisha na tuone ya kwamba mikakati tunayowapa ni nzuri. Wafanyikazi katika Bunge hili letu la Laikipia ambalo linaheshimika na wananchi wote, ni vyema mtu ajue ni matunda gani anapanda kwenye cheo chake. Ni nini anafanya, na katika kumbukumbu la torati, atakuwa wapi? Nashukuru kwa hii nafasi na naunga mkono mswada wa Mheshimiwa Catherine Umija.

Deputy Speaker: I now call upon the Mover to reply.

Hon. Catherine Umija: Nashukuru sana, Bwana Spika. Nashukuru pia Wabunge wenzangu ambao wameunga mswada huu mkono. Vile Mheshimiwa Gatati alisema, tunatarajia kuwa miswada tunayoleta katika Bunge inafuatiliwa kimakini katika Jimbo letu la Laikipia na kwamba mkono ule mwingine wa serikali itaweza kufuatilia hili jambo. Nashukuru kila mtu na kutarajia ya kwamba Gavana wetu atalifuatilia hili jambo katika miji yetu na miji yetu itakuwa safi na kuonekana ikiwa nzuri ili kuvutia watu wengi. Hio inamaanisha kuwa biashara itanoga, nashukuru.

Deputy Speaker: Asante, Mheshimiwa Umija. Nimeelewa ya kwamba serikali ina mikono kwa hivyo najua ina miguu pia.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Deputy Speaker: The sittings of this House now stand adjourned until later today Wednesday, 27th September, 2023 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 9.43 a.m.

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