REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 6th December, 2023

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

[The Speaker (Hon. Lantano Nabaala) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

PAPER LAID

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2023/2024

Hon. John Gichuki through Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the Majority Leader, Hon. John Gichuki Maina, I want to lay a paper on Supplementary Estimates for the year 2023/2024.

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

Speaker: It stands committed to the County Budget and Appropriation Committee.

MOTION

REPORT ON OVERSIGHT VISIT TO NYAHURURU MARKET & STALLS

Hon. Catherine Kibue through Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I am standing on behalf of my able Chairperson, Hon. Catherine Nyokabi who is with us here. It is my pleasure to give the report on oversight visit on Nyahururu town markets and stalls in Laikipia West Constituency. I beg to move the following motion;

> THAT, this Assembly adopts the report on an oversight visit to Nyahururu Town Markets and stalls in Laikipia West by the Trade, Tourism and Cooperatives Committee dated 21st November, 2023.

The purpose of the oversight visit was to check on the market infrastructural development across the town with the aim of improving business environment and promote enterprise development. The report will highlight the mandate of the committee, the observations and recommendations given by the committee.

Hon. Speaker, the committee mandate is in the Standing Order and this committee was constituted by the House on 26th October, 2022. The Members know the mandate of this committee because it is anchored in the Standing Order and it is also in the constitution

Committee Membership

1. Hon. Catherine Kibue - Chairperson
2. Hon. Moile Eunice Salaten - Vice Chairperson
3. Hon. Anthony Theuri Wambui - Member
4. Hon. Simon Kanyutu - Member
5. Hon. Stephen Ndiritu - Member

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The Market is located in Nyahururu Town in Igwamiti Ward. During the oversight visit, the committee found the traders very busy selling and others buying. I am very happy because the MCA representing that ward is in the House and I know that she understands the market very well. The Committee was informed that the market starts operating as early as 6.00 a.m. and it is good to note that the people in that market are very busy.

Even the Members are aware because they were saw. In UDA Party we are talking about the bottom-up economic model and these are the people we are referring to as *mama mbogas*, *mkokoteni* people and *boda bodas* because they are all inclusive in this market.

It is not only for the people who are in UDA but also the ones who are in ODM because they also visit the *mama mbogas* as their customers and therefore we are all bottom ups. It is only that they are calling themselves NASA but they wake up very early in the morning, visit the market and NASA the cabbages and bananas.

Several farmers bring their farm produce to the market and close at around 7.00 p.m. The market is manned by few traders elected by other traders who ensure that there is sanity especially in the morning hours when many farmers flock in with their goods. They allocate them selling spaces on a daily basis. That means that if you want to bring your farm produce and visit that market, you will find those people. They are elected by those traders and they also allocate people spaces where they can sell their farm produce.

The market days are usually on Tuesdays and Fridays but the market operates daily. The County Government charges the traders Kshs. 30 per day but this can vary depending on the size of the bag or goods one is selling. The market is regularly cleaned by one county government officer. It requires maintenance.

Mr. Speaker, you will note that in that market there is only one officer who cleans and that is not fair to those traders because they pay. They should be given three or four people to be cleaning the market. I know that there are so many people who would like to work in that market and there are also very many hustlers who can be employed by the County Government to be cleaning the market.

On that page you can see the real *mama mbogas* and I believe that those who are in ODM like Hon. Lempaira can see the *mama mbogas* in the picture. They are busy working in the market and it is also good to note that they are paying taxes.

On the next page there is an open section of the market. You know I am a business person and I also work in the market and therefore I am also a man *mboga*. On page seven, the market is next to the main mark and the market days are on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Mr. Speaker, the open air market operates on Tuesdays and Wednesdays but the other market operates on Tuesday and Fridays.

It has a water tank and a toilet. The market is regularly cleaned by a County Government employee. The traders sell their goods on concrete stalls which are 103, while others use Bakaras which are quite a number. These are the wooden makeshift stalls. The County Government charges Kshs.200 for a concrete stall and Kshs.100 for a Bakara per month. This market is sorrounded by several County Government kiosks. On that page you can see farm produce and that tells you that these people are working tirelessly to ensura that their lifestyles improve.

In the picture you can see concrete market stalls and ripe bananas. It is also good that the traders are given a good environment to do their business.

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The market mainly sells cabbages, fruits and vegetables among other goods. It is not well lit. The market has a big tank though the traders claim that it was not properly positioned and should be moved to a corner. The water from an inlet pipe which was recently installed leaks and the water floods the ground meaning that the market is unbearable for the traders.

This makes it unbearable for the traders nearby. The cabbages sold next to the tank get spoilt within a short time. Therefore, the County Governmnet should ensure that the traders who work in that market have got a good environment to do their business.

On page nine, you can see traders selling cabbages, maize and also *mama mbogas* very busy waiting for customers. There are toilets in the next page and they don't look good for the traders to use. The County Governmnet should do something to ensure that traders are given a good environmnet while they are doing thir business. It is good that they have water and basins to wash hands but we need to see good toilets and they should also be painted to look good.

Hon. Speaker, these toilets are functional and traders are charged Kshs. 5 per visit. That is fair but it should not be like that. The water comes from NYAHUWASCO. On that report, there is the observation. This is what the committee observed;

The Committee observed that:

1. Markets in Nyahururu Town are well utilized despite the congestion.
2. Nyahururu Town requires huge modern storey markets to ease congestion in the existing ones.
3. The main market lacks water and a toilet. The traders use the county government's toilet which they pay Kshs.10 per visit. The committee was informed that the market has some space behind it which can be used to construct a toilet.
4. Some parts of the main market are not roofed and traders suffer during the rainy and hot seasons.
5. At the main market, some pipes leak making the traders to squeeze themselves.
6. There are shallow trenches in the main market which pose danger to the buyers who are not aware they exist.
7. During the rainy season, the water from the main road flows to where the traders outside the main market sell their goods.
8. The committee noted that several traders were selling outside the designated spaces since the market could not accommodate every trader. The county Government should look for a space where they can allocate those traders.
9. A number of traders display their goods on the ground such as cabbages which is unhygienic and the foodstuffs can easily get contaminated.
10. All the markets require regular maintenance such as painting and cleaning the roofs.

On page 5 we have the recommendation;

1. That Nyahururu Town being an agricultural area requires huge modern storey markets to ease congestion in the existing ones and also accommodate more traders. Nyahururu is an agricultural area and we all know that. The county should come up with a plan where they can have a space. If they don't have a big area, they can go to Mama Yao who understands the area and where they can get more space for those

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traders. I know Hon. Wachuka. She has a good heart and means well for those traders.

2. The County Government needs to install gutters and pipes behind the cabbage market to collect water for the toilets and reduce the water bill.
3. Since toilets are fundamental to human dignity, every market ought to have an accessible toilet.
4. That the County Government needs to provide disposal garbage tanks to prevent contamination of the environment and also make the markets more appealing to the buyers.
5. Concrete stalls ought to be constructed in the markets to avoid goods getting dirty on the ground.
6. More staff to be employed to clean the markets especially the main farm produce market.
7. Drainage of the water from the roads to the markets require urgent and permanent solution.
8. The county government to remove the shallow trenches in the main market.
9. Traders who sell the second-hand clothes need to be considered while constructing more markets. It is also good to recognize the second-hand clothes traders. I also do sell them and when I see such recommendation it tells me that the committee have a good idea towards those people.
10. That the House adopts the Trade, Tourism and Cooperatives committee`s report.

On acknowledgement Mr. Speaker Sir, on behalf of Trade Committee, I wish to extend my gratefulness to Members of this House for the support they have accorded the committee. I wish to acknowledge the members of the committee for their commitment as we embarked on this work. Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank the office of the Speaker and that of the Clerk for the support you have accorded us. Lastly Sir, on behalf of the Trade Committee, allow me to table this report and recommend it to the House for adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House to adopt this report because it has all the details and I ask them to support because most of them regularly visit the market and they also buy food or farm produce from that market as well as Mitumba clothes. It is good to support this motion. I want to commend the good work the committee has done. I also thank the Chair for making sure that the committee works tirelessly to make sure we support people who are supporting us. I request the able Chair from Ngobit to come and support the motion.

Hon. Catherine Kibue: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to second this report on the oversight visit to Nyahururu Market and stores. First, I want to congratulate my able Member Hon. Stephen for taking us through this report. I hope each and everyone in this House has understood the report because he has taken us through slowly and keenly.

The observations listed are fundamental and with the suggested recommendation if implemented, the problem highlighted will be solved once and for all thus boosting the economy of the county and environment where these traders are trading. With those few remarks, I call upon my fellow Members to support the report. Lastly, I want to say thank you for the support you have given as an office and the office of the Clerk. Thank you.

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(Question proposed)

Hon. Anthony Theuri: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to take this opportunity to support the motion. As a UDA die hard, we had a manifesto and for sure in the market it's where we meet the small-scale traders and we support them whole heartedly. I don't want to pre-empt the finance bill and the other things. If we mean well for our business people in the informal sector let it be reflected in the same. Thank you, I support.

Hon. Irene Wachuka: Asante sana Mheshimiwa Spika. Nataka kushukuru mwenyekiti na kamati yake kwa ile kazi walikuja Igwamiti na kufanya. Waliingia ndani na nje na kuangalia ile shida watu wanapitia. Kwanza nimrudishie Mheshimiwa Ndiritu mambo ya kupanua uwanja. Kuna kiwanja nilikuwa nimetenga ekari nane pale chini karibu na kanisa la Katoliki. Uwanja uko tayari.

Nimeshukuru vile mlitembea na mkaona na mkafanya kazi vile inatakiwa. Katika Nyahururu husimamia watu kutoka Ndaragwa, Subukia na Oljororok. Pia sehemu ya Baringo na Nyandarua wote wanakuja soko ya Nyahururu. Kama ningeulizwa, mwenyekiti na kamati yako mwende muone Gavana. Tukifanya vile inatakiwa tunaweza kupata mapato mengi sana kwa biashara.

Ningeomba mtembee siku ya Jumanne kama leo mkute watu wamejaa hadi wengine wanauzia kwa barabara. Soko ni kodogo, watu ni wengi. Nyahururu ni mtaa inafaa kuangaliwa kwa macho mawili. Pia nishukuru Rais na mdogo wake kwa kufikiria na kusaidia serikali za Kaunti kuwa na soko kutoka kwa serikali kuu. Pia nishukuru mwenyekiti wa biashara na mtembee kila wadi 15.

Hio soko mlipata ikiwa na shida ya maji ilifunguliwa na mwenda zake Mheshimiwa G. G. Kariuki na nilikuwa pale wakati huo. Ile shida niko nayo kubwa sana ni mambo ya kuokota uchafu. Hata wakati huu naambiwa kuna uchafu na hakuna Lori ya kuchukua. Nikitoka hapa napitia kwa Afisa Mkuu kujua ni nini inaendelea.

Nashukuru Mwenyekiti na kamati yako na niwambie mmefanya kazi muhimu sana na muendelee kuzunguka wadi zote. Sio tu Nyahururu, pia Thingithu, Segera, Umande na wadi zote kumi na tano. Mjaribu kuingia juu kuna shida ziko ndani. Sisi tulichaguliwa kama viongozi kuwakilisha watu wetu. Nikienda kwa Mheshimiwa wa Thingithu ama Ngobit nipate kuna shida kama kiongozi aliyechaguliwa, nafaa kuwakilisha Laikipia yote.

Napongeza afisi yako Spika, na ya Katibu mkuu na tukishikana tutasonga mbele. Watu wakiwa pamoja tunaweza kufanya mambo mengi sana. Niseme asante sana, sijui ni akina nani huja kuangalia nikasikia majuma mawili yaliyopita kwamba Igwamiti ndiyo inaongoza kwa maendeleo. Nashukuru kwa maoni yao. Asante sana, nashukuru.

Salim Edung: Asante sana Bwana Spika. Kwanza nishukuru mwenyekiti kwa sababu amefanya kazi ambayo inastahili. Tukiangalia katika vitabu, mambo ya uangalizi lazima iangalie kazi yote ambayo inafanyika katika mashinani. Napongeza mwenyekiti kwa asilimia mia kwa mia. Umefanya kazi ambayo inastahili. Kama umeanza sehemu ya Nyahururu, Olmoran iko karibu hapo. Laikipia Mashariki uangalie hizo wadi zote na pia wadi hizo zingine.

Pongezi kwa Mheshimiwa Spika na pia Karani wa Bunge, kwa sababu ya ushirikiano mzuri katika Bunge hili. Hili Bunge litapeleka wananchi wa Laikipia mbele. Mambo ya soko tukiangalia kwa umakini haswa wafanyibiashara wenye wanatozwa ushuru, wanahitaji kazi yote ambayo iko pale kwa mfano soko, na vyoo zitengenezwe vizuri.

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Nikijaribu kuangalia lile picha, kuna mahali kulikuwa na dosari iliyofaa kurekebishwa. Mambo ya vyoo na pia tenki za maji ndiposa wajue ile ushuru wanatozwa inawasaidia. Ningeomba Wajumbe kama tunashirikiana kwa umoja tutaenda mbali na ni lazima tuunge mkono ile kazi inafanywa ili Kaunti yetu iwe tofauti na ule uongozi wa awali. Sisi tunaunga mkono, haswa mimi naunga asilimia mia moja, kwa sababu soko zinasaidia Wanalaikipia. Asante sana, Bwana Spika.

Hon. George Karuiru: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I want to commend as I embrace the report on the Nyahururu Market and the issue from the Trade Department. I would like to commend the Chair and the whole team for a job well done. This is the second or third report. One from Segera and we embrace the entire business of this County Assembly and any other County Assemblies in the country matters oversight.

One of the key places in Laikipia where we get revenue is from the markets. Laikipia is a basket of Agriculture and foods that are consumed in this country. It is actually worrying of such a big market, because most of my traders go for goods in Nyahururu that are distributed by other better markets. The likes of Meru and other Counties, the ones that we do not grow. It is worrying we cannot access the in-market like Nyahururu where we go for wholesale goods.

It is good for the County Government and as well, I beg the Chair to be firm amid the challenges they found the traders having. Some of our towns were not well structured and little can be done. That is why the maximum utilization of what we have and the grounds we have. Like Hon. Wachuka had earlier stated that we need to revisit a particular ground that is still vacant.

Sometimes our people who are far from the centers, it becomes hard to change the old markets to new. The new can be done in a modern way. I think the Trade Department, and I had seen the Hon. Chair for Implementation, Hon. Shuel we need to follow to the letter. We do not just bring a report to the Assembly and we do not make a follow-up.

When we are making the budget after presentation from the Executive, we need to keenly follow because the key issue despite the County Executive collective revenue, we need to standardize and take care of those traders. I have seen some gutters that are leaking. It is a wonder that the County Government do not have petty cash. The procurement needs to address these leaking things.

I have seen the Nyahururu market uses NYAHUWASCO water. I have seen they reported to the committee the high cost of water and there are those old iron sheets that are surrounding the market. One of the things that the government has seen better is advising its own people. If we would put the gutters around those iron sheets, they can be able to harvest water that is not for sale. We put tanks and I am saying this because I have the Olmoran market, Sipili and kiosks that have not been utilized.

It is now the high time that during the planning, when the planers go to the ground, they do good structured because we have abled architects where good markets can be put. There will be paths just in case when there are fire breakouts, they are accessible. I embrace the report and I hope where the Department of Trade has shown us is going again to our markets, bring reports and even inviting the Whole House where need be so that we can be able to identify the challenges faced by our people.

Speaker: Hon. Stephen Ndiritu, it is your chance to reply.

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Naomba msamaha, Mheshimiwa Spika. Unajua biashara ni nyingi na hawa wananchi hawaelewi masaa yenye tuko nayo katika biashara ya Bunge na

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wakati hatuna biashara. Nilikuwa nashughulikia wao kwa sababu wameniita. Mwanzo nashukuru Wajumbe wote kwa kuchangia na pia wenye wako hapa kwa sababu macho yao inakubaliana na ripoti.

Nashukuru kwa sababu ni ripoti inaongelelea Nyahururu. Ukienda kila mahali shida ni ile ile, na ninawatakia wakati mwema na tunatambua kazi njema unayoendelea kufanya. Ningependa kutambua Kamati na kupongeza waliofanya hii kazi ya utendakazi wa Wadi zote za Laikipia.

Nimesikia Mheshimiwa Wachuka akisema Wadi yake ndiyo iliongoza lakini hakusoma vizuri. Wadi ambayo iliongoza ni Wadi ya Thingithu na naombwa kuwashukuru wote kwa sababu Thingithu imeongoza na wengine wanafuata. Naomba tuendelee hivyo hivyo na najua Laikipia inaendelea vizuri. Naomba tuunge hii ripoti mkono. Asante.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: This House now stands adjourned until Today Wednesday 6th December 2023 at 2:30 p.m.

House rose at 9:50 a.m.

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