REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 7th October, 2026

The House met at the Assembly Chambers at 10.06 a.m.

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

PRAYERS

QUORUM CALL

Speaker: Clerk, confirm if we have quorum.

(Lack of quorum confirmed)

Speaker: I direct that the bell be rang for ten minutes.

(Quorum bell rang for 4 minutes)

Hon. Parleto Lekopien: Mr. Speaker, I think we have quorum.

Speaker: Clerk, confirm if we have quorum now.

(Clerk confirmed achievement of Quorum)

Speaker: Thank you. I direct that the bell stops ringing and we proceed with the business of the House.

PAPER LAID

REPORT ON WAIVERS AND VARIATIONS OF TAXES, FEES OR CHARGES ON LAND RATES

Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki: Thank you, Hon. Speaker for giving me this opportunity. I beg to lay the following paper;

Report on waivers and variations of taxes, fees or charges on land rates granted by the receiver of Revenue during the Financial year 2025/2026.

(Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki laid the paper on the Table of the House)

Speaker: The report on waivers and variations of taxes, fees or charges on land rates granted by the receiver of Revenue during the Financial year 2025/2026 shall stand committed to the Finance and County Planning Committee. Thank you.

NOTICE OF MOTION

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LAIKIPIA COUNTY YOUTH CREATIVE ECONOMY AND LOCAL CONTENT POLICY

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

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THAT, AWARE THAT Article 55 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 mandates the State to take measures, including affirmative action programs, to ensure that the youth access relevant education, training, and employment opportunities;

FURTHER AWARE THAT the digital economy and content creation industry represent the fastest-growing employment sectors for young people, offering sustainable livelihoods through digital marketing, audio-visual production, and social media management;

COGNIZANT THAT the County Government of Laikipia regularly spends significant public funds on corporate public relations, documentary production, advertising, and behaviour-change communication campaigns;

CONCERNED THAT these lucrative media and communications contracts are frequently awarded to external agencies outside Laikipia, leaving local youth videographers, vloggers, graphic artists, and digital influencers underemployed despite possessing the requisite talent;

This House URGES the County Government to;

1. Formulate and implement a Laikipia County Creative Economy Policy within 90 days, guaranteeing that a defined quota of county publicity, event coverage, and digital communication assets be strictly sourced from resident youth creators.
2. Allocate funds in the upcoming budget cycle to establish at least three fully equipped County Digital Co-Working Hubs (in Nanyuki, Nyahururu, and Rumuruti) to lower production overheads for local artists.
3. Create a public, audited County Creative Database managed by the Department of Youth Affairs to eliminate nepotism and ensure the equitable rotation of freelance content creation opportunities.

Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I am moving this motion on behalf of Hon. Mugambi wa Gatati.

MOTION

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LAIKIPIA COUNTY YOUTH CREATIVE ECONOMY AND LOCAL CONTENT POLICY

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. On behalf of Hon. Mugambi, I beg to move the following motion;

THAT, AWARE THAT Article 55 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 mandates the State to take measures, including affirmative action programs, to ensure that the youth access relevant education, training, and employment opportunities;

FURTHER AWARE THAT the digital economy and content creation industry represent the fastest-growing employment sectors for young people, offering sustainable livelihoods through digital marketing, audio-visual production, and social media management;

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CONCERNED THAT these lucrative media and communications contracts are frequently awarded to external agencies outside Laikipia, leaving local youth videographers, vloggers, graphic artists, and digital influencers underemployed despite possessing the requisite talent;

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2. Allocate funds in the upcoming budget cycle to establish at least three fully equipped County Digital Co-Working Hubs (in Nanyuki, Nyahururu, and Rumuruti) to lower production overheads for local artists.
3. Create a public, audited County Creative Database managed by the Department of Youth Affairs to eliminate nepotism and ensure the equitable rotation of freelance content creation opportunities.

Bwana Spika, huu ni mswada ambao unahusu kuwapa nafasi vijana wetu. Hao ni vijana ambao wanajitolea kufanya kazi na aliyeuleta mswada, angetaka kuweko na hatua zinazochukuliwa na serikali kupitia Idara ya Vijana, kuhakikisha kuwa vijana wetu wanahusishwa hasa kwenye mambo ya mtandao.

Mheshimiwa Spika, wakati huu tumeingia katika mambo ya dijitali. Hiyo inamaanisha kufanya kazi bila makaratasi bali kutumia tu simu mahiri au mtandao na hata kupata mapato kupitia njia hizo. Ni kazi tunayofaa kuienzi sana na kuwafundisha vijana wetu, kuwapa mwelekeo na kuwasaidia ili waweze kujifaidi katika hiyo sekta.

Vijana wetu wamezaliwa wakati huu wa mambo ya kidijitali na ni lazima tutumie hiyo fursa kuhakikisha kuwa tunawasaidia. Katika huu mswada, tunaomba Serikali ya Kaunti ije na bajeti itakayotuwezesha kuanzisha vituo Nyahururu, Nanyuki na Rumuruti. Tukiwaweka vijana walio hapa Nanyuki pamoja na kuwaonyesha jinsi wataweza kujifaidi na hii mitandao, litakuwa jambo la busara sana.

Mheshimiwa Spika, unakumbuka tulipokuwa tunachaguliwa na chama cha UDA kiongozi wa chama chetu alikuwa anasema kuwa mtu atakuwa anafinya kompyuta na pesa inatoka. Tunataka kutimiza hayo maneno katika Kaunti yetu. Tunataka kuwa na vituo vyetu vinavyomilikiwa na Kaunti ambazo zitatusaidia kuwaelimisha hawa vijana wetu ili angalau wawe na kazi ya kufanya.

Vilevile, ningeomba Idara ya Vijana kuwa na bajeti ya kutosha ili tuwaelimishe wale vijana wetu kwa sababu ni jukumu la serikali kuwa kwenye mstari wa mbele katika kuwasaidia raia wake. Raia tunaozungumza kuhusu kwenye huu mswada ni vijana. Tukiwasaidia hivyo, litakuwa jambo la busara. Nataka kumpongeza Mheshimiwa Mugambi Gatati kwa kuuleta huu mswada katika Bunge ili tuweze kuwasaidia vijana. Hili ni jukumu moja ambalo huyo Mbunge amechukua kuhakikisha kuwa hili Bunge lina kazi ya kufanya na tunawasaidia vijana wetu.

Mheshimiwa Spika, tulichaguliwa kwenye hili Bunge kufanya kazi, na tunafanya kupitia kamati na Wabunge wenyewe. Hivi majuzi tumekuwa na changamoto kidogo. Nisiposema hili huenda sitapata nafasi nyingine ya kusema.

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Tuko na shida katika hii Bunge letu la Laikipia. Kamati zingine zimekuwa zimelala kabisa kama Kamati ya CPAIC ambayo kwa kweli, iko na mizigo na ripoti kama mia moja ambazo zimesalia kufanyiwa kazi. Tunafaa kufanya kazi kwa haraka kuhakikisha ya kwamba tumepeana ripoti kwa mwananchi ambaye anangoja kupewa ripoti ya yale mambo ambayo yanaendelea katika Kaunti yetu.

Tutaweza kuwapatia kupitia hiyo kamati. Hadi *Auditor General* anatuandikia barua kutuuliza tuweze kupeana vile tumeweza kutoa hiyo ripoti na mapendekezo kuhakikisha hiyo ripoti amepeana tumeweza kuzungumzia na kupeana mapendekezo. Kufanya hivyo, itakuwa ni jambo la busara. Isipofanyika, haitakuwa eti ni Kamati ya CPAIC imeshindwa kufanya hivyo lakini *Auditor General* ataweza kusema ya kwamba Bunge la Laikipia limeshindwa kuzungumzia ripoti ambazo ameleta hapa.

I am the Chief Whip of the UDA. Within 7 or 14 days, we are going to withdraw our membership from that committee because we don't need that embarrassment from those independent bodies. We are giving this ultimatum to the committee and the Chair of that committee because when we withdraw the membership, that will mean that the committee is not well constituted and we will go back and constitute another committee which will help this Assembly, to deliberate on those reports and the table it to this Assembly, and continue with the business of the day.

Nimeona niseme hivyo ili wakati hatua itakapochukuliwa, tuwe sote tunaelewa yale ambayo yanaendelea ili tusije kuhaibika. Wakati ripoti yoyote haijaletwa kwa Bunge, tutaambiwa ni sisi wote. Wale ambao wanafanya kazi na hadi wale ambao hawafanyi kazi. Leo tukikosa *quorum*, hata kama ni mimi niko hapa na Mugweru, watasema Bunge la Laikipia halikuwa na *quorum* ilhali wengine walikuwa ndani. Kwa hivyo, wacha kila mtu afanya kazi yake inavyostahili na tutakuwa ni watu ambao wamefanyia wananchi haki na pia kuwaheshimu kwa ile kazi ambayo tumepewa. Kwa hayo machache, ningeomba Mheshimiwa Mwaniki aweze kuafiki huu mswada.

Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki: Thank you, Hon. Speaker for giving me an opportunity to second this motion. This being a very timely motion concerning the youth and the digital platform, this is the time, we honoured the youth of this county because having them on board making decisions on matters of electing leaders and on matters of deliberations within our county, it's time we give them a legal opportunity within the government.

By setting up a digital platform and awarding a budget for that so they can be able to work on the digital market and through the social media, because the social media has been used for almost over 15 or 20 years within the Republic of Kenya and like Laikipia County, we have never adopted such. We only adopt such within the campaign period through our programme and we pay them. Some pay them some funds so they can be able to have a team.

We incorporate some few youths within our team so that we can be able to discuss these issues on social media. This is an opportunity as a county to create jobs for our people because the digital platform, this is where you find people marketing. They create their own jobs and they do sell products and make money.

So, having them on board within the government, they can expand the horizon or maybe communicate to our people on matters of governance, on matters of accountability, on matters of projects that have been done by this government within the localities or within our wards. As we

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can tell because it's the truth, the departments themselves have not been able to communicate thoroughly to our people on whatever has been achieved by this government.

That is why we should embrace this digital platform and engage the young people who are well conversant with this system, so they can be able to communicate to our people on matters of how much we have done within this government and how many projects have we rolled out to our people within our localities so that our people can understand how this government functions and what has been achieved within their localities.

On job creation Mr. Speaker, this is a platform where we create jobs for our people. Previously, there was a discussion of creation of a studio but the studio was being created for just music. However, there is a digital platform where creation of content or creating documentaries within or sending those documentaries created by the young people, we will be able to market our county on matters of tourism and economic activities that we engage in as a county and we will be able to market our county within our country or outside in the foreign countries.

So, creating a platform and being able to finance that platform would be an advantage to our young people because they feel left out by this government. We do not have major platforms where we are able to engage them so that they can have a little bit or they can be able to reap financial benefits from this government.

This would be able to create something for them and at least there would be a behavioural change on matters of the digital platforms that the young people are being engaged in. As of today, the digital platforms that we are engaged in are for what we call maybe a little bit of a fight. They are fighting the system, through the digital platforms. That's a negative aspect to this government we are serving in but the failure is on our side but not on their side.

It's on our side because we should have engaged them positively so that they can be able to create a space for this government to do the digital platforms by engaging them. So, this would be a very good opportunity to create a behavioural change on matters of how our young people engage the political class within our localities.

Some few years ago Mr. Speaker, you saw on social media some of our young politicians who are engaged in the campaigns having their holiday and it being misinterpreted in another version by the same senior people because we want to engage them positively. They see the political class as a people who should not be engaged with by the locals or by the young people. It is as if we have left them outside of this government.

We have not involved them on matters of governance, on matters of management of the resources within this government and it's time those talents are tapped so that they don't engage in negative energies. We should engage them positively so that they can be able to engage the government positively to create a habitable or a great economic zone within Laikipia County, so that we can uplift their standards.

(Question proposed)

Speaker: Thank you, Members. I open the floor for those who may want to contribute.

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Thank you, Hon. Speaker for the opportunity given to me to make my contribution in regards to the motion that has been brought by Hon. Stephen. Before I make my contribution, I would like to make myself clear that I'm making contribution on the little

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memory that I have because the motion was moved but I can't remember what he said. There is no gadget that is functioning here and yet we are talking about digital world. We are talking about everything and my gadget is not functioning, the next one and all these others; none is functioning. Maybe that of the Lekopien.

Automatically the entire House is like that and yet we are talking about digital world whereby, we brought this one in this House so that we may give work to our ICT department and they are doing nothing on this one. I don't know exactly what we are talking about, whether we are preaching water and taking wine. It is important to make such things very clear because why we brought the e-parliament and the whole system, was for us to use the system. Currently, as I can see, is that we need to go back to where we were.

We are discussing of moving forward but ourselves, the people who are formulating laws in this House, for us to move forward we are moving backward. As the Hon. Speaker, it is important that in the next maybe in the afternoon, let us have our manual way of doing things so that we may make our contributions properly. That is an observation that I have made because I have checked all these ones and I can see Members are checking on their system. None is functioning, and probably, it's only that it was never charged yet we had a whole week out there. It's embarrassing.

Secondly, it is an opportunity because I may not talk so much on the motion. Let me touch on the things that are affecting us today because this is the right opportunity to do that. Hon. Speaker, is about the issue of our quorum. This is the high time as the House we start speaking facts without emotions. When we joined this Assembly, people used to speak with emotions. They disrespected experience but now they are experienced. Now let us talk without emotions.

That time they said that morning sessions should start at 10.00 a.m. Right now, they are hit by that. I used to ask them how do you come to serious business at 10.00 a.m.? Right now, all of them, where are they? Call them, they are in a burial and other functions. All functions start at 10.00 a.m. and they are starting their session at 10.00 a.m. That is the reason we used to start at nine so that at 10.00 a.m. we may be allowed to go where you want. Right now, that time they disrespected experience but now they are hit by it.

Those days we couldn't say anything. We allowed them to do their way. Right now, as we are now talking, as all of us are experienced. Now let us talk without emotions. Let us talk of the things that are happening now. If today we are missing quorums, what do you expect from January or from February? We will not have a speaker in the House and the House will be closed.

That is why even the people who do not live in Laikipia are talking about us. That is why you can see even the Auditor General pointing to us that we are doing nothing. These things are there Hon. Speaker. So, it is time we wake up and now start listening without emotions. When you see Honourable Kaniaru or Mwaniki or Leila saying something, don't just think that he is interested in what you are doing. He is only interested in the benefits of the House.

The sufferings we are suffering now are the fruits of what we planted four years ago. The things we did those four years ago including why we don't have salaries, now this is the time we are harvesting the fruits. These are the fruits of what we saw in this House.

That time we could say anything and you could be seen as a mad person in a church. This is the high time we start speaking without emotions. Just move around this House and the entire

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building counting how many Members are here. Go around count how many staff are here. Out of 80, you will find 20 maximum of 20 or even less. These are the fruits. Choices have consequences. We chose this route. Now we are hit and now we are crying the last minute. It is so unfortunate. I have to say that because we are now on the motion.

Before I even forget, I have just remembered something else. I mentioned about the signboard that directs people to the County Assembly and I say it here. We are talking about a digital world. That person who did should not be given such work. That is heavy task for that person. If you look at the next signboard that is there for the municipality, the colours, are contrasting and it is just writing. It tells you that the person who did this is not the person who did the other one.

Sometimes, we need to think about these things because we are telling people about it because the next thing about this motion is bringing those young people and we really can see and can tell the power of social media. These young people know a lot than we can think. The stories we are talking about here, you will find them out there on social media. As Hon. Mwaniki has said about the negative energy, let us make sure that we engage the young people so that that energy they have, we may use it for the benefit and the gain of this county.

Instead of someone waking up and writing the story of Hon. Speaker since he was in nursery school. Now, why waste all your energy discussing one person? Why wouldn't that person write for us how Laikipia started with the satellites? Give us the history of Laikipia. Give us the story of the animals and the big five that are in Laikipia. Market our county. Now they are marketing me or marketing you. Who are you to this country? Who is that tourist who will come to see me or come to see you? They are using their energy wrongly.

They wake up like today. I saw the Governor in Senate and that is now what they are writing. They are not telling us what the County Government of Laikipia has done and exactly what it has not done, because they are supposed to tell us they have done this and that and before devolution, it was like this. Currently in devolution, it's like this.

Those are some of the facts that they are not telling people. Considering like for example, in Laikipia, some of us Members, you will see as if I'm talking things that are uncomfortable. If you look at Laikipia, the last 10 years, that is 2013 to 2022, there was not even one metre of tarmac that was done in but for the last like three, four years, we have seen projects of tarmac.

But today, that person is able to write that Laikipia, we have received nothing by this time. Just because people are singing, even a leader is singing the same because nobody is there to post. Nobody is there to use the social media correctly. Tell us that we've been here since independence. The Nanyuki-Rumuruti road has never even been mentioned but now it has been mentioned. You can see that it is starting. You see, where Kibaki left the tarmac in Umande, there is no metre that has ever been added, but this current government has already started.

Nobody is saying these things. They are using their energy to discuss people, history, where they came from, their families, their work and this is what people are doing. So, we need to work on this motion and work on it with a lot of seriousness and commitment. We should encourage our young people and tell them that they can use social media and internet positively to help gain for the county and the entire country.

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We have so many digital hubs that are upcoming. How are they using those digital hubs? Are they helping them? Or we are only constructing and setting up digital hubs for them in the following day to start talking ill of the person who brought that hub. That's what we are doing. That is how we are destroying the nation.

We really need to address this issue and address it with a lot of seriousness. Let us also encourage and talk to the Executive Arm of Government. Let us have even a budget for several conferences and trainings for every ward. Just say we bring 20 from every ward and they come together. At least, we even get few who we can train even on cybercrime because now where we are headed to, we need people who can handle the issues of cybercrime. Today even if you go and report here in the station, nothing will happen.

Those people who are working in the investigation department, they will tell you we are not able to follow pseudo accounts, we are not able to do this. This person cannot be and that we don't have power. We are bound by the law. Those are the stories. How are we going to face this challenge, Hon. Speaker? I expect as an Assembly because we have ICT officers.

Even if it cost us to train them so that they can train the community, we start from the Assembly, then the Executive arm sets a budget to make sure that all our young people who are on social media, at least they are using their energy positively. I really support and hope the few things I have highlighted will be taken seriously. Maybe we will be able to do some of those things. It doesn't matter what cost we have.

Hon. Speaker, this E-parliament, the systems in this House, we used millions of monies. I remember very well we used, the first round we used over Kshs.30 million. We used another over Kshs.20 million yet, all that money has gone into waste. All that money we have invested. We have employed ICT officers. Those ICT officers could have been involved when we were doing that signboard.

We compare and get the best for this institution. Even if we are rotten here inside, let people out there see that even if you tell them that inside the House, we are rotten, they will tell you no. Let us dress our institution properly. It will send a good message to the entire county. So, I really support the motion and hope we are not just doing it for the sake. I hope that the Members, when it comes to the Supplementary Budget, they will do something.

We are just saving yet we don't want to set a budget. So, I hope it is from the innermost of our hearts. We are going to support it in terms of budgeting. We are going to empower even our ICT officers in this place and also, we are going to take the motion to the Executive and the committee to push them, at least, to work on this one for the benefit of us and the county and the entire country. I thank the mover and I support.

Hon. Parleto Lekopien: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I stand to support the motion. As Hon. Mugweru has just said, I don't want to go back to what he said. I think he said the right thing. As we are trying to look for the motion, we could not even see the motion itself and read the details of the motion. Hon. Speaker, at some point I was just about to ask the Clerk to give me the analogue one, the printed paper so that I can follow up and read what is happening.

Hon. Speaker, as I support the motion, I think it is also high time that we all wake up in this House. Today, as I am supporting the motion, I have had news of a Public Accounts Committee

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being pointed out that they are not doing the reports. At the same time, Hon. Speaker, I have been to the House a few times and we lack quorum every day.

Even if I had a report, how will I pass that report? Secondly, sometimes Hon. Speaker, we are only here for two days and the next day we are out somewhere, either on recess or on holiday. As much as the Auditor General is talking about the reports, we should also pull up our socks. We have done a few reports here but, in these days, we have no time. I mean, no one is here to even do the report. Even requesting to go and do the report somewhere else, we lack quorum. We don't get the numbers.

So, Hon. Speaker, as I stand to support the motion, I think it is also high time we sit as a House. I was even shocked when one of the Members was trying to state that we will reconstitute the committee. I think we have done this committee a few times, three or four times but it is only done when you are trying to target one of the Members either to get him out of the committee or get him out of the service board or anything else.

If that is what the plan is, let it be. Hon. Speaker, we will sit with my committee and please, let us then give ourselves two weeks so that we can bring all the reports for CPAIC and pass it in this House if there will be a session. If there will be no session, then I will be left out of my committee to do the reports and probably table it in the House here or just leave it with the Clerk or with the Speaker.

Hon. Speaker, before I sit, I support and I think it is also good that the digital world, as much as we want to do for the youth, we should also do for the Members here because it is not the first time. Thank you, Hon. Mugweru for pointing out that. The beginning of this Assembly in 2022, 2023 and 2024, we have been talking about this digital thing in this House. We have been talking about the internet; we have been talking about our gadgets but it seems there is no change.

We will probably be singing and dancing and talking about it but we don't see the difference. Hon Speaker, as I support, it is also high time that we set an example, we lead by example and just show the people that this is what that needs to be done.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Lekopien. For the purposes of records, I want to reiterate that we have been having quorum except for a few occasions. Thank you. Allow me now to invite the mover of the motion to reply.

Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I thank the Members for their contribution towards this motion. We have heard the Members and they have elaborated on the same. Hon. Speaker, there are some points that have been raised by some few Members. Hon. Daniel has stated that the Assembly itself was set to be digital whereas today I see we will go back to the manual system of operation.

Having noted that the Members will be present on this particular day and yesterday, the gadgets should have been charged and they should have been operational. Today as I can see Hon. Leila, she couldn't be able to engage in this discussion because she tried to refer to her gadget but her gadget was blank. It was dark because it was not operational. If at all we are advocating for digitalization on social media issues and platforms, we should at least, in this Assembly set budgets.

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We have employees in this Assembly, to work on this issue so that tomorrow, each and every Member will be able to contribute towards the motion that has been set in this Assembly. That is why we rise and come to the committee of setting business. I had forgotten the name of the House Business Committee.

That's why we rise very early to be able to create business for this House. That is why Hon. Veronica couldn't be able to engage herself in this discussion. Hon. Lekopien tried his best to be able to engage himself in this but, it is a failure of the Assembly management. The person concerned in these digital issues in this Assembly has failed us.

Secondly, I appreciate the point raised by Hon. Daniel on matters of the signboard. It is as if the person who was doing it, I don't know if at all he is a digital person or a modern person or are we living in the digital world. If at all a person was given a contract to create that signboard, even you yourself you can't create such. This is an office. This is a senior establishment in this country. Having something that has been created that contains around six or ten colours, what does it depict?

It shows someone is just playing with colours and graphics and mix and match. It's as if this is a *kitenge.* I wonder because an office having a signboard, it should not consist of more than three colours. If you can see the one created for the other offices such as municipality, it is smart. This is a very senior House. Having such, even I wonder. It should be pulled down immediately.

We should stay without a signboard. If we are serious on this, we should have a budget for this in the Assembly we create a new one that is very elaborate, smart and something that is very official. Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I appreciate.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: The sittings of this House now stand adjourned until later today, Wednesday, 7th of October, 2026, at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 11.01 a.m.

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