

KERICHO COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THE HANSARD

Second Assembly

Sixth Session

Wednesday 16th February, 2022

(The House met at 9.30 a .m.)

[Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono) in the Chair]

PRAYER

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): Let's proceed!

NOTICES OF MOTION

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): The Honourable Albert Kipkoech (Chairman Budget and Appropriation committee)!

Hon. Albert Kipkoech (Chairman Budget and Appropriation committee, Member for Soliat Ward): Thank you Mr. Speaker and allow me to give a notice of the following motion; That this House approves the report on budget and appropriation committee on the Kericho County Supplementary Budget Estimates for Financial Year 2021/2022, thank you Mr. Speaker.
The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): Thank you, Next order!

**MOTION BY CHAIRMAN BUDGET AND
APPROPRIATION COMMITTEE**

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): Chairman Budget and Appropriation committee!

Hon. Albert Kipkoech (Chairman Budget and Appropriation committee, Member for Soliat Ward): Thank you Mr. Speaker, I wish to move a motion that this House approves the report on budget and appropriation committee on the Kericho County Supplementary Budget Estimates for Financial Year 2021/2022. Allow me to start from page 5 that is 4.0;

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): Proceed.

Hon. Albert Kipkoech (Chairman Budget and Appropriation committee, Member for Soliat Ward): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Kericho County Supplementary Budget Estimates FY 2021/2022;

The County Assembly received the Supplementary Budget estimates for FY 2021/2022 from the County Executive Committee Member in Charge of Finance and Economic Planning on 25th January 2022 and the same was committed to the County Budget and Appropriation committee for consideration.

The committee sat on various dates between 26/1/2022 and 7/2/2022 to deliberate on the proposed supplementary budget estimates for FY 2021/22.

5.0 Revenue

This supplementary budget reflects the equitable share at Kshs. 6.4 billion, own source revenue Kshs. 852.6 million, comprising of Facility Improvement fund and NHIF Rebates is projected at Kshs.513 million and local collection at kshs.339.5 million, Unspent funds which form pending bills brought forward from previous financial years of Kshs. 266.7 Million, conditional grants from national government at Kshs. 122.5 million (comprising of Fuel levy of Kshs. 63.5 million, development of youth polytechnics of Kshs. 22.8 million and user fee reimbursement of Kshs. 36 million).

Donor grants amounting to Kshs. 661.1million comprising of Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) at Kshs. 11.9 million, Kenya Devolution Support Program (KDSP) of Kshs. 102 million, Agricultural sector development support program (ASDSP) of Kshs. 43.1 million and transformative health sector systems for universal care at Kshs. 75.9 million, Kenya Urban Support Programme (UDG) Kshs. 66.3 million, Climate Change Institution Support Kshs.11.32 million and Climate Smart Agriculture Kshs. 350 million. The County is also expecting to receive Ksh.5.8 million as insurance compensation from vehicle attached to this office.

The total recurrent expenditure amounts to Kshs.5.18 Billion whereas the development expenditure stands at Kshs 3.15 Billion. This brings the total resource envelope to Kshs.8.33 Billion.

Mr. Speaker Sir.

6.0 The Departmental considerations on supplementary budget estimates FY 2021/2022

A. County Assembly

In the county assembly, various items were adjusted within the department's line items on recurrent expenditure. The overall recurrent expenditure stands at Kshs. 728.8 million in line with the CARA Act Approved by the National Assembly whereas development expenditure stands at Kshs. 9.98 Million towards construction of Speaker's residence and other amenities in the Assembly.

Mr. Speaker Sir.

B. Education, Youth Affairs, Culture and Social Services

The recurrent vote was reduced to Kshs 425.6 million whereas the development vote was revised to Kshs 104.1 million.

Mr. Speaker Sir.

C. Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries

The recurrent vote has been revised to Kshs 160. Million whereas the development vote stands at Kshs 500.6 Million

Mr. Speaker Sir.

D. Finance and Economic Planning

The development vote stands at Kshs. 150.3 Million, and the recurrent vote stands at Kshs. 285.2 Million.

Mr. Speaker Sir.

E. Health Services

The recurrent vote of health services stands at Kshs 2.54 billion and the development vote was revised to Kshs 378.2 million.

Mr. Speaker Sir.

F. Land, Housing and Physical Planning

The recurrent vote stands at Kshs 82.1 million whereas development vote stands at Kshs. 191.3 million.

Mr. Speaker Sir.

G. Public Service Management

The recurrent vote stands at Kshs360.8 million whereas the development vote is Kshs 22.8 million.

Mr. Speaker Sir.

H. Public Works, Roads and Transport

The recurrent vote of this department is Kshs 93.05 million and the development vote was revised to Kshs 895.02 Million.

Mr. Speaker Sir.

I. Trade, Industrialization, Cooperative Management , Tourism and Wildlife

The recurrent vote of this department stands at Kshs 71.9 million and the development vote is at Kshs 57.9 million.

Mr. Speaker Sir.

J. Information, Communication and E-governance

The recurrent vote of this department stands at Kshs 59.9 million and the development vote is at Kshs 27.8 million.

Mr. Speaker Sir.

K. Office of the Governor & Deputy Governor

The recurrent vote of this department now stands at Kshs. 141.2 million to cater for operating expenditures in the office of the Governor and Deputy Governor.

Mr. Speaker Sir.

L. Public Service Board

The recurrent vote of this department stands at Kshs. 67.2 million to cater for operating expenses with no development vote.

Mr. Speaker Sir.

M. Water Energy, Forestry, Environment and Natural Resources

The recurrent vote is Kshs 140.7 Million whereas the development vote stands at Kshs 276.7 Million.

Mr. Speaker Sir.

7.0 Committee observations

The Committee on Budget and Appropriation made the following observations:

- i. That there were substantial pending bills which are still un cleared in all the departments.
- ii. That it was evident that most of the projects for this financial year are yet to start.
- iii. That there are no budgetary provisions for car loans and mortgages for County Assembly and very little for County government.
- iv. That the planned recruitment of staff in various departments has not yet been done, yet there is a budgetary provision for the same.

Mr. Speaker Sir.

8.0 Committee recommendations

The committee on budget and appropriations recommends as follows:

- i. The departments should strive to achieve their local revenue targets and FIF targets.
- ii. That department should ensure pending bills are cleared to avoid issues arising in transition period. Timelines for completion of projects should be adhered to.
- iii. Noting that the County Assembly car loan and mortgage is one scheme and there are still funds at the contracted financial institution, the county treasury should give the Clerk and the County Assembly Service Board an advisory on whether the County Assembly staff can access the said funds since a majority of them is yet to benefit from the same scheme.
- iv. The County Public Service Board should fast track recruitment and confirmation of staff as requested from the respective departments.
- v. All programs from all the departments should be rolled out immediately as per the estimates and the schedule attached here in.
- vi. The ongoing programs from the previous financial years should be completed as per the contractual timelines so as to avoid any transitional challenges.

Mr. Speaker Sir.

9.0 Acknowledgement

The Committee wishes to thank the Offices of the Speaker and the Clerk of the Assembly for the necessary support extended to it in the execution of its mandate. Further the committee acknowledges the exemplary services rendered by the staff of the County Assembly and County Executive. Indeed their devotion and commitment to duty have made the work of the committee and production of this report successful.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Pursuant to Standing Order 224 (1) I do present the Report of the County Budget and Appropriation Committee on Supplementary Budget Estimates for the FY 2021/2022 for consideration by this Honourable House. Lastly allow me to call upon my seconder to come and second the motion that is Honourable Cheruiyot Bett.

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The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): Honourable Cheruiyot Bett!

Hon. Cheruiyot Bett (Member for Ainamoi Ward): Thank you very much Mr. Speaker for giving me this opportunity on behalf of people of Ainamoi to second the motion on the report of the County Budget and Appropriation Committee on Supplementary Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2021/2022. I want to confirm that what the Chairman has read is a true reflection of what the committee did during their committee sittings on budget and deliberated for like two weeks. My only concern is the recommendations and the observations that we made during our sittings and we came up the following six recommendations. One of these recommendations is that; *the County Public Service Board should fast track recruitment and confirmation of staff as requested from the respective departments.* The County Assembly did appropriate funds for recruitments of various staff to various departments upon the request from the department. I want to confirm that we have the recruitment of the 200 ECDE teachers that has always been captured in the budget. I also want to confirm that it is there in this supplementary budget but the County Public Service Board has done nothing in the recruitment of the same. Mr. Speaker we also have the enforcement officers and the County Public Service Board were supposed to have confirmed by now because we had budgetary allocation for their confirmation. There were about 150 staff to be confirmed and another 250 contractual staff but the board had not done anything on the same. Further I want to confirm that in this budget the recruitment of various staff from various departments especially the finance department and the health department has not been implemented yet the County Assembly has passed. So we demand from the County Public Service Board that those staff must be recruited. We are going into the election period and we do not know the next government. Also all programs from all the departments should be rolled out immediately as per the estimates and the schedule attached here. We realized that every ward has their own allocations and if the departments will not move with speed to implement this schedule, then coming to this House in the next election will be a miracle. So we demand from the departments to make sure that they roll out some of these projects. Each and every committee must fast-track and remind their departments to roll out their projects. As Chairman from Education I want to assure you that the bursaries we appropriated in this financial year is going

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to be rolled out immediately. The other recommendation is that the ongoing programs from the previous financial years should be completed as per the contractual timelines so as to avoid any transitional challenges. The pending bills from various departments which is almost Ksh. 256 million, and we do not want to envisage another pending bill now that we are in a transitional government in our county. We are going to have a new governor so we want to make sure that all the other projects are rolled out and are completed as soon as possible to avoid issues in the next government that is going to take over. I want to urge the members to be firm on our departments though we do not have enough time because of campaigns but I want to urge all of us to at least get some time to oversight some of these departments because you may go campaigning and there are still projects pending in the county government. If these departments are going to roll out these projects, we still have chance to make back to this Assembly. I second the motion, thank you very much.

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): Thank you.

(Question proposed)

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): The Honourable Alex Bett!

Hon. Alex Bett (Member for Litein Ward): Thank you honorable Speaker for giving me this opportunity that I may contribute on the motion before this House. First let me take this opportunity to congratulate the Chairman Budget and Appropriation Committee and the members for working tirelessly to see that resources are equitably distributed where need be. We are coming towards the end of our second assembly and so many things needs to be aligned and we also need to see that most of our projects in the wards are implemented. I hope that as we pass this supplementary budget, all the things that we deliberated on and appropriated money on will be done. I want to concur with the seconder of this motion that we put emphasis on some of the things that we had deliberated on as members of the committee.

I wouldn't want to forget that part of our emphasis was on the recruitment of staff which I can confirm that when we were pursuing this issue we went further and invited the minister concerned and she confirmed that they had appropriated money for the recruitment of staff. We all know that for a long time we have been waiting for the recruitment of ECDE (Early Childhood Development and Education) teachers and also the Chebwagan group. I want to urge the Chairman Implementation Committee that as we finalize on this document, they should follow it up that some of the things that we have agreed on in this budget are implemented.

There is also the issue of recruitment and promotion of staff in the Health Department; I hope that when this budget is passed there will be no excuse as to why more staff are not recruited in the department. We have completed so many dispensaries in our wards and for a while most of them have been lying idle because of lack of staff. I have one in my ward called America Sinendet dispensary which I completed almost a year ago and right now the facility is gathering dust while my people are suffering because they have to travel long distance to get health services. I hope even as this budget is passed, I will be among those who will benefit from the recruitment of more staff.

There is also the issue of rolling out programs we are aware and this has been history that the excuses that we always have from the departments is lack of finances and even of late as we follow up on some of the projects that are supposed to be implemented in our wards all we can hear is that we are waiting for the supplementary budget to be passed, now that this supplementary budget is almost through, I want to emphasize that going forward especially from next week, once this budget is passed and this money uploaded to the system, the programs that we have been waiting for earnestly shall be rolled out, particularly in the departments like that of roads, health and water because these are areas that touches on our people. I have a program in my ward that has been hanging for a while and that is the construction of the fire station. That project has much been awaited for by the people of Litein ward and I hope once the supplementary budget is passed, we will have our fire station completed.

Finally, as we go into the next government after the election it has always been a tradition that some of the programs in the previous governments are not completed. In my ward I inherited so many incomplete projects that were started and left hanging. This is the second assembly and we wouldn't like to make the same mistake that was done when devolution was started 10 years ago. I hope the four months that we still have before the end of this term is enough for some of these projects to be completed. We shouldn't have some projects spilling over to the next government. Otherwise I support this budget. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon Dominic Rono): Thank you, we can just limit to three minutes, Hon. Paul Chirchir!

Hon. Paul Chirchir (Member for Kapsoit Ward): Thank you very much Mr. Speaker sir. First, allow me to convey my message of condolence to one of us who we lost last week; The Hon. Kiprono Chumo of Kedowa -Kimugul ward. This message goes to the people of Kedowa-Kimugul, their leader Hon. Dennis Kirui and the entire county following the demise of a long serving Councilor and former MCA for Kedowa –Kimugul. We stand with the people and family during this difficult time.

Back to today's budget and appropriation report, I'm here to support the report and looking at our resource which stands at Kshs. 8,339,540,108. The recurrent expenditure is at 62 percent and the development expenditure is at 38 percent .So we are very well, we have about 8 percent that we can play around in terms of employment so our wage bill is not that badly off. Back to the recommendations from the committee, the committee has made very serious recommendations one which is no.4.*The County Public Service Board should fast-track recruitment and confirmation of staff requested from respective departments.* We have the Department of Public Service where we have managed to train youths in Chebwagan, some have been hired on contract basis yet we have been allocating money for employment on permanent and pensionable terms on this cadre of staff. With this recommendation, I hope the department will take it very seriously and employ all Chebwagan trainees because as an Assembly we have done our part.

We have done our report and once this report is passed it will become a law and it will be binding.

The other issue is that all departments should immediately roll out their programs as per the estimates and the schedule attached here. We find that we are in the third quarter of the financial year and looking at the programs in all the devolved units we are not doing well and yet as an assembly we have done our part. So I hope with the passage of this report all the devolved units should actually implement as appropriated and as approved by this house. The ongoing programs from the previous financial years should be completed as per the contractual timelines, so as to avoid any transitional challenges. I wish to bring to the attention of this house a few projects in my ward that have not been completed two years down the line yet there is money, one project called Kiboibei water project with a budget of Kshs. 35 million the contractor has not been able to complete all the work. In fact looking the much that they have done we are about 20 percent or less and yet the money is there. The other project is Kiptunoi water project.

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): Order honorable member!

Hon. Paul Chirchir: I hope with the passage ...

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): Please let's restrain ourselves to the budget!

Hon. Paul Chirchir (Member for Kapsoit Ward): Thank you, so the ongoing programs from the previous financial years should be completed as per contractual timelines so as to avoid any transitional challenges. The departments of roads, water, agriculture and all those other departments, should actually up their game and make all the programs, any programs that they started should be able to complete within the timeline.

Finally, our youths are languishing as they do not have jobs, so whenever this Assembly puts money for employment of those who are on contract or confirming those who are on contract, the relevant department should be able to move very fast and employ our youths, and I hope that the department will take this thing very seriously. Thank you very much.

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): Thank you, the Hon. Albert Kipkoech you may respond.

Hon. Albert Kipkoech (Chairman Budget and Appropriation Committee): Thank you very much Mr. Speaker, I want to thank honorable members, however members we have a very serious duty to ensure that CEC implement this budget and I can now call upon on the chairs especially on sectoral committee to stand to the course and make sure that before we go to the campaigns this people implement this budget. Otherwise thank you very much Mr. Speaker.

(Question put and agreed to)

(Adjournment)

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): We adjourn until today 2:30pm. Thank you.

(The House Rose at 10:05 am)