REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Thursday, 23rd June, 2022

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

[The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Daniel Nyausi) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

WEARING OF MASKS

Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, I still take time to remind you to put on your masks otherwise, I had said it yesterday and I can still see some Members without them. From next week, it will be mandatory for Members to wear masks in this House.

PAPER LAID

QUARTERLY REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATION,
PUBLIC SERVICE AND OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. On behalf of the Chairperson Cohesion, Justice and Legal Matters Committee, I wish to lay a paper on a report on the County Government of Laikipia (County Executive) 2nd quarterly report and financial statements for the period ended 31st March, 2021 for the department of County Administration, Public Service and the Office of the Governor dated 21st June, 2022. Thank you.

(Hon. Stephen Ndiritu laid the paper on the table)

NOTICE OF MOTION

QUARTERLY REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATION, PUBLIC SERVICE AND OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Hon. Catherine Nyawira through Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: One again, on behalf of the Chairperson for Cohesion, I beg to give notice of the following motion;

THAT this House adopts the quarterly report and financial statements for the period ended 31st March, 2021 for the department of County Administration, Public Service and the Office of the Governor by the Sectorial Committee on Cohesion, Justice and Legal Matters dated 21st June, 2022.

STATEMENT

NOTICE PAPER

Hon. Mary Samken: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to read the tentative business for next week. It is notified that the House Business Committee has approved the following tentative business to appear in the Order paper for Tuesday (Afternoon) June 28th, 2022

A. MOTION- Quarterly reports and financial statements for period ending 31st March, 2021 by the Labour Social Welfare and Community Services Committee

It is notified that the House Business Committee has approved the following tentative business to appear in the Order paper for Wednesday (Morning) June 29th, 2022.

A. MOTION- Quarterly reports and financial statements for the period ending 31st March, 2021 by the County Cohesion, Justice and Legal Matters Committee.

It is notified that the House Business Committee has approved the following tentative business to appear in the Order paper for Wednesday (Afternoon) June 29th, 2022

- **A. PROCEDURAL MOTION-** Reduction of number of days after publication of the Laikipia County Appropriations Bill, 2022.
- **B. BILL** The Laikipia County Appropriations Bill, 2022 (First Reading)
- C. BILL- The Laikipia County Appropriation Bill, 2022 (Second Reading)
- **D. BILL**-The Laikipia County Appropriation Bill, 2022 (Committee of the Whole House)
- **E. BILL** The Laikipia County Appropriation Bill, 2022 (Third Reading)

It is notified that the House Business Committee has approved the following tentative business to appear in the Order paper for Thursday (Morning) June 30th, 2022.

A. PROCEDURAL MOTION- Sine Die Recess

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MOTION

QUARTERLY REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Hon. Catherine Kibue through Hon. Joseph Suge: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of Hon. Catherine Kibue who is the Chairperson of the Education and ICT Committee, I beg to move the following motion. It is a motion of quarterly report and financial statements.

THAT, this Assembly adopts the quarterly report and financial statements for the period ended 31st March, 2021 for the Department of Education and Social Services by the Sectoral Committee on Education and ICT dated 16th June, 2022.

Preface.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the members of the Committee on Education and ICT Services in pursuant to the provision of Standing Order No. 191/5 (f), it is my pleasure and duty to present to the House, the Committee's report on County Government of Laikipia (Executive) Quarterly report and financial statements for the period ended 31st March 2021.

Committee Membership

The Committee as currently constituted comprises of the following Members:

1. Hon. Catherine Kibue - Chairperson

2. Hon. Daniel Mugweru - Vice Chairperson

3. Hon. Jacob Endom - Member

4. Hon. Chalumbo Ole Kaparo - Member

5. Hon. Joseph Kiguru

- Member

Committee Mandate

The Committee is established under the Standing Order No. 191 which provides that it shall consider, for approval of the House appointments under Article 179 (2) of the Constitution of Kenya.

Committee Establishment

The Committee on Education and ICT Services was constituted by the House on 28th September 2017 during the First Session of the Second Assembly in Laikipia County. It is one of the Sectoral Committees established under Standing Order No. 191(g) with the mandate to make reports and recommendations to the Assembly as often as possible, including recommendations of proposed legislation.

Statement of Management Responsibilities.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the County Executive Member for Finance and County Planning is responsible for preparation and presentation of the County Governments Financial Statements, which gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the County Government for and as at the end of this quarter ended 31st March 2021. These responsibilities includes:

- 1. Maintaining adequate financial management arrangements and ensuring that these continue to be effective throughout the reporting period.
- 2. Maintaining proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the County Government.
- 3. Designing, implementing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, and ensuring that they are free from material misstatements, whether due to error or fraud.
- 4. Safeguarding the assets of the County Government.
- 5. Selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies.
- 6. Making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the County Government's financial statements were approved and signed by the Chief Officer for Finance and County Planning on 29th, April 2021.

Background Information.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, pursuant to the public Finance Management Act 2012, Section 166 which stipulates that not later than one month after the end of each quarter, and the County Treasury shall:

- 1. Consolidate the quarterly reports and submit them to the Assembly.
- 2. Deliver copies to the Controller of Budget, National Treasury and Commission on revenue allocation, and
- 3. Publish and publicise them.

In compliance to the above regulation, the County Government of Laikipia submitted the Quarterly report and Financial Statements for the Quarter ended March 2021 to the County Assembly.

The Department's Revenue budget and amounts realised as at 31st March 2021.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, during this quarter, there was 43% realization of the revenue budget for all departments in the County Executive. However, the County experienced cashflow delays of disbursement of February and March equitable share amounting to Kshs. 805,093,333 and outstanding grants of Kshs. 799,619,100. However, despite the cashflow delays, the County managed to runs its operations prioritizing payment of essential services, while liaising with financial institutions for payment of salaries. Mr. Speaker, the table below shows;

DESCRIPTION	TOTAL BUDGET 2020/2021 (Kshs)	AMOUNT REALIZED IN Quarter 3 2020/2021. (Kshs)	BUDGET UTILIZATION VARIANCE. (Kshs)	% REALIZATIO N FOR QUARTER 3.
Vocational training centres	25,000,000	3,177,455	21,822,545	12.7%

Mr. Speaker, Sir as indicated in the table above during that quarter the department revenue realised by the Vocational training centres was very low.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, during this quarter, there was under realization of the revenue budget for all departments in the County Executive. This was so mainly due to:

- Non disbursement of 2 months; February and March equitable share by the National Treasury.
- Non disbursement of most domestic and foreign grants by the National Treasury.

Budget execution by programmes and sub-programmes.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the County Government Reports and Financial Statement for the Department of Education and Social Service on budget execution by programmes and subprogrammes is as follows. There is a table down there and I hope that the Members are still following and scrutinizing the same report.

EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT					
Receipts	Name of Program me	Approved Budget for FY 2020/2021(KSHS)	Payments made by end of 3 rd Quarter (Kshs)	Variance Kshs	Absorption rate %
502024510	ICT infrastructure improvement	8,000,000	362,000	7,638,000	4.5
511014510	Vocational training and education	147,680,795	15,683,780		

				131,997,015	10.6
511034510	Early Childhood Education Development	49,500,000	0	0	0
511054510	Basic Education School Infrastructure Support	12,102,193	0	0	0
511034510	Collaboration and partnership on skills and technology transfer	3,500,000	0	0	0
TOTAL		220,782,988	16,045,780		

However, there was also underutilization of the expenditure budget thus minimal payments were made due to non-disbursement of funds by the National Treasury for equitable share and grants (scholarships).

Committee observations

- 1. That there was no uptake of funds for early childhood education Development, Basic Education schools infrastructure support and collaboration partnership on skills and technology support programmes.
- 2. That the uptake of funds for ICT infrastructure improvement was very low.
- 3. That the rate of absorption for vocational training and education was low but commendable considering that all learning institutions had closed down. However, the Nanyuki Vocational Training Centre Cafeteria was at the County Assembly was still operational.

Committee Recommendations

- 1. That the department should ensure that all budgeted programme projects and services are undertaken and the County Executive should distribute funds equally across all departments to enhance payments of services rendered.
- 2. That the department should open up outlets run by the village polytechnics around the county so as to increase its own revenue generation and also upgrade the existing training centres by offering the latest and attractive courses.

Committee Conclusion

That this House adopts the report by the Committee on Education, ICT and Vocational training on County Government of Laikipia (County Executive) quarterly report and financial statements for the quarter ended December 2020.

Mr. Speaker, this is the report by the Committee on Education on the first quarter expenditure. As per the table below and I hope Members are still following, you can see how the money was received from the Treasury. According to the report, there was delay of the release of funds by the Treasury in the month of February and March, 2021. This shows that money was not spent by then. This is an issue that has been affecting the operations in this county.

At this particular moment we have also witnessed the same problems due to the delay of the release of funds by the Treasury. Mr. Speaker, the county should also put priorities during requisition of money from the Treasury. There is the Education sector that was affected by the delay of funds. You can see the issue pertaining to vocational training is a sector that was devolved and the county should prioritise and put its effort to ensure that youth in this county are well equipped to the current skills so that they can manage. They can address their problems and the county in terms of the required technology.

Mr. Speaker, the other issue is on basic education infrastructure. We have so many challenges pertaining to our ECD Centres. Mr. Speaker, there is an issue that used to be addressed. If you go around the county, you can find most ECDE children are learning from churches. Some are in old buildings which can be blown away by winds thus putting their lives at risk. Mr. Speaker, I hope the county will address that issue so that our students gets proper education by having the right facilities in place.

Another issue is on support of education in regards to bursaries. I can attest that in the last financial year we had budgeted Kshs.50 million for bursaries but in the supplementary budget the amount was slashed. Mr. Speaker, because we have students willing to learn yet we have bright students who cannot afford education services because of lack of school fees. Mr. Speaker, as we move forward and as we plan to construct roads and water management, we also need to put education as a priority.

An educated county is an equipped county in terms of technology, results on how they can move forward and ensure that the county prospers in terms of development and everything. With those few remarks, I wish to call upon Hon. Catherine Nyawira to second this report. Thank you.

(Hon. Catherine Nyawira seconded)

(Question proposed)

Hon. Catherine Nyawira: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this report that is before this House from the Education Committee. My salute goes to the committee because of the analysis that they have brought before this House.

My point is moved to two issues that come out very well from the financial statements in this House. One, it is the delay in disbursement of money meant to be used by the county i.e. money for grants and equitable share. If you look at many of the reports, this is a trend that is happening. Every committee is able to report that there was nothing happening because there was a delay in the disbursement of funds. My question and worry is that in future, and we know that the National Government has a habit of delaying money meant for County Assemblies intending to kill County Assemblies. This is to make sure that County Assemblies and County Governments are not able to do their work on time and in proper order.

It makes me wonder why as County Assemblies and Executive do not fight for the autonomy of these institutions so that the National Government is mandated to do their work. Secondly, it is the thought that even if these monies are delayed, you are still expected to pay V.A.T and taxes on time and of you don't, you are penalized without considering that these delays were occasioned by the National Government itself; money that goes back into KRA.

Thirdly, it is the vocational training centres. It is very well highlighted that the VTC had a total budget of Kshs.25 million and the amount realized was about Kshs.3 million, so the variance was Kshs.21 million. This Assembly picked up the vocational centre to be able to run the cafeteria that is right behind this institution which closed later. That is only an observation but does not appear anywhere in the report. So it makes me wonder whether someone was just bringing in some information and removing it. How do you observe something which you have not given us information about?

So, I wondering where this comment came from that the rate of absorption for the vocational training education was low but commendable considering that all learning institutions had closed down. However, the Nanyuki Vocational Training Centre Cafeteria in the County Assembly was still operational. They do not tell us what contributed to that vocational centre, why it closed or what challenges they faced or the achievements they made. So as the mover is responding, maybe you can tell us where this statement comes from or where it is going. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker: May I call the mover to give a reply.

Hon. Joseph Suge: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Allow me to thank the Members who have supported the report and those who have supported in silence because they have gone through the report and maybe they are satisfied with the comments, recommendations and the observations of the committee. I am requesting that they do approve the report and adopt it.

On the issue of the Nanyuki Vocational Training Centre, I hope that the committee will pick up the matter so that they will inform this House about the cafeteria which was once, managed by the said Nanyuki Vocational Training though it was for a short period. As we speak right now, the management of the cafeteria has been taken over by Ibis Hotel. We ought to know whether this vocational training lacked the capacity or what was the main issue as the contract was terminated. So, I request the Members to approve the report as we have gone through it in details. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, I will defer the putting of question to the next sitting.

(Motion deferred)

ADJOURNMENT

Deputy Speaker: The sittings of this House stands adjourned until next week on Tuesday, 28^{th} June, 2022 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 9.30 a.m.