REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 2nd April, 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: I direct that the bell be rung for ten minutes.

(Quorum bell rung for two minutes)

Speaker: Hon. Salim?

Hon. Salim Edung: Mr. Speaker, we have quorum now.

Speaker: Clerk, confirm if indeed we have quorum?

(Clerk confirmed achievement of quorum)

Speaker: I direct that the bell stops ringing, and we proceed to the business of the House.

PETITION

REGARDING THE DURABLE SOLUTION TO OVER 6,000 INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS HOUSEHOLD LIVING WITHIN LAIKIPIA COUNTY FOR OVER TWO DECADES

1. Article 119 of the Constitution accords any person the right to petition Parliament to consider any matter within its authority. Further, Standing Order 200(2) (b) requires the Speaker to report to the House any Petition other than those presented by a Member.

2. In this regard, Honourable Members, I wish to report to the House that, my office has received a petition from Laikipia County Internally Displaced Persons.

3. The Petitioner claims that the Laikipia County is famously known for hampering the biggest population of internally displaced persons in Kenya. There exist over 6,000 households of internally displaced persons who are spread across all the sub counties of Laikipia.

4. The petitioner further claims that, they represent those displaced from tribal clashes of 1992, the post-election violence of 2007/2008 Forest evictees' and those displaced by natural and man-made disasters within the Laikipia County boarder.

5. Hon. Members, the petitioner states that, issues of displacement is a human right issue and is of great concern to this Country because it is the responsibility of the

Disclaimer: *The electronic version of the Official Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor*

National Government as well as the County Government to protect, prevent and assist its citizens by all means whatsoever.

6. The petitioner is concerned that, there are many landless people, who could not return to their original habitual residence due to fear of being attacked. Petitioner reiterates that, best efforts to have the matter addressed by various institutions including, ministry of Interior, ministry of Lands Office of the President, National Assembly, Senate among others have been unsuccessful.

7. Hon. Members, the petitioner therefore prays that; the Laikipia County Assembly to come up with the durable solution to over 6,000 internally displaced persons living within Laikipia County for over two decades.

8. Hon. Members, having established that the matter raised in the Petition is well within the authority of this House; and further, that the matters raised in this Petition are not pending before any court of law, constitutional or legal body, I hereby commit the Petition to the County Cohesion, Justice and Legal matters Committee for consideration pursuant to Standing Order 202(1).

9. The Committee is required to consider the Petition and report its findings to the House and to the Petitioner in accordance with Standing Order 222(2).

I thank you.

NOTICE OF MOTION

THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT TO DEVELOP REGULATIONS ON BETTING AND GAMBLING

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

THAT, AWARE THAT Cultural activities, public entertainment and public amenities, including betting, casinos and other forms of gambling is a function of the County Government under part 2 of the fourth schedule of the Constitution of Kenya;

APPRECIATING THAT, gambling is a mode of entertainment that makes use of money as a tool for betting, stimulates local economies and Creates New Forms of Revenue, provides fun and excitement, excessive gambling may become risky, more so if Casinos that operate legally are not regulated by the right authorities strictly;

RECOGNIZING THAT, Uncontrolled gambling and betting contribute to rising cases of debt, crime, and family breakdowns;

NOTING THAT many young people and vulnerable members of society are falling into gambling addiction due to easy access to betting platforms;

This House therefore URGES the County Government to come up with comprehensive Regulations on betting, casinos and other forms of gambling.

BILLS

First Reading

LAIKIPIA COUNTY FINANCE BILL, 2025

Speaker: The Laikipia County Finance Bill, 2025 stands committed to the Committee of Finance and County Planning.

Disclaimer: *The electronic version of the Official Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor*

MOTION

THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT TO DEVELOP REGULATIONS ON BETTING AND GAMBLING

Hon. Catherine Umija: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to move the following motion:

THAT, AWARE THAT Cultural activities, public entertainment and public amenities, including betting, casinos and other forms of gambling is a function of the County Government under part 2 of the fourth schedule of the Constitution of Kenya;

APPRECIATING THAT, gambling is a mode of entertainment that makes use of money as a tool for betting, stimulates local economies and Creates New Forms of Revenue, provides fun and excitement, excessive gambling may become risky, more so if Casinos that operate legally are not regulated by the right authorities strictly;

RECOGNIZING THAT, Uncontrolled gambling and betting contribute to rising cases of debt, crime, and family breakdowns;

NOTING THAT many young people and vulnerable members of society are falling into gambling addiction due to easy access to betting platforms;

This house therefore URGES the County Government to come up with comprehensive Regulations on betting, casinos and other forms of gambling.

Mr. Speaker, I think this motion has been brought to the floor before, and we are still urging the County Government to ensure that betting companies and casinos which facilitate these kinds of gambling are well regulated. I know that casinos are not so many in Laikipia County but one thing that I have come to realize is that there is this new form of betting that is usually done in the streets.

Normally, you will see a couple of people come to you and telling you that they are selling maybe a pen, and that if you buy three pens you will win a book. I am just giving that as an example. Once you are lured into buying the items, you realize that there is nothing that you are going to win. They tell you that you have lost and are supposed to pay something like a hundred shillings for one pen which perhaps costs ten shillings because you have not won whatever item they had said that you are going to win. You realize that you have bought a pen worth ten shillings for one hundred shillings after being lured through indirect gambling.

This is usually done by marketing companies which come saying that they are protecting something but if you look keenly, you find that you are going to bet in order for you to win something. I think the County Government ought to know the people who do those kinds of marketing. Mostly they target old women who are not aware of what is happening and they lose their money without knowing that they are engaging in gambling. I know that gambling is also being done on online platforms which has really lured young people into debts, crimes and has led to family breakdowns.

I know that this issue is being regulated by national bodies for control of betting, but I think it is the high time we talked to our people. Yes, you are allowed to gamble but in excess will lead to all these things. This is the high time that the County Government helps these young people to understand the level of engagement that they, the young people, can engage themselves in gambling so that we don't lose young people in gambling to ensure their time is used in doing other activities. I know it is a quick form of making money but it is the high time we talk to them and make them understand that gambling is not the only source of getting money. I request Hon. Stephen to support this motion.

Disclaimer: *The electronic version of the Official Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor*

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Asante Bwana Spika. Nasimama kuunga mkono huu mjadala umeletwa na Mheshimiwa Umija. Mswada ulioko mbele yetu ni wa maana. Tunafaa kufikiria kwa undani kwa sababu wakati huu, watu wengi wako kwa mambo ya Kamari. Watu wengi wameteseka katika miji mikuu na midogo ambayo inaendelea kukua.

Bwana Spika, sio mara moja ambapo watu wengi wameteseka katika hizi mitaa hasa wale wanatoka mashambani wakiingia mitaa wakikutana na wacheza karata. Mwishowe wananchi wanapoteza pesa zao bila kujua. Wale wanacheza hizi karata ama Kamari, kunafaa kuwe na sheria. Wanafuata sharia gani? Uko na kibari? Umepewa leseni? Ndiposa ujulikane wewe ni halali ama mkora. Wakora wanatumia hizi njia kuibia wananchi mchana peupe.

Bwana Spika, niliona Wamasai wengine wakitoka upande wa Doldol. Yeye ameuza mbuzi yake na kuja hapa kujivinjari kidogo, kisha anakutana na hawa watu wa kadi anaambiwa akizungusha hivi ama vile atapata elfu moja ama tako. Kisha anaambiwa awekelee. Baadaye, unapata yule mwananchi amepoteza pesa zake. Ile kitu inafanywa pale ni ukora.

Sisi kama viongozi tunafaa kuona mbele. Yule mwananchi amefanya kazi na anakula jasho yake lakini mwingine hapa anazunguka akingoja ulime ndiposa akuibie. Hio vitu zimeenea hadi kwa vilabu. Unapata Kamari ziko huko. Sisi kama serikali ya Kaunti tumejukumika kuhakikisha Kamari zimedhibitiwa. Lazima kama Kaunti tuwe na macho kubwa ndiposa tuone ni nini inaendelea.

Huu mswada umeletwa na Mheshimiwa Umija. Kusema ukweli ameangalia kwa ubali na akaona wale wanateseka ni wanaume, akina mama na watoto. Namshukuru kwa kuleta mswada kama huu wakati kama huu kumekuwa na mambo mengi hadi uongo unafaa udhibitiwe. Watu wanadanganywa kabisa na kwangu naona ni kama Kamari. Lazima hii mambo iangaliwe. Hadi kwa hii Bunge tunadanganywa. Natoka hapa naambiwa wiki ijayo utakuwa na pesa. Mwezi inaisha na hakuna kitu. Hio ni Kamari. Unatudanganya hadi lini?

Bwana Spika, mambo ni mengi. Jana nimekuwa hii mtaa nikiangalia miradi na mambo mengine. Mambo mengine niliona hapo ilienda kama Kamari. Hatujui mwishowe itakuwa namna gani. Lazima tuangalie haya mambo. Kamari ni uwongo mtupu. Wale wanafanya hivyo wanakubadilishia hizo kadi kisha wanaweka pesa mfukoni. Ile karata inachezwa hapa mjini itolewe. Wale wanafanya hivyo wanangoja shule zifunguliwe, wakati wa Disemba na Krismasi wakati watoto wako mjini. Yule mtoto ananyang'anywa mchana ilhali Serikali ya Kaunti iko.

Haya ni mambo ambayo tunafaa kuangalia na tujuae tunatoka wapi na tunaenda wapi. Wale wanacheza karata kama imekubaliwa uweke pale mchana. Tuone leseni yako hapo. Unatoka wapi na uwe unajulikana na ndio maana kukitokea mtu aseme ameibiwa ashikwe. Saizi mama akija aseme ameibiwa utashika nani? Alikuwa anachezea wapi? Haya ni mambo ambayo tunafaa kuangalia.

Vilevile kwa hii Kamari kuna wengine wamekuwa wakisema wameokoka. Unaambiwa uwekelee pesa yako hapa iombewe. Ukioka nayo, unapata ni makaratasi. Unabadilishiwa. Haya mambo ndio inaleta shida. Mbeleni tulikwa na DESI ambayo ilikuwa na Kamari. Pesa ulikuwa unawekelea izae. Itazaa namna gani? Imetiwa mimba na nani? Pesa haiwezi ongezeka hivyo tu. Lazima kuwe na njia mwafaka. Naunga mkono huu mswada ndio tudhibiti Kamari katika Kaunti yetu ya Laikipia. Nanyuki, Nyahururu, Doldol na mitaa ingine ambayo itakuwa. Lazima kuwe na taratibu za kuhakikisha kwamba wananchi wetu hawadanganywi. Naunga mkono na ni mpongeza mwenye mswada. Asante.

(Question proposed)

Disclaimer: *The electronic version of the Official Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor*

Hon. Joseph Gitahi: Thank you Mr. Speaker for this opportunity. As a chief gambler I was very much interested with this motion and see whether my interest has been taken care of. I support the motion as presented by Hon. Umija on issues of gambling and the importance of regulation for the same. I want to state that gambling has a wide scope. It could be in the sport betting site, street betting site and it has even aspect in the pyramid schemes and other financial investments systems where the return does not conform to the normal ways of you work and earn. The scope of gambling is wide.

Mr. Speaker, as you have stated gambling is not 100% bad, it is one source of revenue. It you go to developed countries; they have a lot of earnings from gambling. Even in this country Hon. Speaker, we have got a lot of revenue. Every time the budget is read, we always raise the taxes on betting as we raise taxes on other issues.

So, the government is collecting a lot of money from the issue. However, like the proverbial saying; too much of something is poisonous. In an extreme capitalistic society that we are living in, people have come up with issues that bring unfair odds, lack of consent for example like she is explaining that people just get into a gambling situation not knowing what they are doing.

Additionally, they have also been subjected to children without legal consent and people who are below 18 years and therefore, it is important that we develop regulations for the same. There has also been issues of gambling being related to other dark street activities and this must be checked. Academically, as we are going to modernity and post-modernity, there are issues that come in.

I have read papers on issues of gratification where people would want to get rewards instantly on issues they have not invested in. Therefore, it is important that as we step in post-modernity and other eras, we develop regulations so that generations are not predicted by such issues.

Hon. Speaker, there have been very negative effects towards gambling and I have heard the mover state a few of them. The first effect of gambling, it is not actually about winning and losing but the effect on self-esteem. I have just perused as she was explaining and I have seen a Swedish research paper that was saying that gambling and losses, erode esteem to a level of 5% on women and 11 % on men. Linking gambling to issues of suicide and other issues of self-harm. Additionally, once the individual is affected socially or their esteem is low, they are not able to perform socially. That person is not productive even at the place of work and they reduce the productivity that is expected of them at work places.

Finally, I want to state that gambling is related to the issue of mental health. We are in an era whereby we are hearing these words for the first time, issues of mental health and lack of compassion. Like the mover has stated, this thing has been tabled here in the past. It is upon this House and the committee related to ensure the implementation of the same. We also would wish to ask as stakeholders that the criminal justice system to work together with this Assembly to ensure that there is enforcement on issues that have been stated here. I am appreciative and I support the motion.

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I also rise in support of the motion. While I am supporting this motion, I might concentrate much on betting because gambling is something different and especially when it is discussed in this House. I understand that gambling is taking risky actions with an expectation. Most of the Members in this House are gamblers because taking risky decision probably expecting a desired result and that is what most of us do and especially when it comes to politics.

Disclaimer: *The electronic version of the Official Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor*

Some of do sell even pieces of land and that is gambling, with an expectation that after using certain amount of money, I will get certain desired results just but for some they will get opposite results of what they expected. I don't want to talk about gambling so much because I am also a gambler in a way.

Hon. Speaker, this motion has been brought in this House before. The key issue is about betting and Hon. Gitahi has just said that we have desperate community, young and old. When you don't have an answer to anything, you find yourself believing on anything that comes your way. So, the desperate community have gone too much on betting. You will find that the old and the young have lost a lot of money and the end result is mostly suicide. If you dig deep, you will find that most were very good in betting.

So, Mr. Speaker, I don't know how we are going to control betting because most of the bets are done a t a personal level. When Hon. Gitahi is seated like he is now, he might even bet from where he is immediately after contributing on this motion. So, I really don't know how we are going to control as the County Government of Laikipia.

I believe that there are people who are very good in betting when it comes to football and others. I have never tried but I can tell how excited they get. They can even wake up at 3.00 a.m. just to feel that they have done something before morning comes. So, because this thing is very personal, as a government, I don't know how we are going to regulate betting since most of the betting games are legal and they have placed them for people to do as they want at a personal level.

I think that the only thing we can do is to reduce the advertisement on those betting because if they are advertised, from there it is a personal responsibility because Hon. Speaker, if you feel like betting, you will bet from your phone because nobody else is in control of your mobile phone. I don't know how we are going to work on this one but there are those serious ones that are done elsewhere like the *pata potea.* I think that those are the ones we can control but on the others in a modern world where internet has taken over everything, where everybody has got their internet, we might think of controlling, use a lot of resources thinking that we are controlling only to find that we have done practically nothing.

Mr. Speaker, I wish that the same amount of money used in controlling can be used on mental health awareness because this issue of betting, most of it is mental health. I wish we can use a lot of money investing on mental health so that when Hon. Salim will be betting, he will be mentally sober. I am supporting and at the same time I am not supporting just there in between because I don't like supporting something that is practicable.

If something is not practicable, I don't like putting my mind so much in it because I will support but unfortunately, I am not in control of individual responsibility. So, I am just there. Therefore, I was just making my contribution. Thank you.

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to support the motion after a very hectic day yesterday. It is only that we were supposed to open the Assembly yesterday but it was not possible because we had the Head of State in our area and therefore, we had to ensure that we are there with him.

Mr. Speaker, it was hectic I don't know whether we are the junior people on the elective position because even recognition was an issue and we had to fight for our position. It was only that I pushed to get a chance and even introduce the other Members but I am sure that that is for another day. When elections are being held, we always get six boxes but sometimes they

Disclaimer: *The electronic version of the Official Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor*

just consider five. I don't know why the last box is never considered but yesterday I got a chance and I had to ensure that we did it to the maximum.

Mr. Speaker, I was lucky because I shook hands with the Head of State and later on, I also shook hands with my bishop. So today I am very well even now while playing my role here because my bishop prayed for me. I feel like a converted person.

Mr. Speaker, on gambling, I would wish to support what the Hon. Member has stated. We need to control this gambling because most of the young people consume most of the day trying to get money through betting. When we go to our local stations that we have, from morning to evening, the advertisements are somebody has won Kshs.100, 000 and another person 500,000 and there is a promise that in the course of the day, somebody will win three million. On the phone, you are spending Kshs. 100 only, sometimes our wives who are at home and you give some money to be utilized in the House rather than utilizing the money for the household activities, they spend on betting. Mr. Speaker, I wish we can properly control the stations that advertise betting.

I am shocked in my area because we have gadgets that are distributed by Chinese. Some gadgets are fixed in certain hotels and public places. Young men are just required to get Kshs 20 to bet to see whether they will get anything. In a trading centre, if you search for a Kshs. 20, you cannot find it. It is used to bet so that they try get some money. I wish it is controlled and if they are permitted, they should be regularized.

We should know the number of betting machines that ought to be in a trading centre, the area and the population that is supposed to be using that machine. This is an issue that is bothering our community. Mr. Speaker, if it is a must we have betting, this be regulated. If not, we should do away with it completely. Let us try to work hard to earn rather than betting. Mr. Speaker, you may think you will get rich, but you shall spend all your resources betting without getting anything.

Mr. Speaker, on my part, I wish we not only regulate but we also abolish betting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker for giving me this chance to contribute towards this motion on gambling and betting. Mr. Speaker, Gambling and betting has been a problem and a menace in our society. It started with playing cards long time ago. Today, gambling has graduated to electronic betting. Now, you do not need to visit premises to gamble. You can sit in your house and gamble through the phone.

The problem is that our society has embraced this as an income generating source whereas they think they will have an income through sitting in your homestead instead of looking for a job and get hand earned money. They just want to relax at their houses thinking that they can be able to earn from that. Betting is an entertainment and not an income. Mr. Speaker, there is a rule on gambling and betting that you never chase your losses. If at all you lose, you lose humbly and you move on.

Mr. Speaker, if you go on chasing your losses thinking that you will recover, that is where young girls and men are hanging themselves because they spent their hand earned money. Mr. Speaker, there is another rule that you do not spend more than 1% of your income. If you keep on chasing, you will spend 100% of your income thinking that you will be able to recover your losses. That is where our people are getting it wrong. They think that it is a mode of income generating activity whereas it is just a form of entertainment and it is addictive.

Disclaimer: *The electronic version of the Official Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor*

When you are hooked after losing everything, you think of committing suicide. This goes to the Members of this Assembly. If they push, they will hang themselves thinking that they will be re-elected. Mr. Speaker, I am cautioning these guys that you do not bet more than what you have earned. You stick to 1% or 2% and just to emphasise, try to save 98% because at the end of the day, the electorate will not be able to give back whatever you gave them.

They will squander your money and say may God bless the Honourable Member because of giving in plenty Mr. Speaker…

Speaker: What is it Hon. Mugweru?

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Hon. Speaker, I just want clarity from the Honourable Member. He is so much excited. Sometimes back he gambled in this House and he could be referring to the same and should advise us to be careful on the same.

Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki: Mr. Speaker, as I respond to Hon. Daniel's statement, he knows so he can refer to somewhere and he knows that. We have evidence and statement that can be able to substantiate this. So, he knows what we went through trying to please a society whereas he had none of that. Mr. Speaker, as I caution the Members, he also knows that these days I do not gamble and I am restricted. Mr. Speaker, I cannot bet with my income.

Mr. Speaker, as I support this motion there are many forms of gambling and this one in this Assembly is a form of gambling. Our society do not understand the reason to why they should elect a particular Member and not the other. It is always based on monitoring values. As I caution these Members not to gamble on the 2027 general elections. As a society we are heading to value of money decreasing and depreciating.

Just the other day there was a discussion that if at all you want to talk to Laikipian, if at all there is a discussion, the discussion has added value. By just speaking to the residents there was an agreement of Kshs. 3,000. That was the statement in the social media and it happened. The value of Kshs. 100 and Kshs. 200 has already gone with the wind. Now it is valued to Kshs. 1,000, Kshs. 2,000 or Kshs. 3,000.

If at all we are going to gamble with what we are earning here, then we should think twice before dwelling on the matter because the value and the thinking of our society is based on monetary value. There is no condemnation of gambling in the Bible. If you dwell in the Bible, you will read it page by page that there is no condemnation of gambling. The only statement that the bible says is that we be very cautious not to love money so much. The Bible states the love of money.

So, if it is an entertainment, let it be an entertainment. Let us not surpass the boundaries that have been set and we should be able to educate our society that this is not a form of income, but an entertainment by itself and they should not embrace it so much Mr. Speaker. Hard work is what we should embrace as a society and not easy money. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Mwaniki. Hon. Members, allow me to call upon the mover of the motion to reply.

Hon. Catherine Umija: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank all the Hon. Members who have contributed. I am happy that people have really expressed the difference between gambling and betting. They have just confessed that they have been practising gambling in one way or another. They have been cautioned by Hon. Mwaniki that in the next election, they should not gamble.

Disclaimer: *The electronic version of the Official Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor*

On the issue of getting elected seats, it is usually a gamble. It is a win-lose situation. There is always a winner and a looser. Most of the Members when they go to vie for these seats, we are aware that we can either get it or lose it. I think Members have not gambled with their seats but they are aware of the outcome at the end. It is a matter of accepting the outcome as it comes.

I hope some of the Members accepted the outcomes and they tried again and the outcome changed to their betterment. They are representing people from various wards in this Assembly. Thank you, Hon. Members. It is the high time that the County Government put in regulations. Just as Hon. Mugweru has said, he is emphasizing mostly on mental health and that we need to speak to our young people.

Now that the betting issue has gone to electronic means, it is the high time we start talking to our young people in regards to how they can get other forms of income and not concentrate on betting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: The sittings of this House now stand adjourned until later today Wednesday, 2nd April, 2025 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 10.52 a.m.

Disclaimer: *The electronic version of the Official Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor*