REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 2nd March, 2022

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

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

PRAYERS

QUORUM CALL

Speaker: Clerk, kindly confirm whether we have got quorum.

(Lack of quorum confirmed)

Speaker: Serjeant at Arms to ring the bell for ten minutes.

(The bell was rang for five minutes)

Speaker: Clerk, kindly confirm whether we have achieved quorum.

(Quorum confirmed)

BILLS

First Reading

LAIKIPIA COUNTY FINANCE BILL

Speaker: The Bill is committed to the Finance and County Planning Committee.

First Reading

LAIKIPIA COUNTY REVENUE ADMINISTRATION BILL, 2022

Speaker: The Bill is committed to the Finance and County Planning Committee.

MOTION

QUARTERLY REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS, PUBLIC WORKS, LANDS AND ENERGY

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I beg to move the following motion;

THAT, this Assembly adopts the report of the Transport and Public Works Committee County Government of Laikipia (Executive) quarterly report and financial statements for the department of Roads, Public Works, Lands and Energy for the period ended 30th September, 2020 dated 24th February, 2022.

As earlier said and as many committees have been saying, is that the importance of these quarterly report is to help us understand what the County Executive has been going through and the projects we have been implementing and how we have been utilizing our budget previously. So that it may guide us understand how we shall face future budgets and execution of works in this county.

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The Quarterly report of the committee of Transport and Public Works, the one that we have, has come timely when the County Assembly is preparing the next financial budget that is coming in the month of June. Being the last budget to be prepared by the Second county Assembly is very important to have this report and go deep into it so that as we prepare the budget we may be guided by what has transpired in the past.

It is one of the most important reports and two being from the department of infrastructure. As I said earlier, roads and public works touches every Member in this House, every village in Laikipia, and every resident in Laikipia County. This is one of the things that cuts across all the departments. There is no department in this County that can survive without a link in the department of infrastructure.

Previously, I had said that you cannot claim you are empowering the people of Laikipia agriculture wise, if you are not building proper roads in this County. What would be the importance of having a lot of yields, yet they cannot access the markets they want to take their produce to. What would be the importance of having a good hospital in a certain village and yet the patients cannot access that facility?

What would be the importance of having the department of the administration having streetlights or having the offices of the administrator and the administrator cannot reach the office? The department of infrastructure binds all departments in this County. It needs to be taken with a lot of seriousness. As we are having this quarterly report, the committee was able to observe because I believe the Hon. Members are able to go through the report.

The committee was able to observe the problem that we have been having in this County and that there was a notable pending bill of Kshs.401, 215,424. This amount is specifically related to the construction of civil works at Kshs. 365,496,331. Supply of goods which goes to Kshs. 182,333,000 and supply of services that is Kshs. 34,736,760.

It is also important to note that when we say that Kshs.401 million is specifically related to the construction of the civil works, or rather the Kshs.365 million is related to the infrastructural road works that we have made. Also, the supply that we are talking about, that is Kshs.982 million is still also related to the roads that we are doing. Some of the roads in this county, they do not have pits to get the gravel hence we also purchase even the gravel. We also have so many services that are offered in the same department.

Mr. Speaker, today we are having a pending bill of Kshs.401 million and still the people of Laikipia are still complaining and crying that they do not have good roads. This tells us that this House must invest heavily in this department. If we have been investing in Kshs.400 million yet the community is complaining, we should invest in more money like Kshs.800 million to improve the roads.

This is the department that gets the highest budget, and having the highest budget, it is also the department that every single person in this county complains about. Every village is complaining about their roads. If there are ten roads that are supposed to be made in a village, maybe we are able to make like five roads. The four or five remaining the same people who use the same roads will still complain.

We need to think about this department. I am saying this because we are in the process of making another budget. When you hear a Hon. Member saying that we need more money in this department, do not complain. The reason is because we want the people of Laikipia to get the best. The department of Health, Agriculture and any other department like Trade to get the

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best, because this is the link. It is the mediator, it links all the departments. We want them giving the best performance in this County.

As we are moving to the next budget, I urge Hon. Members to be guided by this report. Previously we have been having reports from departments. I do not want to mention them but they have been bringing their Financial Quarterly Reports that indicates that out of 100% money given to them, they have only been able to utilise 3%, others 2% and others Kshs. 0. It has been embarrassing to realize a department has utilized Kshs. 0 whereas we have the department of Transport that has over-utilized. They are even having pending bills amounting to Kshs. 401 million.

Mr. Speaker, there is no point of channelling money to a department that previously used Kshs. 0. There is no point of pumping money to a department that previously in the last quarter or a whole quarter or a whole year utilised only 2% or 3% of all the money we had given them. We need to pump the money to departments that are able to utilise the same amount. Mr. Speaker, I call upon Hon. Members that this time round we pump enough money into this department so that we get the best from it.

Secondly, the department having said all these, it is also important to caution the Department of Infrastructure irrespective of them having a lot of pressure from the community and Hon. Members, they should stick to the actual budget allocated to avoid the pending bills. If you have Kshs. 10, you cannot go promising your kids that you will buy them a vehicle. Instead of promising or getting debts and making them suffer, however much the pressure from the Hon. Members and Community, they should strictly commit projects that are within the actual budget to avoid these pending bills.

When we talk about pending bills, we are talking about the people of Laikipia who are suffering. It is affecting the department of Trade, Agriculture and other departments. The same people who do farming in this county are the same people who come and do business with this department. If you don't pay them, the circulation of money in this county goes down.

Mr. Speaker, if somebody was able to deliver and do the work that was given we should make sure that, that person was paid. If we fail, we are affecting him socially, towns that are within Laikipia and the economy of Laikipia. When you are given money it is not yours. The same person who will get paid this money is the same person who will go to the shopping centres and buy from the shops around. It's the same person that will do houses in this town. When we deny them their right it becomes so embarrassing.

It is even ironical we as a County Government are going to a certain hospital to launch it and that somebody has not been paid a single shilling and we enjoy to call the community to come and see what they have done yet there is somebody else who went to the bank to get a loan. That person is being chased by the bank a day after the other. Mr. Speaker, this becomes ironical. Mr. Speaker, however much we say that the department has a lot of pressure, it is also important. Let the County Executive strictly commit projects that are within the actual budget to avoid pending bills.

Mr. Speaker, we have had so many people who are depressed simply because that person went to the bank, took millions of money, went to the field to do a road and the community is enjoying that road. The County Executive is praising itself saying what they have done, a Hon. Member like myself will go saying that I have done the following yet the person who did on our behalf is crying in town.

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We need to be very careful and so I call upon the Hon. Members to support this report and go deeper into this report so that it may guide us in preparing the next budget. Also, the committee responsible, after bringing this report it should go to the next step and push the County Executive in all department to commit projects that are within the actual budget allocation. We do not want to find ourselves with these pending bills yet we are making our people suffer. Mr. Speaker, I call upon Hon. Wilson Wakahiu to second this report. Thank you.

Hon. Wilson Wakahiu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I second the report by the committee on the quarterly report of Transport and Public Works Committee. I am a member and what the Chair has said is what has been effected as far as the County Government of Laikipia is concerned in that department.

Mr. Speaker, as I noted in the report there have been some changes and issues that need to be addressed as far as the County Government and the department is concerned. For this Mr. Speaker, as the chair has said there has been a depreciation on land rates and vehicle parking fees in the said financial year review. Mr. Speaker, the committee has tried its best to make sure that this issue has been taken to the Executive in the Department of Infrastructure to make sure that they address that matter.

Mr. Speaker, as I second, I want to appreciate the Committee Chair because that is what the committee has noted. We have also decided that the remaining part of the lease term, we will have to work together with the Executive to make sure that the issue has been addressed and also the parking fee and the land rates have been raised and addressed as per the committee recommendations. Mr. Speaker, I second.

(Question proposed)

Speaker: It is time for Members to make contributions.

(Prolonged silence)

Speaker: I want to assume that you are supporting in silence. May the mover give a reply.

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Hon. Speaker, I wish to thank the Hon. Members. Silence means that they are contented with the report, have understood it and have no queries on it. I also wish to thank the committee for producing the best report which is not questionable in this House. Thank you.

Speaker. Thank you, but I also wish to remind the Members that you cannot vote in silence, you have to say either Aye or Nay. The Speaker has to hear that to make a ruling on who has won the day.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: This House now stands adjourned until later today, Wednesday 2nd March, 2022 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 9.26 a.m.

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