Approved

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA SPEAKER'S OFFICE 29 APR 2025 P.O. Box 487 - 10400, NANYUKI

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA DEPUTY CLERK 29 APR 2025 P.O. Box 487 - 10400, NANYUKI

Recommended

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

County Assembly Building

P.O. Box 487-10400, Nanyuki

Email: info@laikipiaassembly.go.ke

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THIRD ASSEMBLY **FOURTH SESSION**

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND COUNTY PLANNING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REPORT

ON

THE LAIKIPIA COUNTY FINANCE BILL, 2025

25th APRIL 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 PREFACE 3

2.0 AKNOWLEDGEMENT 3

3.0 INTRODUCTION 4

4.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION(SUBMISSION OF MEMORANDA) 4

5.0 COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS 4

1.0. PREFACE

1.1 Committee Establishment and Mandate.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the Finance and County Planning Committee was constituted by the house on **26th October 2022** and comprises of the following seven members:

- **Hon Stephen Ndiritu** **-Chairman**
- **Hon John Gichuki** **-Vice Chairperson**
- Hon Mary Gathoni -Member
- Hon Paul Leshuel -Member
- Hon George Karuiru -Member
- Hon Catherine Umija -Member
- Hon Samuel Mugambi -Member

The Finance and County Planning Committee was established pursuant to the Standing Orders 191(1). The committee has a mandate in County Public Finance and planning development including statistics; land survey and mapping; boundaries and fencing; housing and electricity and gas reticulation and energy regulation. The Committee is also mandated to make reports and recommendations to the Assembly as often as possible, including recommendations of proposed legislation.

1.2 AKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mr. Speaker Sir, on behalf of the Finance and County Planning Committee, I wish to extend my gratitude to the members of the Committee for their dedication and commitment to their work.

The committee also extends its appreciation to the office of the Speaker and Office of the Clerk of the County Assembly of Laikipia for their support that has enabled the committee to participate in this duty and steer it on the path to accomplish its mandate.

Signed ……..on this day……...of 25th April 2025

(Hon. Stephen Ndiritu, Chairman Finance and County Planning Committee)

2. 0 INTRODUCTION

Mr. Speaker Sir, the Laikipia County Finance Bill, underwent first reading on Tuesday,**2nd April 2025** after which it was committed to the Finance and County Planning Committee. The Committee on Finance and County Planning during a meeting at the Assembly board room resolved that the Finance Bill 2025 undergoes public participation through submission of memorandum.

The public participation exercise (submission of memoranda) is in accordance to Article 196 (1) (b) of the Constitution of Kenya and Standing Order No. 120(3).

The County Assembly invited interested members of the Public, investors, Civil Society Organizations, Community Based Organizations, Faith Based Organizations and Special Interest Groups to submit memoranda on input on the Laikipia County Finance Bill,2023 through a gazette notice in the Star and Nation Newspapers on **7th April 2025** as in **(Annexture 1)** and in **(Annexure 2)**. The gazette notices clearly indicated that the memoranda be submitted on or before **17th April 2025** through the Clerk of the Assembly office and by email to: **info@laikipiaassembly.go.ke**. The Laikipia Finance Bill 2023 was uploaded on the County Assembly website on 6th April 2025 for downloading by the members of public.

The Public participation office embarked on an exercise of distributing copies of the Laikipia Finance Bill 2025 across the county with the copies also assessable for reading at Sub-County Administrators offices and community libraries in Nanyuki and Rumuruti.

3.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (SUBMISSION OF MEMORANDA)

Mr. Speaker Sir, the Finance and County Planning committee received one (1) memorandum from the **Laikipia Conservancies Association** as in **Annexture 3.**

5.0 COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Speaker Sir, the Finance and County Planning Committee recommends that;

1.The Bill proceeds to second reading.

2. Members of the house to consider the views of public at the Committee of the Whole House.

3.The House adopts the Finance and County Planning Committee's Public Participation report on the **Laikipia County Finance Bill, 2025.**

LAIKIPIA CONSERVANCIES ASSOCIATION

The LCA members has the following reasons:

1. The increment and the rates specifically targeted its members in a discriminatory manner, based on scale, type of land and activities. The proposed levies are not reasonable, rational and against the legitimate expectation that adjustment of taxes and rates would be progressive and not drastic.

2. In a landscape where most conservancies are located in properties from rampant insecurity and encroachment by wild animals, they have to foredeal pay a punitive tax assessed based on the number of processes used. With provision, it is not consistent with the prevailing conflict, as instead of encouraging private sector growth and controlling human-wildlife conflict.

3. The proposed bill levies hefty charges styled as filming and research, on the members, when such a levy is already being charged by the national government under the Films and Stage Plays Act, Cap 222.

4. The proposed further levies hefty landing charges in respect of operation of aerodromes, a mandate of the national government under the Kenya Airports Authority Act, and the levy is already payable to the Kenya Airports Authority.

Part / Section	Description	Current Proposal	LCA Proposal	Justification
Research	Vehicle Sticker	Ksh 50,000	Scrap the proposed fee	This would only be applicable in a County own reserve e.g the Mara of Laikipia National Reserve
Property Taxes	Land rates in Conservancy	Ksh 60 per acre	Ksh 25 per acre • The last increase rate was 25% and going with County Government efforts to raise own sources of revenue, we propose the land rates b increased by the same %	• The 150% increase is unsustainable for conservancies. • The absentee landlords in Laikipia County continue to not pay any rates and have no economic contribution to the County. The lands that

			to 25/- per acre	are paying land rates and contributing to Laikipia's economy should be supported to expand their businesses and continue to put their land into productivity.
Airstrip in conservancies	Airstrips	Commercial Ksh 60,000	Scrap the proposed fee	• Airstrips in conservancies are not for commercial purposes and do not charge any landing fees. There are infrastructures to facilitate business which are already paying various taxes. • Airstrips are also used for security
Environment services	Incinerator permit	Ksh 15,000	Scrap the proposed fee	• We believe the County government should encourage this practice for good health and a clean environment
Environment services	Recycling permit	Ksh 1000	Scrap the proposed fee	• We should encourage Laikipia to do more recycling for the betterment of the environment
Environment services	Registration of Environmental CBOs	Ksh 4,000	Scrap the proposed fee	• The CBOs are registered with social services where there are charges, this would amount to double taxation. • CBOs support the work of conservation in the County, mostly run by youth. It is in the spirit of addressing environmental challenges such as climate change that we should allow them to register,
Business Permits	Registration of a new business	Ksh 1000	Scrap the proposed fee	• With many businesses, this would translate to more revenues from Single

LAIKIPIA CONSERVANCIES ASSOCIATION

				business permits. We should encourage business start ups
Property tax land rent	Private Dams	Ksh 5000	Scrap the proposed fee	• The land is already paying land rates and this would amount to double taxation • It also aims at promoting rain water harvesting in te County. This tax therefore defeats this purpose.
Land use conversion	Agricultural to Conservation	Ksh 150,000	• Apply similar rates to other land use changes	• Conservation as bee recognized as a viable form of land use by the Wildlife Act 2013. • Other forms of land use conversion is charged at Ksh 45,000/-. We recommend that this rate be applied to the Agricultural – Conservation conversions.
Filming Activities	Inside Conservancies – Non-Citizen	Ksh 10,000	• Align with the National Government's Filming Commission to enable the County collect revenues from commercial film makers. • County to issues licences based on the guidance from the National Filming Commission on commercial filming.	• Properties should ensure that anyone filming has obtained a commercial license from the National Government and the County Government.
Research	Private Conservancies	Annual Ksh 100,000	• Conservancies will ensure that the researcher has obtained the required licenses from the National Government. • Change the word commercial research activities to commercial and market research, to indicate research that	• The proposed rates are high and will disincentivize research • Given the importance of research in fostering innovation, solving society problems and advancing knowledge, it is imperative that County Government play a role in encouraging

			accrues direct benefits as opposed to education-based research – as is the case in most conservancies. The proposed annual fee is expensive and prohibitive. • Percentage loyalties be negotiated with specific research initiatives during the PIC/MAT process	research activities. • Laikipia County has been on the forefront in advocating for research. Any move to introduce levies on research is counterintuitive and will cripple these gains. • It is important to recognize that research is not a profiteering venture. While many research activities lead to important breakthrough or policy transformations, the researchers themselves and the institutions that host them hardly get any loyalties or direct benefits from this research activities. Therefore, its suffices to think of research as serving the common good. It is unjustifiable to treat research as a source of direct revenue. • Most research activities rely on very limited budgets or and often researchers have to use their own resources to supplement research budgets. The proposed levies introduce serious constraints on already underfunded research projects. The implications will even be more severe for many of the underfunded Kenyan researchers. • The above notwithstanding, research activities have immense multiplier effects. Specifically, many jobs are

LAIKIPIA CONSERVANCIES ASSOCIATION

				created through research activities and there are many opportunities for capacity building through research engagements. • The current research regulatory environment requires that researchers pay hefty fees and levies to other regulatory agencies including KWS, NACOSTI, WRTI, KCA, Institutional Ethical Review Boards and NEMA. The hefty costs as well as bureaucracy and overlapping agencies have made the process if seeking compliance too slow and punitive for researchers.

16/04/2025

Peter Matunge

Chief Executive Officer

Laikipia Conservancies Association