REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 30th 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 10 minutes.

(Quorum bell rung for 6 minutes)

Speaker: Hon. Salim?

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

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

(Clerk confirmed achievement of quorum)

Speaker: Now that we have quorum, I direct that the bell stops ringing and we proceed to the business of the day.

PAPERS

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I have a paper to lay:

The public participation report on the Laikipia County Finance Bill, 2025 dated 25th April 2025.

Thank you.

(Hon. Stephen Ndiritu laid the Paper on the Table of the House)

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REPORT ON THE LAIKIPIA COUNTY FINANCE BILL, 2025

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Hon. Speaker, I have a notice of motion;

THAT, this Assembly adopts the public participation report on the Laikipia County Finance Bill, 2025 dated 25th April 2025.

Thank you.

MOTION

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REPORT ON THE LAIKIPIA COUNTY FINANCE BILL, 2025

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Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Thank you again, Hon. Speaker. I beg to move the following motion;

THAT, this Assembly adopts the public participation report on the Laikipia County Finance Bill, 2025 dated 25th April 2025.

Hon. Speaker, I have the document here with me, the hard copy, and I think Members have the same on their gadgets so that we can go through this report together. On the first page is the motion's headline. The second page contains the table of contents, which are listed there. On the third page is the preface, that is, committee establishment and mandate.

PREFACE

1.1 Committee Establishment and Mandate.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the Finance and County Planning Committee was constituted by the HOUSE on 26th October 2022 and comprises of the following seven members:

- Hon Stephen Ndiritu - Chairman
- Hon John Gichuki - Vice Chairperson
- Hon Mary Gathoni - Member
- Hon Paul Leshuel - Member
- Hon George Karuiru - Member
- Hon Catherine Umija - Member
- Hon Samuel Mugambi - Member

The Finance and County Planning Committee was established pursuant to the Standing Orders 191(1). The committee has a mandate in County Public Finance and planning development including statistics; land survey and mapping; boundaries and fencing; housing and electricity and gas reticulation and energy regulation. The Committee is also mandated to make reports and recommendations to the Assembly as often as possible, including recommendations of proposed legislation.

AKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mr. Speaker Sir, on behalf of the Finance and County Planning Committee, I wish to extend my gratitude to the members of the Committee for their dedication and commitment to their work. The committee also extends its appreciation to the office of the Speaker and Office of the Clerk of the County Assembly of Laikipia for their support that has enabled the committee to participate in this duty and steer it on the path to accomplish its mandate. The report was signed by the chairperson on 25th April 2025.

INTRODUCTION

Mr. Speaker Sir, the Laikipia County Finance Bill, underwent first reading on Tuesday, 2nd April 2025 after which it was committed to the Finance and County Planning Committee. The Committee on Finance and County Planning during a meeting at the Assembly board room resolved that the Finance Bill 2025 undergoes public participation through submission of memorandum.

Hon. Speaker, that is what we agreed as a committee. The public participation exercise (submission of memoranda) is in accordance to Article 196 (1) (b) of the Constitution of Kenya

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and Standing Order No. 120(3). That is where you find the memorandum being allowed by the Constitution of Kenya. So, what we did here was according to the Standing Orders and the Constitution of Kenya which allows us to do that if we wish, and in this case, we wished to do the same.

The County Assembly invited interested members of the Public, investors, Civil Society Organizations, Community Based Organizations, Faith Based Organizations and Special Interest Groups to submit memoranda on input on the Laikipia County Finance Bill, 2025 through a gazette notice in the Star and Nation Newspapers on 7th April 2025.

Hon. Speaker, we asked all the groups through a gazette notice to submit to us their memoranda. For those who read The Star, there was that gazette notice. For the Nation Newspaper, which I know all the Members of this County Assembly and most members of the public read.

On that day, we had that advert. That is annexure 1. And 2. The Gazette notice clearly indicated that the memorandum be submitted on or before 17th April, 2025 through the Clerk of County assembly and by email to information to info@laikipiaassembly.co.ke. The Laikipia Finance Bill, 2023 was uploaded on the County Assembly Website on 6th April, 2025 for downloading by members of public.

The Public Participation Office embarked on an exercise of distributing copies of Finance Bill, 2025 across the county with copies accessible for reading at sub county administrators' office and community libraries in Nanyuki, Rumuruti and Nyahururu. The Finance and Planning Committee received only one memorandum from Laikipia Conservancies Association as in annexure 3.

Hon. Speaker, we also had Committee recommendation;

1. The bill proceeds to second reading.
2. Members of the House consider the views of the public and committee of the whole House.
3. House adopt the finance and County Planning Committee report (Public Participation report) on Laikipia Finance Bill 2025

Hon. Speaker, that is the report and I was reading as the Chairperson. Public participation is an exercise required by the law. We have done our work and asked for the memorandum. The memoranda are here from the conservancies and they can see their proposal. It is in our mandate to consider the memorandum. In the stage of the whole House, if we wish to make amendments, we will do it at the stage of the Whole House Committee.

This was a good report and the committee has done its work and we are asking the Assembly to agree with us on this report so that we can proceed to the next stage and go ahead and pass the Laikipia County Finance Bill so that the Government can collect the revenue as per the document and within the law. Having said, that I want to call one Member who is very active and very present in our meetings. He is a robust Member; Hon. Karuiru from Olmoran to second this motion.

Hon. George Karuiru: Thank you Hon. Speaker and the Chair for the opportunity to second this public participation report. When so many people remember what the National Assembly did some time back, I get worried because of the Finance Bill? One of the very smart things with the Committee as outlined by the Chair, we underwent through the process as the

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law stipulates and we have done due diligence and members of public participated in one way or the other.

As mandated by this House, the committee has checked and I know the Members of this House will adopt the report and our county will move forward. Thank you, I second.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Anthony Theuri: Thank you Hon. Speaker. I rise in the rejection of the same. We have been in this House and everything we have been doing is agreeing. The history usually repeat itself. We are in that season of the Finance Bill. Particularly, what I am rejecting is what they are calling Laikipia Conservancy Association.

Mr. Speaker, we are employed by Wananchi and they expect a lot from us and especially development. We need money. In this, whatever they have proposed here doesn't make sense. I am not in agreement that the airstrips charges should be scrapped. On this, I don't know when are we going to learn? I have been giving an example since time immemorial especially on the land fees. We had proposed Kshs. 60 per acre. Encouraging little money from these acreages is encouraging idle lands.

Mr. Speaker, a day before yesterday we lost five people because of land. We are encouraging land grabbing. They are not helping the community. How do you tell us that we will scrap the money we have put here yet the 50 x 100 plot in Kanyoni, Likii and Thingithu are paying more than Kshs. 4,000. How are you going to explain this to our people?

Speaker: Hold on Hon. Anthony. What is it Hon. Stephen?

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Hon. Speaker, I stand on a point of clarification. What the Member is reading is the memorandum that was brought by the ranchers. That is not what we want. It is just a memorandum which was brought by the ranchers.

As a committee, we are going to do the necessary during the Whole House when we are going to reject the proposal. In this stage, we are only giving the public participation proposals and what we have attached here is the memorandum. So, this does not mean that what is written here is what we want as a committee and that is why I want to make a clarification to the Hon. Members because we cannot agree with what people have asked for here. We have to show the Members what people are asking for so that when we come to the Whole House, we will do the necessary. So, I am begging the Hon. Members to support the memorandum but when we come to the next stage, they are going to oppose.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Stephen, for the clarification. Hon. Anthony, the floor is still yours.

Hon. Anthony Theuri: I don't know why Hon. Stephen is in a hurry when I am making my remarks yet I am rejecting the memoranda in advance. We are not very new in this country and we still have a right to participate in every ministry. Whatever is being done here is a preparation of what we are expecting from them.

Mr. Speaker, we are not going to agree on that. Hon. Stephen, I know the rules of the House and I am not in a fight with the committee. I am just doing my due because we are not going to agree with what they agreed on here but we are going to bring our proposal. It is good to know that whatever we present here is not our mind but the ideas and what Wanjiku wants from the ground.

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So, I am only preparing this House on what to reject. We cannot be held hostage by some few whites who are after their own interests just because they have an advantage of money and can bribe in one way or another. They cannot bribe this House and they are not going to walk away with this. They can go to the court as they have been doing but we are going to oppose it here.

Hon. Ndiritu, I want to congratulate you because you have done the necessary and I am just preparing you on what to expect when you bring it to the House. Thank you, I second the report but not in agreement with the memoranda.

Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to support this report on Finance Bill. As I went through the report, I noticed a point indicating that there is a memorandum that was written by the conservancy. Having the chairperson of Finance Committee in the House, I would urge him to facilitate us with the memoranda or it be uploaded in the system so that the Members can be able to understand its details.

They will be able to understand where the bitterness that was raised by Hon. Anthony was coming from because as a House, we are the people who approved that conservancies per acreage to charged Kshs.60 shillings. In case there is a change, they need to bring in a memorandum. In a county, what basis that determines the development is the amount of revenue generated from the county.

As a House we had observed that we were undercharging the conservancies and therefore we want a progression plan of how the land rates can be increased periodically through a law that will guide on how much we should collect per year. It should be gradual as years go by so that we can increase by Kshs.10 shillings per year so that by the end of 20 years, we will have reached a substantial amount of revenue.

Having such a memorandum in this House is good and in case there was a public participation, we are in support of that because our people in the localities are still questioning how much the conservancies are paying because our people are living from hand to mouth. Our people are complaining because they are paying hefty charges across the county whereas a few people with large tracts of land are paying peanuts.

That is why as a Member of this House rose to support this report by Finance Committee on the public report that was done so that we can be able to embark on another journey regarding more revenue collection and increment raised by the Revenue Department. I support.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Mwaniki. As you began your contribution, I was consulting with an officer to ensure that the complete report is uploaded in your gadgets as you have requested. The floor is still open for Members.

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I wish to thank the committee for going to the public and getting views. That was the best thing that could have happened to the people of Laikipia but as Hon. Mwaniki has just said, the truth of the matter is that what is in the gadget is only the motion and nothing else. The memorandum is not there but Hon. Speaker, it is so unfortunate when you expect us to discuss something that we do not know.

Hon. Speaker, the good thing is that there is another stage for the same. It is also a preparation for the committee that any other serious business like this, the Members should at least be having a copy of the same. If the people of Umande agreed to move in a certain direction, I am their eye. If I see that they are heading to the wrong direction, I still have got powers to direct them because the people who go for public participation at times attend in a hurry and at times, they don't understand what is being addressed at that time.

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A good leader should lead his people to the right direction. As we go to the next stage, we really call upon the committee to ensure that all Members at least have the documents with them so that we can see what the ranchers requested, what the members of the public said and in between we make the right directions.

The committee may have overlooked something because in the documents, I am able to see the three recommendations that the bill goes to the second reading and that is okay. We will be able to make changes and give the right directions. The other recommendation is to consider the views of the public. It is upon us as a House to not only consider the views but looking at the views and making the right decisions for the people of Laikipia.

That is why we are called leaders and that is why we are in this House and not everybody is in the House. It is upon us and the committee should lead us. It should not give a biased recommendation as if they have already agreed that we must go by what was said. It is upon us and that is why I feel it is important for us to have the report. Maybe that is why they feel that we should consider that because the committee went through the report.

Now we do not have the report ourselves. We should have it so that we may be able to decide whether to consider or to amend. That is why we are in this House. Hon. Speaker, I support that the bill proceeds to the second reading. I call upon Members especially the Finance Committee Members to make sure that at that time, we all have documents. Secondly, the Members of the House, as they consider the public participation report, they feel that they have rights to amend and give the right direction to the people of Laikipia.

I thank the committee and I hope that next time, there will be no discussion or contribution in this House if we do not have the report. We cannot be working blindly in this House Honourable Speaker. We cannot live this life and history of the Leader of the Opposition whose members are not in. One of them has arrived and has heard me mentioning their party. When the leader says that when he has read, everyone has read, we go blindly.

That should not happen in this House. The committee should make sure that we have reports. There are some Members who are stubborn like me. I know I am stubborn as well as a slow learner, so make sure I have a hard copy. Give the hard copies to other slow learners like me. They may not be able to go through the gadgets. I need my hard copy when I am making such an important decision.

Other committees should also consider that when it is an important decision, we should all have our copies. We should go through so that we make the right amendments and the right progress for this county. I thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. As I can see, I want to give the mover of the motion to reply.

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Asante, Mheshimiwa Spika. Ninasimama kushukuru kwa wale wote ambao wameweza kuchangia huu mswada. Huu ni mswada ambao umefanyiwa kazi na kamati. Kamati hufanya kazi kwa niaba ya Bunge. Kwa hivyo, nimeweza kusikia vile Waheshimiwa wamesema. Bwana Spika, yale yote ambayo wamesema ni ukweli mtupu lakini kuna mahali ambapo kuna changamoto. Wakati tunafanya hii ripoti, kulikuwa na shida ya kuweka ripoti kwenye mtandao.

Tulimaliza ripoti siku tatu zilizopita na tukasema iwekwe kwenye mtandao ili Waheshimiwa wapate. Wakati nilisimama, niliuliza vizuri kama Waheshimiwa wako nayo ili tupelekane pamoja. Kwa bahati mbaya wakati huo nilikuwa ninajadili muswada na singeweza

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kukatizwa. Nakubaliana lakini tumetoka *analogue* tukaingia *digital*. Bwana Spika, katika Bunge hili tumeingia enzi ya kidijitali. Biashara yote iko kwenye mtandao.

Nakala hiyo ingine ya wanafunzi wanaoelewa polepole kama Mheshimiwa Mugweru iko katika *pigeon hole.* Ingekuwa jambo la busara kama angeenda hapo na achukue hiyo nakala. Tuliweka hapo siku tatu zilizopita. Bwana Spika, kama haiko hapo, nitafuatilia kutoka kwa karani wangu sababu ya kutoziweka hapo Mheshimiwa Spika. Jambo la pili ni kwamba yale mapendekezo ambayo yamewekwa hapa na wafugaji, kama vile Waheshimiwa wamesema, ni ya kujipenda.

Bwana Spika, tunapochukua ushuru, tunachukua ili tujenge Kaunti yetu. Wale ambao wanafanya haya, ni kama kamati ambayo imejipanga. Wale ambao wanaongoza hapo hawana roho safi na Serikali ya Kaunti ya Laikipia. Mapendekezo ambayo wameweka hapo si ya wafugaji. Ni watu ambao wako na ofisi, nyumba ama jiko na wanakaa hapo kuandaa nakala kisha wanatuletea.

Sisi kama kamati ni haki yetu kuchukua na kuchambua ili tulete katika Bunge hili. Hiyo ni *memorandum* na wale ambao wameandika wasiweze kuitishwa chochote. Hiyo inakubalika kwa sababu ni maoni yao. Bwana Spika, wakati tulikuwa tunaenda *public participation* wananchi walikuwa wanatuambia tuondoe ushuru wa leseni na zinginezo. Tunapouliza Waheshimiwa kuzingatia maoni ya wananchi ni kumaanisha tuione, tuweke kwa akili lakini tufanye vile ambavyo tunataka.

Bwana Spika, hiyo ndio maana ya kusema tuzingatie. Bwana Spika, wakati uliopita, tuliweza kukubaliana ya kwamba ranchi walipe shilingi 60 ambayo ni kidogo kwa sababu wako na mashamba kubwa. Yale mambo ambayo yanafanyika katika hizo ranchi, inawapatia mabilioni ya pesa lakini hawataki kulipia. Wale ambao wanasumbua sana ni Borana. Wanafanya *filming* ambazo wanaziuza pesa nyingi sana lakini wanapokuja hapa wanasema tuwaondolee malipo.

Bwana Spika, wale ambao wanakuja na hizo gari wanalipa pesa mingi, lakini hawataki kulipa serikali. Bwana Spika, ukienda soko, mama mboga aliamka saa kumi na moja ili alipe shilingi ishirini na analipa. Ni kwa nini wazungu na kamati zao wanasema hawatalipa. Yeye ndiye yuko na pesa lakini hafai kulipa. Ninauliza Bunge hili, hata kama wenye ranchi wako hapa, nje ama mahali popote tunafaa kuwashughulikia. Tusipowashughulikia, hii Kaunti itaendelea kuumia.

Wamechukua mashamba yote na hakuna mahali tunaweza jenga mji. Wameweka ndovu na Wanyama wengine na wananchi wetu wanateseka. Bwana Spika, ukiwaambia watoe ushuru, wanakataa. Tunafaa kusikizana, kuangaliana na kuheshimiana. Watu walipe ushuru ili wajitegee. Tunamualika Mzungu katika Kenya afanye kazi lakini alipe ushuru. Kama mambo yanakumbaliwa na Katiba, anafaa kuyafuata. Kama hataki kulipa, basi aondoke kwa sababu nchi ni yetu.

Kama hawa Wazungu hawatalipa shilingi 60 na waseme wataenda kortini kutusumbua, basi tutaongezea iwe zaidi ya shilingi 60. Sisi kama Bunge, mambo ikifika kortini, wale ambao ni wahusika, wawe wanajitokeza kortini kutetea maamuzi ya Bunge inavyostahili. Wakati uliopita, walitushinda kwa sababu tulipoambiwa tupeleke malalamishi yetu kortini, hatukuenda. Wale ambao wanatuwakilisha hawakuenda na tukalainishia wenye ranchi njia. Bwana Spika, sasa wanataka kuitumia tena.

Tunafaa kuwa makini ili watu walipe ushuru. Kulipa ushuru ni kujitegemea. Tukija kwa mswada wa fedha, tunafaa kuiweka vile ambayo inastahili. Kwa hayo machache na mengi,

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ninakubaliana na Waheshimiwa na ninawaomba sisi zote tuhudhurie ili tuwe kitu kimoja kukabiliana na Mzungu mweupe na mweusi. Asante.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Stephen for your motion. This has been a public participation report debate. According to our Standing Orders, the question is not put because we still have more stages of this. Let us move to next order.

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: The sittings of this House now stand adjourned until later today Wednesday, 30th April, 2025 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 10.50 a.m.

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