REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 6th December, 2023

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

[The Speaker (Hon. Lantano Nabaala) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

QUORUM CALL

Speaker: Clerk confirm whether we have quorum?

(Lack of quorum confirmed)

Speaker: I direct the bell to be rang for 10 minutes.

(The bell was rung for 10 minutes)

Speaker: Clerk confirm whether we have quorum?

(Lack of quorum confirmed)

Speaker: Let the bell continue ringing for the next 5 minutes.

(The bell was rung for 3 minutes)

Hon. Nicholas Lempaira: Mr. Speaker, I can confirm we have quorum at the moment.

Speaker: Clerk confirm?

(Clerk confirmed achievement of Quorum)

Speaker: Now that we have quorum, let us go to the order of the day.

PAPER LAID

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Thank you. I want to lay a Report by the Finance and County Planning Committee on the amended Local Physical and Land use Development Plan (2021-2031) for Rumuruti Municipality dated 5th December, 2023.

(Hon. Stephen Ndiritu laid the Paper on the Table)

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

REPORT ON THE AMENDED LOCAL PHYSICAL AND LAND USE DEVELOPMENT PLAN (2021-2031) FOR RUMURUTI MUNICIPALITY

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Hon. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following motion;

THAT, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Finance and County Planning Committee in its Report on the amended Local Physical and Land Use Development Plan (2021-2031) for Rumuruti Municipality dated 5th December, 2023

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and pursuant to the provisions of Section 49(3) of the Physical and Land Use Planning Act, 2019;

This House APPROVES the amended Local Physical and Land use Development Plan (2021-2031) for Rumuruti Municipality.

Thank you.

MOTION

REPORT ON OVERSIGHT VISIT TO RUMURUTI

Hon. Nicholas Lempaira: Hon. Speaker, I beg to move the following motion;

THAT, this Assembly adopts the report on an oversight visit to street lighting in Rumuruti by the Transport and Public Works Committee dated 7th November, 2023.

Thank you.

Transport and Public Works was constituted by the House on 26th October, 2022 during the First Session of the Third Assembly in Laikipia County. Committee's Subject Areas. According to the first Schedule of the Standing Orders, Committee on Transport and Public Works operates on the following subject areas: -

All matters related to County transport, including County roads, street lighting, traffic and parking, public transport and ferries and harbours, excluding the regulation of international and national shipping and matters related thereto; county public works and services including storm water management systems in built up areas and water sanitation services.

The Committee as currently constituted, comprises of the following members: -

1. Hon. Kimani Simon Kanyutu - Chairman
2. Hon. Kihika Caroline Wanjiku - Vice-Chairperson
3. Hon. Parleto Lekopien Sammy - Member
4. Hon. Muchemi Daniel Mugweru - Member
5. Hon. Muturi Nicholas Mwaniki - Member
6. Hon. Mwangi Benson Kuria - Member
7. Hon. Nicholas Lempaira Korkole - Member

Committee Meetings

The Committee held three Sittings; one to plan for the oversight visit, one with the Engineer Public Works (Rumuruti Township) and the other to write this report.

Acknowledgement

I take this opportunity to acknowledge all Members of the Committee for their input and valuable contributions during the oversight visit. The Committee also takes this opportunity to thank the Offices of the Speaker and that of the Clerk of the County Assembly for the support accorded while planning for the visit. I will go straight to Committee's observation; the committee observed that: -

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1. There is a lot of vandalization of the street lighting system including batteries, solar panels, posts etc.
2. There is no proper equipment such as ladders for maintenance of the street lighting;
3. There is a shortage of the personnel for maintenance;
4. More street lighting should be installed in the town bearing in mind that the town is a county headquarters; and
5. The batteries are of poor quality to support the system for more than five hours a night.

Recommendations

The committee recommends that: -

1. More budget be allocated for street lighting installation and maintenance;
2. More staff be allocated to the town for street lighting maintenance;
3. Good quality batteries be procured and installed to make the lights functional;
4. The County Executive to procure a high up equipment; and
5. The House approves the oversight report.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted the House to know that the Committee visited Rumuruti town. We went through and saw the streetlights. We noted the maintenance is not good. I want to call upon Hon. Mwaniki to second the report. Thank you.

Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to second the report of Transport Committee. As per the recommendation given by the committee which were made from what was observed by the committee. Rumuruti being headquarters of our county, more street lighting is a requirement. If at all it doesn't have security during the night yet it is where our biggest livestock is. It poses danger to the people and their businesses during the night. Our recommendation is repair and maintenance must be done.

As a Member of this Committee, I second the report on the security lights and the infrastructure of that town. Also, there are gaps in the rehabilitation of manholes which pose danger to our children who are playful. Having a manhole that is not covered or covered by thorns or some tires in our main town shows neglect by the government. As a department and committee, we will do a follow-up on this to make sure that the recommendation given here are adhered to and something done in that town. I second.

(Question proposed)

Speaker: The floor is open for Members to contribute towards the motion.

Hon. Joseph Gitahi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker for this opportunity. I rise to support the adoption of the report on the street lighting in Rumuruti Town. I am reminded by my conscience that now it is not Rumuruti centre but town because it is now a municipality and therefore it gets a bigger ranking.

Hon. Speaker, just like what the Member from Tigithi has indicated, lights usually prolong the hours that people do business. Once these hours are prolonged, we have more income for these people and therefore lights would be so necessary. Just like the committee has

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indicated, we need much attention on the lighting of these centres on the basis of prolonging business hours.

Hon. Speaker, you remember the 3rd president of this republic spent a lot of time and words talking of a 24-hour economy. If we added three more hours to people who are working in different businesses, we would be able to thrive the economy. You understand that our economy is not thriving but surviving and what we need is more hours to ensure that we get that extra coin revenue.

Three days ago, there was a report that was given by world bank indicating that 60% of the revenue of third world countries emanate from small businesses, the SMEs as they are referred to by economic experts. Secondly, lighting is an aspect of good businesses in post modernity. It is a time embarrassing when you see some towns that end with the sun. When the sun goes down no other business thrives there because we have got no lighting or no lighting at all. Therefore, it is good that as we adopt the report, the implementers arrive to the recommendations that have been given by the committee.

Hon. Speaker, as I end, lighting is a source of security by its own. When we have got lighting, businesses are more secure and people feel safe to do businesses. You understand that behaviour patterns have changed. There before people would do business during the day when there would be light. Nowadays because of business activities, the rush hour is shifting from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Lighting is very paramount for the thriving of businesses in these centres. I therefore wish to stop there. I support the adoption of the report just like I support the implementation of the recommendations given by the committee. Thank you.

Hon. George Karuiru: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can see that Hon. Lempaira is a bit worried and maybe he thinks that I rise to object but I rise to support and commend the committee for the job well done. We said that a committee is collective, a committee is for the whole county. It is only that they have not gone to my ward and other wards. I must appreciate the Cohesion Committee that went around and presented a report towards their findings regarding street lighting and other avenues. I can see that the abled Chairperson for Implementation has entered the House.

In our previous budgets, this House is mandated to oversight and in its budget making we are headed to supplementing the main budget. What we are lacking is a good utilization for repair money. We get that if an excavator breaks down, it will stay there for years without repair. The same case is happening with what the committee has observed. The streetlights maybe that were put not forgetting that Rumuruti is a municipality, it means that now they have got extra lighting, most of them would have been defrauded.

Mr. Speaker, in the coming times, I am thinking of bringing a motion despite of it being for the county, we can urge the National Government about those people who are buying scrap metal. The defraud that is being talked of by the committee here about finding the batteries of street lights stolen and the metallic supports, I believe that if followed up in Rumuruti, there might be so many business people that are dealing with old metal.

Mr. Speaker, in my Olmoran Ward, we got a follow up of a particular garage and we found a full box with a very new machine to open vehicles that had gone through the same kilograms and was sold at a fee of Kshs.1,000. A box worth of hundreds of monies. The person who was buying those scrap metals is actually a person who is very normal and knows the value for money and everything. Because there is somewhere that these things are going, it needs to be addressed.

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Mr. Speaker, the other day I was in Rumuruti where I found some of those roads done near a supermarket called Eastman, I am saying this because as long as we are growing and the county has shifted through the Governor Irungu to Rumuruti, then however we need to make it grow, we might not be able to.

The incomers who are coming finding that the headquarter is very dark with holes like we have been shown here, with a full department of Infrastructure having money for repairs and having the county enforcement teams and revenue collectors who are mandated to go and relay information. Mr. Speaker, we cannot put floodlights and then employ a watchman to manage those batteries and solar panels.

I would want to urge the committee and especially the Committee on Implementation through its abled Chair, Hon. Paul Leshuel, to actualize and follow up because they have got money for repair for Rumuruti and other towns for better lighting. The economic hard times that we are experiencing, it means that these fraudsters are not to go home soon particularly those that are jobless or the hustlers. They will always go to vandalize those things. therefore, I hope that we are going to follow because we cannot be oversighting without following the implementation from the Executive. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Karuiru. As I look at the mood of the House, I may request the mover to make a reply.

Hon. Nicholas Lempaira: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to take this opportunity to thank all the Members who contributed towards this motion today. It is indeed a motion that is touching because most of us have passed through Rumuruti or we spend some time in Rumuruti because now it is our county headquarters and most of the services are provided there. People of Rumuruti deserve to have good street lights that are well managed by their county and therefore I want to assure the Hon. Karuiru that this committee will also do a follow up with the relevant people to make sure they are well maintained.

The Hon. Chairman for Implementation was tasked to ensure that some of the motion that we discuss and pass in the House are actually implemented or at least the report of the same is given to us. Therefore, I want to thank all the Members for contributing towards this motion.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

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

The House rose at 3.11 p.m.

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