

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF NAKURU

THE HANSARD

Thursday April 30th, 2015

Assembly Building

The House met at 2.50pm

[The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Eunice Muriithi) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

QUORUM PROBLEM

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Eunice Muriithi): Thank you very much; we still have a problem of attaining quorum. The Speaker, Honourable Susan Kihika had said it here before that the Chairpersons and their Vices should make an effort of being here early so that they can whip Members of their Committees but that is yet to happen; Also when the session is on let us avoid unnecessary movements.

Sergeant At Arms, there is so much noise from outside so tell the Members to either come in or maintain silence to allow us run the session without distraction.

PAPER

BUDGET ESTIMATES

Deputy Leader Majority Party (Hon. Paul Chebor): Thank you Madam Temporary Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 210 and section 129 (2)(a), of the Public Finance Management which states that the County Executive Member for Finance shall submit to the County Assembly the Budget Estimates supporting documents and any other Bills required to implement the Budget by 20th April that year.

Madam Temporary Speaker, pursuant to Section 129 (3) states that each County Assembly Clerk shall prepare and submit to the County Assembly and a copy shall be submitted to the County Committee Executive Member for Finance.

Madam Temporary Speaker, I wish to Table the following Papers;

1. Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MDEF) 2015/2016) and 2017/2018 for the County Executive
2. Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MDEF) Budget 2015/2016 and 2017/2018 for the County Assembly.

Madam Temporary Speaker and honourable Members, note that for the County Assembly consider the estimate of expenditure and revenue and pursuant to Standing Order 210 (3) which states that upon being laid before the Assembly, the estimate shall be deemed committed to each sectoral Committee to deliberate upon according to their respective mandate. Thank you Madam Temporary Speaker, I beg to table.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Eunice Muriithi): Thank you very much honourable Chebor, pursuant to Standing Order 210, the 2015/2016 Budget Estimates are deemed to be committed to each sectoral Committee. The sectoral Committees are required to deliberate the estimates upon in accordance to their respective mandates. The sectoral Committees should present their Reports to the Budget Committee on or before 14th May, 2015. The sectoral Committees are expected to prioritise programs and sub programs within their sectors.

I urge all the Chairpersons to expedite this task since you are all aware of Constitutional timelines.

PAPER

REPORT ON THE COUNTIES FINANCE COMMERCE AND BUDGET

COMMITTEES CHAIRS RETREAT

Hon. John Gicamu: Thank Madam Temporary Speaker, I am the Chairperson Finance Committee in the County Assembly of Nakuru and I want to table a Report on the retreat of the Senate Committee on Finance, Commerce and Budget and the Chairpersons of the counterpart Committees of the County Assemblies in the Country. This was held at the Great Rift Valley Lodge Naivasha from 19th to 22nd of March, 2015.

Madam Temporary Speaker,

The workshop which brought together County Assemblies and The Senate was organized by the Senate Standing Committee on Finance, Commerce and Budget. The objective of this retreat was to enable the committee identify specific, realistic and achievable interventions to address matters related to revenue collection, accountability of public resources and management of revenue leakages at the county level of government.

It aimed at developing a framework for working relationship between the Senators and County Assembly Chairpersons in charge of Budget and Finance Committees. The workshop was funded by the Parliament Developing Partner SUNY Kenya and the Parliament of Kenya (Senate). In

Disclaimer: The electronic version of the Assembly Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor, County Assembly of Nakuru.

the meeting, several resource persons were invited to give presentations on various topics relating to the theme of the workshop: the following resource persons were in attendance:

1. Micah Cheserem -Chairman, Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA)
2. Sarah Serem – Salaries and Remuneration Commission
3. Ms. Agnes Odhiambo -Controller of Budget
4. Representative from Transition Authority
5. Officers from Parliamentary Budget Office
6. Mr. Edward Ouko - Auditor General among other resource persons

We had successful deliberations and several pertinent issues were brought in the fore and discussed exhaustively.

Hon. John Gicamu: The meeting also formed a forum for discussing some of the challenging issues with Finance and Budget. At the end of the retreat, recommendation and way forward was developed.

Being the first of its kind since this Assembly came up with Committee on Finance, it presented a perfect opportunity and illuminated the path especially to me as the committee chair to discuss some of the pertinent issues that will help my committee develop and perform its functions effectively.

Madam Temporary Speaker, The following topics were exhaustively deliberated upon during the Workshop.

Areas of deliberation

1. Synergies and coordination between and within oversight bodies in ensuring Accountability and proper management of public resources at county level
2. Trends and weaknesses in revenue collection in Counties
3. Avenues of revenue leakages and possible interventions; matters of financial accountability of revenue collected and remittances. An attempt to address concerns related to dwindling of revenue collections compared to the defunct county councils
4. Experiences of the County Assemblies on matters related to revenue collection
5. Integrity of revenue collection systems at the counties including opportunities and challenges
6. Management of public resource during the transition period
7. Wage bill at the county level

8. Budget making and implementation process at the county level of government
9. Procurement of goods and services at the county level government policy, legislative and administrative challenges
10. Role of CID in enhancing oversight of public resources at the County among others.

Honorable Temporary Speaker, at the end of this workshop and based on the topics under discussion, some of the recommendations made as a way forward included the following:

1. The county government should fully automate revenue collection systems to minimize misappropriation and stealing of funds at the source
2. Train all revenue collectors on the best practices
3. Public participation in making of finance bills- it is their constitutional right
4. County Assemblies be strengthened to offer effective oversight, this should be through continuous training
5. The Finance and Budget committees should be well trained on their mandates
6. The county government should set realistic revenue target
7. County government should discourage increase in taxation and focus on widening the tax bracket.

Madam temporary Speaker I beg to table this Report.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Eunice Muriithi): You may, thank you very much I think that is a good example from the Chairperson on committee on Finance, all the Chairperson present can see that after attending a workshop the Reports should be brought here so that we can know the recommendations because the recommendations will be important to our County Assembly.

STATEMENT

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON MEMBERS LAP FUND AND GRATUITY

Hon. David Malel: Thank you Madam Temporary Speaker, I rise to request for a statement pursuant to Standing Order number 47 (2) (C) from the Chairperson of the Committee on Welfare, Catering and Library regarding Lap Fund and Gratuity. It has come to the attention

of the Members of this House that they are not being provided with quarterly statements on their Lap Fund account progress despite Members contributing every Month. Our term is mid-way and we are afraid we will not be paid at the end of our term since we are not keeping track of our contributions. There is need to appraise Members of what is happening to their contribution on quarterly basis lest their money get lost.

On the same note, I also wish to inform this House that our gratuity money is not being included in the statements and could lead to loss of benefits if not properly tracked, it is on this basis that I request for a statement from the Chairperson of the Committee on Welfare, Catering and Library to tell this House

1. Why the Members are not provided with updated Lap Fund statements and when will the statements be availed to Members
2. How much gratuity has been remitted to date
3. Statement with complete breakdown and accrued gratuity be availed.

I am getting concerned but I do not want to work with rumors but rumor has it that this money has not been remitted to date and you can predict the awkward situation the Members will be at the end of the term of this House. So with all due respect I request for this statements and I hope they will be availed as you will direct but it should be given first priority. Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Eunice Muriithi): Thank you Hon. Malel, That is a very important statement to seek, I direct it be done as soon as possible but I know we are soon going for recess and I will be directing the leadership of Committee of Catering to bring a statement on 10/06/2015 about the Lap fund and Gratuity for these Members.

MOTION

LONG RECESS

Deputy Leader of Majority (Hon. Paul Chebor): Thank you Madam Temporary Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 31(3) this House adjourns from tomorrow Friday 1/ 5/2015 to 8/6/2015 in line with the Assembly calendar.

You know that there is a lot of politics going on the ground so we ought to organize ourselves for a re-come so I urge Members to approve this Motion so that members can go to the ground and reorganize ourselves. I request the Minority Leader to second the Motion.

Leader of Minority (Hon. Daniel Ambale): Thank you Madam Temporary Speaker, It is indeed in order that this House takes this recess. I think it is a debate that we have done before and we approved in this House that we shall leave to go and perform other functions outside this assembly for that period.

It is important to note that the financial year is coming to an end and so many projects are either in progress or are either in a stage where it requires a lot of monitoring by these Members and proper oversight, I second this Motion on that ground.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Eunice Muriithi): Thank you very much now the Motion is open for debate. Hon. Malel.

Hon. David Malel: Thank you Madam Temporary Speaker, I do not want to support it neither do I want to reject it because it is a timetable that we have to follow, but I find it quite not in order that we are going for recess yet we have some pending issues, especially we cannot do sports despite the money being availed because there are some regulations that have not been passed by the Committee of rules and procedure.

I find it unfortunate that we are going probably to stay and probably request for other time to come and perform sporting activities with our youths yet we could have done it at this particular time.

We also have issues concerning disability and those regulations are still pending. I am of the view that should such calendar come in...

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Eunice Muriithi): One minute please. Whip there is too much noise coming from outside, I do not know why the honourable Members are discussing outside when we are supposed to be in the House.

Hon David Malel: Thank you Madam Temporary Speaker. I find it inappropriate that such activities Should be arranged to fit in the timelines provided in the Standing Orders. I find quite it unfortunate that those concerned are not doing it at the right time for it to be implemented

The Temporary Speaker (Hon Eunice Muriithi): Hon Beatrice

Hon Beatrice Wambugu: Thank you Madam Temporary Speaker, I rise in support of this Motion and I want to say it has come at the right time, when the rains have come and get time for doing farming. It is also good for our children are going back to school. For the elected Members I can see they are consulting because they have gotten their bursaries cheques they have a very nice comeback in their wards. Also because of the rains and the money that they had asked for to go do tree planting has also come I think this is the right time. Though I request if the calendar can be changed, we should be going for recess during April Holidays, I support, thank you

The Temporary Speaker (Hon Eunice Muriithi): Hon Beatrice, the Calendar was passed and you were here in the County Assembly but well that is alright. It seems we have exhausted debate on this matter; I put it to question that we adjourn the House in line with Assembly Calendar

(Question put and agreed to)

Well I think now that we are going for recess, let me go out of order a bit but at least we need some time so that all of you can go back to your wards and do some work so that when we come back, we shall be more energetic to do our oversight, representation and legislative roles. I think all of us are complaining that we have relaxed a bit. By the time we come back we will have extra energy to execute our roles of oversight and legislation. You have heard hon Malel saying that we are half our term which puts us in an awkward position and so we need to accelerate ourselves so we can meet the requirements for the next election, so we stand adjourned...Sorry I almost forgot, next order

BILLS

NAKURU COUNTY LAWS INSPECTORATE AND ENFORCEMENT COMPLIANT BILL, 2014

(First Reading)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Eunice Muriithi): This Bill is referred to the Committee on Security and Governance. Next

THE NAKURU COUNTY EMERGENCY FUND BILL, 2014

(First Reading)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon Eunice Muriithi): The Bill is committed to Committee on Budget and Appropriation

The Chairmen of these Committees should make sure they are in line with what is happening in regard to the Bills

Thank you very much because we have debated and we are proceeding for recess, we stand adjourned until June 9th, 2015 at 2.30pm

The House rose at 3.20pm

