# REPUBLIC OF KENYA

# COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

## THE HANSARD

### WEDNESDAY, 3rd June, 2020

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

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

PRAYERS

### STATEMENTS

**Hon. Chris Mark:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was just concerned because there is a statement I had raised over very many months ago on the AGPO. I am seeing a very a good motion that speaks of a stimulus plan. The reason is, we wanted to know whether these youth jobs have been given and the women as well as the PWD. The relevant Committee is not communicating for the past weeks, whether they have gotten or whether they are not ready. I just wanted your guidance on that.

**Speaker:** When was the statement scheduled to be responded to?

**Hon. Chris Mark:** It was supposed to be around the 26th May, 2020. I waited for it here at the Assembly but nothing came. Again, today I thought it would come just as a simple communication but I saw nothing. Today is the 3rd of June and that thing was supposed to be brought last month.

**Speaker:** Clerk, you need to find out because it is the work of the table clerks to make sure that any statements supposed to be responded to in this House is marked on the Order Paper for us to know we have a statement that needs to be responded to. You communicate to the Members and find out then you can let us have the information. Was the statement to the Finance Committee?

**Hon. Chris Mark:** Yes, Mr. Speaker Sir. It was to the Finance Committee led by Hon. Kiguru here.

**Speaker:** Hon. Kiguru how far have you gone with the statement?

**Hon. Joseph Kiguru:** Mr. Speaker, Sir. I think the compiling of the report is still on-going and I want to come with a detailed one. I think today I will communicate to the Member on when the report will be ready then I will bring it to this House.

**Speaker:** Kindly make arrangements with the Table Clerks because every statement brought to this House has a day when it is be responded to and therefore, it does not miss out on the Order Paper. Table Clerks you should take note of that.

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## MOTION

COUNTY ECONOMIC STIMULUS DUE TO COVID-19

**Hon. Peter Matunge:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I beg to move the following motion;

NOTING THAT the Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19) was declared by the World Health Organization (WHO) to be a Public Health Emergency of International concern;

FURTHER NOTING THAT there is significant negative impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on key sectors of the economy, including trade, tourism, agriculture, manufacturing, and other related sectors due to lockdown, curfews, loss of jobs and closure of businesses;

APPRECIATING THAT the National Government have put in place some targeted interventions and strategies to revive the economy after COVID-19 pandemic through a national economic stimulus package and that County Government should put plans and strategies to revive the economy in all the economic activities of the County through County economic stimulus;

This House URGES the County Government to;

1. Undertake a survey/research of the affected businesses and job loss.
2. Establish job creation for the citizen through '*kazi kwa wananchi programme'*.
3. Waive or reduce licenses and levies to small business such as hawkers, *mama mboga,* small retail shops and livestock traders.
4. Provide capital grants to small businesses.
5. Provide long term loans with minimal interests to large businesses.
6. Provide farm inputs to farmers.
7. Supply livestock inputs to livestock farmers like vaccination and veterinary services.
8. Promote local contractors by giving them major county contracts and making prompt payments.
9. Reduce land rates and other taxes to encourage investors.
10. Put adequate measures to revive the Tourism and Hospitality industry.

Mr. Speaker, we are finalising the financial year and we are in the process of making another budget. I thought it is the right time for this House to give its opinion and proposals through this motion on the issues that we should focus on in reviving the economy. An economic stimulus package is an economic measure put in place by the government to stimulate a struggling economy. Our economy (the Kenyan economy and our County Laikipia) is struggling because COVID-19 has moved from being a health emergency to being a socio-economic problem too.

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Mr. Speaker. It is the responsibility of the government to continue safeguarding our people ensuring that our economic activities that we used before COVID-19 continue to operate and generate income to our people. When doing the economic stimulus the government should be able to implement a monetary policy and fiscal measure means. These will include; increasing expenditure of the government and reducing taxes so that the private sector individuals can be able to increase spending power for money and income to circulate in the County.

This is not the first time our country is trying to put an economic stimulus and the most famous one was after the 2007-2008 post-election violence and the other one was in 2008 after the global economic recession because of the fuel prices. In the financial budget of 2009-2010, the government introduced an economic stimulus to be able to revive the economy of Kenya. Through the process, the government increased its expenditure so that they could enable the private sector spend a lot of money so that we could bring the economy of the country to its growth.

Mr. Speaker, by then the economy of Kenya reduced from 7.1 to 1.7. If you go to Ndindika hospital today, you will see the big maternity ward which was built through the economic stimulus package. Today, the Doldol Sub-County hospital operates under the sub-county maternity ward built through the economic stimulus package. This was the effort of the government to increase the expenditure and at the same time improve the infrastructure of the country; education, road and health.

Since the onset of COVID-19 we have heard the president trying to put measures to address economic issues. The first economic stimulus was announced by the president in March and in it he focused on the issues of taxes. As you remember there was a 100% reduction of the PAYE (Pay As You Earn) tax for people earning less than 24,000; There was a reduction of PAYE for people earning more than 25,000 from 30%-25%. The Value Added Tax ( VAT) was reduced from 16%-14% and the Corporate income tax was reduced form 30%-25%.

Mr. Speaker, all these was the effort to make sure that the private sector individuals will continue to have the purchasing and spending power so that money continues circulating the economy. The president recently announced Kshs. 53.7 billion to be channelled to the economy through infrastructure development. This was to ensure that there is money going around the country so that the private sector continues to have the purchasing power.

Kenya is made up of 47 counties and the economy of Kenya is a summation of the 47 counties. Every County's effort in reviving the economy adds up to the economy and sums up the growth rate of the economy of Kenya. We should be able to say we are part of the country that is affected and part of the government that collects revenue, taxes and spends the same on the Kenyan people. It is our role as the second level of the government to revive the economies of the Counties to see to it that the economy of Kenya grows at a given percentage.

Mr. Speaker, for us to do this we need to come up with strategies and means for us to see that our people get back to their economic activities. Coming back to the motion, we need to boost

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the recovery of the economy and we need to expand opportunities for our people so that, at the same time we improve infrastructure, expand access to education, roads and water. All these fall under the devolved function of government.

Let us then take a survey, we need data on how the economy of Laikipia has been affected and how it has reduced. For example, agriculture is a backbone of the economy of Laikipia, how many farmers have been affected and are not able to go back to the farm? If we do the survey then we will have baseline data to work with. When we say job creation, this time we tried not to be specific to the youth but at the end of the day most of these jobs will be done by the youth. Most of the jobless people who need income support are the youth but because everyone has been affected by COVID-19, every citizen of Laikipia should be allowed to participate in the programme.

We have seen what the government is doing in the locked counties of Kwale and Mombasa as well as Nakuru and Nairobi. Through the *kazi kwa wananchi* programme, they are trying to revive the economy and support *wananchi* so that they can have income. These people will not be getting free money; they will be doing our roads, drainage systems, rehabilitate gulley's and control invasive species. There is a lot of work we can engage them in and we will be increasing the expenditure power of the government while doing jobs and improving services to the people of Laikipia.

Mr. Speaker, waiver on reduced licences and levies, is in line with what the president was doing on taxes. The National Government works on the issues of PAYE and income tax whereas as a County Government we work on issues of levies and land rates. It is our responsibility to continue encouraging our people to have the purchasing power. We ought to reduce the licenses for the small business people to be able to go back to their business. By reducing to half we will be doing justice.

On providing national grant, there are those businesses that have collapsed and are not able to come back. Someone has the will to do business but has no opportunity for capital. As a government we need to come in and provide this person with capital to help them return to business. When they are able to go back to business they can be able to employ people and generate income for the government and we can get levies from them. It is our responsibility to make sure people get back to businesses. For those big businesses which have opportunities to continue and have an ability to repay loans, the enterprise fund should come in to provide long-term loans; or get into an MOU with banks and other financial institutions to facilitate them to provide loans for these people.

The backbone of the economy of Laikipia is agriculture. When a farmer is unable to go to the farm then over 80% of our population will be very vulnerable and will not be able to generate income and support their lives. It has to be looked into, what the expenditure a farmer needs to go back to the farm. We should see they need farm inputs, fertilizer, and machinery to plough land so that we are able to support them and provide the opportunity for them to continue.

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We should not forget that over 70% of land in Laikipia is semi-arid which supports livestock farming. All the people in livestock industry how are they affected and how do we support them to ensure they generate income for the economy of Laikipia? The issue of contractors is one of the way the private sector will be able to generate money. As a government we should build the capacity of our local contractors and pay them on time, to avoid having pending bills during this time of constraints.

Mr. Speaker, the issue of land rates relates to taxes. There is reviving the tourism and hospitality industry. The tourism industry in Laikipia involves the private conservancies and businesses. There is still a large industry supported by the tourism sector, this is the hospitality industry. We need to ask ourselves; how many are employed by the Mount Kenya Safari Club, how many are employed by The Sportmans Arms Hotel?

All these are under the hospitality industry which supports a lot of people and generates a lot of income to our County. We need to support them to go back to business. The speech of the president on the Kshs. 53.7 Billion, Kshs. 5 Billion will go to revive the tourism industry. Laikipia as a tourism destination should be in that team that seeks to revive tourism. With those few remarks, I wish to invite my friend the Honourable Member from Salama to second this motion. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

**Hon. Wilson Wakahiu:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to congratulate the mover of this motion as I beg to second because of putting the issues very clear as per the motion. For sure, the National Government has tried its best in cushioning the economy of the country. While doing this the president has tried to ensure that it has been decentralised to the county level so that even the counties benefit out of the stimulus package he has provided in his budget.

Even the County Government in its capacity having half its budget, it gets an equitable share from the National Government that we have the power to budget allocation from the same, we have the local revenue and I believe out of it we can assist our people with some of this money to raise their income. The other thing is grants; most of the poor African countries are getting grants from other countries. This money is coming and if our county doesn't follow it will benefit other counties in Kenya.

Every Governor is trying to fight for a share out of the same. As the mover has said, those ten key areas need to be considered. As I have said, the National Government has tried even at the county level. The county commissioner was trying to let the public know that the National Government is giving some money for improvement of the roads that were destroyed by floods and it was to engage some youths toward the work so that they can get some money out of the programme.

If we the County Government works with the National Government and give what we can afford and the National Government comes in, I believe the livelihood will not be brought down by the pandemic its high chance we work together. We tend to pretend as if things are normal

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when they are not, and it could get even worse as we move on. I beg to second the motion believing the mover has done a lot of research on what the National Government is doing and what we as the County Government can do to cushion the economic downfall.

Mr. Speaker, as I conclude I want to add something although out of this. Yesterday I said something concerning us Members; avoiding close contact. Again I said something on sitting arrangement, I am not saying some of us are sick but as much as we let our people be aware on preventive measures, sitting arrangement is very important. We are using papers; even though we are using sanitizers I will be using my phone, my pen and my paper. If I leave and go outside somebody else occupies my position, when I come back I will order them to leave my position. That is one area we are not taking care of seriously as far as preventing ourselves is concerned.

For example, Hon. Zamzam is sitting where Hon. Jacob sits, when he came she had to vacate. When Hon. Kaparo left, Hon. Kagondu came and sat where he was, when he came back Hon. Kagondu had to shift to another place. Let us address this issue Mr. Speaker and I will be grateful. I don't want to say we cannot be affected in another place but let us at least try to avoid that. I beg to second this motion as per the mover has moved it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Wakahiu. Before I propose the question because I will be moving out for some other duties elsewhere I will start by addressing that because it is a concern I have noted. We have the Serjeant At Arms here, who mark the seats. It will be appropriate for us to mark the seats as per the name of the Members so that each Member has their place, not permanent per-se. A place one can use during this period of COVID-19 so that we avoid that contact. If I find an empty seat I will not be able to go asking who was where.

Just follow the order we use; start with the Speaker's Panel, Leader of Majority Party, The Deputy Speaker, The Leader of Minority Party, you know the arrangements. Replace the label *'Sit Here'* just put the names under it not so conspicuously. The concern the Member has is very important. You can touch these tables then another person comes and touches, again it is very difficult to sit without touching things around you. You have to touch the microphone and the person who just left had used the same microphone.

These microphones, we do not use them when we have our masks on, we remove the mask in order to talk. It is automatic behaviour that when you talk on the microphone you will bring it closer to yourself; kindly ensure that is done before the afternoon sitting. The other day I saw we were checking temperatures and this morning when I came in I was not checked. I have also told the Clerk to let the person doing that, do it at the reception so that we take care of everyone who is coming in to check their temperature. Hon. Ndiritu, do you have something to say?

**Hon. Stephen Ndiritu:** Bwana Spika, kuna jambo nimeona ulipokuwa ukitoa mwelekeo. Ni kweli Korona tunaweza kusambaza hapa ingawa kuna jambo sijaelewa kwani hapa Bungeni kuna vile tunavyoketi. Kwenye kiti chako, kuna wakati ambapo wewe huondoka je tutakuwa

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tunabadilisha kiti chako wakati ambapo umeondoka, kwani kiti chako hakiwezi baki bure. Naomba utuelezee vizuri.

**Speaker:** I believe that is a very good concern Hon. Ndiritu. We call the seat of the Speaker, the seat of the Speaker. Most of the times it will only be I on the seat unless I will have to leave midway and someone has to take over and use the same seat. I believe the Serjeant at Arms will have to sanitize the table and microphone so that whoever takes over will be safe. It is important to observe these guidelines during this COVID-19 times so that we live in the time and appreciate that behaviour is changing.

I had not taken the concern that Hon. Ndiritu is raising but it is as important as that. We have to sanitize so that whoever comes after me, maybe when I have to leave the Chair, feels they are secure. We can contact this virus from anywhere and we say that my care takes care of you and my carelessness also affects you and vice versa. It is a time to observe a high degree of care as we live with COVID-19.

*(Question Proposed)*

**Hon. Simon Kanyutu:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to contribute on this motion by Hon. Matunge. May I thank him for coming with this noble idea because the COVID-19 pandemic has really affected us. It has really affected our community and I am a witness of how the businesses have been affected. Representing the people of Marmanet, I can evidently say that most of the business communities have closed, with an exemption of hotels and bars that the government closed. Hotels have started operating.

As we look upon the National Government to bring its input, we should look at ourselves as a County and gauge our input in assisting the business community that has been affected; hotel owners and small scale traders who previously had even closed their business. May I thank the Honourable Member who has tried to do his research and has seen even the way our farmers have been affected. My concern is with the County because as we speak most of the business people are being pushed to the end to pay licences.

Mr. Speaker, some have just opened up after the closure and once we start pushing them for licences it is a challenge. We will just see to it that these people close and go home. I am in the Committee on Budget and our slogan is to increase our business traders then see to it that they function properly. There are plans on how the County will promote them financially to see to it that they continue with their business. The first step as a County, we should waiver on the traders who cannot afford to pay for their licences. As we plan on the other assistance that should be our first step. We are aware that the pandemic has affected every docket and every department. Even our revenue docket has been affected.

Let us agree that if a trader cannot afford to pay, their licence should be waived and we let them to continue working just for sustainability. What I have learnt from the ground is that even the businesses that are operating are not making profits; they are operating to sustain themselves.

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As a County we need to take the obligation and see how we can assist them. I support the motion and would wish if possible, the recommendation as stated are implemented as quickly as possible to ensure that we safeguard our business communities. I support the motion and thank the Hon. Member for coming up with the idea because I had the same intention but he has done it earlier than I. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Joseph Suge:** Asante Sana, Mheshimiwa Spika. Nimesimama ili niweze kutoa mchango wangu kwenye huu mjadala. Namshukuru mwenzangu Mheshimiwa Matunge kwa kuwasilisha mjadala unaohusu uchumi kwa wakati unaofaa. Tunaishi kwa wakati wenye hofu kuhusiana na Homa ya Korona. Tumefika mahali ambapo tunastahili kujua hali ya wananchi wetu wa Laikipia. Korona imekuwa tisho kubwa kwa ulimwengu wote na tunajua dunia imeathirika. Homa hii ilipoanza kule Wuhan Uchina, sisi tuliendelea na biashara zetu tukiamini kuwa haitatufikia homa hii.

Kulingana na jinsi ilivyoenea, nchi zote zimeathirika na janga hili. Kiukweli, namshukuru Mheshimiwa Matunge kwa kuweza kufanya utafiti na kuona jinsi Wanalaikipia wameathirika katika biashara zao. Nchi yetu imeathirika kwa sababu ya biashara na dunia nzima pia kwani tunajua nchi zote zina uhusiano kibiashara. Kwa wakati huu ndege za kuenda ng'ambo zimesimamisha safari hizo, meli pia hazifanyi biashara kama kawaida na kwa hivyo bidhaa nyingi zinazofaa kuwafikia wananchi zinachelewa.

Kama viongozi, tuweke kipaumbele na kuona mambo tunayoweza kufanywa kwa wakati huu tumeweza kuzingatia na kuwasaidia wananchi wetu wa Laikipia. Tangu Rais wetu alipotangaza kuwa safari za kuingia na kutoka Jiji la Nairobi zimekatizwa, na vilevile alipoweka saa za kafyu, biashara nyingi ziliathirika. Kulingana na mjadala Mheshimiwa Matunge aliorodhesha, mapendekezo yake kumi nimeona yako sawa iwapo yatatimia inavyostahili. Kabla ya hili janga la Korona kwenye hili Bunge tumekuwa tukifikiria jinsi ya kuwainua vijana na kina mama kibiashara.

Tumeweka hadi pesa za *Revolving Funds* iweze kusaidia mashirika; tumeweka hadi *Enterprise Fund* kuweza kusaidia wafanyibiashara wanaojikuza. Hizo pesa ziliwafikia wananchi na wakaweza kuanzisha zile biashara ambazo ziliharibika baada ya muda mfupi. Kunastahili kuwa na mpangilio, ifuatiliwe vizuri ili kujua ni biashara zipi ziliangamia. Kaunti ya Laikipia ni sehemu ambayo wanabiashara wa kupalilia maua wamehamia, na kwa wakati huu wamesitisha kazi hizo jambo ambalo limeathiri jamii kwa kiwango kikubwa.

Ukienda mashinani utakuta familia ambazo haziwezi kupata chakula kwa sababu wamesimamishwa kazi kwa muda; wengine wamepewa likizo ya lazima na wengine wamepewa likizo fupi na imewaathiri kimaisha. Laikipia tunajua tuko na wafugaji wengi na pia *conservancies* na *ranchers* wanaofuga mifugo. Katika mpangilio huu tumekuwa tukisema kuwa soko za mifugo zifunguliwe. Watu wahamasishwe jinsi watafanya biashara wakijikinga kutokana na homa hii ya Korona.

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Mheshimiwa Spika, kwa wakati huu watu wetu wako kwenye hatari ya kuangamia zaidi. Wafanyibiashara wanaenda mashinani na kununua mifugo bila kujulikana kuwa wameingia mahali pale. Vile vile, Kaunti yetu inapoteza ushuru mwingi na ningeomba soko zifunguliwe na wale wananchi wapewe chanjo ya mifugo ili waweze kujinusuru. Kuhusiana na suala la leseni ya biashara ndogo; hivi majuzi tumekuwa na makubaliano kutoka kwa wenye Matatu, wale wa mitumba na wengine.

Jambo hilo linafaa kufikiriwa sana, hivi majuzi tuliona wameongezewa muda wa kulipa ada zao na tunashukuru sana. Tuangalie kuwa kwa sasa biashara zimeenda chini na tuwapunguzie ile ada kwa asilimia fulani ili wapate afueni vilevile waongezewe muda wakiendelea kulipa. Kuna jambo halikunifurahisha kama kiongozi nilipoona wafanyibiashara wadogo wenye vibanda ambavyo wamekuwa wakiuzia kwa muda, wakifurushwa. Huu ni wakati wa kufaana na kujali wenzetu, nashukuru kuona tulipoongea kidogo jambo hilo lilikoma na watu wanaendelea na biashara.

Siyo vyema wakati ambapo tunang'ang'ana kujaribu kuwalisha wananchi wasiojiweza, naye yule ambaye anajaribu kujiinua naye anaangamia. Tuweze kuangalia na tuone tumeweza kufaana kama wasemavyo Waswahili, *'akufaaye kwa dhiki ndiye rafiki'.* Huu ni wakati wa kuwajali wananchi na kuona biashara zao zimeweza kuendelea vizuri. Kwa hayo machache nashukuru na naunga mkono nikiamini ya kuwa sote tumejizatiti na kuona Wanalaikipia wameweza kusonga mbele wakati huu wa Korona. Asante, Mheshimiwa Spika.

**Hon. Stephen Ndiritu:** Asante, Bwana Spika. Nachukua nafasi hii kukushukuru kwa kunipa nafasi, kisha nimshukuru Mheshimiwa Matunge kwa kuleta mjadala unaowajali na unaowahusu wananchi tunaowakilisha. Ugonjwa huu ulipokuja, ni ugonjwa uliokuja kusambaratisha kila kitu. Tunapowafikiria wananchi waliotuchagua, ni jambo la muhimu. Tunajua kuwa biashara zimeanguka na katika Kaunti yetu wafanyibiashara wako na shida.

Kama Mwenyekiti wa Kamati wa Biashara na Viwanda, ni kuwa biashara zilizoathirika sana ni zile za *hustlers; hawkers, mitumba, mama mboga, wanouuza kuku* na kadhalika. Wakati serikali inapotoa pesa za kusaidia kuinua biashara ni lazima serikali iwe na mbinu ya kwamba wale watakaofaidika na pesa za serikali wawe ni wananchi ambao wameathirika kwa kweli. Kuna wakati Gavana wa Laikipia wakiwa na Waziri wa Biashara walisema kuwa wanakusudia kuweka laki moja ya kuinua biashara.

Nilipopata nafasi ya kuangalia mikakati wanayolenga, niligundua kuwa kama Bunge tusipokuwa makini na kuziangalia hizo stakabadhi vizuri huenda tusiwasaidie wanaohitaji kusaidiwa. Sijakutana na mchuuzi mjini Nanyuki akiwa na leseni, yeye hutembea na karatasi ya kuonyesha malipo ya siku moja. Nasema kuwa tukipeana hizi pesa tuwe waangalifu kwani niliona pia wanasema, ili kupata zile pesa lazima mtu apeane *log-book.* Wale wanaouza *mitumba* kama ninapouzia hatujawahi kupata leseni tunatumia vile vijikaratasi. Wengine hatuna hata gari, tutaoa hizo stakabadhi wapi ili tupate hizo pesa?

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Bwana Spika, Kama Mwakilishi wa biashara, nasimama na msimamo kuwa ili pesa zile zipite kwenye Bunge hili lazima watuonyeshe mikakati itakayofuatwa kuhakikisha kuwa Yule mchuuzi hana kizuizi cha kumzuia kupata zile pesa. Jambo lingine ni kuwa, lazima tujifunze kukaa na huu ugonjwa. WHO walisema ugonjwa huu hauendi mahali kwa hivyo ni vizuri kama serikali kuu na serikali ya Laikipia tuweke mbinu za kuhakikisha kuwa biashara zote kwenye Kaunti yetu wamepewa mafunzo ya kutosha ili wafungue biashara yao tuweze kuendelea na maisha kama kawaida.

Ukifungiwa biashara kama hauna mahali pengine pa kupata pesa, watu wanaathirika. Kwa mfano; enda sehemu ya Doldol ambako wananchi wamezoea kuuza mifugo na wanapata riziki, hivi leo yule mkulima hawezi kuuza ng'ombe wake kwani soko imefungwa kutokana na Korona. Tunasema kuna Korona ilhali kuna biashara ambazo tumeruhusu na nyingine tumekataza, wacha mambo ya Korona yatuweke sawa sote.

Naunga mkono aliyosema Rais wetu, kuwa hatuwezi kuwaambia watu waketi manyumbani na kuwazuia kila wakati, inabidi tuwe na mbinu nyingine. Jana nilimwona Rais amekutana na watu zaidi ya watu mia mbili kwenye ikulu na wakajadili masuala muhimu ya Chama cha Jubilee. Hiyo ni ishara kwamba pia sisi wananchi tujipange, tufungue biashara zetu ili tuwakaribishe wanunuzi hata kama ni hamsini ama mia ili tuinue biashara zetu.

Bwana Spika. Naunga huu mjadala mkono ingawa kuna mambo mawili nimeona na lazima tuyajadili na kutoa maoni. Napenda kutoa maoni yangu na hapa kila Mjumbe akichangia anasema kuwa tupunguze ada ya leseni, tumpe mwananchi pesa aweze kuinua biashara. Ninasema kuwa lazima tuwe watu wanaolenga ndipo na tukisema tuwape wananchi pesa, zinatoka wapi ilhali tunasema tuondoe ada anayolipishwa mwananchi? Serikali haina pesa zake kwani haiundi pesa zozote kwa hivyo pesa tunazonuia kuwapa ni zile tulizopata kutoka kwao.

Ni lazima tukubaliane kama wangwana na tuelezane ukweli. Wale tulio na biashara ni vyema sote tusukumwe tulipe ushuru wetu ili serikali ipate pesa za kuwafadhili wanabiashara wadogo wadogo. Ninaweza kuwa na biashara inayofanya vizuri na naweza kulipa ushuru.

**Hon. Catherine Nyawira:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like a clarification from the Honourable Member for Thingithu because; first he has said that we have all said taxes should be suspended and secondly he has claimed that these people should be pushed to pay taxes. Just for clarification, if a business has closed for six months who are you going to find at the business to pay the tax. He could clarify what his statement meant.

**Speaker:** Hon. Kanyutu, are you on the same?

**Hon. Simon Kanyutu:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. I wanted that clarification because the Member seems to not be in Laikipia or Kenya. He seems to have just landed recently because he doesn't seem to understand what…

**Speaker:** Are you seeking clarification or you are describing the Member?

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**Hon. Simon Kanyutu:** I am seeking clarification because the Hon. Member seems to have just landed in Kenya.

**Speaker:** Hon. Kanyutu, you cannot rise on a point of clarification and yet you want to describe the Member as if he has come from Wajir or elsewhere, it is not right. Hon. Ndiritu you can respond.

**Hon. Stephen Ndiritu:** Asante, Bwana Spika. Kwanza nashukuru kwa kunizuia kutoka kwa Mheshimiwa Kanyutu. Kwa vile kuna sheria, nashuku Mheshimiwa Kanyutu angenipiga kofi kwani naona mikono nyuma yangu lakini ningeruka na yeye lakini sheria ya Bunge inatuzuia. Nimesema vizuri ya kuwa, biashara tumefunga na mimi ni mwathiriwa wa wale ambao wamefunga biashara. Nilifunga kwa wiki mbili na nilipoenda kufungua biashara karibu nishikwe na kuwekwa ndani. Bwana Spika, Ninaposema hivi, wale wengine ambao wanasema mambo ya biashara hawajawahi kufungua duka wauze hata kichokonoa. Na ndio wanaonihanda na kuniambia mambo ya biashara.

**Hon. Simon Kanyutu:** Mr. Speaker. I need a clarification from the Honourable Member, we are Members of this House, we represent our people and I may not be selling these things but I represent people who do that work. I don't own a hotel or a bar but those business owners are suffering. Should I start operating a business to represent them in this House Mr. Speaker?

**Speaker:** Hon. Zamzam, are you on the same?

**Hon. Salma Zamzam:** Ndiyo, Bwana Spika. Nanukuu alivyosema ndugu yangu, hapa hatujaletwa kuwa na biashara za mitumba na nyinginezo ilhali tuko hapa kuwakilisha wale wanaofanya hizo biashara. Nimemsikia Mheshimiwa akisema wengine hawauzi hata kichokonoa; anajuaje kama biashara za wengine wanauza dhahabu na theluji? Siyo lazima ujue biashara za wengine na tuko hapa kuwatetea waliokata ushuru. Huu mjadala ni wa ukweli, lakini tunamwona Mheshimiwa akisema anaunga mkono na bado anapinga. Aseme kama hakubaliani na mjadala ili tuweze kuendelea kujadili mswada ulio mbele ya Bunge lako.

**Hon. Catherine Nyawira:** Mr. Speaker, I think I still haven't gotten a clarification and more so the contributing Member has said that we have not run businesses. I don't know whether he is aware that it is illegal to be a government officer and still run a business, so he can also clarify whether he is running a business.

**Hon. Stephen Ndiritu:** Bwana Spika, kwanza niseme ya kwamba sijui ni sheria gani inayomkataza afisa wa serikali kufanya biashara. Ninajua kuwa Mheshimiwa Uhuru Kenyatta ambaye ni Rais anafanya biashara ya kuuza maziwa ya Brookside. Kwa hivyo, hiyo sheria sijajua ni ipi.

**Hon. Catherine Nyawira:** Mr. Speaker this is a clarification and also information. One, our Excellency the President does not run a business and if he does we should see that business

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ownership so that we see who the exact owner of the business is. I would urge the Member to give correct information before the House and to stop embarrassing the President of Kenya.

**Hon. Stephen Ndiritu:** Mr. Speaker, I want to clarify to this House that I am the one who supports President Uhuru Kenyatta a hundred per cent, and I swore in this parliament in his name.

**Speaker:** Hon. Ndiritu you know that you are still making contributions although you have been interrupted a little bit. You started your speech in Kiswahili and I would beg that you don't also turn it midway into English. Kindly continue in Kiswahili.

**Hon. Stephen Ndiritu:** Asante, Bwana Spika. Ni kwa vile nampenda Rais Uhuru Kenyatta kwa hivyo akianza kuzungumziwa napandwa na mori hadi nabadilisha lugha. Jambo ningetaka kusema ni kuwa mtu akisimama kwa hoja ya maelezo zaidi na anataja hadi sheria, ningependa Mheshimiwa Catherine atuambie ni kipengele gani kinachozuia afisa wa serikali kufanya biashara. Najua hapa kuna wanaofanya biashara ya kulima na mimi mwenyewe nafanya biashara ya kuuza viatu hadi leo hii. Ningetaka kujua iwapo kuna sheria kama hiyo ili niende nifunge biashara yangu nisiwe navunja sheria. Kupitia kiti chako ningetaka kumwomba Mheshimiwa Catherine atoe hicho kifugu ili mimi na wengine tulio hapa tuweze kufuata sheria. Nataka mwongozo kutoka kwenye Kiti chako Bwana Spika.

**Speaker:** I will do exactly that but before then, can you either confirm or withdraw that His Excellency the President does not do the milk business that you talked about. It is something we cannot really ascertain in this House. We cannot be able to produce documents, to say that this is a business owned by His Excellency the President.

**Hon. Stephen Ndiritu:** Asante, Bwana Spika. Kwa sababu namheshimu Rais wa Jamhuri ya Kenya na sijui kama yeye ni mwenye biashara, lakini nafikiria yuko na hisa kwenye ile kampuni ya Brookside na labda ni ya familia. Nimeondoa hiyo na niseme kama sio yeye sikuwa najua na nimeondoa ingawa nilikuwa nafikiria vile. Nikienda kwenye mswada nafikiri nimejibu waliyouliza Waheshimiwa, nimesema vizuri ya kuwa tukipeana lazima tujue tunatoa wapi. Huwezi kusema utatoa shilingi elfu kumi umpe Mheshimiwa Matunge na kulingana na utaratibu wetu, lazima utoe ili upewe nafikiria serikali hufanya hivyo; lazima iokote ushuru ili itumie huo ushuru kwa sababu serikali haitengenezi pesa.

**Hon. Simon Kanyutu:** Mr. Speaker. I stand on a point of clarification because we have said vividly that we should ensure the businesses are running, instead of waiting for them to close and then come boosting them with money. He is stating that we first of all push them for whatever they don't have and then later on we assist. Shall we assist people who are not operating? Can he clarify on the same Mr. Speaker?

**Hon. Stephen Ndiritu:** Bwana Spika, nafikiri Kanyutu alikuwa ametoka na amekuja hapa bila kujua tunajadilia nini. Ningependa kumfahamisha ya kwamba ni lazima biashara zile…

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**Speaker:** Hon. Ndiritu, we said that we refer to every Member as an Honourable Member, Honourable Kanyutu.

**Hon. Stephen Ndiritu:** Asante, Bwana Spika. Mheshimiwa Kanyutu, Mwakilishi Wadi wa Marmanet, nilisema vizuri ya kwamba tufungue biashara zote kuanzia soko hadi kichinjio. Tukishafungua biashara zote, tuokote ushuru kisha twende kwa wale wanabiashara wasiokuwa na uwezo kama wachuuzi, mama mboga, vijana na wale wengine wanaotaka kufanya biashara waweze kupata hizo pesa. Hilo ndilo jambo nililosema.

Bwana Spika, nimeambiwa kuna wale ambao wanafanya biashara na kama ninavyojua, mwanabiashara ni yule ambaye amefungua duka. Biashara zaweza kuwa nyingi na kunayo isiyohitaji kufungua duka lakini hilo sijui. Mimi najua ya kuwa biashara yangu lazima kufunguliwe duka na hiyo ambayo inafanywa bila ya kuwa na bidhaa za kuuza sijui kwani naelewa lazima duka ifunguliwe. Naunga mkono mswada huu lakini ni lazima pia tueleze serikali itatoa hizi pesa wapi.

**Hon. Salma Zamzam:** Bwana Spika, ningependa ndugu yangu aweze kutufahamisha, kuna lugha ambayo sijaelewa ya kuwa kuna biashara mtu anaweza kuifanya bila bidhaa za kuuza. Atuelezee ni biashara gani hiyo ambayo unaweza kufungua biashara bila bidhaa za kuuza. Aweze kuondoa hayo matamshi kwani ni ya kuudhi kwenye hili Bunge, asante Bwana Spika.

**Hon. Stephen Ndiritu:** Asante Bwana Spika. Yeye ndiye angenieleza kwani nimesema sijui biashara yoyote inayofanywa bila bidhaa za kuuza wala duka kufunguliwa. Kama kunayo, Mheshimiwa Zamzam angenieleza mfano wa biashara kama hiyo nielewe kwani nimesema sielewi. Nitafafanua nini ambayo mwenyewe sielewi kama kuna biashara kama hiyo? Kwa hayo machache Bwana Spika, nashukuru.

**Speaker:** I agree you cannot explain that which you do not understand. That is true, and Hon. Ndiritu is right. Hon. Catherine Nyawira. Are those microphones doing well?

**Hon. Catherine Nyawira:** Before I start contributing, I would like to direct the Honourable Member from Thingithu that the constitution of Kenya chapter 77 on the activities of a State Officer are very clear; that, a full time state officer shall not participate in another gainful employment. That means you are not supposed to do another job that gives you money. The second part of it says that, any appointed state officers shall not hold office in a political party. This is where we see people resigning as CSs, PSs to vie for Governors. Three, it says that a retired state officer who is receiving a pension from public funds shall not hold more than two concurrent remunerative positions as chairperson, director or employee. When we were here to remove the former service board, there was a person who held two positions and this came down on them heavily. We have points and Mr. Speaker I believe I have shed light on what I was trying to say.

**Hon. Stephen Ndiritu:** Bwana Spika ningependa ufafanuzi anaposema *gainful employment;* kuna mambo mawili ambayo yamejitokeza, kuajiriwa ambako ni kuandikwa kazi na kuna kujishughulisha na biashara inayoleta kipato. Kama kuna jambo kama hilo nitasema labda

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ndio maana tunaleta BBI ili tubadilishe hiyo katiba. Ina maana kuwa, iwapo mimi ni mfugaji niende niwauze ng'ombe wangu ili nibaki bila kitu chochote.

Hadi sasa sijaelewa na ningeomba uhakikishe tumepatiwa mafunzo ya kutosha. Tufunzwe na tuelewe kuwa ukiwa umechaguliwa huwezi kuwa na biashara nyingine yoyote inayokupa kipato na hiyo ni kumaanisha nchi inaelekea kwa mwelekeo mbaya. Nakubaliana na yeye shingo upande lakini Wajumbe wanafaa kujadili hilo jambo kwa sababu linaweza kutuletea shida ikijulikana kuwa unafanya biashara.

**Hon. Chris Mark:** As the clarification is sought, maybe the confusion is on; business with whom. No State Officer is barred from doing business and I know my Chairman is worried he might end up selling his shops. Maybe he thinks he is doing something illegal and he likes following the law so he is afraid he has been doing something illegal. I don't think it is the aspect of doing business, I think it is doing business with the government; for example if I have a company, I can go into a tender application process in Laikipia County and I am a State Officer in the same County because there will always be a conflict of interest.

I think that is the element being talked about. On the area of gainful employment, it is the same thing that the Honourable has clarified. I cannot be a State officer here and I am in a board like Athi Water or GDC, those are two gainful ventures but in the private sector and the public there are a big difference. That is the clarification I was adding as she adds more clarification, thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Catherine Nyawira:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my contribution to the motion for this House. As I said, this is a very noble motion because the higher population of Laikipia is basically businesses and most of them are SMEs. These are very informal because; when I have a kiosk and I am selling something, it is unlikely that I have registered that business. Probably it is in my name and I just pay licences in order to operate so it is even unlikely that I have a bank account because it is largely an informal sector. However, it employs a huge number of people and if something small happens the disruption of the business is flawed. It is important that the government cushions these people by giving them money to be able to continue doing their business.

I want to completely agree with the mover that *kazi kwa wananchi programme is* a very good initiative. I suggest that the county have data on where they will attach these *wananchi*, everyone who is vulnerable so that they can be attached to the contractors who are giving business so that we do not give business to a contractor and they come with people from other places. The government should ensure this is followed and they have people being attached.

Mr. Speaker, I heard the Member for Rumuruti Ward saying that livestock is still being sold in the bush. This is a very risky business and we have livestock markets. We have holding zones and the government should look into building holding zones that are 24 hours and have

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sanitization which allow the people to continue their trade. If they can continue trading then they relieve the government from being able to cushion them because people are still eating food.

I urge the government to construct proper livestock sheds; that are well lit, have sanitization, with areas where cattle doff and don so that they can continue doing their businesses well. I would also like to contribute on the reduction of land rates and other taxes to encourage investors. My opinion is that licences and taxes should be completely suspended. Somebody has not opened shop for six months so what are you reducing for them when they have nothing. This should be suspended until the time they will be able to pay. For example, the bank suspended loans for three months; my bank does not expect me to pay loans for the next three months and after the three months they will be able to review.

I expect the County government to be looking into such because when the National Government comes in and provides a grant, that is money collected from the National Government and not our taxes as one contributor implied. The National Government has reserves they bring to the County government, so the county needs to suspend instead of collecting yet it is a grant. This will be double taxation and it means that the County government does not understand that *mwananchi* has nothing.

Mr. Speaker, this House passed a bill on COVID-19 and I believe this bill needs to be supported by other bills or acts that will be able to further cushion and direct on how such monies should be given to the people whose businesses have really suffered. On keeping the SMEs afloat, these people are the backbone of this economy. They employ a very large number of people through their businesses and supply chain. I don't agree with the demolitions that happened on the roadsides. We have seen in many counties where large markets have been built, the traders refuse to go into the large markets. They still go by the roadside. Essentially, people from Umande grow their own cabbages and potatoes. They are not selling to the residents of Umande. They are selling to somebody in Nanyuki who is passing to go to Timau and does not grow these items. That essentially shows why they are on the roadside. The government should look for another way to ensure their businesses continue running. I beg to support the motion.

**Hon. Chris Mark Said:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be brief because most of my colleagues have echoed my words. I rise to actually support what Hon. Matunge has brought here today. I also encourage him, most of the motions that we bring here we find them being shelved by the Executive. I encourage Hon. Matunge to come up with an act or a bill. He has a good economic mind. He can articulate figures of economics and mathematics. It is good and I encourage him that he can be teaching the children at home mathematics using zoom. It is good we take steps as leaders. I saw Hon. Babu Owino teaches maths every Monday on the social media.

*(The Speaker left the Chair)*

*(Temporary Speaker (Hon. Catherine Nyawira) in the Chair)*

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The issue here is that the county until now has no data of how many jobs have closed and how many people have lost work. If we do not have this data how can we come and say that this is the number of people we are helping. I actually support when he says that we take a survey. We saw roadside distractions. I always echo until now. Miraa is a cash crop and it is there by law. People's businesses along the road as you go to Cedar mall were destroyed. They are residents and voters of Laikipia. They were not told where to go. They woke up one morning and the kiosks were being demolished. In Kiswahili they are saying '*madharau kiasi kwa ile biashara ya Miraa'.*

They did not do good as Miraa is a cash crop. There are many youths who lost jobs. Almost two hundred, Madam Speaker. We must sort the youths. If we do not sort them we will have a lot of insecurity to the point that you cannot be getting to your house or any kind of a thing as they are causing insecurity.

On the issue of waiving, I support it fully. Those SME's who got the loans through the Corporate and Evolving Funds, I am not saying they be waived, but the loans should be staggered. If they were to pay them in a year's time we should at least extend them to two. We have said here that money has not been collected. We should provide the loans at a cheaper rate. The rate now is at 6%. We need to review the interest rate to 4% maybe for the youth, women and the PWD's. We need to buff these small businesses.

As I conclude, we should know how many pending bills are in this county. One of the issues that will help circulate money is by paying the pending bills. The priority should be given to the youths, women and PWDs. It is immoral for the County Government not to pay them. They did their job. I wish The Chair Finance was here but I can see the Vice Chair is here. I do not know whether the pending bills were factored in the supplementary budget. I was echoing that. This is a way of making sure that money circulates. Priority being women, youths, the PWDs and the vulnerable. I support this. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Temporary Speaker (Hon. Catherine Nyawira):** May I now ask the mover of the County Economic Stimulus motion to reply.

**Hon. Peter Matunge:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Let me take this opportunity to thank the Hon. Members who have strongly supported this motion. They have enriched the motion further. Replying to the motion, Hon. Kanyutu clearly explained how people are struggling and how the County Government is continuing to push them to pay licenses that they have no money to pay. This has continued to push people to close more businesses. This is the issue that we need to say no to, as representatives of the people.

We need not continue pushing when somebody is unable to pay for licenses them. I think it is the reason that the motion is here. We are in the process of making the budget. Economic Stimulus is a one financial year package. The decision lies with us. It is we who make the decision of the budget. To push it, we need to have in our minds that when we push our motion that goes

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in line with the budget then we need to actually factor it in the budget so that it is implemented fully.

The horticulture industry in Laikipia has collapsed. Most of these things are exported outside the country. We do not have those things happening now. We know that we can do little as a county. We can take the opportunity of the 53.7 billion to lobby and see how the ministry will support us on this.

Finally, on issues raised by Hon. Member from Thingithu. I wish that he is here. He has really supported the motion saying the we need to support the vulnerable groups, small businesses, *mama mboga*, *mitumbas* and the hawkers. He raised a very concern issues that when we tell people not to pay where will we get the money to finance this activities. We need not to tell people not to pay.

The County Government either in Laikipia or any other has different sources of income. In Laikipia, we are funded by the National Government, local revenue and the grants. The bigger budget in agriculture is funded by grants. Our budget goes to about 6 to 7 bn. What we can collect as a county is less than a billion. About Kshs 5 billion is the money we get from other sources. When tough times come we need to do the tough. That is why we see the President knowing that revenue is collected through taxes goes ahead to reduce taxes. Income tax, corporate tax and pay as you earn tax have been reduced in percentages.

The Hon. Member cannot justify that we should not waive as we will not have money to spend as a government. We still have more than Kshs. 5 billion from other sources. We can still collect more than 50% from our local revenues if we put clear strategies on how to manage this.

It is a noble idea that should be part of the government and Kenya. We revive our economy. Very soon we will see Laikipia's economy leading in this country. If we do what other people are not doing, we do what National Government is doing then our economy will lead and our people will continue doing business.

The issue of livestock market is serious and that we need to look into it. We have closed major businesses. Livestock markets takes place in an open ground. It is mostly not affected by COVID-19; it is not a closed place. We just need to see how we will put strategies to open this market. The businesses are continuing in bushes. It is something we need to revisit. They are businesses that support this county. They generate a lot if income through licenses. With those few remarks, I thank the Hon. Members and finally urge them to support the motion. Thank you.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

## ADJOURNMENT

**Temporary Speaker (Hon. Catherine Nyawira):** This House stands adjourned until later in the afternoon, Wednesday, 3rd June, 2020 at 2.30 p.m.

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The House rose at 10.30 a.m.

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