

KERICHO COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THE HANSARD

SPECIAL SITTING

(Convened vide Kenya Gazette Notice No. 8463 of 29th June 2023)

Third Assembly

Second Session

Friday 30th June, 2023 A

(The House met at 11.00 a.m.)

[The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): Good morning Honourable members and welcome to today's special sitting as per Gazette Notice that is No.8463 and I can just read:

"Pursuant to Standing Order 32 of the County Assembly of Kericho Standing Orders, on the request of the County Assembly's Leader of Majority, I have appointed Friday, 30th June, 2023, at 9.30 a.m. and 2.30 pm whose agenda shall be to discuss-

- a) County Budget Review Outlook Paper FY 2022/2023, Debt Management Strategy Paper 2023, county Integrated Development Plan 2023-2028, County Budget Estimates for the FY 2023/2024; and*
- b) The First Reading, Second reading, Committee of the Whole House and Third Reading of the Kericho County Appropriation Bill, 2023, respectively.*

Honourable Members you are welcome. Clerk, order of business!

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COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

VISIT BY H.E THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT RIGATHI GACHAGUA AND LEADERS' MEETING

The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): Honourable Members, I have one communication to make from the Leader of Majority of the Senate Hon. Aaron Cheruiyot. I have received the information this morning that H.E The Deputy President Hon. Rigathi Gachagua will be in the county from Thursday through Saturday next week. After that, there will be a leaders meeting bringing together leaders from Bomet, Kericho, Narok and Nakuru. You are requested to attend especially the said meeting on Saturday. Please note that Leader of Majority and also Majority Whip so that you can whip the members accordingly.

Another communication I have to make is that we have a team that shall be travelling on official duties starting from Saturday through the whole of next week. Thank you. Clerk, next order!

PAPERS

The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): Yes, the Hon. Chair budget!

Hon. Albert Kipkoech (Chairperson Budget and Appropriations Committee and Member for Soliat Ward): Thank you so much Mr. Speaker, Sir. I wish to lay the following paper on the Table of the House:

Report on the Kericho County Budget Review outlook paper 2022

Thank you Mr. Speaker!

The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): That is Kericho County...

Hon. Albert Kipkoech (Chairperson Budget and Appropriations Committee and Member for Soliat Ward): May be I can table all the papers.

The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): Table all of them.

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Hon. Albert Kipkoech (Chairperson Budget and Appropriations Committee and Member for Soliat Ward): I wish to lay the following papers on the Table of the House:

1. Kericho County Budget Review Outlook Paper 2022.
2. Report on Kericho County Debt Management Strategy Paper.
3. The Report on Kericho County Budget Estimates for the FY 2023/2024.

May be my colleague counterpart Chairperson for Finance can table for CIDP. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): Thank you very much the honourable Chairperson Budget and Appropriation Committee. The Hon Kibet Bosuben, please lay your Paper!

Hon. Kibet Bosuben (Member for Cheplanget Ward): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to lay the following Paper on the Table of the House:

Report of Finance and Economic Planning Committee on the County Integrated Development Plan, 2023-2028.

Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): Thank you very much Hon. Chair for Finance. Clerk, next order!

NOTICES OF MOTION

The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): The Honourable Chairperson, Budget Hon. Albert Kipkoech, please proceed!

Hon. Albert Kipkoech (Chairperson Budget and Appropriations Committee and Member for Soliat Ward): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I wish to give a notice of the following motion: THAT, this House approves the Report of Budget and Appropriation Committee on the Kericho County Budget Review Outlook Paper 2022. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): The Hon. Chairperson, I guess you need to proceed in giving notices of motions.

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Hon. Albert Kipkoech (Chairperson Budget and Appropriations Committee and Member for Soliat Ward): So I give notice of all the motions?

The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): Yes, your three motions!

Hon. Albert Kipkoech (Chairperson Budget and Appropriations Committee and Member for Soliat Ward): The second motion that I wish to give is, THAT, this House approves the Report of Budget and Appropriation Committee on Kericho County Debt Management Strategy paper 2023.

Then the last one is THAT, this House approves the Report of Budget and Appropriation Committee on the Kericho County Budget Estimates for the FY 2023/2024. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): Thank you very much. The Hon. Chairperson for Finance, give Notice of your motion!

Hon. Kibet Bosuben (Member for Cheplanget Ward): Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. I would like to give the following Notice of motion, THAT, this House approves the Report of Finance and Economic Planning Committee on the Kericho County Integrated Development plan, 2023-2028. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): Alright, thank you. Clerk, next order!

MOTION

REPORT ON THE KERICHO COUNTY BUDGET REVIEW OUTLOOK PAPER

The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): The Hon. Albert, Proceed!

Hon. Albert Kipkoech (Chairperson Budget and Appropriations Committee and Member for Soliat Ward): Thank you so much Mr. Speaker. I wish to move the following motion: THAT, this House approves the Report of Budget and Appropriation Committee on the Kericho County Budget Review Outlook Paper, 2022. Mr. Speaker, allow me to start from page 4 of the report.

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The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): Proceed!

Hon. Albert Kipkoech (Chairperson Budget and Appropriations Committee and Member for Soliat Ward): Thank you so much Mr. Speaker. I was requesting that I start with legal basis for the preparation of the County Budget Review Outlook Paper (CBROP).

Mr. Speaker, Section 118 of the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act 2012, states that;

1) A County Treasury shall:

a) Prepare a County Budget Review and Outlook Paper in respect of the county for each financial year, and;

b) Submit the Paper to the County Executive Committee (CEC) by the 30th September of that year.

2) In preparing its County Budget Review and Outlook Paper, the county treasury shall specify:

a) The details of the actual fiscal performance in the previous year compared to the budget appropriation for that year.

b) The updated economic and financial forecasts with the sufficient information to show changes from the forecast in most recent County Fiscal Strategy Paper.

c) Information on-

- Any changes in the forecasts compared with County Fiscal Strategy Paper, or
- How actual performance for the previous financial year may have affected compliance with the fiscal responsibility principles, or the financial objectives in the County Fiscal Strategy Paper for the financial year, and
- Reasons for any deviation from the financial objectives in the County Fiscal Strategy Paper.

3. The County Executive Committee shall consider the County Budget Review and Outlook Paper with a view to approving it, with or without amendments, within fourteen days after its submission.

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4. Not later than seven days after the County Budget Review and Outlook paper is approved by the County Executive Committee, the County Treasury shall-

- a) Arrange for the paper to be laid before the County Assembly; and
- b) as soon as practicable after having done so, publish and publicize the Paper.

REVIEW OF FISCAL PERFORMANCE IN FINANCIAL YEAR 2021/2022

COMPARATIVES

a) Revenue

Source of Income	Target Amount(Kshs)	Actual Collections(Kshs)	Deviation Kshs.	% Deviation
National Equitable share	6,430,664,924	5,916,000,000	514,664,924	-0.08%
Own Source and Facility Improvement Fund (FIF)	842,636,240	566,821,704	275,814,536	-0.51%
User Fee Reimbursement	36,097,578	18,048,789	18,048,789	-0.50%
Road Maintenance Fuel Levy	63,569,007	63,569,007	0	0%
Development of Youth Polytechnics Fund	22,866,170	0	22,866,170	-100%
DANIDA Fund	11,921,250	5,960,625	5,960,625	-0.50%
Agricultural Sector Support	43,114,132	19,413,897	23,700,235	-0.55%

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Fund(ASDSP)				
Kenya Devolution Support Program	176,956,013	176,956,013	0	0
Transformative Health System(World Bank)	75,948,635	75,443,658	504,977	-0.01%
Climate Smart Agriculture Project	350,000,000	130,425,846	219,574,154	-0.63%
Kenya Urban Support Program(UDG)	66,394,492	66,394,492	0	0%
Climate change Institutional support(World Bank)	11,320,000	0	11,320,000	-100%
Insurance compensation	5,800,000	0	5800000	-100%
Unspent Balances	266,,715,728	266,715,728	266,715,728,	1%
Total Collection	8,404,004,169	7,305,749,759	1,098,254,410	-0.13%

b) Global Expenditure

As at 30th June 2022, the total expenditure was Kshs6.36 Billion against total budget of Kshs. 8.4 billion representing approximately 76% absorption. The County Public Service Board recorded the highest absorption rate of 97% while the department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries had the lowest absorption at 42.9% as shown in the table below.

County Entities	Budget(Kshs)	Actual Expenditure(Kshs.)	Variance(Kshs)	% Absorption
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Agriculture, Livestock development and fisheries	652,450,331	280,405,398	372,044,933	42.9%
Education, Youth, Children, Culture and Social services	522,259,068	495,984,311	26,274,757	94.97%
Finance and Economic Planning	846,641,397	465,848,561	380,792,836	55.02%
Health Services	3,042,920,631	2,776,280,703	266,639,928	91.24%
ICT	94,092,843	83,607,388	10,485,455	88.86%
Lands, Housing and Physical Planning	242,610,088	204,769,742	37,840,346	84.40%
Office of the Governor	148,113,284	131,989,001	16,124,283	89.11%
PSM	391,592,579	353,449,672	38,142,907	90.26%
Public Works, Roads & Transport	1,050,384,712	958,113,101	92,271,611	91.22%
Trade, Industrialization, Tourism ,Wildlife and Cooperatives	128,927,107	112,521,852	16,405,255	87.28%
Water, Energy, Natural Resources and Environment	470,801,017	433,621,271	37,179,746	92.10%
County Public Service Board	65,415,254	63,465,850	1,949,405	97.02
Grand Total	7,656,208,311	6,360,056,847	1,296,151,464	83.07%

Committee observation

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1. Delays in exchequer release and long procurement procedures affected the overall absorption rates.
2. C-BROP is a key document linking Policy, Planning and Budgeting.
3. There was poor performance in collection of own source revenue
4. There was substantial undisbursed equitable share amounting to Kshs 514 million
5. It was evident that there was high absorption rate in recurrent expenditure of 95% and low development expenditure of 59% which translates to Ksh1.264Billion.
6. The County Public Service Board recorded the highest absorption rate of 97% while the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries had the lowest absorption at 42.9%.
7. The sectoral committees of the County Assembly were not directly involved in implementation and rollout of programs in their respective departments.

Committee Recommendations

The committee recommends that the recommendations in the approved budgets should be implemented as outlined below:

1. The County Government should supplement the National Sharable Revenue by maximizing Own Source Revenue collection through Revenue Automation.
2. The receivers of revenue should minimize leakages and stabilize revenue streams.
3. The County Executive should reduce non-priority expenditures and improve value for money spent.
4. The departments should fast track procurement procedures to boost absorption of funds.
5. The Sectoral committees of the County Assembly should be involved in implementation and roll-out of programs through effective oversight.
6. A special committee be formed by the County Assembly to investigate collection and leakages of own source revenue in the County.
7. All the departments should endeavour to make full disclosures on own revenue streams, Facility Improvement Fund (FIF) and actual revenue collected.

8. Mr. Speaker Sir, In managing the county government's public finances, the County Treasury should enforce the following fiscal responsibility principles-

- (a) The County government's recurrent expenditure shall not exceed the county government's total revenue.
- (b) Over the medium term a minimum of thirty percent of the county government's budget shall be allocated to the development expenditure:
- (c) The county government's expenditure on wages and benefits for the Public Officers shall not exceed a percentage of the county government's total revenue as prescribed by the County Executive Member for Finance in regulations and approved by the County Assembly.
- (d) Over the medium term, the government's borrowings shall be used for the purpose of financing development expenditure and not for recurrent expenditure i.e. the county debt shall be maintained at a sustainable level as approved by the County Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, 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.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is my pleasant duty, pursuant to Standing Order 201 to present the Report of the County Budget Review and Outlook Paper(C-BROP), 2022 for consideration and subsequent adoption by this honourable House and allow me to request the majority leader emeritus to second. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): The honourable Hezron Ngetich! I was actually looking for you. I guess because you are very smart today, you could not catch the eye of the Speaker.

Hon. Hezron Ngetich (Member for Chilchila Ward): Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. Smartness is my weakness Mr. Speaker. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the opportunity you have granted me so that I can rise to support the motion by Chairman Budget concerning the Report on the County Budget Review and Outlook Paper.

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This is a report which is an indicator of how the budget is and it is a key document which is linking the policy and planning of the budget. I support this report and may be to say that this document is long overdue because I think we received it as early as November. So, I think going forward because the department was still new and the County Executive was still new, I think we should be discussing and having this document at the right time so that it can assist us in the preparation of the budget.

Again, this document is a clear indication of how the budget is. What you see on this C-BROP you will realise that in the last budget we didn't receive full disbursement. We were short by almost five hundred and fourteen million and that is a lot of money. When you inject a whopping five hundred million to development, it spurs a lot of development. Again, the importance of this document is that it shows us the performance per department. When you look at it critically, you will know which department had been allocated a lot of resources and they didn't absorb. So, this document is a good indicator so that even when we are preparing the budget as the Budget and Appropriation Committee, we will see which department and which CECs are workaholic and those who are not. This is because there is no need to allocate a lot of resources to a person who cannot utilise them because at the end of the day we need value for money in whatever we are allocating.

I want to thank the departments which performed exemplarily. First I want to acknowledge the department of roads in that financial year which you were the CEC Hon. Speaker and you know you were having almost one billion in development but you spent nine hundred and fifty eight million. That is a good indicator keeping in mind that this is a department whereby you interact with different players in absorption of the budget. You may allocate funds or you may give out a project to a certain contractor who doesn't have capacity and he fails and so, that money can't be absorbed. Keeping in mind that you absorbed almost 91% was a good indicator to the former government and department.

There is a department called Agriculture which had a whopping 652 million but they absorbed only 42.9% and you know agriculture is the backbone of development in our county. When you allocate certain amount and they fail to absorb it is a big a let down to the county. So, I think

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going forward, we want to urge all the departmental chairs to ensure that they do proper oversight and follow up so that in any allocation we have allocated to every department we do follow up so that at least every department utilise the amount we have allocated.

I don't want to take much time but to support this report and to urge honourable members that as we approve the new budget, we will be doing our oversight role properly and ensuring that we hold those who are responsible to be on their toes and ensure that the budget is utilised so that the next report on C-BROP, we will not be having a lot of unspent balances. Thank you and I support.

The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): Thank you very much Leader of Majority Emeritus.

(Question proposed)

The floor is open and I request we take a minute each to of course prosecute this matter. The Hon. Eric Bii!

Hon. Erick Bii (Member for Kaplelartet Ward): Thank you Mr. Speaker for allowing me this opportunity to just contribute on the County Budget Review Outlook Paper. First of all, allow me to congratulate the committee on Budget and Appropriation led by the able chairman for coming up with this report. Though we are a bit late on this report but by and large, we are going to deliberate on it today. This is a very great Paper which I must applaud and say it is a very key indicator which is giving us the report on the appropriation and absorption from the entire departments we have in our county.

We are very much impressed though as Chairman, Health Services, we are number three on the absorption and I must admit that come this year, I'm going to press on as per the recommendations made by the committee that we should link the departments with the sectoral Chairs. So as a Chair, I must agree that we are going to press on so that they can do absorption. Based on the report, we actually have a variance of 266 million from the report which is 91% out of overall.

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It is also bad news for the sectoral department of agriculture whereby they did the worst by having around 372 million which was never absorbed and I think we have a lot of issues in that department. So I want to urge the Department through the Chairman for agriculture committee so that he can press and put more effort regarding the department.

I have seen the recommendations from the committee that the reason why all these issues came over is because of delay in release of funds from the exchequer and but I thought it was actually a mess on the other side that is, overall economy in this country whereby the exchequer never released funds to our county.

Thirdly is on the issue of own source revenue. I want to believe and agree with the recommendation that we should have our own source revenue whereby if we can compare the departments which have done well in own source revenue for example Health Services, they have actually done the best by ensuring that they have own source revenue. Even in the roads department, we can also have our own source revenue so that we can utilise and ensure that with the timeline given, we should have committed and absorbed some funds so that every year we have an increment. If we don't utilise the funds, we are going to be given less funds from the National government. Otherwise I want to support and request honourable members to support. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): Thank you the Hon. Eric Bii. The Hon. Maritim! Then Hon. Mathew before we give back to the mover to reply.

Hon. David Maritim (Member for Chepseon Ward): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to comment on the report by the chairman budget, but I have some confusion in terms of percentage in deviation from the revenue (a) even from the national equitable share, is it -0.08% or -0.85%? Can the chairman explain this percentage in deviation because if my mathematics serves me well, I did some calculations but I didn't find these figures to be correct. So the figures in terms of percentage are not correct. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): Alright. Thank you! Hon. Chairperson, may be you can comment on it.

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Hon. Albert Kipkoech (Chairperson Budget and Appropriations Committee and Member for Soliat Ward): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Maybe the Member from Chepseon didn't understand that deviation means what was received was 92% which means we didn't receive - 0.08% which is 514 million, so that -0.08% is 514, 664, 924 of 6.4 Billion. So maybe, he didn't understand that but that is it. What was received was 5.9 Billion which is 92% of the budget.

The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): Hon. Chair, I think the issue for the honourable member is whether it is 0.08% or 8%. Did I get you correct? Alright, maybe that is what he is asking.

Hon. Albert Kipkoech (Chairperson Budget and Appropriations Committee and Member for Soliat Ward): It is 0.08%.

The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): Alright, it is clarified by the honourable chairman. Of course honourable members, you will agree with me that because this a report that has been..., Chairman!

Hon. Albert Kipkoech (Chairperson Budget and Appropriations Committee and Member for Soliat Ward): Mr. Speaker, when you put 0.8 that means 80% and as you can see what we didn't get was only 514 Million which is 0.08%.

The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): Thank you so much chairperson. I just wanted to make a comment and observation that of course we are blind to this. We want to believe that the percentage has been done properly but we can't dispute the figure. Maybe the honourable member for Chepseon should note that figure of five hundred and something million as stated. The Hon. Mathew!

Hon. Mathew Korir (Member for Chaik Ward): Thank you so much Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute and support the motion tabled by the chairman, Budget. Mr. Speaker, if you can allow me before I even mention anything in this document, I want to thank you and the leadership of this House with all the members of this House who stood with us, gave us moral support and prayers when we had Chaik First lady admitted in Tenwek Hospital after undergoing heart surgery. Thank you Mr. Speaker for standing and for giving us that moral

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support and I can confirm that she is doing well and going forward, I will invite you to our home so that we can have thanksgiving prayers.

Mr. Speaker, in this document, I want to thank the Chairman, Budget. I have realised this document was supposed to be passed by October or January, but I think when given responsibility to be the chairman of a committee, I think also we should improve and deal with the time frame. I remember this document was supposed to be done during Hon. Rogony's tenure who is currently the acting Deputy Governor in this county and also aspiring to be a senator...

The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): Order Hon. Mathew, order! There is a point of order. Hon. Mathew, please take your seat. The Hon. Gilbert Ngetich!

Hon. Gilbert Ngetich (Member for Kisiara Ward): Thank you Mr Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity, I'm sure we are in an honourable House and we are honourable members. In this county we have a Deputy Governor who is in office. We can't have an MCA who is acting for a Deputy Governor who is alive and kicking. I think it is not in order for the honourable member to allege that Hon Rogony is acting as Deputy Governor of this county. Thank you.

(Loud consultations)

The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): Order honourable members! I think so that we can move forward, the Hon. Mathew, of course you need to withdraw your comments. Remember we are a House of honour and always bear responsibility for our comments and remarks. I guess those are political statements that should not be made in the House. Those are your own views. Please withdraw and proceed.

Hon. Mathew Korir (Member for Chaik Ward): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I withdraw and apologise to honourable members. That was just a comment. I want to thank Chairman, Budget for bringing us to speed because if we were to pass this budget today without C-BROP, it would not have been easy for us. So I want to thank chairman for taking us through all the documents that are required so that we have Budget and Appropriation Bill passed in this honourable House.

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One thing that I have noticed is that we have some departments here which when given resources they are underutilized yet we have a lot of challenges that our people are going through. An example is the Agriculture department. I think chairman for agriculture Committee this financial Year, I know you will be leading like other departments in terms of utilisation of funds allocated to the department. We will also be trying as much as possible as honourable members to do the right thing and to ensure that these departments roll out projects that have the value of the money because sometimes we might be getting figures here but in the ground some projects are not quality or up to standard of the amounts allocated. So, Mr. Speaker, I support this motion and I want to really thank you for giving us that moral support during that time. Thank Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): Well, thank you very much Hon Mathew. The mover of the motion, please reply.

Hon. Albert Kipkoech (Chairperson Budget and Appropriations Committee and Member for Soliat Ward): Thank you so much Mr. Speaker for this opportunity you have given me to reply. I want to thank honourable members and tell them that the approval of this document will hasten preparations for next financial year budget. Otherwise, thank you for the support.

The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): Alright, thank you very much honourable chairperson.

(Question put and agreed to)

Clerk, next order!

MOTION

REPORT OF BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION COMMITTEE ON THE KERICHO COUNTY DEBT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY PAPER

The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): The Hon. Albert Kipkoech!

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Hon. Albert Kipkoech (Chairperson Budget and Appropriations Committee and Member for Soliat Ward): Thank you Mr. Speaker for this opportunity that you have given me to move this motion, THAT, this house approves the Report of Budget and Appropriation Committee on the Kericho County Debt Management Strategy paper, 2023.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to start from 2.0: Debt Management Strategy Paper, 2023.

Debt Management Strategy Paper, 2023

This Debt Management Strategy Paper for 2023 is the Ninth edition for the County Government of Kericho.

Legal basis for preparation of Debt Management Strategy Paper

Mr. Speaker, Sir,

Section 123 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 provides that the County Treasury shall include the following in the preparation of Debt Management Strategy Paper:-

- a. The total stock of debt as at the date of the statement;*
- b. The sources of loans made to the County government;*
- c. The principal risks associated with those loans;*
- d. The assumptions underlying the debt management strategy; and*
- e. An analysis of the sustainability of the amount of debt, both actual and potential.*

Scrutiny of Debt Portfolio

Mr. Speaker, Sir,

The County Governments debt currently stands at Kshs **1,302,548,871** as shown below:

Type of Debt	Amount (Kshs)	% Ratio
Statutory debts	185,910,535	14%
Loans and Overdrafts	18,093701	1%

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Others (Payments to suppliers)	184,772,111	37%
Pending Bill as at 31 st January 2023	913,772,525	48%
Totals	1,302,548,871	100.00%

Under Statutory debts

The statutory debts comprise of unremitted pension funds (Lap trust and Lap fund). The pensions funds under Provident and Trusts Fund accumulate interest exponentially, thus the need under medium term to give them priority to settle the debt. The schedule below details the liabilities owned by the County Government that were inherited from the defunct local authorities.

Item	Amount (Kshs)	% Ratio	Remarks
Lap fund (Defunct Local Authorities)	42,667,290	22.95%	Interest & penalty bearing
Lap fund (County Government)	119,099,883	64.06%	Interest & penalty bearing
Lap trust (CPF)	24,143,362	12.99%	Interest & penalty bearing
Total	185,910,535	100%	

Loans

Mr. Speaker, Sir,

It should be noted that housing loans granted to former Londiani Town and Kericho Municipal Councils have accrued interest and penalties. It should be noted that the National Housing Corporation took over the collection of rent of some county houses in order to facilitate payment of debts owed to the corporation. The details of the loans are shown on the table below:

Item	Amount	%	Remarks
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	(Kshs)	Ratio	
National Housing Corporation mortgage	18,093,701	100%	Interest & penalty bearing
Total	18,093,701	100%	

Others

These are generally debts incurred by the defunct local authorities from contracts awarded to suppliers of goods and services. To prevent legal liability, the county government will have to make an effort to offset them.

Item	Amount (Kshs)	% Ratio	Remarks
Professional fees (Legal, audit fees)	3,549,000	1.9%	Non interest but legal implication
Supply of goods & services	181,223,111	98.1%	Non interest but legal implication.
Total	184,772,111	100%	

Pending Bills

The pending bills comprising payments not made to contractors and suppliers who provided services to the county government but were not paid. These pending bills will be paid in this current FY 2022/23.

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DEVELOPMENT	
DEPARTMENT	PENDING B AS AT 31st Dec
AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES 4.5m	4,520,204
EDUCATION, YOUTH AFFAIRS, SPORTS CULTURE AND SOCIAL SERVICES 73.7M	73,720,558
FINANCE AND ECONOMIC PLANNING INCLUDING STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS 472.7M	472,751,204
HEALTH SERVICES 14.3M	14,366,193
INFORMATION COMMUNICATION E GOVERNMENT 28.8M	28,871,667
LANDS, HOUSING AND PHYSICAL PLANNING 2.4M	2,450,000
PUBLIC SERVICE MANAGEMENT- 2.9M	2,927,760
PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND TRANSPORT 187.7M	182,764,736
TRADE, INDUSTRIALISATION, COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT TOURISM AND WILDLIFE -3.1M	3,176,858
WATER, ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, FORESTRY AND NATURAL RESOURCES 13.6M	13,655,396
SUB TOTAL 799,204,575	799,204,575
RECURRENT	
DEPARTMENT	PENDING B AS AT 31st Dec
Agriculture, Livestock And Fisheries--0	-
County Public Service Board-- 0	-
Education, Youth Affairs, Sports, Culture and Social Services-- -5.5M	5,550,094
Finance and Economic Planning --6.3M	6,344,699

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Health Services --4M	4,015,330
Information Communication E- Government 32.07M	32,072,950
Lands, Housing and Physical Planning –12.07 M	12,075,030
Office of the Governor --19.1M	19,168,590
Public Service Management --34.3M	34,346,797
Public Works, Roads And Transport	-
Trade, Industrialisation, Cooperative Management Tourism And Wildlife –994,406	994,460
Water, Environment, Energy, Forestry and Natural Resources	-
SUB TOTAL---114,567,950	114,567,950
GRAND TOTAL----- 913,772,525	913,772,525

The Committee noted that most of the huge amount of debt constitutes pending bills which has continued to accrue over time despite the County Assembly recommendations that such debt be settled as a matter of urgency.

Committee Observations

The committee observed as follows:

- i. Matters relating to pending bills as recommended by the county assembly's Committee of Public Accounts and Investments in the financial year 2017/2018 had not been resolved. However, effort to reduce the pending bill had been exhibited.
- ii. That statutory debt classified as salary arrears does not accrue interest whereas the provident fund (Lap fund and Lap trust) and loans from National Housing Corporation accrue interest and penalty on its debt;
- iii. That the debts owed to various institutions if not managed well results to loss of public funds and this shall go against the provision of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 on principles of public finance management.

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- iv. It was evident that debts and liabilities inherited from the defunct Local Authorities had not been resolved.

Committee Recommendations

- i. Payment of pending bills should be treated as a priority in the financial year 2023/2024 budget. The county executive should provide for funds to resolve the accumulated debt.
- ii. That debts owed to various institutions be paid as per the timeliness so that the county government should not be penalized with huge interests.
- iii. The county executive must map out strategies to dispose of all matters relating to statutory debts inherited from the defunct local authorities and that the Committee on Finance and Economic Planning should liaise with the respective sectorial committees in deliberating on pending bills accrued in the past Financial Years.
- iv. All statutory obligations comprising of unremitted pension funds (Lap trust and Lap fund) must be first charged to avoid accumulation of interest that would be costly to the county government.
- v. There must be constant monitoring and review of performance and progress made on the County Debt Management Strategy.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Committee wishes to thank the Office of the Speaker and the Clerk of the County Assembly for the support extended in fulfilling its mandate.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to express my gratitude to the County Assembly Budget Office and secretariat attached to this committee for the unwavering support given to this Committee.

Mr Speaker Sir, It is therefore my pleasant undertaking, on behalf of the Budget and Appropriations Committee, to table the Report on the Debt Management Strategy Paper, 2023 and recommend it to the House for consideration and adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I will request honorable Paul Bii to second.

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The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): The honorable Kitpoo Bii!

Hon. Paul Bii (Member for Kapsaos Ward): Thank you honorable Speaker for allowing me this chance to second, but before then, allow me to thank the entire Budget Committee led by our able chair for the work well done, for the commitment they took in preparing this document. As I second, I would like to urge and ask honorable members, the committee made some observation which is quite crucial and pertinent which can assist in curbing all these pending bills. Having seen the document honorable Speaker, you've seen the pending bills are quite huge and it accrued way back right from the local authorities before we moved to the county governments. But what remained in my mind is that some of these deductions, especially statutory deductions, instead of being remitted, I don't understand where it really goes. So we would rather urge all the members to play their role well moving forward in oversight and more specifically to see to it that all the pending bills don't accrue anymore.

This is because when you look at some of the pending bills, indeed some of our investors supplied goods and services to our county government yet they have not been paid. That is why some of them ended up losing their lives. So I want to second and urge the honorable members to adhere to the observations made by the committee. Thank you very much honorable Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): Thank you honorable Kiptoo Bii. I now propose the question.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Mathew!

Hon. Mathew Korir (Member for Chaik Ward): Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me this opportunity to contribute on the Debt Management Strategy Paper 2023. The Paper is here with us and we have a number of issues we shared with the chairman yesterday that before we had a Daily newspaper list of all contractors who were gazetted before we budgeted for the pending bills during supplementary budget and now we have also the number of supplies looking for this department also to clear them and I know with chairman it is clear that when we talk of 5 Million for education for example it is real 5 million though sometimes we are putting in paper yet when

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you go outside there we have a number of suppliers that have a lot of money to county but when we come to budget it is just a percentage.

I want to wish that the departmental committees as well will act on this to confirm that we have the list of all the suppliers in conjunction with this. If Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries is 4.5 million, who are these contractors having pending bills with this department Mr. Speaker? So one, we need to play our role as County Assembly by also ensuring that these departments provide the list of suppliers that have rendered services to this County Government.

Mr. Speaker, I know when we talk about 913 million, that is a huge bill that might disadvantage our development going forward. Despite the fact that the departments are trying to reduce these pending bills but we must also consider that these pending bills are cleared so that moving forward we will be budgeting for development for our people. So I want to thank the committee and support this motion.

The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): Thank you so much honorable Mathew. Honourable Hezron and then honorable Cheruiyot Bett!

Hon. Hezron Ngetich (Member for Chilchila Ward): Thank you honorable Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity for me to comment and support the report by chairman Budget and Appropriation Committee pertaining this Debt Strategy Management Paper. This is a crucial Paper which we could have dispensed with as early as March or April because this document was prepared as at 31st December 2022.

This paper helps us to know and manage our debts. I want to laud this current regime for speeding up payments of pending bills. I hope by closure of this current financial year which has been indicated, we hope that all pending bills will have been paid because so far there is payment of contractors and suppliers and we hope it will be done. There is statutory deductions debts which have recurred every now and then. I think this is the 9th strategy paper since inception and in it there is debt that is dated back to the defunct local authority and it is accruing interest. I think this is a wakeup call so that the department of Finance will see and settle this debt. The county can't continue incurring some debts going forward.

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Another issue was to echo the Kenya kwanza government. I think going forward the issue of pending bills will be a thing of the past because this is the financial year in the history of devolution where we are crossing to the new financial year without any debt or undispersed money from the National Treasury Mr. Speaker. The president made it clear that before the closure of this financial, he will have paid all the counties and they will not owe the County governments even a single shilling. I want to thank the Kenya Kwanza government because as per today, there is no county government which has any undisbursed funds. All monies have been disbursed to the counties. So it is upon the county governments now and the departments to ensure that they clear the debt so that as we going to start a new financial year on a clean slate. As we start on a clean slate, we urge all the departmental chairs to do proper oversight follow up on the departments so that the procurement officers and the relevant departments start the procurement of new works as early as possible. Proceeding to the second or third quarter, we should be done with some works and payments to proceed. So, I think that is very important and the National government will assist us or they have assisted us when they cleared money owed to us. This will be good to County governments too to clear the debts. So I support this motion by Chairman, Budget and Appropriation Committee on debt management. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): Honorable Cheruiyot Bett!

Hon. Cheruiyot Bett (Member for Ainamoi Ward): Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me this opportunity to also have a say on this report on the Debt Management Strategy Paper. Allow me to begin by thanking the committee on Budget and Appropriation and more importantly the Chair of this committee because he has always burnt the mid night oil to prepare this report. It is very hard to be the chairman for the Budget and Appropriation Committee. The kind of commitment this gentleman has shown I think he needs to be a ‘future something’ in Soin/Sigowet constituency. Sometimes am seeing people running up and down to be a ‘future something’ but we have a workaholic here that when you compare with the rest, I think he fits the bill. So I wish the chairman the best as you lead us through this budget. We’ve had a two weeks hectic time trying to put some of these things in order, Mr. Speaker, Sir, some of us even tell the chair that he is in charge of everything in the budget. I want to thank the chair for this report.

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I think there is one thing that is very clear that we keep on tabling such reports with pending bills. Pending bills of 1.3 Billion is a huge amount of money and maybe what we need to say is that one; the committee on Finance and Economic Planning should address the County Executive to furnish the County Assembly with the quarterly reports on financial matters Mr. Speaker. This is because tabling the financial reports of this county after every quarter will assist us to fast-track payments of some of these pending bills. A debt of 1.3 billion with a pending bill of almost 913 million is a huge amount of money and I just want to say that the County Executive must give the roadmap on how they are going to pay these debts so that we don't in every other budget cycle be sitting here and getting reports that we have a certain amount of debts.

The Majority Leader Emeritus has said that there are some of the debts that we have been reporting for the last nine years. I think the County Executive led by the Finance Department should give the County Assembly of course, through the Finance Committee the road map on how they are going to settle all these bills. They should begin with the pending bills because we have a history of this government that when money comes they begin by paying those that have recently completed works. A classic example is the ward where I come from. I saw that there was a road which was not even complete and the County Executive has rushed and paid for that road yet there are other roads which were done around three months ago but they are still struggling to even prepare the documentation. I know we live in a county with a lot of conflict of interest in both the County Executive and the County Assembly but we pray it will end in the near future.

Otherwise, I want to support this report. I may not want to comment on the National government giving us money in time because going by these recommendations, the reason why somehow we do not pay some of these pending bills is that there is always delays in disbursement of funds. However, I want to commend our National government because the President is trying his level best to make sure that he corrects the mess that was done by the two brothers that retired in active in politics. So we want to commend the President for making sure that at least we receive our funds in time. Otherwise I want to support the report and believe that by the time we are sitting again to pass another report on the same, the pending bills will have been managed. Thank you very much.

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The Speaker (Hon. Dr. Patrick Mutai): Thank you very much honorable Cheruiyot Bett. I now want to call upon the mover of the motion to reply. Honourable Albert Kipkoech!

Hon. Albert Kipkoech (Chairperson Budget and Appropriations Committee and Member for Soliat Ward): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I wish to thank honorable members for supporting this document. The bottom line is that the Finance and Economic Planning Committee should start now making sure that they follow up on the pending bills so that we can have the financial and non-financial statements so that we solve this problem once and for all. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): Thank you so much the honorable chairperson Budget committee. I now rise to put the question.

(Question put and agreed to)

Clerk, next order! The honorable Kibet Bosuben, proceed with your motion!

Hon. Kibet Bosuben (Member for Cheplanget Ward): Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me a chance to move the motion, THAT, this House approves the Kericho County Integrated Development Plan, 2023-2028, and I request you allow me to read from Clause 2.0.

Kericho County Integrated Development Plan (Third Generation)

Mr. Speaker, the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) is a plan prepared by all counties across the country to guide development over a five-year period. The Public Finance Management Act, 2012 provides that no public funds shall be appropriated outside a county's planning framework. The CIDP contains information on development priorities that inform the annual budget process, particularly the preparation of (ADP) annual development plans, the annual county fiscal strategy papers, and the annual budget estimates.

A County Integrated Development Plan is a super plan for the county that gives an overall framework for development. It aims to co-ordinate the work of both levels of the government in a coherent plan to improve the quality of life for all the people and contribute towards

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devolution. The County Governments Act at Section 108 outlines the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) outlines the county development goals covering a period of five years.

The CIDP shall reflect the strategic midterm priorities of the county governments. The CIDP will contain specific goals and objectives, a costed implementation plan, provisions for monitoring and evaluation and clear reporting mechanisms. It contains information on investments, projects, development initiatives, maps, statistics, and a resource mobilization framework.

The Legal framework on Kericho County Integrated Development Plan (Third Generation)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Kericho County Integrated Development Plan –CIDP (Third Generation) was submitted to the County Assembly on 24th April, 2023 and was committed to the Finance and Economic Planning Committee.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Section 108 of the County Governments Act sets out the elements of the County Integrated development Plan. Pursuant to Article 196 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, the County Assembly advertised public participation forums on 26th July, 2023 and subsequently facilitated forums between 8th and 13th May, 2023 in all the 30 wards of Kericho County.

The members of the public were taken through the Ward sector projects as elaborated in the following departments as proposed by the stakeholders in a public participation conducted in the month of May 2023 by the Department of Finance and Economic Planning and County Assembly championed by the Committee on Finance and Economic Planning. The Departments are:

1. Finance And Economic Planning
2. Agriculture Livestock And Fisheries
3. Health Services
4. Education Culture And Social Services

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5. Lands Housing And Physical Planning
6. Roads, Public Works And Transport
7. Water, Energy, Environment and Natural Resources
8. Public Service Management
9. Trade, Industrialisation, Cooperatives Management And Wildlife
10. Information, Communication and Technology

Committee Recommendation on Kericho County Integrated Development Plan (Third Generation)

The Finance and Economic Planning Committee recommends the approval of the Kericho County Integrated Development Plan (Third Generation) 2023-2028 with amendments as outlined in the annexure.

I will request the honorable members to go through the annexure since I will not be able to go through the whole booklet. I will allow the members to read through it though I am sure they have seen it before because we were together during its preparation.

Finally Mr. Speaker, allow me to acknowledge your office. 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 in the facilitation and compilation of the public views. Indeed their devotion and commitment to duty have made the work of the committee easier in production of this report.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, pursuant to Standing Order 205, it is my pleasant duty to present the Report of the Kericho County Integrated Development Plan (Third Generation), 2023-2028 for consideration by this Honorable House. Allow me to ask honorable Monica to second the motion.

The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): Thank you very much honorable Chairperson. Honourable Monica Kikwai!

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Hon. Monica Kikwai (Nominated Member Representing Women): Thank you very much honorable Speaker for giving me this opportunity to second the motion by honorable chair for Finance and Economic Planning on the report of Finance and Economic Planning on the Kericho County Integrated Development Plan, 2023-2028. I hope the honorable members have gone through the (CIDP) that they developed over the last few months. I want to believe that every member has gone through the document so that everything is captured because it will guide all that is going to take place in our county. Otherwise, I support this report and I urge the honorable House to approve the same. Thank you very much Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): Thank you very much honorable Monica. I now propose the question.

(Question proposed)

The floor is open for members to contribute. The honorable Hezron! Then I saw the honorable Dr. Moses Rotich. Then I will call the mover of the motion to reply.

Hon. Hezron Ngetich (Member for Chilchila Ward): Thank you Honourable Speaker. I am rising to support this motion by the Chairman, Finance and Economic Planning on County Integrated Development Plan (Third generation). This is a document that captures, all works done, works in progress and works intended to be done within the next five years.

I want to commend the committee because this work was submitted by members of the public and I know when they are submitting, there might be omissions and errors. I want to thank the Committee on Finance and Economic Planning because they have recommended the approval of the Kericho County Integrated Development Plan (Third Edition), 2023-2028 with amendments as attached and that is so important because in case of any omission and there is a crucial project which is intended to be done it will not be locked out. I want to support this report in totality and urge this honorable house to support this motion. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): Honourable Doctor Moses!

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Hon. Moses Rotich (Member for Tendeno/Sorget Ward): Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to comment on the CIDP. I want to thank the Committee on Finance and Economic Planning for the good work that we have done. The proposals were done and the views collected at the basic unit of governance Mr. Speaker; that is the ward level. Residents of respective wards made their proposals and they have been captured and it is now up to us and the County Executive to implement.

We pray that our committee on implementation will be up to the task so that in every quarter or in every financial year we view or we ascertain and determine, monitor and evaluate the absorption and the implementations of these projects. Otherwise, thank you so much and I support this CIDP with amendments Mr. Speaker. Thank you so much.

The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): Honorable Peter Kemoi! Then honorable Cheruiyot Bett then we finalise on this.

Hon. Peter Kemoi (Member for Kapsuser Ward): Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. I rise to support this motion on the CIDP and I want to congratulate the committee for the good work done. I rise also to say that public participation was done at the sub-county level and I want to urge that we change so that we do it in every ward. It happened that I participated in the one for Belgut which was held at Sosirot and the participants were only people from Waldai. So, as much as we are approving this, know that it is only some areas who participated in public participation and so I want to request that we amend such that come next time we do it at every ward level. Let's approve this document with amendments and I know it is going to assist us to develop our County.

(Hon. Cheruiyot Bett stood in his place)

The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): Order! Order honorable Kemoi! Just take your seat first.

Hon. Peter Kemoi (Member for Kapsuser Ward): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I don't want to be informed.

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The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): Order! Order honorable Kemoi! Order! Honourable Cheruiyot Bett!

Hon. Cheruiyot Bett (Member for Ainamoi Ward): Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. I wanted to inform the honorable member, but I don't want to inform him now. It is a point of order Mr. Speaker. Is it in order for an honorable member, a whole Chairman for the Committee on Water and representing the great people of Kapsuser ward to give misleading information that this document was prepared at the sub-county level while in essence this document was prepared at the ward level?

Mr. Speaker, I remember mine was done at Laliat Primary School and a member of Finance and Economic the honorable Deputy Speaker was there on behalf of the committee but I was there as member representing the great people of Ainamoi ward. Is it in order for the honorable member to say that it was only the people of Waldai Ward who gave their views while we all know that it was done across our 30 wards?

The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): Yes, the honorable Peter Kemoi!

Hon. Peter Kemoi (Member for Kapsuser Ward): Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I am fully aware and I know that every ward participated when they were capturing the first document led by the County Executive arm. But when the document was done at the County Assembly, we participated at the sub-county level and I am very much aware. So every sub- county was doing their public participation at a specific place. I am very much aware honorable Cheruiyot Bett.

Now I wanted to finalise by saying Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very good document and we have been given hard copies. This is a document that we are going to forget anytime soon. I want to ask through your office that these honorable members be given the laptops so that we are given as a soft copy so that in case of any amendments, we do it and we possess the document every other time. Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): The honorable Cheruiyot Bett, I want to call upon the mover of the motion to reply please. You have not contributed? Okay! I give you a minute and then I will call honorable Paul Bii before I give a chance to the mover.

Hon. Cheruiyot Bett (Member for Ainamoi Ward): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Maybe before I contribute, I want to insist that public participation for this document was done at the ward level and not at the sub-county level and that is the true information and nothing but the truth.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to make my comments on this document. Allow me to thank the Chair for Finance and Economic Planning committee. Although he was away on official duty, he managed to prepare this document. The document we have in front of us is a very important document. I am not saying the other documents are not important, but this is the most critical document that captures the minds, the hearts and the aspirations of the people of Kericho County for the next five years. As the Majority Leader Emeritus has just put it, there is no development that will be done in our county if it is not captured in this document and I want to thank the chair and the committee on Finance for they have given us a room to do some amendments .

We are the custodians of the wishes and the aspirations of our people. Under Article 101 of our Constitution, the sovereign power belongs to the people of Kenya and they can exercise that power either directly or indirectly through their elected representatives. So we are here to guard the aspirations of our people and allow us and the chair so that we include all those other issues that the people never captured. As I was going through the one for Ainamoi ward, there are many roads that the people had given as a priority but because of errors or omissions, I think the committee secretariat never captured the road called Bagao-Yas-Somok but because the chair has given us the opportunity to amend those omissions, I know the people of Bagao and those of Yas-somok will have their road captured here as a priority. Otherwise, thank you chair, thank you the committee and we also thank your office for facilitating this committee. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): Thank you honorable Cheruiyot Bett. Honourable Paul Bii!

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Hon. Paul Bii (Member for Kapsaos Ward): Thank you Honourable Speaker. I also want to support this document but with amendments because I have seen even in my ward there are a lot of roads which were not captured. I am seeing even in agriculture there was a slaughter house which was to be built in Kapsaos market but it is not captured and most of the errors which are there; the spelling errors. Some of the projects which have been identified here don't sound to be coming from my ward. So as it has been said by honorable members, I want to support the document and thank the entire team for the good work which was done but with amendments honorable Speaker. Thank you and I support.

The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): Thank you. The honorable chair, Finance and Economic Planning, you can reply.

Hon. Kibet Bosuben (Member for Cheplanget Ward): Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir, for once again giving me this opportunity. I want to thank the honorable members for their contributions. I would like to correct what honorable Peter Kemoi has just said that this document was done at sub- county level. Public Participation on this document on our side of the County Assembly was done at the ward level and even I visited some wards during the exercise. So it was the County Executive which did public participation at the sub-county level. Secondly, I want to say that the window is still open for amendments. However, the window is so narrow and so I will request honorable members to do corrections now and if you have something to add on this document, add it now because once the document is deposited with the Controller of Budget it will not be rectified again. So, I urge the honorable members to make their corrections now. Again, I would like to thank the honorable members especially the Budget Committee for coming in to support us in making this document and verification to its fulfillment. Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): Thank you very much the honorable Chairperson, Finance for that reply. I now rise to put the question.

(Question put and agreed to)

Honorable members, you must be very tired or you are not with me. Let's proceed; we still have one matter. Clerk, next order!

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MOTION**REPORT OF BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE KERICHO COUNTY
BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FY 2023/2024**

The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): Okay, before the chair comes, the honorable Dorah Keino, please take the Speaker's seat.

(Hon. Dorah Keino in the Chair)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Hon. Dorah Keino): The Chairperson Budget and Appropriations Committee, move your motion.

Hon. Albert Kipkoech (Member for Soliat and Chairperson Budget and Appropriations Committee): Thank you so much Madam Speaker. I wish to move the following motion; THAT, this House approves the Report of Budget and Appropriations Committee on the Kericho County Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2023/2024.

Madam Speaker, the Kericho County Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2023/2024 was prepared in line with the relevant provisions of the law and tabled as required by Section 129(2) of the 221 the budget estimates was committed to the Budget and Appropriations committee and sectoral committees for deliberation and submission of the report.

Madam Speaker, under the legal framework, the FY 2023/2024 budget estimates have been prepared pursuant to Article (196)(1)(b), Article 201(a), Article 220(1)(a) and PFM Act 2012 Section 128 sub-Section 20, the PFM (County Government) Regulations (31) of 2015 and Kericho County Assembly Standing order 221(5).

Madam Speaker, the preparation of the Budget Estimates was guided by the following policy documents and pieces of legislations:-

- The Approved Kericho County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2023-2028 which we have just approved;
- County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP) 2023 which we approved in March;

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- Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) which was also approved in March;
- Annual Development Plan 2023/2024 which was also approved last year in November;
- Interdepartmental consultations through Sector working groups(SWGs);
- The National Government Blue Print as outlined in Vision 2030 and Big Four Agenda of the President; and
- National Budget Policy Statement 2023.

Madam Speaker, the principle of public finances as laid down in Article 201 of the constitution where openness and accountability including public participation in financial matters has been adhered to. Resource allocation in fiscal year 2023/2024 has been directed to programs that will contribute to strategic objective as firmed up in the Ninth Fiscal Strategy Paper of 2023. The FY 2023/2024 budget estimates is projected to support phase one and two of strategic interventions programmes among all the programmes facilitated through the departments of the County.

Madam Speaker, as required under Article 196 of the new Constitution, the Budget and Appropriations committee was required to conduct public participation. The committee conducted physical public participation on the budget estimates on **5th June, 2023** across all the sub counties. Subsequently, the Budget Estimates was uploaded in the County Assembly website for stakeholders and members of public to peruse and give feedback through submission of memorandum on or before 5th June 2023.

It should be noted Madam Speaker that the committee did not receive any memorandum from the public as at close of business on 5th June, 2023 but after the lapse of the timeline, there is a memorandum that was received on 16th June and the committee integrated some of its recommendations.

Madam Speaker, to finance this budget estimates, the total revenue projections for the Financial Year 2023/2024 is **Kshs 8.9** billion comprising of **Kshs 6.7 billion** from National government transfers as equitable share, **Kshs 530 million** from local revenue sources, **Kshs 743 million**

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generated by County and Sub County hospitals as Facility Improvement Fund (FIF) and NHIF rebates and Donor funds of **Kshs 537 million** which includes **Kshs 9.8 million as DANIDA Funds, Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme(ASDSP)** amounting to **Ksh1Million, ,Kenya Devolution Support Programme (KDSP)** amounting to **Ksh 75 Million** which is a balance for the Financial Year 2022/2023, Climate Change Institutional Support (FLoCCA, CCI) amounting to **Ksh 11 Million**, National Agricultural Value Chain Development Project amounting to **Ksh 250 million and** unspent balances of **Ksh 392 million** has been factored in FY 2023/2024 Budget Estimates.

To unbundle the 392 million Madam Speaker, this comprises of 24 Million as car reimbursement for the County Assembly, 37 Million also for the County Assembly, 20 Million for office block and 17 million for the Speakers residence. The rest of the 329 million is the Executive's unspent balances.

Madam Speaker, The total allocation was apportioned to recurrent and development expenditures as follows:

a) Recurrent Expenditure

The total budgetary allocation for recurrent in the year 2023/2024 is a total of Kshs.5.96 billion constituting 67 % of entire county budget. This covers compensation to employees as well as operation and maintenance expenditure.

b) Development Expenditure

Madam Speaker, the projected development budget estimate is **Kshs 2.9** billion a proportion of **33 %** of the total budget.

c) Personnel Emolument

It is estimated that that total Personnel Emoluments stands at 41% of the total revenue excluding conditional grants and donor funds against the acceptable rates of **35%** stated in the Kericho

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County Wages and Benefits Regulations, 2016 under the Public Finance and Management Act, 2012. The leading department being Health Services at 52% and least being ICT and E-governance at 1.2 %.

Madam Speaker, in reviewing the budget estimates for FY 2023/2024, the committee on Budget & Appropriation held committee sittings on dates between 17th and 19th May 2023, held consultative meetings with all the departmental CEC Members to defend their departmental budget estimates and make clarifications on variances that deviated from the FY 2022/2023 and the CFSP, 2023. It is important to note that the submission of the budget estimates for FY 2023/2024 included the budget estimates for the County Assembly.

Madam Speaker, the total budget for the FY 2023/2024 stands at **Kshs. 8.9 Billion** out of which **Kshs 5.96 Billion** is earmarked for recurrent expenditures constituting 67% of overall budget and **Kshs. 2.9 Billion** for development initiatives amounting to 33% of the total budget.

Madam Speaker, the 2023/2024 budget estimates projected that the County would receive **Kshs. 6.7 Billion** as CRA Equitable share, **Kshs. 530 Million** as local revenue collections, Facility Improvement Fund stood at **Kshs 743 million** and donor funds amounting to **Kshs 537 Million**.

Madam Speaker, we can now look at the departmental allocations. The specific details of the Budget Estimates for FY 2023/2024 per department are as stipulated below:-

A. County Assembly

For Oversight, Legislation and representation expenses, the County Assembly recurrent expenditure stands at **Kshs 882 million which is inclusive of Members of County assembly Car reimbursement amounting to Kshs. 24 million**. The development expenditure is **Kshs 77.9 million** including unspent balances of Ksh 37 million.

To unbundle the 37 million Madam Speaker, next financial year we have 30 million for the office block and 20 million from this financial year and 17 million for the Speaker's residence.

Madam Speaker, the development vote will be used for construction of office complex at Ksh 30 million, Ksh 10 million for construction and landscaping of Speaker's residence.

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B. Public Service Management and Administration

The recurrent and development vote has been allocated **Kshs 441.8 million** and **Kshs 28 million** for **FY 2023/2024** respectively.

The recurrent vote is meant to cater for personnel emoluments and other operating expenses while the development vote is meant for construction and operationalisation of ward offices, purchase of fire truck and assorted fire-fighting equipment.

C. County Public Service Board

The County Public Service Board has been allocated **Kshs 71.3 million** as recurrent expenditure to enable the office perform its role of ensuring the establishment of offices promotion, recruitment of staff and other operating expenses.

D. Office of the Governor & Deputy Governor

The Offices of the Governor and the Deputy Governor has been allocated **Kshs 137 million** as recurrent expenditure to cater for personnel emoluments and other operating expenses.

E. Finance and Economic Planning

The recurrent vote has been allocated **Kshs. 273 million** whereas the development vote has been allocated **Kshs 438 million** including **Ksh 108 million** for phase 1 strategic intervention programs whereas phase 2 stands at Ksh100 million .

The recurrent vote will facilitate operations of various budget lines including motor vehicle insurance cover and Emergency Fund at Ksh15 million to mitigate against unforeseen disasters.

Madam Speaker, It should be noted that the strategic interventions are domiciled in this department where phase 2 of strategic interventions will lay ground for the Governor's high value impact projects including the oncology Centre and maize milling plant.

F. Health Services

Madam Speaker,

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The recurrent vote for health services has been allocated **Kshs 2.75 billion** to cater for personnel emoluments which includes the confirmation of medics and non-medics on contract, purchase and distribution of drugs among other operating expenses whereas the development expenditure of **Kshs.283.7 Million** for construction and completion of incomplete health facilities and equipping new facilities among other development programmes.

G. Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries

Madam Speaker, the recurrent and development expenditure was allocated **Kshs. 172.7 million** and **Kshs. 522 million** respectively.

Madam Speaker,

It should be noted that the department benefits from donor funded programmes under Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme 2(ASDSP II) at **Ksh1 million**, Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Programme (KCSAP) at **Ksh90 million**, grants from National Agriculture Value Chain Development(NAVCDP) at **Ksh.300 million**, that is 250 Million from the donor and 50 million as contribution from the county which are all farmer oriented meant to add value for agricultural produce and increase earnings for the farmers noting that agriculture is the backbone of our economy.

H. Education, Youth Affairs, Culture and Social Services

Madam Speaker, the recurrent budget was allocated **Kshs 768.9 million** which will cater for confirmation of Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) teachers to permanent and pensionable terms,engage an extra 210 on contract terms, disbursement of bursaries and scholarship programme while the development vote has been allocated **Kshs. 172.7 million** to cater for construction and renovation of ECDE classrooms ,purchase of education aids and related equipment and construction of new vocational training centres among other development programmes.

Madam Speaker,

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I. Public Works, Roads and Transport

The recurrent vote has been allocated **Kshs 98.3 million** whereas the development vote has been allocated **Kshs 589.9 Million** in the FY 2023/2024

The development vote will be used to cater for construction and maintenance of County roads equitably, design and construction of drainage structures and other infrastructure and civil works among other works.

Madam Speaker,

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

The recurrent vote has been allocated **Kshs 64 million** whereas the development was allocated **Kshs. 227.7 million.**

Madam Speaker,

Under the development vote, the allocation will cater for Trade and Markets development, purchase of land for for tourism development and construction and equipping of County Aggregation and Industrial Parks (CAIPs).

Madam Speaker,

K. Water, Environment, Forestry, Energy and Natural Resources

The recurrent and development votes have been allocated **Kshs. 158.4 million** and **Kshs. 280.2 million.**

Madam Speaker,

The recurrent vote will be utilized to support operational and utility provision to management of projects through maintenance of motor vehicles, machines and equipment, water distribution utilities, logistics, fuel and cleaning services among other operating expenses.

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The development expenditure will cater for water and sewerage infrastructural works for rural schemes across the county and also county contribution of 38 million so that we will be given FLoCCA grant so that is what we have contributed.

Madam Speaker,

L. Lands, Housing and Physical Planning

The recurrent and development votes have been allocated **Kshs. 90.4 million** and Kshs 67 **million** respectively in the FY 2023/2024. This includes allocations of **Ksh 9.8 million** and **Ksh 45 Million** for recurrent and Development respectively for Litein and Kericho Municipal Boards.

Madam Speaker,

The Department intends to undertake the following programmes during the year;

Construction of an office, preparation of development plans, upgrading of GIS database, and acquisition of land across the county for markets, construction and refurbishment of residential and non-residential, survey of county towns among other development projects Madam Speaker including *kazi kwa vijana* in the entire county.

Madam Speaker,

M. Information, Communication and E-Government, Youth Affairs and Sports

The recurrent vote has been allocated **Kshs 53.8 million** while the development vote has been allocated **Kshs 43.6 million** to cater for infrastructural development and civil works

Madam Speaker, the committee made the following observations as follows:-

- i. That despite the challenges posed by prevailing economic condition , the County Assembly observes that revenue targets can be attained and this is after we had a retreat in Mombasa whereby we discussed about revenue and so there is a probability that we are going to raise good money in revenues;

- ii. That Fiscal discipline should be observed at all times to avoid penalties outlined in Section 107 (2) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 as far as equitable share is concerned;
- iii. Unspent balances for the FY 2022/2023 have been declared by the County Treasury and the departmental County Executive Committee Members for consideration by the County Assembly.

The Committee on budget and appropriations recommends as follows Madam Speaker:

- i. Stakeholder participation should be considered during the consideration of the County Fiscal Strategy Paper so as to avoid variances when deliberating on the budget estimates;
- ii. That the receivers of revenue under the guidance of Finance and Economic Planning docket works hard to meet the revenue targets despite the prevailing economic challenges.;
- iii. Unspent balances must be declared by the County Treasury and the departmental County Executive Committee Members on time for purposes of Budgeting and continuity of programs.
- iv. That each accounting officer initiates procurement procedures as early as possible to facilitate the implementation of development projects in the county. The County Treasury shall adhere to provisions of legislations on the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal;
- v. That each County Chief Officer adheres to the provisions of Section 149 of the public finance management Act, 2012 to the letter and that each departmental CEC adhere to Section 107 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012.

Madam Speaker, the Committee wishes to thank the Offices of the Speaker and the Clerk of the County Assembly for the necessary support extended to it in the execution of its mandate. The budget making process would have been incomplete without the involvement of key stakeholders namely; the County Executive Committee Members led by the CEC Member in charge of Finance and Economic Planning members of the public whom the committee is grateful for their invaluable input.

Madam Speaker,

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It is my pleasant duty, on behalf of the Budget and Appropriations Committee pursuant to Standing Order 221 (6) to table the Report of the Kericho County Budget Estimates for FY 2023/2024 for consideration by this Honorable House.

Madam Speaker, allow me to allow my seconder Hon. Hezron Ngetich to come and second. Thank you!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Hon. Dorah Keino): Honourable Member for Chilchila Hezron Ngetich, come and second!

Hon. Hezron Ngetich (Member for Chilchila Ward): Thank you Madam Speaker for this opportunity you have granted me so that I can second the motion by the Chairperson for Budget and Appropriations Committee. Madam Speaker, if there is a time when the people of Kericho must be happy for the program based budget, I think it is in the current budget of 2023/2024. The reason that I am saying so is that despite the fact that we have squeezed and balanced the budget, we are going home with 67% of recurrent budget and 33% development budget which is a score Madam Speaker because we have not hit 70% and the development budget has gone up.

Secondly, the big winners in the coming financial year is our dear ECDE teachers and nurses because in this budget we have allocated substantial amount of money which will see them confirmed into permanent and pensionable terms. All the 1400 or thereabout ECDE teachers will be confirmed and they are not just going home with confirmation but also knowing that they have a secure job and a good remuneration Madam Speaker. The certificate holders will earn 25000 Kenya shillings; the Diploma holders will earn 35,000 or 36,000 shillings, the degree holders will earn 44,000 shillings while the Ward supervisors will go home with almost 44,000.

Secondly Madam Speaker, are the medics, since we came to office some of us in 2017, we employed nurses and other medics on contractual terms and they have been patient for those years. Right now we have allocated money again for their confirmation into permanent and pensionable terms. So I think they will be working knowing that they have job security and they will be motivated because now their long-term cry has been heard and they will be employed.

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So Madam Speaker, I think as a county we are going to have a motivated staff across cadres; most of the staff will be permanent and pensionable. Additionally, we are going to have additional recruitment of 210 or thereabout new ECDE teachers to supplement the deficit in schools. There will also be recruitment of medics to the new dispensaries and health facilities and replacement of those that have retired. So Madam Speaker this is a budget that is *mwanaanchi* friendly. If you look at allocation per department, the *mama mbogas* have something to smile about. This is because there is an allocation for markets and again there is an addition of about 200 million for aggregated industrial parks. I think this will be a game changer in our county. The actualization of the industrial parks will spur development and economic activities in our county. So as the committee on Lands we are proceeding to Kisumu so that we deliberate and agree on areas where these aggregated Industrial parks will be sited. Some of the requirements in this proposal is that it should be built in land that is more than 100 acres which has a title. Some of the proposed areas for this is Kabianga and Soin in Kapsorok. So that we balance development Madam Speaker, we will discuss with the committee on lands but because we want investment to be balanced in all areas, we want to see marginalized areas such as Soin having investments since there is already a proposal that the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) will pass there. So those are the things that we will be deliberating. The 200 Million allocation for the Industrial Park in this budget consists of 100 million which is a conditional grant from the National Government and we have also allocated 100 million for the same.

Secondly Madam Speaker, in Agriculture there is an allocation towards subsidies through the National Government and so this budget is very friendly. Again, there is a substantive increment in the allocation towards water and sewerage programs. Water is life and so the allocation towards water is apt and some of the wards have prioritized the sector. I want to laud the Honourable Member for Londiani who is leading with an allocation of 17 million to the department of water because he wants to see water reach every household or village.

In roads Madam Speaker, a whopping 443 million has been allocated, and remember that there an additional 70 million which has been allocated to Governor's programs. The 443 Million is for access roads and 80 Million towards structures and drainage structures. Water has been allocated 185 Million, Trade 22 Million exclusive of the 200 million, Industrial crops and

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cooperatives almost 81 million, Health 75 million, ECDE 71 Million and bursaries 168 million. So this is a budget Madam Speaker which when approved, that we will ask the Executive to implement as soon as possible. We want to see the procurement plan being implemented as soon as July so that going forward we will not be anticipating pending bills anymore. As I had said earlier during my contribution, the National Government has done their part. This is the first time since the advent of devolution that all the County Governments are transiting to the next Financial Year without any debt because the National Government has released all the monies to every county. As from 19th June, all the counties had received their full allocation. So we now need to see the County Government rising to the occasion and ensuring that the budget that we are passing today is implemented as soon as possible. I want to urge all my colleagues who are chairpersons of various departmental committees to ensure that their departments work in a timely manner in the implementation of this budget.

As I conclude Madam Speaker, the County Assembly of Kericho has been allocated 73 million shillings for development and I urge the County Assembly administration to ensure that the construction of the assembly begins as soon as possible. I want to urge the committee on Finance and Economic Planning, as we oversight the Executive, we need again to oversight the County Assembly. We want quarterly reports in every department of the Executive and the County Assembly so that we do away with the challenges of pending bills, unspent balances and overspending. We want all departments to work as per their budgets.

Otherwise Madam Speaker I second and support this motion. Thank you!

(Question proposed)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Hon. Dorah Keino): I now open the floor for debate. Honourable Eric Bii!

Hon. Eric Bii (Member for Kaplelartet Ward): Thank you very much Madam Speaker for giving me this opportunity to just contribute on the Report on the Kericho County Budget Estimates for 2023/2024 Financial Year. First of all let me take this opportunity to thank the committee on budget led by the able Chairperson who you have heard that he will be my

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competitor in 2027 for the position of Member of Parliament. So Madam Speaker, this is a bottom-up budget. It is a budget that belongs to the people at the ground level.

First Madam Speaker, this is a unique budget for the third assembly reason being when it comes to the department of Education, members have done great and we have something to praise them. The issue of ECDE teachers has been neglected for a long time and this is a turn-around moment for us to celebrate by ensuring that we confirm the teachers on a permanent and pensionable terms. They are going to get their dues so that they can get their allowances and go to the bank and join the rest of the teachers in securing loans in the FOSA and Imarisha Sacco. So it has come at the right time since they have been struggling for long and I am happy that we have set aside funds for them to celebrate.

Madam Speaker, the committee has also factored an additional recruitment of 210 ECDE teachers of which if you calculate and divide among the wards with the formula that members have agreed, we are going to get more than seven teachers in each ward and when we distribute them, we are going to improve standards of education in our wards.

Madam Speaker, we have also allocated development vote for the construction of ECDE classrooms of which it will depend with the Member of the County Assembly for each ward to determine the appropriate area for the construction.

Mr. Speaker, it is not only in the Department of Education where we have celebrations. As the Chairperson for the Health Services Committee, we have been voting so much, struggling and lobbying from Honourable Members and this time round they have thought for a second time and agreed to allocate some funds to the confirmation of medics and non-medics numbering about 1,995. There have been great discrepancies where we have people working in the same department and environment, doing the same work but earning different salaries. This time round Mr. Speaker, it is a great joy for us as a county being able to confirm these nurses and other medics such as lab technicians, human resource officers, dental technologists among others. They will be confirmed on a better terms and they will be able to further their studies. We have some Mr. Speaker, who have worked in the department during the regime of PEFAR who have

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worked for over 30 years, others almost retiring and have never been given better terms but now they are going to rejoice and also celebrate our county.

It is also great time for us also to have new additional staff to serve in the new dispensaries being opened and also to replace those who have retired and those who have moved to other places to offer services.

Mr. Speaker, allow me also to comment on the Department of Lands where the Majority Leader Emeritus who is Chairman has mentioned categorically the issue of JSS that is mapping our county towns, I must say that in the past there has been *kazi mtaani* where youth were employed only in particular areas but this time round they will be given duties to work within our county. For example, I come from Soin/Sigowet especially in the lower areas of Sondu where there is also collection of revenues but we were disadvantaged in the sense that the only people who were employed came from towns and municipalities. But this time round there will be equitable distribution of *kazi mtaani* and they will support the contracted services by offering services to our people within our towns.

Mr. Speaker, I want also to talk about Agriculture especially the industrial parks which the Chairperson for Lands has mentioned. I want to support that we should not only give services to better areas, we also need these industrial parks in Soin/Sigowet and we have huge tracts of land. If the criteria will be provision of 100 acres, we are ready as Sigowet/Soin (SISO) to provide the land and I will request the Honourable Members that when it comes to the negotiations, support us so that we can uplift the vulnerable people living in those areas. They also breathe, eat and survive like the rest of the people. So this time round give a chance to SISO especially between Kapsorok, my ward and Honourable Chairman's place. He has a huge chunk of land and we support that.

Mr. Speaker, I won't take much time. I will urge the Honourable Members to support this in solidarity so that work begins after this. Thank you Mr. Speaker!

The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): Thank you very much the Honourable Eric Bii. The Majority Whip and the Vice Chairperson for all Whips in Kenya, Hon. Haroun Rotich!

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Hon. Haroun Rotich (Member for Cheptororiet/ Seretut Ward): Thank you very much Mr. Speaker. I also want to give my input on the same. In this years' budget, I want to say that owing to the magnitude of the budget that I am very much impressed that we are going through the budget that carries a good amount of money that is going to our people.

Mr. Speaker, having gone through the budget as we were making it together with the Chairperson and other committee members, I want to say that the allocation for the industrial crops is above the usual owing to the fact that most of the members probably ensured that their wards deserves what was allocated to them. Going through the budget I have seen the reduction of monies allocated to road works. I want to confirm that probably going forward in the supplementary budget I believe we shall be adding more money subject to more increment in the enforcement of the collection of revenue.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted today again that we will be confirming to permanent and pensionable terms our nurses and our care givers so that they can work and serve our kids together with those serving us in our hospitals. This is a milestone and will give us a good time to also think about other people who are important to our county.

Mr. Speaker, agriculture is the backbone of this County. I want to say and the Chairman of agriculture is here, being the sector with the leading allocation that I allocated in Seretut, I hope that my allocation will be taken care of Bwana Chairman now that last time there were some meanders and things did not go well especially in the supply of the milk cooler. I want to confirm that having allocated more than 8 million shillings for the industrial crops that is precisely for Tea Buying Centres in Cheptororiet/Seretut and I want to say that this will help us owing to the fact that we are the leading producer of tea leaves to our various tea factories.

Mr. Speaker, there is also an aspect of extension services that we are seeking so that it can assist in the education of our farmers not only tea farmers but also poultry and livestock. I have also thought it wise that Seretut be given two motorcycles that will help in extension services. I also want to confirm lastly that the boreholes and equipment and the solarisation of our sources have been factored in. I also appreciate the Chairperson for Water Hon. Peter Kemoi for having seen it

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fit and for the first time, I want to confirm to you that I have committed a good amount of money that I had not even committed in the last budget.

Lastly, I am also requesting that the Aggregated Industrial Parks that are going to be given to one of the sub-counties, I want to confirm that in Belgut, we have Kabianga specifically the Farm, we have a good sizeable land that fits the same. I have heard Hon. Eric Bii requesting for the same but I can confirm that we also have sizeable land. You know, ‘aggregated’ means that many products are going to be put up precisely for the people and not just a huge chunk of land alone. I believe that is going to be a plus for the people of Belgut and precisely Kabianga Ward. With those few remarks Mr. Speaker, I would urge the Executive to rise to the occasion and start the commitment of these funds immediately. We do not envisage that going forward that we are going to have unspent funds like for the case today I am told it is about 1.2 Billion and I believe if they start immediately, unspent funds will be a thing of the past.

I want to say that we are grateful to the Chairman and the committee for the wonderful work that they have done. Thank you very much Mr. Speaker!

The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): Thank you so much! Hon. Paul Bii!

Hon. Paul Bii (Member for Kapsaos Ward): Thank you very much Mr. Speaker again for allowing me to contribute on this important document. This has really come at the right time for us to contribute on the same and commend the entire team for the good work led by the Chair in producing this document. The reason why I am saying it has come at the right time is because if you look at Education that we are hiring 210 ECDE teachers, it has boosted us a lot in terms of engaging our own and improving the education sector. I know the Education Chairman is a proud man because this is the department that will do a lot in this budget. This is because Honourable Speaker, as I said it is timely; I will be meeting all my ECDE teachers tomorrow in my ward and I had requested the Honourable Chairman for Education to accompany me, you know, in talking to them. These are teachers who have suffered for a long time having looked at their role and the work that they have been doing, really they have suffered a lot. At least now we have something to tell them and at the end of it they will be happy to go home with

something. On the same note allow me again for those members who will get time tomorrow you can also accompany me plus our able chair to talk to these teachers.

Mr. Speaker, on the same note after confirming these teachers it will open a leeway for us to hire others on contract which will boost education in our areas.

Another sector that has suffered a lot is the health sector. Having seen that we are confirm the medics Honourable Speaker, this budget is a good one because having looked at what our medics have been going through all these years; these are people with a huge work load in our dispensaries and hospitals and having factored something for them, this House will go in records as the team that supported people who have suffered for many years.

Mr. Speaker, having looked at the sector that I am in which is roads, and the sector that cuts across the entire county opening up roads and having factored good money in that sector, I know this will allow us to open up roads and our people will get routes to take their farm produce to the markets.

I would like to urge all the Honourable Members that as we pass this document we need to play our role well of oversighting all these monies as we roll out programs in our wards. Thank you for the time you have given me Honourable Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): Thank you. Honourable Cheruiyot Bett! And then I will give a chance to the Honourable Paul Chirchir.

Hon. Cheruiyot Bett (Member for Ainamoi Ward): Thank you very much Mr. Speaker for giving me this opportunity to also represent the people of Ainamoi Ward. This is a very important opportunity Mr. Speaker because of this eminent report that was prepared by the Committee on Budget and Appropriations Committee led by our able Chair. I want from the onset to thank the Chair and of course the committee members comprising of the 30 elected members for burning the midnight oil both in Kisumu and Kericho so that we can have this report today.

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Mr. Speaker, as the Member for Kapsaos Ward Hon. Paul Bii has said, I am a very happy man today. Mr. Speaker, this is my greatest day because what I have been fighting for since 2013 is almost coming to an end today because of the confirmation of ECDE teachers. This is a journey that we have travelled with these honourable members. If there is something very important that this County Assembly and of course the County Executive has done especially during this first budget of Hon. Dr. Mutai is the confirmation of these ECDE teachers. These are teachers who have been paid peanuts yet they handle a very critical stage of our children.

I am standing here a very happy man because a teacher who taught me in the year 1990 when I was in nursery school has waited up to 2013 when I was first elected and sat with the honourable Members then and of course with the Chairman budget and employed them. You can imagine Mr. Speaker, a teacher who taught me in nursery school, I went to primary school through secondary school and University and came back to seek employment from the people and came to employ her as an ECDE teacher. So this is a journey that we have travelled together and I am a very happy man today because the 1150 ECDE teachers are going to be confirmed and placed on permanent and pensionable terms. Out of these, 362 below the age of 45 years who hold certificates will be confirmed and placed on permanent and pensionable terms. Another 370 teachers who are Diploma holders will also be put on pensionable terms. I cannot forget the 15 degree holders who are below 45 years who will also be placed on pensionable terms. We also have six degree holders who are above 45 years and will be placed on permanent terms.

Out of those who are above 45 years are 137 Diploma holders and 246 Certificate holders but we had a candid discussion with the budget committee and also the Governor and agreed that they will also be confirmed. So I am a very happy man today Mr. Speaker because we have invested in education and I can assure you that they are going to improve education standards in our areas. I cannot also forget to mention the 210 new teachers who are going to be recruited to man our ECDE centres. This is a boost to our education and I think we have begun this journey on the right trajectory. I want to thank the Honourable members for standing with these teachers up to today.

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Mr. Speaker, ECDE teachers in my ward came to me two months ago saying that they have been left out in the county programs and I had promised them that I will take them for an education tour and yesterday I took them to Kisumu and I want to thank you Mr. Speaker because you gave them a key note address. They were very happy. So on behalf of all the ECDE teachers in the entire county you have a special place for them by confirming them. This concerted effort by all the Honourable Members. Even those who say maybe that we never participated in their recruitment; you have participated in confirming them to the permanent and pensionable terms. I can assure you that they cannot forget you Mr. Speaker. For those who will be vying for ‘future something’ Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that you have those ECDE teachers backing you for whichever seat. For those from my ward, they told me not to go for the Governor’s position but assured me that they will back me for whichever seat that I will vie and I know the various ECDE teachers from our various wards will always stand with all the elected MCAs. You don’t know the kind of joy that I experienced yesterday. They were really very happy. These are teachers who have never been taken to even a single training outside the precincts of the county government. So I think that going into the future, I promised my teachers that as the Chairman when I will be going out with my committee to a function outside the precincts, I will pick two or three teachers and Mr. Speaker you know I am not a mean man. I took the supervisor from Kapsoit and she was very happy. I took one from Kapsaos and she was very happy and another one from Kipchimchim and I want to assure honourable Paul Bii that tomorrow by 8.00am I will be seated in that hall because we need to talk and motivate these teachers and inform that they play a very critical role in shaping the future of our county because they teach those young kids.

Otherwise Mr. Speaker, I lack words but only to appeal to the Majority Leader though he is not here today since he is the link between the County Assembly and the County Executive that we have always prepared very good budgets but it is now the work of the County Executive to implement the budget with military precision. Mr. Speaker, I was with the Chairman for Cooperative Management Committee and I already have 3 million shillings meant for Kerimoi cooling plant. I want to humbly request the Chairman for cooperatives who is also my neighbor Honourable Philip Mutai, that I need that cooler because the money is now there. Supply my people with the cooler, and build the ECDE centres that have been funded.

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As the Chairman for Education I can assure you that the monies allocated for bursaries in the various wards, we will move with military precision and make sure that forms are out immediately. From tomorrow going forward we will start designing bursary forms. We do not want to stay with your money in our offices while our children suffer.

Otherwise thank you very much and may God bless you Mr. Speaker and bless every one of us as we enjoy the *sine dine* at home. Thank you!

The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): Thank you very much Hon. Cheruiyot Bett. I want now to give a chance to Honourable Paul Chirchir. And what is this ‘future something’ honourable member?

Hon. Paul Chirchir (Member for Kapsoit Ward): Thank you very much Mr. Speaker, Sir. I rise to support the Report on this year’s estimates for the Financial Year 2023/2024 and I wish to begin by appreciating and lauding the committee on Budget for a job well done.

Mr. Speaker, number one; why am I supporting this budget? Looking at the recurrent expenditure estimates versus the Development expenditure estimates, the PFM act is very clear on the recurrent which is a percentage of 70 percent and here we are doing 67 percent and development 33 percent which means that we are doing very well.

On own source revenue Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a slight increment to about 530 million which is a plus and I think I have seen somewhere that Murang’a and Kirinyaga Counties are doing very well in terms of own source revenue and so even in Kericho we need to up our game so that we collect more because more own source revenue means more development.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, history this year will be written and as we write the history ECDE teachers have been teaching and their remuneration has been very low but when history will be written, the Chairman for Education Committee Hon. Cheruiyot Bett and the entire committee will make it to the history books that in their term ECDE teachers in the entire county will be confirmed. With the approval of the recurrent budget allocation of 768.9 Million, ECDE teachers will be confirmed and placed on the permanent and pensionable terms and this will be a plus. We went

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into elections on the promise of bottom-up economic model Mr. Speaker, Sir. There can never be bottom-up without the employment of ECDE teachers. So Mr. Speaker, this is good.

Number three on health Mr. Speaker, Sir, our medics have been serving with remuneration that is not commensurate with the services that they have been rendering. With the approval of this budget, medics, nurses, clinical officers and laboratory technologists with a budget of 2.75 Billion for personnel emoluments which include the confirmation of medics and non-medics on contract will be done. So, all medics will be employed on permanent and pensionable terms Mr. Speaker, Sir which is also a plus.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, now coming to my ward, Kapsoit where the good people whom I represent live, I have allocated 20 million for roads to ensure that all villages are connected, roads are murramed, graveled and compacted. I have also allocated 2 million for structures, 3 million for water, trade where I intend to purchase a parcel of land for construction of a pulping station we are also doing 1.5 million, on industrial crops 3 million. Mr. Speaker, Sir, 6.2 million has been factored for bursaries so that students from very needy backgrounds are able to access education because education is an equalizer.

Finally, as we approve this budget, it can only be useful if the County Executive implements it to the latter. The Chairperson of the Committee on Finance is here, we need to be looking at the quarterly reports because these reports will inform on the progress and the implementation of this budget Mr. Speaker, Sir. So I urge the committee on Finance and economic planning to up their game so that at every quarter they will be giving a quarterly report to this House on how far we will have gone in the implementation of this budget.

Otherwise, I thank you, I thank the committee and may God bless all the Honourable Members as we begin our first budget since we were elected or re-elected. Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): Thank you! The Honourable Gilbert Ngetich and then I will give a chance to the mover to reply.

Hon. Gilbert Ngetich (Member for Kisiara Ward): Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity also to represent the good people of Kisiara to support the estimates for the

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financial year 2023/2024 which was prepared by the able Chairman Committee on Budget and Appropriation Committee plus the whole committee that is Honourable Albert Kipkoech who has been leading us since last term. Up to this far, we are tabling a budget that is balanced, a budget that is obvious having what the common man requires and my also point of happiness is the confirmation of ECDE teachers which we have seen that the Chairman for Education is a very happy man and has even started taking the teachers for a tour and talking to them while going I guess, telling them that their pockets will be very strong going forward. He also took some ECDE supervisors from some wards forgetting our sub-county which shows that he is becoming 'future something' for Ainamoi. In future Honourable Chair, please consider also other sub-counties because you will be 'future something' that can represent the whole county. That is my prayer Mr. Speaker, Sir.

I support this very much because these teachers have gone through so many challenges and we are supporting because as we cry that we should also have our money enhanced they should also have theirs enhanced for them to provide proper services to our children in schools. I am also very happy that we are going to employ 210 new ECDE teachers and we will have this department up and running. I saw that the absorption rate improved last year and I am sure that with the current chair and the new system and new regime altogether we expect the Department of Education to perform so well because it is the backbone of the success of this particular County.

In the Department of Roads I am also very happy that there is a very good amount of money that can ensure the accessibility of various roads in this County and obvious I have seen Hon. Paul Chirchir having about 20 million for Kapsoit which is something good. He was the Chairman for roads last term and so he knows the importance of making these roads. As the current chair this department, I also promise to do proper oversight and do what it takes to ensure that these roads are well made and that they benefit *mwanaanchi* to transport their goods to the market.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the confirmation of these medics is an issue that we have really struggled with from the time you were the Finance CECM and this time round when you are the Speaker we are tabling today the confirmation of these people. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are part of the success

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because you were strategizing when you were the CECM for Finance and we will ensure that all this will happen and sincerely speaking we are really happy Chairman Budget and we will continually supporting you as you really balance this budget. He is doing an extra job Mr. Speaker. This Honourable Member has not been sleeping. We would sometimes sit, get tired and some of us take a break while the Chairman remains alert to ensure that the budget is balanced. You deserve this position as you also train your Vice Chairperson such that if you have a cough he can actually assist you. Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir.

The Speaker (Hon. (Dr) Patrick Mutai): Thank you very much Hon. Gilbert Ngetich. Now I want to give a chance to the mover of the motion to reply.

Hon. Albert Kipkoech (Member for Soliat and Chairperson Budget and Appropriations Committee): Thank you so much Mr. Speaker. I wish to thank all the Honourable Members for supporting this crucial document for the next financial year. The only thing that I will request is that all the Chairpersons especially of the sectoral committees to ensure that this budget is implemented to the last coin. Otherwise thank you Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Dr. Patrick Mutai): Thank you so much the Chairperson Budget and Appropriations Committee Hon. Albert Kipkoech. I now rise to put the question.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker (Hon. Dr. Patrick Mutai): Honourable Members, thank you so much. We have come to a close of the morning session and this House stands adjourned until 2.30pm.

[The House rose at 1.48pm]