REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 6th September, 2023

The House met at the Assembly Chambers at 2.30 p.m.

[The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Anthony Theuri) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

NOTICE OF MOTION

ESTABLISHMENT OF UNIVERSITIES AND TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS IN LAIKIPIA

Hon. Anthony Theuri through Hon. Samuel Mugambi: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following motion;

THAT AWARE THAT the role of higher education in Kenya is to generate a pool of qualified professionals with specialized skills;

FURTHER AWARE THAT these professionals often have the potential to promote production and capital resources and provide national services…

QUORUM CALL

Deputy Speaker: Hon. Stephen, I hope you know the Standing Orders.

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Hon. Speaker, I wanted to say that this House does not have quorum.

Deputy Speaker: Clerk, confirm whether we have quorum.

(Lack of quorum confirmed)

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

(Quorum bell rang for ten minutes)

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Mr. Speaker, we already have the quorum.

Deputy Speaker: Clerk, confirm whether we have quorum.

(Clerk confirmed the achievement of Quorum)

Hon. Anthony Theuri through Hon. Samuel Mugambi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of the following motion;

THAT AWARE THAT the role of higher education in Kenya is to generate a pool of qualified professionals with specialized skills;

FURTHER AWARE THAT these professionals often have the potential to promote production and capital resources and provide national service that reflect both national and cultural heritage in Kenya;

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CONCERNED THAT the county has limited facilities for tertiary education, there is one University, one university campus, one branch of management institute, two Kenya Medical Training College branches, and a host of middle private level colleges;

NOTING THAT According to the 2019, KNBS Housing and Population Census, only 6.8 per cent of the county's population had attained tertiary level education;

FURTHER NOTING THAT that institutions of higher learning within the County is the path to growing a vibrant productive sector, a robust economy and the basis for increased economic outcomes; Hence better livelihoods;

This House URGES the County Government of Laikipia to liaise with other relevant National Government agencies with an aim of establishing Universities and other tertiary institutions within the Major towns of Laikipia.

Hon. Speaker, I am giving this notice on behalf of Hon. Antony Theuri MCA, Nanyuki Ward. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

MOTION

ESTABLISHMENT OF UNIVERSITIES AND TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS IN LAIKIPIA

Hon. Anthony Theuri through Hon. Samuel Mugambi: Hon. Speaker, I beg to move the following motion;

THAT AWARE THAT the role of higher education in Kenya is to generate a pool of qualified professionals with specialized skills;

FURTHER AWARE THAT these professionals often have the potential to promote production and capital resources and provide national service that reflect both national and cultural heritage in Kenya;

CONCERNED THAT the county has limited facilities for tertiary education, there is one University, one university campus, one branch of management institute, two Kenya Medical Training College branches, and a host of middle private level colleges;

NOTING THAT According to the 2019, KNBS Housing and Population Census, only 6.8 per cent of the county's population had attained tertiary level education;

FURTHER NOTING THAT that institutions of higher learning within the County is the path to growing a vibrant productive sector, a robust economy and the basis for increased economic outcomes; Hence better livelihoods;

This House URGES the County Government of Laikipia to liaise with other relevant National Government agencies with an aim of establishing Universities and other tertiary institutions within the Major towns of Laikipia County.

Hon. Speaker, I want to thank the originator of the motion, Hon. Anthony Theuri MCA, Nanyuki Ward noting that this is a very important agenda in our county. Having the details that we have only one university which is in Laikipia West. If you note very well that the university is at the border between Laikipia, Nyandarua and Nakuru Counties. As Laikipians, we do not have a good university and I know that is the reason why Hon. Theuri MCA, Nanyuki Ward brought the motion because a town like Nanyuki has many youths and many government institutions like KDF, Airforce, BATUK, Ranchers and the community residents of this area.

Having no university in this town is a serious matter. Hon. Speaker, as we were taking lunch, we were discussing how Members are using a lot of money to travel. I usually go to

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Nyeri every two days in a week to attend my Masters Classes. This is very unfortunate because we can have a university within this town. Nanyuki is the headquarters which has now moved to Rumuruti but it has served as the headquarters for more than ten years.

I think this is a timely motion and I thank the originator, Hon. Anthony for this timely motion. I wish to urge the National Government led by our chief hustler, H.E William Ruto to consider our plea that we need a university especially in Nanyuki and areas like Doldol. A whole Constituency of Laikipia North having no college is a serious matter. The one we have is in Sosian which Hon. Lekopien can bear with me that it is not equipped. It is a tertiary institution that is not fairly equipped.

Can you imagine a whole population of about 50,000 voters having no well-equipped tertiary institution and no university yet we are telling our youth that they need to employ themselves? Where shall they get the skills to employ themselves? Hon. Speaker, nowadays these tertiary institutions and the KMTC are important institutions within our county. In Nyahururu, we have one KMTC which is not well equipped.

If you listen to the nurses and the clinical officers who attend those KMTCs, they will tell you for free that once you get two nurses one who will attend Nyahururu KMTC and another one attends Mombasa KMTC, the two nurses will be different. Even the employer will have some limitations on employing the Nyahururu KMTC student. Hon. Speaker, I think this is a serious thing and the County Government can partner with other private organisations and the National Government to put up a university especially within Nanyuki.

For example, Hon. Kihika comes from Laikipia West in King'uka in Marmanet Ward. If Hon. Kihika want to pursue her Master's degree or to add more education to her level, she will have to go all the way to Subukia to access Laikipia University. This is very unfortunate. We had another branch in Nyahururu town which was closed due to non-compliance of the requirements that the university campus branch needed to acquire.

I urge this Hon. House to approve the motion. There is something we said last year when we were closing the year on all these motions we are discussing here. I am a Member of the Implementation Committee. We can be singing so many songs but no one will ever remember one of the songs that we sang here. It is always good as the Implementation Committee, we follow.

Hon. Leshuel is the Chairperson and I wish he is here so that we take these things seriously. All these motions that are taken to the Executive, a simple follow-up needs to be done. Right now, we have the LCDA whereby these people are responsible for writing proposals. This is another area they can write a proposal to a private donor. We can have donors who can volunteer themselves and donate money so that we get the construction of a university in Nanyuki.

It will be of benefit and we shall also have other benefits. I know Hon. Antony Theuri who represents the people of Nanyuki will get more gain. He will also build some rental houses near the university and he will have income. We shall have employment opportunities within the university. Hon. Speaker, this is an important motion. I want to thank the originator Anthony Theuri and I also urge the House to approve.

Now, I want to call upon Hon. Nicholas from Tigithi Ward, one of the youthful MCAs in the House who from the book called "the river between" written by Ngugi wa Thiong'o was saying that there was a man who was very thirsty for education. From the look of things, the way Hon. Nicholas is looking, he is very thirsty for this education. When this university will

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be established in Nanyuki, he will be the first student with admission 001. Thank you, Hon. Speaker for this good time you have given unto me.

Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to second this motion. I thank you for forwarding this motion. It is timely and matters of education should be taken very seriously in this county. It is as if the Government of the day and the previous governments have not seen the potential of having a university or two in this county. As I second this motion, we were discussing this with Hon. Mugambi this afternoon as we were having lunch.

We were discussing about going back to university because he is one of the youthful leaders and students in this county and he is doing his Master's degree. He challenged me and he told me that I should go back to school and that I was still young and vibrant, so I should go back to school and earn a degree and a Master's degree. As we were talking, we were discussing with Hon. Stephen Ndiritu and we discussed about knowledge and skills.

Without knowledge, we will not be able to lead Laikipia because we need our people to have the skills, knowledge and degrees because leaders should learn. Leaders should have Degrees, Diploma, Master's degree. Our people are learned but still they have learnt from other counties like Nairobi university and Nyeri County which has several colleges whereas in our county, we cannot be proud of our institutions that are here. If at all we can check, what we have is TVETS which are poorly equipped.

We do not have a college in this county. We do not have a university and according to the population and the numbers that we have, Meru are proud to have a university and a college. What is happening to our Laikipia County whereas we have large land where we can build universities, colleges and TVETS and our people can be able to learn. We are talking about youth having skills whereas on the ground, there are no learning institutions.

There are a lot of people who will be able to graduate from high schools and who graduated several years back. To have skills is still a tall ladder in this county. As I second this motion, I urge all Members and the leadership of this county to sit down and deliberate on this as a county. Having a town where an Assembly is based which is Nanyuki Town, we should be able to discuss where we can get a good chunk of land to build a university in this town

Our young people are heading to Nairobi, Nyeri and Meru to learn skills whereas we have the potential, we have the capacity and we have the funds to build a university in this county. Thank you, Chair and Speaker for this chance to second.

(Question proposed)

Hon. George Karuiru: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the initiator of this motion despite that this Assembly urges and it is sometimes limited to deliver the same. Mr. Speaker, the initiation of this is a clear indicator that this Assembly is one of the vibrant Assemblies in our locality in Kenya. Mr. Speaker, it is only yesterday that I was trying to help a child from my ward who wanted attachment. She had done a course.

Mr. Speaker, from when we did a *harambee* for that child, she went to Kenyatta University. Despite the challenges of doing a *harambee* the only place the kid was to go for attachment according to her course was Jomo Kenyatta Foundation in Nairobi. The cost of livelihood in Nairobi is tremendous. It is very high and Mr. Speaker, I think you should invite because we have our main representatives such as H.E the Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya Gachagua who comes from Mt. Kenya region.

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Sometimes, we are not counted as Mt. Kenya region because we are in Rift valley. We need to be vibrant so that when the Deputy President and the Ministers from the National Government are launching projects, we have a mega project being initiated here. Mr. Speaker, we are in the process of doing spatial planning for Rumuruti. We have idle land and I think one of the touchy things that we ought to have is this.

I remember the regime of the former President, the Late Emilio Mwai Kibaki who initiated and opened up universities like Laikipia University in Nyahururu. We should be vibrant so that we have the institutions such as TVETs and universities. When we are doing the *harambees* because I know each and every Member of this Honourable House from mid-August when the invitation letters of various institutions came, every Sunday we are all tagged in *harambees*.

Why we are tagged in *harambees* is because the young ones that are going there, I appreciate and thank God that we have currently improved. There was a time if somebody wanted to have a house help, they would come to Laikipia to get one. Mr. Speaker, there is a great improvement but the challenge of how the country is in terms of finances. We have undergone challenges of doing *harambees*.

I appreciate the UDA Government because they have said that when our students go to campuses, they will get 90% challenge in fees. If we get these campuses, we will improve our gardens. I know Hon. Kihika has a piece of land in Ol Jabet in which she can make good houses so that any student in Rumuruti University will be going there.

Mr. Speaker, Hon. Kanyutu neighbours Rumuruti. If he will do that, he can also share with me a piece of land which I will also build rental houses. There are challenges that we are having of youth saying that they will need gas. Mr. Speaker, you know if you do not get a house inside the campus, this will be growth in terms of development. I think, this motion is noble. If it is passed, you authorise by writing a letter on the same so that the leaders including MCAs, MPs, Governor, Senator and Women Representative can go to the higher authorities, push for the same because we have sufficient grounds.

If we initiate this, I know that Laikipia will grow at a higher rate and those who don't do well will go to tertiary places and for those who have done exemplarily well will go to universities especially in their local places. Thank you and I beg the Hon. Members to support.

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Mr. Speaker, I stand to support because education is power. I am a parent and I know the amount of money we pay for hostels for our kids outside our county. If they are allowed, I am sure that the money we pay would be benefiting our people. I am a bit concerned because if we can tarmac this road from Nanyuki to Rumuruti, we have already earmarked 100 acres for Laikipia University and 200 acres for the Presbyterian University.

The first priority would be to standardize our KMTC here in Nanyuki because it is our referral. I support and I am happy because there is a very big tract of land that is towards Rumuruti from Nanyuki that has not been utilized. Though of late, I have learnt that it has been demarcated into small pieces. I think we have already started getting *maguta maguta* portions of land. So, if we could have a university along that route, it would be very helpful to our county, our town and community at large.

Hon. Leila Hussein: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I champion that you have brought this to the table because as somebody who is in love with learning as Hon. Gatati who is doing his Master's degree, why should he go to Nyeri. I wanted to do a simple diploma and the offering places were either Embu or Meru. Why? If I am already finding that as a problem, how about

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our youth? Why should there be harambees as the Hon. Member from Olmoran said, purely because of non-essential things like rent and food whereas if a university were to be established here, we can pull in even students from as far as Samburu County and Isiolo County?

Nanyuki is the path that we will all have to pass before you go to other counties. I believe that education is vital and here in Nanyuki and in Laikipia as whole. It should be championed and our leaders should stand together and push this forward. Thank you.

Hon. Parleto Lekopien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand in support of the motion and I would want to take this opportunity to actually congratulate our new Deputy Speaker for bringing the motion. As you all know, Laikipia since the time immemorial, have never had any university for Laikipians. Most of us we either go to Nyeri or Meru for education. As the Hon. Member from Marmanet said and Hon. Leila Hussein, education is key. I would want to urge the County Government of Laikipia and the Members in general to support so that we would always have the best for the people of Laikipia.

As we speak now, Nanyuki is right next to Nyeri and most of the people go to Nyeri for universities while Nanyuki has got a capability in terms of land, for us to have our own university. As the Hon. Member said, there is a Presbyterian University and the Laikipia University, I think that it is long overdue because I remember as a young boy there was still the same land allocated for Laikipia University and the PCEA University next to Rumuruti.

We really want to have the fruits of our own here in Laikipia. In that, I would want to urge the government and the Members of this House to please support and give us all the necessary support so that we can move forward and make Laikipia great for all the Members and the locals of Laikipia. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker: I now call upon the mover to reply.

Hon. Samuel Mugambi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to congratulate the Members who have given their robust concerns and for the record purposes, Mugambi Gatati, Member representing Salama Ward, I am not the new Deputy Speaker. The Deputy Speaker is a big person but in this Assembly. I am just a small fish surviving here. I am only seating here because I was standing on behalf of the Deputy Speaker to move the motion.

I concur with the Members on how they have attributed the importance of the establishment of the university. There is a book that is written by Nelson Mandela and there is somewhere he says that if you want to destroy a nation, you do not just use the nuclear and the atomic bombs but just destroy the education system. The reason why this would destroy the nation is because we would be having quack doctors like Mugo Wairimu, unqualified engineers or architects who would be constructing big houses which will be killing people.

So, if you want to destroy a nation you do not need to bring a war like the one we have in Ukraine versus Russia, but to just destroy the system of education. I am a believer of science that is taught in schools because when I am having a headache, I usually take some Panadol and the headache goes away. As Hon. Karuiru said, we need to reach out to our national leaders, the Women Rep, the Senator and the MPS and our ultimate Mt. Kenya kingpin; Rigathi Gachagua AKA Riggy G and also the President to help us.

Having said that, I want to congratulate everyone and also the initiator of the motion. Have a good evening. Thank you.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

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Deputy Speaker: The sittings of this House stand adjourned until tomorrow Thursday, 7th September, 2023 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 3.05 p.m.

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