

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA
THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 28th August, 2024

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

[The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

QUORUM CALL

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki): Clerk, confirm whether we have got quorum.

(Lack of quorum confirmed)

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki): I order the sergeant at arms to ring the bell for ten minutes

(The quorum bell was rung for 10 minutes)

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki): Can the clerk confirm whether we have got quorum.

(Lack of quorum confirmed)

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki): I instruct the Serjeant at Arms to continue ringing the bell for five more minutes.

(The quorum bell was rung for 3 more minutes)

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Mr. Speaker, we have got quorum now.

(Clerk confirmed achievement of Quorum)

NOTICE OF MOTION

ESTABLISHMENT OF ICT HUBS AND LIBRARIES IN LAIKIPIA COUNTY

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

THAT, NOTING THAT there are only two libraries in Laikipia County, in Nanyuki and Rumuruti;

FURTHER NOTING THAT libraries aim to open new avenues for individuals to learn, obtain information, expand their intellectual horizons and promote a reading culture;

AWARE THAT Information and Communication Technology (ICT) provides accessibility through online education and also is a form of earning through online platforms for many individuals;

FURTHER AWARE THAT Kenya is set to begin the construction of ICT hubs in all wards across the County;

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THAT the need to develop the grassroots ICT sector is described as vital in setting a stronger foundation for ICT-related development and the digital economy;

This Assembly URGES the County Government in liaison with the Kenya National Library Services to establish several libraries across the County while integrating ICT hubs in the same libraries which will be cost effective and in turn, open up avenues for individuals to promote a reading culture and also expand their horizons through research on online platforms; The ICT hubs will also be avenues for individuals to make income and in turn boost the economy.

MOTION

ESTABLISHMENT OF ICT HUBS AND LIBRARIES IN LAIKIPIA COUNTY

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

THAT, NOTING THAT there are only two libraries in Laikipia County, in Nanyuki and Rumuruti;

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FURTHER AWARE THAT Kenya is set to begin the construction of ICT hubs in all wards across the County;

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THAT the need to develop the grassroots ICT sector is described as vital in setting a stronger foundation for ICT-related development and the digital economy;

This Assembly URGES the County Government in liaison with the Kenya National Library Services to establish several libraries across the County while integrating ICT hubs in the same libraries which will be cost effective and in turn, open up avenues for individuals to promote a reading culture and also expand their horizons through research on online platforms; The ICT hubs will also be avenues for individuals to make income and in turn boost the economy.

Mr. Speaker, this is just a clear indication that we have areas that we can actually exploit in terms of ICT hubs. One of the areas where the county has been trying to ensure that we create jobs for our youth and learning culture is through the ICT centres. I know that building ICT centres was one of the priorities within the county but currently, I don't think that there is any ICT centre hub already in existence in Laikipia.

I believe that this is an opportunity to take advantage of the library services. As you look at how the world is going on, we are not using the physical books and papers the normal way. We are actually now going into using smart technology. Most of our young ones have already been using these ones.

I am foreseeing in the next 10 years; we will not be having books even maybe in our schools. We will now be using online platforms for reading and also for doing our research. So, my suggestion is that we will be having these library facilities that are within our Counties but we will now become obsolete. The question is, what are we going to do with these areas of

these facilities? These are the places or an opportunity that we can turn these libraries into ICT hubs.

The quickest ways to create the ICT hubs, we can use the existing facilities that is the library services and we create the ICT hubs within those places. That means that automatically within a month or two because we have two existing libraries, we can set apart a place where we can have the ICT hub started. There are people doing online marketing, online stuff and they are getting their money.

That is a good place where they can go and sit down and do their own businesses. That is an opportunity that we can use as a County. That will immediately transform the two library centers into ICT hubs automatically without going to the expense of using a lot of money to create or to build the ICT hubs. We can use those places first of all because number two, there is issue of security. You know you're going to be putting computers and laptops there at least.

We are taking advantage of those facilities so that we can use them and our young generation can have a place where they can do their own research. They can create their own employment there as we are now crying that there is no employment. There is employment if you take advantage of what we have at the moment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I would like to call upon Hon. George Karuiru to second my motion. Thank you.

Hon. George Karuiru: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like first of all to congratulate you for the conduction of the House this afternoon. As well, I'd like to congratulate Hon. Catherine Umija for the good thought of urging the County Government as well as the National Government, to widen the scope of implementation in terms of the digital way provided by the libraries.

I think it's a little bit odd quoting that a full County got only two libraries, in Nyahururu and in Rumuruti. I think we have so much land, unutilized land in terms of what we have because I recall that there is a building or construction in Ol-Moran ward, namely Sipili. Once we tried to put up a library, I think it was maliciously damaged. There were some donors that had installed solar panels.

I think wherever we are headed to as the mover of the motion has said, is about the digital world. The two things must be inline because when I entered sometimes in Rumuruti, I found out that some of the books that are there are the old ones. I think the reason why I have congratulated the mover of the motion is because of where we are headed to now. I used to see some time back where is you are not capacitated to buying a newspaper, you went to that facilities and you are updated on the news in the world.

Talking about digitalization, it's only the other day I found a crowd naming itself Star link. That is competing with Safaricom and Airtel because of having unlimited internet access. Actually, this is the best model because if we go from our brothers and sisters in Laikipia North, from my Ol- Moran Ward, some parts and across the County there are some Wards without network.

If they would access the Star link or whatever crowd that is on the way I think it would be the best because everybody from where you will be sitting or standing, grazing or farming, you will have access to the communication. The ICT has been stipulated here, I think some three- or four-year-old kids are able to operate the computers through maybe our phones.

Mr. Speaker, as well you get seventy years, eighty years to ninety years old people with smart phones. If the facilitation from the County Government will be implemented, the whole department lies under the National Government and especially the library services.

I do not know whether they have been delocalized but it will be the best move. I support my sister and I second her move. I beg Hon. Members to support we become digital. Thank you. I second.

(Question proposed)

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki): Hon. Members, the floor is open for debate. Hon. Kanyutu, the floor is yours.

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I support the mover of this motion. Before I congratulate her, I admire the setting of our House and the sitting pattern. Our sitting pattern is well constitutionally constituted. On the other side, we have one gentleman and three ladies. On this side, we have one lady and three gentlemen. On the front, we have one lady and two gentlemen and so our sitting pattern is one of the best and I appreciate.

Mr. Speaker, ICT hubs is one of the best moves that we can make in Laikipia. Mr. Speaker, at the moment and as we speak all of us are digital because every activity that we undertake is already digitised. Bringing these facilities closer to our people is our mandate in this Assembly for us to push for implementation. I will be one of the happiest fathers because with the ICT Hubs, it will also assist our young ones who are inventing many issues and to know much about the world through the ICT Hubs. Mr. Speaker that is the reason I am standing to support the mover. Thank you.

Hon. Mary Gathoni: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of the motion. We all know that the future is in the digital way and we should have digital literacy. In that way, we should make the facility to be available to all of us. Like I have discussed with Hon. Ndiritu here, the facilities should be available at the ward level. Thank you.

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Asante, Mheshimiwa Spika. Ninasimama kuunga mkono mswada ambao umeletwa na Kiongozi wa Walio Wachache Bungeni. Kwa kweli, unazungumzia mambo ya vituo vya ICT na maktaba. Ni jambo ambalo tunafaa kuangalia kama Serikali ya Kaunti la kuhakikisha ya kwamba katika sehemu zote tumepata maktaba. Bwana Spika, Maktaba husaidia wananchi wengi hasa kupata habari na vilevile kuweza kushiriki kwa mambo ya wasomi.

Bwana Spika, wakati tunaona mswada kama huu umeletwa kwa wakati huu, tunafaa kuuchukulia kwa njia ya uzito ikizingatiwa ya kwamba Serikali Kuu imetenga kila wadi itaweza kuwa na vituo vya ICT. Bwana Spika, Serikali ya Kaunti inafaa kuwa imejiandaa kuhakikisha ya kwamba mahali ambapo hizo vituo zimewekwa ni mahali ambapo ni katikati ili kila mwananchi aweze kufikia kwa urahisi.

Bwana Spika, nimeshangaa ninaposikia ya kwamba Nyahururu hakuna maktaba. Nimeona Kaunti ya Laikipia iko na Nanyuki na Rumuruti. Hilo ni jambo la kusitikisha sana na tungeomba kwa sababu tunaondoka, tuwe tayari na sisi tuweze kuwafahamisha wananchi wetu mahali ambapo tunaelekea ili mwananchi asibaki nyuma. Nampongeza Mheshimiwa Umija kwa kuwa mkakamavu na kuweza kuleta mswada kwa wakati ambao unafaa. Huu ndio wakati ambao unafaa hasa katika Bunge hili kuzungumzia kuhusu maktaba na ICT.

Katika serikali yetu ya Kenya, mahali tunaelekea ni mambo ya kidijitali. Hio ni kumaanisha kila mwananchi anafaa kuwa anapata maktaba ya kiteknolojia. Tushukuru serikali kwa kuwa na mpango bora wa kuhakikisha kila wadi imepata ICT Hub. Kwa hayo machache, naunga mkono. Nauliza Bunge yote tupitishie na serikali tekelezi ihakikishe huu mswada umefanyishwa kazi na waungane na serikali kuu kuhakikisha kila kiti kiko tayari. Asante.

Hon. Eunice Moile: Asante sana, Bwana Spika. Naunga mkono. Doldol tunaona hakuna Maktaba na ndiposa tunaunga mkono ndio iweze kuwekwa na pia kituo cha ICT. Naunga mkono, asante sana.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki): I can read the mood of the House. I request the mover to make a reply.

Hon. Catherine Umija: Thank you Mr. Speaker. As Members were contributing something came up in my mind and I was thinking what Hon. Karuiru had said earlier that we now have a new competitor in the space that is Star Link which has come in. We can take advantage because they are giving high speeds than our current service providers. I think with Kshs. 50, 000 as a suggestion, being put in the library services where the Youth can come. The challenge is buying bundles to access internet. When we have the Kshs. 45,000 which is a one-off payment, then there is Kshs.1,300 which is a monthly payment.

The County Government can afford it for the first year then as the youth continue to make money, we can charge a little fee so that we can be able to pay the Kshs. 1,300 monthly subscriptions for internet services. I know most of the youth, even the Kshs. 20 they don't have it. If we can put something like that, any youth or person can go to library and access the internet for free and then they can do their own economic activities, business or research within the library services.

Once they start getting some few coins, they we can be able to charge the little fee to be able to off-set the Kshs.1,300 monthly charges. I want to thank the House for supporting the motion. I am hopeful we can even start with one centre where we can try this first and see whether it can work or not. Then we can have lessons learnt from those so that once we start from the ward level, we already have a learning point from within our libraries. I am hopeful this will be taken in to consideration. Thank you.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki): The sittings of this House now stand adjourned until next week Tuesday, 3rd September, 2024 at 10.00 a.m.

The House rose at 3.11 p.m.