# REPUBLIC OF KENYA

## COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

### THE HANSARD

**Wednesday, 28th August, 2024**

*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 rings for ten minutes.

*(Quorum bell rung for ten minutes)*

**Hon. Simon Kanyutu:** Mr. Speaker, I think we have quorum now.

**Speaker:** Clerk, confirm if indeed we do have quorum.

*(Clerk confirmed achievement of Quorum)*

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

VISITING DELEGATION FROM KATHITHINA PRIMARY SCHOOL-MERU

**Speaker:** Honourable Members, I want to take this opportunity to bring before you and recognise the presence of 51 pupils from Kithithina Primary School in Buuri West, Meru County. They are accompanied by their teachers of whom I would request to stand and wave. Mrs. Mukira, kindly stand and wave, Mr. Yusuf and also Mr. Mwirigi Mugana, thank you very much. Mwirigi Mugana, one of them, is a member of the committee for the school.

On my own behalf and that of the Assembly, I wish to welcome these pupils into the County Assembly of Laikipia and wish them a fruitful engagement during this visit. Let them see how the business of the House is carried forward for your future reference and benefit, thank you. You may be seated. Allow me also to remind you as I had also made a communication yesterday that we will have our own kamukunji after the first session. After the session, I will request you to remain behind as we have our in-house consultation.

### MOTION

ESTABLISHMENT OF TOURISM POLICY

**Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of Hon. Salim Edung, I beg to move the following motion;

THAT, NOTING THAT Trade development and regulations including local tourism is a function of County Government as stipulated in Part 2 of the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya 2010;

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FURTHER NOTING THAT the County Integrated development plan, 2023-2027 nurtures promotion of domestic tourism as one of its objectives in the Tourism Sector;

AWARE THAT Tourism remains the cornerstone of the economy, and a leading foreign exchange earner for the country, Moreover, the sector has high multiplier effects as its growth stimulates further development in other activities;

COGNIZANT THAT the County Governments are the custodians of tourism resources hence they have vital role to play in tourism;

APPRECIATING THAT a range of eco-tourism and community-based projects should form part of a diversified and enhanced tourism product, including homestays, agro-tourism and sports tourism;

OBSERVING THAT the success of domestic tourism is dependent upon effective and creative marketing and promotion of the county as a destination;

This House URGES the County Government to establish a County Tourism Policy that will seek to:

1. Revive County Tourism through putting in place measures such as redeeming of destination image and positive publicity by employing public relation tools, product diversification, provision of high quality standards of products and services, tourism area planning and incentives to attract investments in tourism sector;
2. Support Communities in the development of local tourism products through technical assistance;
3. Diversify, develop and implement innovative tourism products that enhance economic growth, environmental sustainability and preserve heritage;
4. Support communities in designing and developing authentic innovative tourism products at the local areas;
5. Enhance the uptake of Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE);
6. Ensure that tourism circuit roads are mainstreamed into the National and County Roads Investment Plan;
7. Give high priority for upgrading, rehabilitation and periodic maintenance and signage for access roads to local tourist destinations;
8. Develop a County Tourism Marketing Strategy to guide and inform tourism marketing and promotion in the County;
9. Fasten the development of available tourist sites like Kirimon National Reserve, Manguo Hippo Point and other available tourist sites within the County.

As the motion stipulates, it guides on how we can be able to enhance tourism in our County and how we can be able to develop and still earn more from tourism in Laikipia County because this is a tourist destination and Nanyuki town itself.

As we have been experiencing an increased development of high-standard hotels that accommodate tourists. If as a county we can invest in more technology and upgrade of sites, we can attract more tourists from other counties and countries and earn more foreign income.

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As Hon. Salim has stated, we need to diversify on methods that we can use to attract more tourists into the county so that we can even create job opportunities. If we want to create jobs for our people, we need to invest more in tourism so that we can support the communities that surround the parks.

We have parks such as Ol Pejeta and Solio, and other conservancies that are based in Laikipia. As you understand, Mr. Speaker, almost 70% of land in Laikipia consists of ranches and conservancies. As Hon. Salim has stated, we need to give priority to upgrading of roads that connect all those conservancies. We also need to do more signage so that our tourists can be well guided and not lost across this large area which consists of several conservancies in Laikipia County.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge the Members to support this motion because this is a foreign income earner for our county and a means of job creation. As the Gen Zs have stated, more job creation needs to be done in this country. The Gen Zs are not lost; they are on the right track. If we do not employ our people, where are we going to take them? They are educated. Many of them have even done courses in the tourism sector and we need to accommodate them. If we invest in this more as a county, we will create more jobs and have a better relationship with the young people of Laikipia County, and will be able to support them.

We also need to have support from the communities that are within the conservancies. They have their traditions; there is an industry in Laikipia North called *Ushanga* through which they are creating jobs. This is where we need to put more in supporting the women groups of those communities and even men groups so that they can create more items which they can sell to tourists. They will earn from their traditional attires and items made by women groups in those areas. As a county, we need to invest more so that we can be able to earn more and create more job opportunities in Laikipia County. I request Hon. Stephen to second this motion.

**Hon. Stephen Ndiritu:** Asante, Mheshimiwa Spika. Nasimama kuunga mkono mswada ambao umeletwa na Mheshimiwa Salim kupitia Mheshimiwa Mwaniki kutoka Tigithi. Kabla nichangie mswada, nataka kuwashukuru wanafunzi ambao wamefika kwenye hili Bunge kujua tunayofanya na jinsi ambavyo Bunge linaendeshwa. Kama Mwenyekiti wa Bunge, nashukuru vilevile kwa kuwataja walimu ambao wamewaleta hawa watoto kwa sababu mtoto asipokuwa na mtu wa kumwelekeza, huenda asielewe njia. Nawakaribisha na kuwaambia kwamba tuko hapa kufanya kazi yetu kisheria.

Tunawatakia kila la heri ili katika siku za usoni, wao pia waweze kuingia kwenye Bunge kama hili kwa sababu wakati wetu sisi utaisha na tutawaachia wao waendeleze taifa letu la Kenya wala sio Kaunti pekee. Tunawatakia kila la heri, waweze kuingia kwenye Bunge la Kitaifa, Seneti na hata Ikulu kwa sababu ni yao.

Nikisema hayo, nataka vilevile kushukuru serikali yetu kwa vile tumekuwa na umoja. Hata hivyo, serikali ikiungana na upinzani lazima kuwe na mipaka kwa sababu leo Mheshimiwa Lempaira alikuwa amevuka hadi upande huu na kuketi kwenye kiti cha Mjeledi Mkuu wa Walio Wengi. Nilimweleza kwa upole ndiposa akarudi mahali panapostahili.

Mheshimiwa Spika, mswada ambao umeletwa ni wa kuhakikisha ya kwamba Kaunti yetu ya Laikipia inavutia watalii ili nao waweze kuingia kwenye Kaunti yetu na kutuwachia ushuru. Watalii wanapotembea kwenye Kaunti ya Laikipia, wanazuru hifadhi ya wanyamapori ya Ol Pejeta na hifadhi nyingine zilizo Laikipia Kaskazini na zilizo kwenye Laikipia Mashariki kama vile Solio. Ni vizuri Kaunti yetu ifanye kila jambo kuhakikisha kuwa wananchi wanaozingira maeneo hayo wanabahatika na kupata mapato kutoka kwa watalii wanaotembelea sehemu hizo.

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Katika wadi ninayowakilisha ya Thingithu, kuna hifadhi inayoitwa Ol Pejeta na inatembelewa na wanafunzi, watalii wa hapa na wa ng'ambo. Wanapoingia ile sehemu, hakuna kitu kama majirani tunaweza jivunia. Naweza kupitia huu mswada kama vile Mheshimiwa Salim amesema kwamba serikali itenge eneo ambalo wananchi ambao wako sehemu hio watasaidika. Ukiendelea Ol Pejeta, kuna mashamba mengi na kama serikali ya Kaunti inaweza tenga hata kama ni ekari moja iweze kuwasanya wale vijana ambao wanafanya mambo mengi. Hawa vijana wako na teknolojia mingi. Tunaweza kuwa na mahali ambapo hawa watalii wanaweza kusimama na kuingiana na wenyeji. Kama kuna vitu wanataka kununua, wananunua na wanawacha pesa kwa hio jamii na eneo hilo.

Upande wa Laikipia Kaskazini ni vivo hivyo. Tunataka serikali yetu ya Kaunti isimame kidete na ihakikishe kwamba hizo hifadhi za wanyama, wale watalii wanapoingia mle vilevile serikali ya Kaunti inapata nafasi ya kuokota ushuru. Mashamba mengine wamekuwa na mtindo, mtalii akiwasili katika kiwanja ya ndege ya Jomo Kenyatta, wako na njia ya kuchukua yule mtalii na moja kwa moja wanamleta na ndege hadi kwa zile hifadhi za wanyama. Hapo Serikali ya Kaunti inapoteza pesa.

Vilevile, nimeona katika ule mswada, ametaja mambo ya Kirimon. Hii ni sehemu tunaweza chukua kama sehemu ya serikali ya Laikipia tuhakikishe tuko na ile sehemu ya utalii ambapo wale watakuwa wanaingia wanalipa moja kwa moja kwa serikali ya Laikipia na tutaweza kuokota pesa mingi na tuwasaidie hawa wananchi wetu na pia Kaunti yetu kupitia ule ushuru tutaokota huko.

Kaunti ya Narok, wako na Maasai Mara. Ile pesa hiyo Kaunti inaokota hata ile kiwango wanapewa na serikali kuu wakipewa wanaichukua tu kufanyia kazi zingine kwa sababu wako na mapato ya kutosha. Tuko na shamba hapa ya Kirimon. Sasa imeanza kumezewa mate na hadi wageni. Watu ambao sio wa Kaunti yetu.

Juzi, Gavana wa Kaunti ya Samburu alisimama na kuambia wananchi wake kwa lugha ya mama kwamba anataka kukata ardhi Laikipia maana ameona sisi hakuna kazi tunafanya ilhali tuna mashamba mzuri. Atachukua wale Wasamburu wako huko awalete hapa. Bwana Spika, hatuna shida na Wasamburu. Ni marafiki wetu. Lakini kuna yule Msamburu wa Laikipia. Huyo apewe ardhi hapo. Lakini huwezi simama useme utatoa watu wa Kaunti ya Samburu uwalete Laikipia kana kwamba Laikipia hakuna watu. Namwambia Laikipia haiko chini ya Kaunti ya Samburu.

Bwana Spika, Kaunti ya Laikipia ina Gavana wake, Seneta na MCA's wake. Matamshi kama hayo tunayakemea hapa Bungeni na nje ya Bunge. Lazima tulinde mipaka yetu. Hio ndiyo imeleta shida. Wale wako pande ile wanafikiria watatuingilia vile tunataka. Lazima tusimame tutetee Kaunti yetu.

Hio ardhi ya Kirimon tuitumie maana usipotumia shamba lako, jirani ataimezea mate na atakuonyesha kutumia. Naomba Gavana wetu wa Laikipia afike mahali pale wakiwa na CECM wa mambo ya barabara na ardhi na ndio waweze kupima hio ardhi ndio tuone ni wapi tunaweza tenga kama kivutio cha watalii katika Kaunti yetu. Kwa hayo machache, nashukuru na kuunga mkono. Pia naomba wajumbe wote waunge mkono. Asante.

*(Question proposed)*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Members. I now open the floor for debate for this motion.

**Hon. Simon Kanyutu:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I contribute, may I first of all welcome the people from Meru County. I also thank their teachers for giving the pupils the

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exposure for learning. Someday in future, maybe they are the ones who will be sitting on these positions once we will not be around.

I support the motion by Hon. Salim Edung and I appreciate though in my area, the motion has not been captured. I would wish that the Rumuruti Forest be included as one of the tourist sites. Sometimes back, I used to fight because of elephant invasion in our farms. I can attest because when I speak of the same, I can see the Olmoran Member looking at me with very bad eyes because he is still having invasions on his side.

Recently, I have come to realize that Rumuruti Forest is one of the best tourism areas that we need to involve. I can attest that of late, we are enjoying even taking selfies with elephants from the other side without any penny paid to the county. If the county can capture those sides and improve them for tourist visits, it can be one of the best and much revenue can be collected from the same.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday all the veterinary officers pertaining wildlife were in my area doing a post-mortem on a dead elephant. I am sure that if they had earmarked that area as a tourism site, on Thursday all tourists would be in that area witnessing a fight between two elephants. We're witnessing from a far but the fight was very big until one was killed by the other and that is why the post-mortem was being done yesterday.

It would have been one of the best scenes where tourists from all over the world would have witnessed that fight and take videos. Mr. Speaker, this is a very noble motion and I would wish that when giving priorities, we consider even the areas that have been properly fenced by the government so that our wildlife is well catered for.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Kanyutu. I hope that you were able to take the video of the spectacular happening in Rumuruti but I think it attests truthfulness and need for it to become a developed tourist destination.

**Hon. Anthony Theuri:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this motion. Before I give my contribution, I want to applaud our visitors today. I was a bit late because as I had stated yesterday, our roads are in a pathetic state and it is a shame but they have to bear with us because the economy is not doing very well for us. I hope that as I had said to my able Chair for Budget, we have to look at that.

When I got in, I thought that it was my school because in my primary years, I had the same uniform they are wearing today. I wish to encourage them, let them use this opportunity as an inspiration. Although they are in Meru, they can do it, they can become MCAs, Speakers, MPs and even the President or the corporate world. All they have to do is to dedicate themselves, be obedient and keep focus in whatever they do but above all they should leave everything to God.

**Speaker:** I would like you to let the students know that as young as you are, you are the Deputy Speaker of this House, The Laikipia County Assembly.

**Hon. Anthony Theuri:** Mr. Speaker, I am honoured but I cannot blow my trumpet although it is true. My name is Anthony Theuri Wambui, Member representing Nanyuki Ward and also good neighbours with Buuri Ward and I am the Deputy Speaker. They can do even better than me Mr. Speaker. I will do the best because I want to be an inspiration.

Coming back to the motion, I want to state that in Laikipia, as much as we want to be an agricultural county, we are also known to be the destination county and a tourism county. Less than 200 metres from here, we have got the equator. Jogging your mind Mr. Speaker

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without wanting to praise myself, one year ago I was in Dubai and what Dubai is doing now, they are concentrating on tourism because they are no longer supplying oil like before.

200 metres from this House, we have the equator line. It is a shame that we are not receiving anything in the county. That is a tourism hub and in a normal day, they receive 200 or 300 people. If we go there and be collecting a hundred shillings in a day, our contribution towards the National Government would be higher.

I would urge the county I included, to come up with a policy that is going to take accountability. Right now, as we are here, no one knows how many tourists we have got in Laikipia. Yes, we have got the ranches, the Mt. Kenya Safari Club and all the areas where the tourists visit in this county but we do not have the number.

Mr. Speaker, once we do not have accountability, we don't know who is coming or going out, how are we going to collect that revenue? Do you know that those ranches and tourism sectors that we have got in Laikipia, have got more money that we receive from the National Government which is less than six billion. Those ranches have got a lot of money but because of our weakness on accountability, collecting revenue, corruption and bad politics, we are losing revenue.

Those people can employ more people than the county. We can take that advantage and end this ethnic crisis and the tribal crashes that are there once and for all. Once we have money and good marketing strategy, we shall come up with a good ministry of tourism that is dedicated in marketing strategy. I am sure we are going to collect more money.

Mr. Speaker, we have everything in Laikipia including the best weather and everything that we desire in Kenya. It is a shame that we have not taken advantage. We do not know what we are sitting on. There is hearsay which I do not have a confirmation but because I am protected in this House, I will say that there are rumours that they might be collecting minerals from our county and taking it to other countries.

Mr. Speaker, we have gold and diamond here and we do not know. Once the whites close that gate, we cannot enter. Before, I had stated here during the Finance Bill and it is the highest time we become more serious with these ranches and our resources. It is the high time we go to those ranches and count all the rooms and BnB's. Then, we shall start charging on those rooms and not the whole ranch as we have been doing before.

I have come to realise that we are taking advantage of the small-scale farmers. We shall go to all kiosks, the hardware and in the market places daily collecting revenue but we hardly go to the big fish. It is the highest time we widen the scope and take advantage of the situation that we are in and they are going to contribute.

Mr. Speaker, I remember I said here that we are going to be collecting Kshs. 60 per acre and not Kshs. 30. I am not relenting on that. Even if I have been left alone in this House, I know these Hon. Members are going to join me. It is the high time the big fish contribute highly to the economy and not on the other side. I am going to join Hon. Salim and any other Member and especially the Hon. Members from Laikipia North by trying to take advantage of the big fish and making sure that these students are going to find a better country than the one we had before.

They must contribute to Education. They do but on the minimal. They must contribute to the health sector to the fullest. They must contribute to the infrastructure. If a road is going to a certain ranch or a hotel, they must maintain that road. They must put the security lights.

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They must contribute to each and every corner of the economy. That is what I saw in Dubai. Mr. Speaker, as I sit down, I was amused that in Dubai they have a Minister for Happiness.

Everywhere you go, even if you visit a toilet you will find a very beautiful Arab Lady dressed decently who will ask whether you are happy and whether you were served well. In the hotels and roads, they will make sure they are steering leisure. We are better than Dubai by far. That is my vision which I am going to follow. Mr. Speaker, I know that is your taste so you are going to join me and you are going to transform this county. Mr. Speaker, I rest my case and I support this great motion. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Members. The floor is open for the Members who may wish to contribute. Looking at the mood of the House, Hon. Members allow me to take this opportunity to invite the mover of the motion to reply.

**Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and the Members for the robust discussion and contribution we have had. This is time for Laikipia and if at all we do it the right way, we will still make our county and our country great. We will fly high in the Tourism sector across the world. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I really appreciate.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Speaker:** The sittings of this House stand adjourned until later today Wednesday, 28th August, 2024 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 10.40 a.m.

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