REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 4th June, 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 there is quorum.

(Lack of quorum)

Speaker: Without quorum, I direct that the bell be rung for ten minutes.

(Quorum bell rung for 10 minutes)

Speaker: Hon. Salim?

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

Speaker: I ask the clerk to kindly confirm if indeed we do have quorum.

(Clerk confirmed achievement of Quorum)

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

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

VISITING DELEGATION FROM PCEA NANYUKI GIRLS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Speaker: Hon. Members, allow me to recognize the presence of 44 Grade Eight pupils from PCEA Nanyuki Girls Boarding School. As they rise at the gallery, these students are from PCEA Nanyuki Girls Boarding Primary School in Nanyuki Ward, Laikipia East Constituency. They are accompanied by their teachers. As I call out your name, kindly raise your hand. Nancy Muteithia, Margaret Kahialo, Mwangi Mukunda, Kevin Mutuma, Jennifer Ndegwa, Stella Njoki. Thank you very much.

Hon. Members, on my own behalf and that of the Assembly, I wish to welcome them to the County Assembly of Laikipia and wish them a fruitful engagement during their visit to the County Assembly. You may be seated. Thank you very much and welcome.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT TO DEVELOP A POLICY ON GENDER MAINSTREAMING

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Hon. Catherine Umija: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to give a notice of motion on development of a policy on gender mainstreaming by the County Government:

Hon. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following motion;

THAT, AWARE THAT gender equality and women's empowerment are enshrined in the Constitution of Kenya 2010, particularly under Article 27, which guarantees equality and freedom from discrimination;

RECOGNIZING the efforts made by the Government of Kenya through policies such as the National Gender and Development Policy, the two-thirds gender principle, and the establishment of the State Department for Gender Affairs;

CONCERNED THAT despite these efforts, gender disparities persist in political representation, access to economic resources, education, and protection from gender-based violence;

NOTING THAT gender mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for promoting gender equality by integrating gender considerations into all policies, programs, and activities at all levels;

This House URGES the County Government to develop a gender mainstreaming policy that will seek to;

i. Fully implement and enforce the National Gender and Development Policy by ensuring gender-responsive budgeting and planning across all Departments and County Governments.

ii. Ensure all public and private institutions are mandated to adopt gender mainstreaming strategies, including the development of internal gender policies, gender audits, and staff training on gender issues.

iii. Ensure adequate funding in county budgets to support gender mainstreaming initiatives and the institutional capacity of the State Department for Gender and other relevant bodies.

iv. Regular monitoring, evaluation, and public reporting mechanisms should be instituted to track progress on gender mainstreaming across all sectors.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MOTION

THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT TO DEVELOP A POLICY ON GENDER MAINSTREAMING

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

THAT, AWARE THAT gender equality and women's empowerment are enshrined in the Constitution of Kenya 2010, particularly under Article 27, which guarantees equality and freedom from discrimination;

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iii. Ensure adequate funding in county budgets to support gender mainstreaming initiatives and the institutional capacity of the State Department for Gender and other relevant bodies.

iv. Regular monitoring, evaluation, and public reporting mechanisms should be instituted to track progress on gender mainstreaming across all sectors.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the National Government, according to Article 27 has already established a national gender policy. As required by the constitution, the County Government is supposed to adopt the national gender policy agenda and ensure that is enshrined within Laikipia County. We have noted that Laikipia County does not have its own gender policy that has been developed that ensures that gender agenda is propagated within the county.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to make it clear that gender is not about women but about all, both men and female. When people hear gender, they think that it is all about women and propagating women issues but in reality, we are only propagating for equality in all genders and that is what the constitution recognizes. We do not recognize the other genders like the other countries i.e., the he, the she, the them and the queer community. They are not in the gender according to our national constitution.

For Laikipia County, we do not have any policy and this is an important policy to ensure that we mainstream issues to do with equality in terms of getting education and the resources, in terms of planning ensuring that the gender department gets a bit of finances. I know that we have been looking at our budget and some amount of money has been allocated for the gender department.

I want to say that the amount that has been allocated, because most of my counterparts in the Budget Committee are males, they might not see the importance of having some good money

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allocated to the gender department. I would like to enlighten our fellows to ensure that we have good amount budgeted for the gender department so that we will be able to do quite a good monitoring to ensuring that all gender programmes and activities are in every department.

I know that the argument of saying that gender department does not need money because it is being mainstreamed in other departments, we also need money for the monitoring aspect of the gender agenda. Finally, we want to urge the County Government to ensure that when we will be adopting these strategies and development agenda for these policies, to ensure that the policies that we have developed in Laikipia County is relevant to our context. I know that each county has got its context in terms of ensuring that the policies have been mainstreamed.

So, it is something that the County Government needs to look at and we do some on it so as to ensure that this policy is actually meant for people of Laikipia County and will benefit them as well. In those short remarks, I would like to ask Hon. Stephen to second this motion.

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Asante sana, Bwana Spika. Nimesimama kuunga mkono huu mswada ambao umeletwa na Mheshimiwa Umija. Ni vizuri kuelewa ya kwamba Mheshimiwa Umija hupenda sana kuzungumzia mambo ya jinsia kwa sababu ameingia hapa Bunge kupitia swala la jinsia. Kwa hivyo wakati mimi naunga hili hoja, ni kwa sababu iko na umuhimu wake.

Bwana Spika, wakati tunazungumzia mambo ya jinsia kama vile mwenye mswada ameweza kufafanua, ni ya kwamba tunazungumzia pande zote mbili zikiwemo za kiume na kike. Tunapozungumza hayo, ni vizuri kuelewa ya kwamba kulingana na umati ya nchi yetu, wale wengi ni kina mama. Kwa hivyo, ni vizuri wakati wowote tunapofanya kazi zozote, ziwe katika Bunge au kwingineko, tuwe tunatoshana. Ukiweka mwanaume, unaweka mwanamke. Kuna misemo mingi ambayo husemwa ya kwamba ukiona mwanaume ameendelea, ujue ya kwamba nyuma yake kuna mwanamke. Vile vile mwanamke akiendelea, ujue ya kwamba hapo nyuma yake kuna mwanaume hata kama wakati mwingi huwa wanaangusha hilo.

Ni vizuri tuelewe ya kwamba wakati tunazungumzia mambo ya jinsia hasa katika Kaunti yetu, ni lazima tuelewe ni kipi ambacho tunazungumzia. Katika Kaunti yetu ya Laikipia, tuko na jamii mbali mbali na wakati mwingine kuna wakati hufika ya kwamba jamii zingine hawazingatii mambo ya jinsia. Unakuta ya kwamba kuna jamii zingine ambazo haziamini ya kwamba kina mama wanaweza kuongoza mahali.

Bwana Spika, nafikiri hata katika jamii yako, ni juzi tu mmeanza kuamini ya kwamba kina mama wanaweza kufanya kazi. Kwa hivyo, mimi naonelea ya kwamba kama tutazungumzia hayo mambo katika Kaunti yetu, yafikie kila kabila ili hii Laikipia yetu itakuwa ni Kaunti ambayo itaendelea mbele kabisa. Kuna mswada ambao ulikuwa umeletwa ya kwamba katika kila nafasi ambazo ni za kupigiwa kura, kama Gavana anasimama ni lazima awe na mdogo wake akiwa wa jinsia tofauti.

Kuna Mswada ambao ulikuwa umeletwa kwamba vituo ambazo nilipigiwa kura, Kama Gavana anasimama, ni lazima awe na mdogo wake ambaye ni wa jinsia tofauti. Kama wewe ni mwanamke uwe na mwanamume na kama wewe ni mwanamume, uwe na mwanamke. Kwa hivyo, mimi ninaunga mkono hili hoja. Hii ni hoja ambayo tunafaa kuzungumzia kwa undani ili kuhakikisha ya kwamba tunawachunga vijana wetu na wasichana wetu.

Bwana Spika, zamani wasichana hawakuwa wanapelekwa shule na wakisoma, ni mpaka darasa la nene na akienda sana kidato cha nne na mambo inakomea hapo. Kwa wakati huu,

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tunakuta mtoto wa kike anasomeshwa hadi kuwa profesa. Maprofesa ambao tuko nao, wengi ni wa jinsia ya kike. Mimi ninaunga mkono na vilevile tunapomshikilia mtoto wa kike, tushikilie mtoto wa kiume kwa sababu tutaharibu jamii.

Utakuta tukimweka juu msichana wa kike na tunasahau mtoto wa kiume. Nchi itaanguka, kwa hivyo ni lazima wote wapelekane. Tukisomesha msichana, pia tumsomeshe kijana. Tukipenda msichana pia tupende kijana. Vilevile, Bwana Spika, siku hizi katika jamii zote hakuna jamii inaweza kuundwa bila baba na mama. Kwa hivyo, wakati tunazungumzia jinsia tunazungumza hadi nyumbani.

Mheshimiwa Spika, mimi ninafurahia sana nikifika nyumbani kwa sababu nikifika nyumbani ninamkuta bibi yangu na ananifanyia mambo mingi ambayo mengine siwezi sema hapa. Kwa hivyo, ni vizuri sana wakati tunazungumzia jinsia, tuzungumze kwa undani. Tueleze mambo kinagaubaga. Hakuna mambo ya kuenda kando. Kila mtu yuko na umuhimu wake Mheshimiwa Spika. Mwanamume akiwa katika boma anasaidia kwa sababu hao watoto wakiweza kusikia sauti ya baba, wanakaa kama inavyostahili.

Bwana Spika, ninaunga mkono na kumuomba Mheshimiwa Umija, tukiupitisha mswada wake hapa, Kamati ya Utekelezaji ambayo inaongozwa na Mheshimiwa Leshuel ifuatilie ili kuhakikisha ya kwamba Kaunti ya Laikipia iko na sheria ya jinsia ambayo itatusaidia kusukuma gurudumu la maisha. Vilevile, Mheshimiwa Spika, vile tumekaa katika hili Bunge letu kuna usawa wa kijinsia.

Nikiangalia upande wangu wa mbele makarani ambao tuko nao hapa, kuna mwanamume na mwanamke. Hiyo ni kumaanisha ya kwamba tuko kwa njia ambayo inafaa. Bwana Spika, wakati umetaja wageni ambao wametembea katika Bunge hili, nimesikia ukitaja watu wa jinsia zote. Nimesikia kuna wanaume na wanawake. Kwa hivyo, ninona mambo ya kaunti yetu si mabaya. Ningetaka iweze kutiliwa maanani na tuhakikishe tuko na sheria ambayo itatuongoza kila mahali.

Kwenye mikutano, kama tutaita mikutano ya wale *opinion leaders*, ni lazima tuwe na watu wa jinsia zote. Bwana Spika ni lazima tuwe na watu wa umri zote. Ninafikiri mambo ya jinsia inazungumzia hadi umri kwa sababu umri ni muhimu. Wakati mwingine ni vizuri kusikiza vijana, wazee na watu wote wanasema nini. Ninaunga mkono huo mswada na ninauliza Waheshimiwa wote ambao wako hapa tuweze kuzungumzia huu mswada kwa njia ambayo inafaa na tuhakikishe ya kwamba huu mswada ukipita, tutakuwa na sheria.

Bwana Spika, sisi ndio hupitisha sheria zote za kaunti. Tuko na Mwenyekiti ambaye anahusika na haya ambaye ni Mheshimiwa Salim kutoka Wadi ya Segera. Tunajua ataweza kusukuma na kuhakikisha ya kwamba tumepata sheria ambayo itatuongoza katika Kaunti yetu. Bwana Spika, sheria zote za kaunti zinaanza hapa. Kazi yote ambayo inafanywa hapa kuhusu sheria, hupita hapa. Bili ya Fedha inapita hapa, bajeti hupitia hapa na sheria zingine.

Kwa hivyo ninaunga mkono tuweze kuunga mkono mswada wa Mheshimiwa Umija na kuuliza waheshimiwa wote ambao wako hapa, waweze kutoa maoni yake ili tuweze kuona huu mswada utapita aje. Vilevile Bwana Spika, ninashukuru wale ambao wanapigania jinsia. Mheshimiwa Kamara ni mmoja wa wale ambao kila wakati ninamsikia akiongea kuhusu jamii ambazo zinapigana Kaskazini mwa Laikipia. Kwa sababu yeye yuko hapa, ninajua anaelewa ni nini tunafanya hapa.

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Ningeomba sisi wote tuungane katika Laikipia yetu kwa sababu Laikipia ikianguka, sisi ndio tutaanguka na Laikipia ikisonga mbele sisi ndio tutasonga mbele. Tumepatiwa hilo jukumu na wananchi ili tuweze kuhakikisha ya kwamba Laikipia imesonga mbele. Bwana Spika, hatujakuja hapa kuongea tu na kunyamaza. Tumekuja kuongea na kufuatilia. Wale ambao wanafaa kufuatilia na kutekeleza miswada ambayo tunapitisha tunafaa kuhakikisha wamefanya hivyo kama vile inavyostahili. Kwa hayo machache, ninaunga mkono na kuomba Waheshimiwa kuweza kuunga mkono huu mswada ili tuhakikishe Kaunti yetu iko na sheria za kuongoza mambo ya jinsia.

Kwa hayo machache, ninashukuru Mheshimiwa Spika na Mheshimiwa Umija kwa kuleta huu mswada. Vilevile aendelee kuleta miswada ambayo itasaidia Kaunti yetu. Mheshimiwa Umija hajachaguliwa katika wadi fulani ila amechaguliwa katika Kaunti ya Laikipia. Amechaguliwa kuongeza jinsia katika viongozi wa Laikipia. *She is a very senior person in this County Assembly*. Ninaunga mkono aendelee vivyo hivyo. Tumuunge mkono pamoja na wale ambao wana nia njema ya kusongesha nchi na Kaunti yetu mbele.

Kagondu ana roho safi na anachangia miswada kwa roho safi kuhakikisha Kaunti imesonga. Sisi sote tuungane hivyo kuhakikisha tunajenga Kaunti yetu. Hatuna Kaunti nyingine. Hatuwezi kujivunia Kaunti ya Isiolo au Nyeri, tutajivunia Kaunti yetu ya Laikipia. Kwa hivyo, wale tulio hapa, lazima tujivunie na kuhakikisha kuwa tunachangia kwenye miswada yote, mbaya ama nzuri. Iwapo ni mbaya, tunatengeneza hadi iwe nzuri. Iwapo ni kombo, tunalainisha. Hayo ndiyo majukumu tuliyopewa na tunayofaa kutekeleza katika Kaunti ya Laikipia. Asante sana na ninaunga mkono huu mswada.

(Question proposed)

Speaker: Hon. Members, I want now to open the floor, and the first I'll give to the Hon. Gitahi.

Hon. Joseph Gitahi: Thank you, Hon. Speaker, for this opportunity, and for according me the first opportunity. I rise to support the motion presented by Hon. Catherine Umija on the development of gender mainstreaming policy.

Hon. Speaker, I have had the opportunity to peruse the ideas of Max Weber and scholars like Emily Durkheim. People who talk about issues of social stratification. The society as it is, it exists within different strata, different groups. These groups have different preferences in terms of communication and different preferences in terms of other needs.

It is on that note, Hon. Speaker, that we have the strata of gender, whereby we have the male gender and the female gender. This motion is very timely because our county, like other developing counties are stepping in the next step for civilization. It is therefore very important that we have a policy that will guide the participation of all these different social groups and strata, so that we have quality policies.

As Hon. Umija was reading the motion out and rooting for its support, I have quickly gone through the motion and you see gender mainstreaming has a lot of positive outcomes. People are able to participate fully and the end result of this first, is that we have equality between the two genders.

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In the former setup, Hon. Speaker, we had areas where we had aspects of male chauvinism and other places where you find one gender dominating over the other. So, gender mainstreaming, it's a sound policy that ensures that we have equality between the two genders.

Secondly, gender mainstreaming is important because it ensures a participatory democracy. When you provide an environment whereby women and men can allow their ideas to interchange. The intercourse of these ideas is very participatory, where people have given all their ways. Another way, is that this thing promotes cohesion so that a society is together. You see, we exist in the frame of a social contract. If we are not cohesive enough, we have people who are not satisfied with the decisions being made.

Last year, in the eve of the finance bill we tested the effects of lack of cohesion between different strata of society. Whereby a big chunk, a big group felt that they were left out in policy formation and also benefiting from national resources. Finally, gender mainstreaming promotes sustainability of policy. We want a policy that will supersede time. When different peoples participate in these policies, these policies are more sustainable.

As I end, Hon. Speaker, I want to state that, indeed, we have been making progress in the different spheres of life. Whether it is in the military, we now have a better inclusion of the female gender in this service. Recently, we also have inclusion of men in areas that traditionally were dominated by women.

In Githiga Ward, Hon. Speaker, in a place called Kamwenje, we have an ECD teacher who is male. We are happy about these things, because different perspectives will be brought together. It is on account of that evidence that I support this motion brought forward by Hon. Umija. Thank you.

Hon. Anthony Theuri: Thank you, Hon. Speaker, for granting me this opportunity to air my views on the motion brought by one Hon. Umija, and I want to encourage her. When I see her, I see one Millicent Mabona. This is the second day since we came from recess, and I can see what the recess did to our Members. On the same concept, Mr. Speaker, I want to welcome the students from PCEA, Nanyuki.

This is what we call the version of consistency. For the last two and a half years we have been here, this is the first time we are seeing back-to-back visits by our students, Mr. Speaker. It is good to know I'm not marketing my school. It is good to know this is not only a girl's school, it is one of the best in the county. Until I tell you it is a public school, you mistake it to be a group of schools, Mr. Speaker. They are highly disciplined, and I want to welcome them here and take the advantage of running from this institution, and because they are wise, I understand they are from the grade four, to take the best from us, Mr. Speaker.

On the equality of the gender, Mr. Speaker, I am to it and I don't know why most of the time we mistake it to be a women's affair. Nowadays, we are also on the receiving end. I'm very happy. The release from the government yesterday of the Kazi kwa Vijana, for the first time they did justice. They said 50-50 of the both genders. It has been 30-70. We encourage that. And it is not only that. Let them be competent on what they do.

Mr. Speaker, I am a politician. I can see where the world is going on, what is happening in the world, and I'm taken back. You know I'm a son of a woman, and I love women. I'm a father of girls, so I'm into it. As much as we want to make it both genders, we know as it is, it is for women.

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That was the concept that was brought with us, but they are catching up very well. They are doing well in all fields, apart from our neighbouring country, where now for the first time we are having a female dictator. It is a shame, but they told us that we should stay in our country and mind our own business. This is what is supposed to happen.

On the part two, or the point two of the motion, Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Umija has captured well, they must be funded. We say that. The Bible says, as I quoted yesterday, where your wealth is, that is where your heart is, Mr. Speaker. If you are serious about this thing, let us fund them in all spheres. It also must capture health wise, academically and job opportunities. I'm even amused for the first time, and I take it on a light note, that we have a male ECD, Mr. Speaker.

One of these days I'm going to pay a visit to that school. I would really much to sit down and see how a male teacher is teaching the kindergarten or is coping. It looks quite amusing, but it is good. They are doing well. We even have the women machinery operators. We have the best readers here, Mr. Speaker. Even my competitors for my ward, they are women. I tell you, Mr. Speaker, because I know you are also a politician, it needs a lot of grace from God to deal with this gender, on a good note. They can be very tricky.

I want to encourage our girls. Let me speak to them. Let us take this opportunity, play it better, and the future is bright. I support this, and as I said yesterday, we are going to throw the ball, because I'm very sure we are going to pass this motion, we are going to throw the ball to one Hon. Shuel to be following up on this motion. On the motion yesterday, we had a motion on PWD. Now we have a motion on gender. I'm going to keep you on toes. And you know I'm your boss when it comes to this House. I'm going to follow it up with you, especially on the PWD and the gender motion. We must follow it, act on it, if at all we have a future for this country and this county. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I support.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Anthony Theuri. Allow me now, Members, reading the mood, to invite the mover of the motion to reply.

Hon. Catherine Umija: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank the House for supporting the gender agenda. Just as we had clearly stated, it's not about women, it's about all genders that is the male and the female. Now that the males are now joining the more female, predominantly businesses or careers, we are encouraging them, so that they can support us in different ways. I want to thank the House for contributing towards this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: The sittings of this House now stand adjourned until later today Wednesday, 4th of June, 2025, at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 10. 51 a.m.

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