

KERICHO COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THE HANSARD

Second Assembly

Friday, 28th Aug, 2020

(The House met at 9:30am)

{The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono) in the chair}

PRAYERS

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

NOTICES OF MOTION

Hon. Albert Kipkoech (Chairman Budget and Appropriation Committee): Thank you Mr. Speaker I wish to give a notice of the following motion that this House approves the report on the Kericho County Supplementary Budget Estimates for the financial year 2020/2021. Thank you.

MOTION BY THE CHAIRMAN BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION COMMITTEE (HON. ALBERT KIPKOECH)

Hon. Albert Kipkoech: Thank you Mr. Speaker I wish to move the following motion that this House approves the report on the Kericho County Supplementary Budget Estimates for the financial year 2020/2021.

The County Assembly received the Supplementary Budget estimates for FY 2020/2021 from the County Executive Committee Member in Charge of Finance and Economic Planning on 3rd August 2020 and the same was committed to the County Budget and Appropriation Committee for consideration.

The committee sat on 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 24th, 25th and 26th August 2020 to deliberate on the proposed supplementary budget estimates in consultation with the Finance and Economic Planning department.

Under Revenue Mr Speaker,

The supplementary budget reflects the equitable share of Kshs.. 5.443 billion, Unspent funds which forms pending bills brought forward from last financial year of Ksh 565.38Million. The local revenue and Facility Improvement Fund (FIF) for the FY 2020/2021 has been revised downwards to Kshs. 269 million and Kshs. 374.5 Million respectively due to strained economic activities as a result of COVID – 19 Pandemic.

Mr Speaker, Conditional grants from the national government stands at Kshs.314.3 million comprising of fuel levy fund of Kshs. 273.4 Million, development of youth polytechnic of Ksh 22.8 million and user fee reimbursement of Ksh. 18 million

Mr. Speaker Donor grants stands at Kshs. 690.2 million comprising of DANIDA at Kshs. 17.062 Million, KDSP of Kshs. 132.4 Million, ASDSP of Kshs. 41.5million and transforming Health sector systems for universal care at Kshs. 82.7 Million, Kenya Urban Support Programme (UDG)(SIDA) at Ksh 103.2 Million and Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture project at Kshs. 277 Million .

Mr Speaker, an additional Ksh 36 Million for health workers from the president's support in fighting the Corona virus has also been factored .The total revenue for the financial year 2020/2021 stands at Kshs. 7.65 billion.

Mr Speaker this is the departmental considerations on supplementary budget estimates for FY 2020/2021.

County Assembly

The development vote for the County Assembly stands at Kshs..13.7 million. On the recurrent expenditure of the County Assembly, various items were adjusted within the department's line items. The overall recurrent expenditure still stands at Kshs. 628.2 million.

Education, Youth Affairs, Culture and Social Services

The recurrent vote was reduced to Kshs. 356.5 million whereas the development vote was reduced to Kshs. 281.3 million. The bursary kitty was revised downwards to Kshs. 46.5 million.

Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries

The recurrent and the development vote has been revised downwards to Kshs. 143.8. Million and Kshs. 377.9 million from different votes in the supplementary budget estimates FY 2020/2021 respectively.

Finance and Economic Planning

The development vote was reduced to Kshs. 262.2 million, and the recurrent vote has been reduced to Kshs. 240.6 million.

Health Services

The recurrent vote of health services stands at Kshs. 1.99 billion and the development vote was reduced to Kshs. 495.4 million.

Land, Housing and Physical Planning

The recurrent vote stands at Kshs. 98 million whereas development vote stands at Kshs. 192.2 million.

Public Service Management

The recurrent vote stands at Kshs. 331.3 million whereas the development vote was revised downwards to Kshs. 17.5 million.

Public Works, Roads and Transport

The recurrent vote of this department stands at Kshs. 98.7 million and the development vote was enhanced to Kshs. 1.2billion.

Trade, Industrialization, Cooperative Management, Tourism and Wildlife

The recurrent vote of this department stands at Kshs. 59.3 million and the development vote is at Kshs. 10 million.

Information, Communication and e-governance

The recurrent vote of this department stands at Kshs. 71.7million and the development vote is at Kshs. 15.4 million.

Office of the Governor

The recurrent vote of this department now stands at Kshs. 98.3 million to cater for operating expenditures in the office of the Governor and Deputy Governor.

County Public Service Board

The recurrent vote of this department stands at Kshs. 54.2 million to cater for operating expenses.

Water Energy, Forestry, Environment and Natural Resources

The recurrent vote was reduced to Kshs. 113.8 million whereas the development vote was enhanced to Kshs. 436.6 Million.

Committee observations

The committee on budget and appropriation made the following observations:

- i. The supplementary budget estimates was prepared to factor in adjustments in local revenue targets not met as projected in the previous Financial Years, unspent balances from the FY 2019/2020, pending bills and shift of departmental priority budget lines as advised by the controller of budget.
- ii. That it was evident that the departments had challenges in local revenue collections.
- iii. That the departments had accumulated pending bills from the previous financial years.
- iv. That the departments did not set realistic and feasible local revenue targets.
- v. That most votes' heads have been reviewed downwards to cater for the deficit in revenue and overstated unspent balances by the departments.
- vi. That the department should endeavor give actual unspent balances so as to avoid commitment of funds that are not available.

Committee recommendations

The committee on budget and appropriations recommends as follows:

- i. The departments should exhaust all revenue streams and develop policy to maximize revenue collection.

- ii. That before any pending bill is paid; the County Assembly ought to approve them as they are an oversight body of the County Executive.
- iii. That the CECM in charge of Finance and Economic Planning set targets to each receiver of revenue as efforts towards achieving the set global local revenue targets;
- iv. That due to shift in priority in budget lines, all projects budgeted for in the supplementary be procured and given priority in order to enable continuity and completion of projects. This includes projects highlighted in the attached schedule. Members, you can see there is schedule behind next page, and I would request members that they have some reservations in that schedule and you will allow me to add in this recommendations that this includes projects highlighted in the attached schedule as amended so that incase those reservations are made in that schedule at least everything will be captured.

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

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Pursuant to Standing Orders 224 (1) I do present the Report of the County Budget and Appropriation Committee on Supplementary Budget Estimates for the FY 2020/2021 for consideration by this Honorable House. And I call upon Hon. Alex Bett to second. Thank you.

Hon. Alex Bett: Thank you Honorable Speaker for giving me this opportunity to second the motion before this House. First and foremost let me take this opportunity to congratulate the Budget and Appropriation Committee led by our very able chair Hon. Albert Kipkoech. For taking time despite the challenges that we all know of the COVID-19 to really work to come up with the supplementary budget. Indeed Mr. Speaker I want to concur with the report that is presented before this House that this represents the views and also some of the inputs of the committee members. Hon. Speaker I want to further by echoing the fact that the owners of the ball now is the executive to make sure that this supplementary budget after being passed by this

House should only make sure it is implemented immediately. Otherwise Mr Speaker I want to really support the report by Budget and Appropriation Committee. I second thank you.

(Question proposed)

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): Yes Hon. Paul Chirchir!

Hon. Paul Chirchir: Thank you very much Mr. Speaker for giving me an opportunity to represent the people who elected me from Kapsoit in this very special day. This is very special process that needs the input of all of us and as a committee I want to congratulate all the members for burning the midnight oil to make sure that today we were able to sit and approve the supplementary budget estimates 2020/2021. Mr Speaker as an Assembly, this is the only time our effort must be heard. Whenever we approve budget it becomes law, so I want to be on record that the County Executive should follow what Assembly has approved and not doing their own stuff. Because once again when this is passed it becomes a law, so I also urge the executive to be tough because this is the second last financial year in this Assembly and this is the time that members of the public are evaluating us based on the deliverables. Some of us here are proponents of what is called 'Basics first' movement. I am seeing that the way the budget has been allocated, the lion share has been taken by the basics that is the roads, water, Early Childhood Development Centres while the other things that are not basic have not been given much attention. So I urge this Honorable House to approve this supplementary budget thank you Sir.

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): Thank you, Honorable Gilbert Ngetich!

Hon. Gilbert Ngetich: Thank you Mr. Speaker for this opportunity you have given me to represent the people of Kisiara ward and to also support the report from the chairman Budget and Appropriation Committee. Let me applaud the committee for the work they have done over this particular report and mainly it is really clear that the committee dealt majorly on the areas in which the electorates really deserve like the enhancement in the public works, road and transport and also water which is becoming really something of urgency in this particular county of ours. Let me appreciate them for the work they did and I want to echo the sentiments of Honorable member from Kapsoit that we normally pass the motions and reports and remember the executive does not really adhere to what we pass and it is high time that we are trying such that

we are really concerned and we want to see it implemented to the letter. As indicated, this is the second last year and it is almost the last budget, actually the second last to the end of our term and we really want this work to be implemented. I also want to appreciate the Hon. Speaker who gave the committee time to deliberate on and come up with this report. Thank Mr. Speaker sir and may God bless all of us.

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): Honorable Philip Rono!

Hon. Philip Rono: Thank you very much Mr. Speaker for this opportunity. First I want to thank the Committee on Budget and Appropriation for their good work led by the able chair. I think we have spent enough time trying to reallocate or appropriate the funds though there was a very big challenge as far as these issues of balancing the funds and from the look of things we are noting something every time our local collection comes down, almost every year we have never achieved or we have never met the target giving us difficult time to the Honorable members who are sitting in the budget committee.

When we entered this House in the year 2017 we had a long list of pending bills that we ended up forming a committee that scrutinized the same pending bills but actually our recommendation was not adhered to then the other time it was announced that Kericho county is free from pending bills but we are still receiving several lists of pending bills that we are not sure of. So I want to urge the House that actually we need to set and consider this issue of pending bills, scrutinize and bring to an end all because the last time we were sitting in the budget committee we received a very long list of pending bills that is actually the duplication of previous pending bills yet it was said it was paid almost in full. I urge the committee on roads to continue scrutinizing the list of pending bills that was forwarded to the committee on budget and request that they bring the report on the genuine pending bills. Otherwise I want to support the work of the committee on budget and appropriation thank you very much.

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): Honorable Evans Kibet!

Hon. Evans Kibet: Thank you Mr. Speaker for this Opportunity. I would like also to join my colleagues in congratulating the Committee on Budget and Appropriation of which am a member for the good work they have done. The resources were so little but it was shared, when you look at the distribution it was shared almost equally. May be in future when we shall talk of sharing

the resources equitably when the time allows. My point here is to talk about the Litein Municipal Board. I can see that in this supplementary budget they have been given Ksh 8 million and when we look at it, Litein Town is the headquarters of Bureti Sub County and there is a lot of work to be done, may be the member of County Assembly from Litein Ward could not have said this but I am sure he is going to support this because it is our head quarter and we really have a challenge with cleanliness, drainage issues, sewerage matters among others that needs to be addressed. So I can see that in this supplementary budget because of tight issues surrounding us, we got around Ksh 8 Million. In future I will talk with our colleagues so that we can give enhancement on that. The point I wanted to clearly make is the procurement process of the county, you realize that we come here and pass the budget but it takes a lot of time for the procurement process to be started. That is why we have got cases of unspent amount of money. We have cases of unspent balances at the end of the financial year yet in some other department; they are running out of money that is why there are cases of pending bills. You realize that some departments don't start procurement process immediately when we pass the budget. So we want to ask the Executive to focus on that and also to reiterate on the issue of pending bills. We need to be given the clear picture of it so that we approve, I can see the recommendation given by the committee and am in total agreement with it. That the pending bills that is to be paid should be verified first by the County Assembly and approved for payment by the concerned department to avoid payment of pending bills for work not done , that is the point I wanted to make. But members we know that the Executive might not be able to do the things that we want them to do but we must be united so that at least we force this budget to be implemented because when we pass it like this and leave to them , they will do their things. I really have issues with procurement officers there; they cannot do something that is required within a period of time. So members lets be united so that we ensure everything we pass here is implemented. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): Thank you, Honorable Nancy Langat Kimetto!

Hon. Nancy Langat: Thank you Honorable Speaker for giving me this chance also to contribute let me thank the Committee on Budget and Appropriation for the tireless work they did, it was really hectic but at the end of it all, we have done our best. It is just a repetition of pending bills; in fact I was asking myself, where do these pending bills originate from? You are given a bill of Ksh165 Million and then at some point you are getting Ksh 198 million, it seems the bill is going

higher and higher. So my question is that, where do these bills start from? Is there somebody sitting on the job? If we budgeted some money and then a pending bill comes in I am confused because we have a pending bill and unspent money, is the unspent money part of the pending bills? And if it is part of the bill, if there is money to be paid and someone is sitting on them, who is sitting on this money so that it becomes unspent money? So what am requesting Honorable Speaker is that Ksh 198 Million as pending bills that is not approved, we need to sit as a committee again and scrutinize where it originated from so that we cannot just use and pay for what deemed not valid. I am really interested with the pending bills, otherwise thank you very much since the revenue was scaled down, I urge the members that we utilize the amount that we are given so that we can do our work. The term is ending and this is our last term to perform. So we really need to sit and ask the procurement to do their procurement process of projects as early as possible so that we do our projects. Thank you;

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): Thank you, I can't tell who is who; there is a person who first raised his/ her hand, Honorable Cheruiyot Bett!

Hon. Cheruiyot Bett: Thank you Hon. Speaker .This is Hon. Cheruiyot Bett representing the people of Ainamoi Ward. I know many will not know me because of the mask I am wearing.

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): There is a point of order.

Hon. Haron Rotich: Mr Speaker the Honorable member should dress well. I am seeing that he is wearing wrong attire.

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): What do you mean by wrong attire?

Hon. Haron Rotich: He is wearing open shoes.

Hon. Cheruiyot Bett: Mr. Speaker I injured myself and the Honorable member can confirm the presence of a wound.

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): Please proceed.

Hon. Cheruiyot Bett: Thank you Mr Speaker, mine is also to have a say on behalf of the people who I represent. From the onset Mr Speaker let me begin by thanking the Budget and Appropriation Committee for doing a good job. This is a budget of its own because when you

critically look at this budget, it is a budget that was made with a priority of each and every ward. Each and every Honorable member knows the area that wants most of the funds to be utilized. And I think if this budget is fully implemented by those charged with execution, I know that the people that we represent will get value for their money. And we want to urge the executive to implement this budget. I remember Mr Speaker when we were passing the mother budget before the 30th June, Members of County Assembly plus the CECs went to press telling the entire public that this is the best budget. Infact I was the only one who gave a contrary opinion, that there is no budget that has not been best but the problem is execution from the side of executive. I want to urge County Assembly that this time round we ensure that what we did appropriate in this budget is actualized in the ground. We may be having a very good budget of this nature but by the end of the day the county executive is not willing to implement. I want to urge members that this might be almost the last budget. This is the last budget, the next coming budget is realigned to election and I can assure these members that we might not even get money from treasury because most of the funds will be channeled towards election. So this is make or break we need to hold the executive accountable. They need to begin procurement procedures as soon as possible and I know Mr. Speaker this is a budget that will see us in or out of this very beautiful chambers, if it is implemented I'm sure we will make it if not implemented I can assure you we shall have new faces come 2022 that is my prayer. Mr Speaker, finally, the issue of pending bill I know the committee has indicated that there should be no payment of any pending bill without committee approval either roads or budget ascertaining whether works was done or not because we don't want to be a rubber-stamp also, that is a major responsibility in this County Assembly. It is to make sure that projects that are paid are projects that were really done. So I want to support what the Honorable iron lady Hon. Nancy said that we will not be rubber-stamping, we need before any payment is done either the committee on roads, public works and transport or the budget committee to ascertain whether work was really done. Otherwise, I proposed if the committee is not able to look at this budget may we form a legal ad hoc committee to look at this pending bill. Thank you Mr Speaker sir.

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): Thank you. Any other member who would want to contribute? Chairman may be you can now reply.

Hon. Albert Kipkoech (Chairman Budget and Appropriation Committee): Thank you Mr. Speaker for this opportunity that you have given me so that I reply. Honorable members thank you for supporting the motion and I want to request that let us not sit down, so that they implement this budget by their own we need to do something, we need to follow up so that at least by end of this financial year we have seen everything that we appropriated here is reflected in our wards. Otherwise thank you very much Mr. Speaker.

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

(Question put and agreed to)

(Adjournment)

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): Honorable members we adjourned for a period of thirty minutes so that we look at the next order that is Kericho County Appropriation Bill 2020. Thank you.

(The House rose at 10:15am)