

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF NAKURU

THE HANSARD

Third Assembly (Third Session)

Tuesday, 2ND July 2024

Assembly Building

The House Met At 2:40 pm

[The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Joseph Ngware): in the Chair].

PRAYER

STATEMENT(S)

STATUS OF JOB RECRUITMENT

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Joseph Ngware): We have a Statement from Hon. William Mutai.

Hon. William Mutai: Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker sir. I have a request for a Statement.

Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Orders 47 (1c), I rise to request for a Statement from the Chairperson of the Committee on Labour, Gender, Youth and Social Welfare concerning the status of the recruitment of the recently advertised jobs by the County Public Service Board in various Departments.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, sometime between February and March 2024, the County Public Service Board, through the County Government Website, advertised for vacant positions in various Departments within the Service. The positions ranged from Entry Level Cadres to Managerial Cadres across the Departments.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I wish to take cognizant of the provisions of Section 59 of the County Government Act, Chapter 265 that gives the Boards powers to appoint persons to hold or act in the Offices of the County Public Service Board. Further, I wish to appreciate the provisions of Section 55 of the same Act which details objectives of the County Public Service, including Promotion of the Values and the Principles set out in Articles 10 and 232 of the Constitution of Kenya.

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Mr. Deputy Speaker, some of the values that are so critical in the functioning of the Board is derived from Article 232(1 H and I) of the Constitution. It is therefore important that this House ensures that the Board performs its functions in strict adherence to the provisions of Chapter 13 of the Constitution and Section 55 and 59 of the County Government Act Chapter 265.

I therefore wish to request the Chairperson Committee on Labour, Gender, Youth and Social Welfare to respond to the following;

- I. Did the County Public Service Board conclude the recruitment process of the job advertisements that appeared on the County Government Website between February and March, 2024?
- II. If concluded, to what extent did the Board comply with Article 232(1 H and I) of the Constitution in terms of Gender Representation, Ethnic Diversity within the County Regional Balance, Religious Considerations, and Persons With Disability?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I further request that this information be availed in form of actual numbers vis-a-vis the vacant positions field.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, just to reiterate a bit, this is a very emotive matter and I would really wish that if possible, and as guided by our Standing Orders, that you allow the Members some few minutes to ventilate on this issue. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Joseph Ngware): Thank you Honourable Member. Going by our Standing Order, you know very well that today, we commit that Statement to the Committee on Labour, Gender, Youth and Social Welfare then after that, we expect a response in 14 days. Thank you.

MOTION

MEDIUM TERM DEBT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY PAPER

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Joseph Ngware): We have a Motion by Hon. Alex Mbugua, Chairperson Committee on Budget and Appropriations

Hon. Alex Mbugua: Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker sir. I wish to bring a Report of the Committee on Budget. The Report entails Report on the Medium-Term Debt Management Strategy Paper 2024. This is one of an honorable debt that we must honor as a House, and as a County. In this Paper, we wish to entail as a Committee, the debts that have been accrued in this County and how the Committee would have advised the County to take charge.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is the Second Medium Term Debt Strategy Paper for the County to be prepared under the current Administration in accordance to Section 123 of the Public Finance Management Act 2012 which obligates reporting of the actual and potential liability with the aim of formulating a strategy on Effective and Efficient Management of the County Debts and Liabilities over the Medium-Term Period.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in preparing the County Debt Strategy, the County Treasury to make the following considerations;

- I. The Total Stock of Debt as at the Statement date
- II. The Source of Loans made to the County Government.
- III. An analysis of the sustainability of the amount of Debt
- IV. Potential and Actual Risk associated with the Debt Commitments
- V. The Medium-Term Assumption underlying the Debt Management Strategy.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, you realise that Countries around the world and more so around East Africa are talking about the debts different Countries and different Counties have and as such, this County must also be in this debate.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the County Government Total Stock of Debt and Pending Bills as at 31st December 2023 was Kshs 1 544 575 402.76. That includes Recurrent Pending Bills Balances of Kshs 1 260 255 485 and Development Pending Bills Balances of Kshs 284 319 917. Debt inherited from the Defunct Local Authorities Kshs 13.5 million which constitutes Pending Bills from Suppliers and Contractors only inherited from the four Defunct Local Authorities.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, if you go through the table that is already on the tablets, a table has been placed to ensure that each and every Bill that is pending in this County has been well highlighted. Mr. Deputy Speaker, it must be noted that pursuant to Section 41 (1) of the Public Finance Management, County Government Regulations 2015, Debt Service Payments shall be a first charge on the County Revenue Fund and the Accounting Officer shall ensure this is done to the extent possible that the County Government does not default on debt obligations. However, Transitional and Legal Constraints have limited the County Government's ability to assume full Financial Liability Settlement of such debt debts.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, pursuant Section 179 (2) of the Public Finance Management, County Government regulations 2018 under this Section, further states that the Annual Debt Service cost of a County Government shall not exceed fifteen percent of the most recent Audited Revenue of that County Government, as approved by County Assembly.

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Mr. Deputy Speaker, these are some of the things that we had to take in mind when we were preparing this year's Budget. However, the County Government should, going forward recognise the importance of managing debt prudently to avoid unwarranted debt burden to the future generation and reduce the risk of Macro-Economic Instability.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is a Legal Framework on page 9 of the Report on the tablets which we have stated the Legal Framework for Debt Management Strategy Paper, mainly as cautioned by the Senate pertaining the Public Finance Management Act 2012, and I wish Members can go through that.

Review of County Public Debts and Pending Bills

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the 2024 Medium Term Debt Management Strategy covers Actual and Potential Liabilities based on projection for the future of all Loans and other Debts that require payment of principal with or without interest by the County Government to the Creditor.

Sources of County Government Debts and Loans

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are paragraphs that have been indicated there and I wish Members can go through that on page 10, for purpose of time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have the Potential Liability inherited from the Defunct Local Authorities, Actual Liabilities that is Pending Bills by the County Departments, and Agencies arising mainly from Revenue Underperformance and possible deviation from Approved Appropriations. That underscores why when we are passing our Budgets here, we cannot exceed the revenues that we are managing and that forms part of why we had to take some time as Budget Committee to ensure that our revenue was not put at Kshs 2.4 billion, but lowerered so that we go to almost what we are able to collect as a County.

Debt Sustainability Analysis

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Debt sustainability is analysed based on Debt to GDP Ratio, Debt to Revenue Ratio, and Debt Service Ratio. The Public Finance Management Act 2012 and the Public Finance Management Regulations, County Governments 2015, stipulate that debt must be maintained at a maximum of 20 percent of the Total County Revenues, hence we cannot place in our Budget something that we do not have.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the County Government has an Estimated Pending Bills of Kshs 1.56 billion for both Actual and Potential Liability. The CFSP 2024 has forecasted Total Gross Revenue of Kshs 18.74 billion in the Financial Year 2024/2025 against a Total Stock of County Debts of approximately Kshs 1.56 billion. Therefore, the County Government Estimates an approximately eight percent Debt Revenue Ratio, and this is within the 20 percent range allowed under the law.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, during the MTEF Period 2024/2025-2026/2027, the County Government shall require approximately Kshs 600 million in order to sustainably service current Debt Commitments against an allocation of Ksh. 400 million proposed in CFSP 2024.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, let me remind the House that in this Budget Estimates, despite us having proposed Kshs 400 million in form of Debt Resolution, we were only able to do Kshs 200 million within our debt payment. We are still not there as a County because these are monies that belong to the people who have either given services, done work within the County and hence, this will also be reviewed during the time that we are doing our Supplementary in September of this year.

The Principal Risks Associated with County Debts;

The matrix in Table 2 below presents the Risk Profile associated with County Debts.

There is a table that Members can follow very well where we have the County Pending Bills, and the Debts inherited from the Defunct Local Authority.

Assumptions Underlying Medium-Term Debt Strategy

- a. We have the Fiscal Discipline and Compliance with Fiscal Responsibility Principles in Budget Formulation and Execution pursuant to the PFM Act 2012;
- b. Prioritisation of settling Pending Bills as a Non-Discretionary Expenditure.
- c. No borrowing is forecasted in Financial Year 2024/2025 hence, we do not expect the County to do any borrowing according to what our Budget indicated and what we have here.
- d. Prompt collection of forecasted Own Source Revenues CFSP 2024
- e. That Kshs 400 million allocated for County Debt Resolution shall be approved as proposed in the CFSP 2024. This brings us to a situation where Debt Resolution shall always be a First Schedule within the Budget making process in this Assembly and if we set that precedence, we shall be far.

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Conclusion

1. The County Government is obligated to maintain debt with sustainable limits and settle such debts when they occur. National PFM Institution such as the Controller of Budget have given guidance on settlement of eligible Pending Bills based on aging of the Bills on First In First Out (FIFO).
2. The County Treasury shall continue to uphold Fiscal Discipline in Management of Public Finance through Control of Debt Accumulation Efficiency in serving of Current Debts. The County Treasury advises all County Departments and Agencies to progressively reduce their Pending Bills to below one percent of the Total Budget as envisaged in Performance Contracting. We have 15 of that and we also have up to 20 whereby we say the 20 given the debt level, it is essential to ensure that the County Government exercises prudent Debt Management Practice and efficiency in Expenditure Management to avoid unnecessary debt accumulation committed to the County Government Financial Obligations and efficiency in the Debt Servicing shall be critical in building the reputation of the County.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is good that we honor all the debts that we have, hence the Committee on Budget and Appropriation has been engaging the Executive Team, mainly from the Treasury to ensure that all these debts that have been accrued previously and what we have as a County Government shall be deemed paid or shall be paid with time. That is one of the reasons why we brought up Kshs 1 billion in our Budget this year to ensure that contractors are continuously paid even as we await the other Budget to be uploaded by the National Government. At the moment, I think Nakuru County is not stuck so we see that before the end of the coming Financial Year, we shall have a good absorption and that the debts within Nakuru County shall be contained downwards.

Recommendations

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in cognisance that any County borrowing shall be informed by the County Government Medium Term Debt Management Strategy and shall set out the framework for the Management of County Public Debt pursuant to Section 187 (1) of the PFM, County Government Regulation 2015, the Committee therefore makes the following recommendations.

The Committee has directed the Office of the Auditor General to undertake a Forensic Audit to ensure that all Debts, Pending Bills and Contingent Liabilities is undertaken to ascertain accuracy and credibility of the amount before any payment is made. It is our advice that before any of these Pending Bills ...

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Hon.Alex Mbugua: ...that approves up to Kshs 1.5 billion are made Mr. Deputy Speaker. The Auditor General provides us with a good Report for us to appropriate such and to fix that to a Schedule. The Committee directs that any Appropriation forthwith to Debt Resolution, will be subject to Forensic Audit. If we have a Forensic Audit, it will be good for us to plan as a Committee on how we appropriate this money to pay these people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the County inherited a huge debt from the Defunct Local Authorities. Taking constant the amount involved, it is recommended that the County invites the former Clerks and Treasurers of the Defunct Local Authorities to shed light on the nature, purpose, and status of the Inherited Debts to ensure that the debts are fully authenticated. The County to ensure that the Reported debts inherited from the Defunct Local Authorities are reconciled with the Liabilities and the Debt Reports submitted to the Transitional Authority by the former Clerks and Treasurers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are in the year 2024 and we are talking about the time that the Constitution of Kenya was propagated in 2010. In 2013, the Local Authorities stopped working, and we had the County Governments but we still have debts going back to those years. We feel that as a Committee most of these people who used to work around that time, most of them are moving to retirement. It is only fair that they are given their dues when they are still alive and when they still have the strength to work. The County Executive Committee Member shall prepare and submit an Annual Report to the County Assembly on Public Debts not later than three months, at the end of each Financial Year.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are suggesting as a Committee that all these debts that have been paid or the ones that are supposed to be paid, the Committee be updated every three months or quarterly so that we ensure that we give proper advice to this Assembly, and even as we prepare to do the next Budget of 2025/2026 Financial Year.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the County should provide details of any payment made out of the Debt Resolution Budget. Further, they should provide a schedule detailing and reconciling any Payment Deduction and Increment of Debts, Pending Bills, and Liabilities including Contingent Liabilities. The County should negotiate for Waivers of Interest and Penalties Statutory Creditors especially deduction from salary Local Authorities Provident Fund (LAPFUND), Local Authorities Pensions Trust (LAPTRUST), and National Security Social Fund (NSSF). In this regard, the County can negotiate payment modalities favorable to the County Government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the County should ensure prudence in use of resources and strengthen physical discipline to ensure that resources are used only for the allocated projects and programs.

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There is a need to strengthen Debt Management Office to ensure Prompt Reports are submitted as required. Further, the County Debt Office to develop a program for Pending Bills and Loan Payments. The County Treasury is advised to be realistic in their Local Revenue Focus as some Pending Bills emanate from shortfalls in Local Revenue Collection that have a significant bearing on the Budget Framework. This is why as a Budget Committee we stated that we focus on buying containers in this Financial Year for all Cess Collection Points within our region, so that people can work in an environment where they can ensure that all these debts do not accrue.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in this Financial Year, we did a Budget of Kshs 21 Billion. We did state very well that we shall have Kshs 2.2 Billion worth of collection in our Revenue. If we fail to get Kshs 2.2 Billion, most of the money here will fall under the Pending Bills and the Pending Bills will then will fall under the Debt of the County. Comprehensive, accurate and timely information on Public Debt is critical and managing investors as sovereign risk at the cost of debt.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Counties directed that Debt Information be published more regularly to enhance transparency and accountability in Debt Management by the best international practice. I would like to bring to your attention a Senate Resolution of the Status of Pending Bills in Counties communicated to Counties via a letter referencing Senate Resolutions 05/2024 3 dated 9th May 2024, which recommends all County Governments pay verified Pending Bills amounting to less than 1 Billion by the end of this Financial Year and Kshs 1Billion by the end of the Financial Year 2024/2025. It is imperative that the County Government considers the above, moving forward.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this must be set by this Assembly for any other Government that will come in the future that debts must be paid. Today, Tanzania is grappling with this and it is a conversation that they are having as a Nation. Kenya is still grappling with this, and this being our Government, the County Government of Nakuru cannot allow debts to stop us or to bring this County down. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I wish to ask Honorable Doreen to second this Report.

Hon. Doreen Korir: Thank you Chair, Mr. Deputy Speaker sir, I second the Report.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Joseph Ngware): Thank you Honorable Member, the Motion is open for debate. Honorable Njuguna.

Hon. Njuguna Mwaura: Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker. I rise to support the Report but also to relook at this Report critically. Naturally, debts keep growing and they keep on increasing and that is a burden that is increasing for *Mwananchi*. I would wish that this recommendation that we are going to pass here as an Assembly be passed and be taken to the Executive; let the Executive own this Report and let it be provided to the latter. Year in and year out, we have been passing this Debt Resolution but hardly do we see the Reports of implementation as far as we are concerned.

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Therefore, we would wish that the County Executive own these Reports and start implementing them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I wish to bring to the attention of this House that though we have incurred both Liabilities and Assets of the County as a County Government of Nakuru, a time has come for us to term some of the Debts as Bad Debts. As the Auditor General and the Auditors say, some of the debts were incurred from 1960, and to this day the great-grandchildren are being told to pay. These debts will collapse this County and the County will not grow.

Therefore Mr. Deputy Speaker, what we would wish to request is that an assessment be done and let those debts that we believe have been overtaken by events, be done away with so that the County can move on. I beg to support and request that in the next quarter, we want to see the implementation status of the resolutions that we have passed.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Joseph Ngware): Thank you Honorable Njuguna, Honorable Wathiai

Hon. David Wathiai: Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to support the Report by the Budget Committee. I have gone through the Recommendations and they have taken care of what should be done by the County Government so that we can reduce the Pending Bills; but the real problem that we have with the County Government is the implementation of the current Budget and projects that are in the Budget on time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, if the County Government can come up with a good plan where all Departments can move with speed and highlight their projects, send the projects to the relevant Department, if it is the Bill of Quantities (BQs) that are supposed to be brought up, it be done on time so that maybe in October of this Financial Year, we will have all projects advertised and Contractors on the ground and by January next year they be paid. This will reduce the number of Pending Bills that would otherwise be there by the end of this Financial Year.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, as we pass these Recommendations, I request the County Government to move quickly and ensure we do not have Pending Bills in this Financial Year. If they move with speed and do what is in the Recommendations, this County will not have Pending Bills in the coming years.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Joseph Ngware): Thank you very much Hon. Wathiai. Hon. Gathanwa

Hon. Michael Gathanwa: Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker. The Debt issue is currently hot in the Country as much as it is in the County. I wish to congratulate the Budget Committee and the Chair Budget for coming up with this Paper and also for the Recommendations. I have noted that the debt-to-revenue ratio that is recommended is 20%, and in Nakuru County we are at 8%. Probably

moving forward what we should concentrate on is to make sure that our target is not to beat the 20% but is to make sure that we are accountable even as we incur debts and we be very specific on why we are incurring debts.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is also the need for us to have an itemised Report of the Debt. It is true we know how much we owe Suppliers in terms of the Pending Suppliers and Contractors. We also know the ones that we owe and the Inherited Debts. As we investigate further, I think we need to get a chance to go to the itemised list so that we can know who we owe, when we entered into debt with them, how much of these debts are maturing, and when they are supposed to be maturing so that even as we plan and do a better strategy, we would be able to have somewhere to refer to.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, let me put more emphasis on the Suppliers and the Contractors. We should be paying their Debt as a first charge like any other Dept. We have seen in Newspapers lately that they have two or three pages where they speak about politics and then another like 10 pages where we have people's properties, items, and also cars being auctioned because of debt. This is a Ripple Effect from debts that owed by the Government. I agree with the Recommendations by the Budget Committee that the ones that have been verified be paid because it goes into a long way in uplifting the social status of the people that are in our County.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Key Performance Indicators, I remember one of the GEN-Z in a WhatsApp Group was challenging whether I knew the meaning of KPI, the Key Performance Indicators in Kenya that quickly changing. We are heading to a point where it will not just be about development, it will not just be about how many roads you have done and how many houses we have had connected to water, but it will also be about where we got the debt and where have we left it, how many people were paid when we came in and how many people have been paid by the time we are leaving.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would love for us to make this conversation more vibrant and let the people know that there is a lot we do in our offices other than the delivery of what is physically seen by the eyes. If we can sort out people whose pensions have been pending and they have been working in the County for many years that would be an indicator of good performance. If we can manage the debts that are coming into our County, if we can sort Suppliers and Contractors who have not been paid for a while it would be an indicator that we are doing something good.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to urge Honorable Members, and even our voters as they are listening, they start looking at the wide range of responsibilities that are given to leaders and that if we go back there and bring back statistics on how we have dealt with debt and how well we have managed money, it would also be an indication of good performance and should be seen in the ballot. Thank you, I support the Report and I thank the Committee on Budget.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Joseph Ngware): Thank you, Hon. Maritim.

Hon. John Maritim: Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker. I also rise to support the Report on Budget and Appropriations. The Report itself is wonderful. On the Recommendations, there are highlights on the issue of Revenue. You have said that the County Treasury should be realistic, and that should be the case. In Nakuru County 2023/24, we made Revenue of Kshs 2.8 million but right now we have been given Kshs 4.1 billion. That I think is not realistic, we cannot make such an amount of money. The best thing is that this is what is putting down time in Budgeting; the cost of this Revenue Collection. There is need to be realistic and that was great and I believe they will follow it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, a Debt needs to be paid. A Debt is like a loan and believe some debts are recurring like the ones taken back in 1963, and some to currently. They should come up with a plan where they can try to plan on how to pay these debts. For those taken from 1963 to 1980s, I do not believe the people who took that money are still alive because there is a recommendation you put that they want to see the former Clerk, former Chief of Staff. We live in a world where things change every time. I can see you today tomorrow you are not there. Some debts should be written off completely. Any Performing Debt, a debt that we can see can make some changes is the one we can go for so that we can reduce these things. We cannot pay all the debts but if we can put an indicator that some payments have been made, it would be worth.

Finally Mr. Deputy Speaker, furnishing of Audit Report should be done every time. Either quarterly such that even Investors who want to invest in Nakuru can use the Audit Report to plan on how to invest. When these things are highlighted clearly and made realistic then we can do a lot in Revenue Collection, Debt Clearance, and the County itself will move forward. I support the Report.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Joseph Ngware): Thank you Chairperson Finance. Hon. Kajwang’.

Hon. Peter Kajwang’: Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker. I am proud that I have caught your eye even when I did not intend to, but I am standing here to also support this Report. It has been said over and over that it has been difficult doing business with the County Governments because of the issue of Pending Bills. Sadly, we have seen businesses going down, we have seen people disintegrating because their monies are held up somewhere within the Treasury.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, one of the most worrying is the level at which the current Bills are higher than Development. I think this to me is an indicator of good improvement because at least we can take it as a positive index that Development is not derailed in the County, and I thank the work that has come out. Right now as we pass this, I know we are going to unlock several misgivings that

we have had with our Budget so that we sort out the issue of Pending Bills. Thank you, I support the Report.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Joseph Ngware): Budget can you wind it up?

Hon. Alex Mbugua: Mr. Deputy Speaker I wish to thank this House for the contributions on this Report. We would wish that Debt could be managed at all levels by our County Government, at the National level and even at the Ward level so that this Country, this County and our Nation can move forward in a better way because we cannot move without managing the Debts; and we must live within our means.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, these Debts have made so many families lose their properties because maybe someone took a loan somewhere and they are not able to service them anymore and their properties or collaterals to these loans are seized.. As a young person in this Nation and as the Chairperson of Budget and Appropriations, it is only prudent that we learn how to manage these Debts from the County Government, National level even at our own personal levels. I am grateful that Members have seen it fit to support this Report. Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, and this great House of Nakuru Assembly.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Joseph Ngware): Thank you, Chairman Implementation Committee you have just gotten in we have very serious Reports and your Committee can be of much importance in the implementation of the same. Thank you. I now want to put it to question

(Question proposed that pursuant to the provision of Section 123 of the PFM Act 2012, this House adopts the Report of the Committee on Budget and Appropriations on the Nakuru County Medium Term Debt Management Strategy Paper 2024).

(Question put and agreed to)

MOTION

HOUSE RESOLVES TO ALTER ITS ADJOURNMENT DATE

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Joseph Ngware): We have a Motion to be moved by the Hon. Leader of the Majority Party.

The Majority Leader (Hon. Alex Lang'at): Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise on Order 31 on matters of a Calendar of this Great Assembly. Order 31 gives the House Business Committee

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the authority to prepare the Calendar and with approval of this Assembly, it is usually passed as per sub section 1, and in sub section 2, the same Calendar should be put on the Kenya Gazette.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, sub section 3 gives an otherwise whenever you want to alter the Calendar for this Assembly, and gives a mandate to the Leader of Majority, Leader of Minority or a Member of the House Business Committee to move a Motion. However, sub-section 4 of 31, also the change of the Calendar can be done by the resolve of the Whole House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is in that respect that I stand knowing very well what has been happening in this Country generally. There has been so much unrest, and we have seen Members being targeted. Honourable Members in various parts and we may not assume much because the Hon. Members of this House need them and we do not want them to fall victim of the riots that have been going on.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in this aspect also, I would like to thank our Government. Like in Nakuru today, we saw in the Media that at least the riots have somehow been contained within the and there is peace. It is also a good time to caution Members that they should also stay away from public and social places and ensure that their families and homes are safe by keeping in touch with the nearest Security Officers so that they may know where they are at any given time and also to have phone numbers of the Security Officers just in case they will need help.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have been on a Long Recess and the alteration of this Calendar Mr. Deputy Speaker, is not much because ideally, we would be proceeding as for a short Recess tomorrow. So the request to this House is to alter the Calendar under Standing Order No. 31 (4), so that we move the adjournment of this House from tomorrow to today. So pursuant to our Standing Order No. 31 (4), I wish to beg this House to resolve to alter its adjournment date from tomorrow 3rd of July 2024 to today, July 2nd 2024 so that this House again in line with its Calendar can resume on 23rd of July 2024.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is in line with the Assembly Calendar. It will give these Members an opportunity to keep vigil, as they interact and see the activities that are going on. We know for the past few months, we have been on the ground trying to implement some work and we have a role to oversight the projects that have been rolled out in our various Wards. This Short Recess will give them time to go and evaluate, go and mingle with *Wanjiku* so that they can prepare themselves for the next half of this year. So I beg to move the Motion and I want to request Hon. Gathanwa to second. Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Joseph Ngware): Thank you Majority Leader, Hon. Gathanwa

Hon. Michael Gathanwa: I second

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The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Joseph Ngware): Thank you Hon. Gathanwa, the Motion is open for debate. Hon. Gathanwa.

Hon. Michael Gathanwa: Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is obvious the conversation in Kenya has changed. It is obvious we did not wake up the way we slept. I take this as a good chance for us to go, have a conversation with our people even the Gen Zs so that when we resume the Sittings, we will be able to represent, talk about the issues that are current, and even find ways to incorporate the things that are happening today in the second half of this year.

So, it is a good time to take the Recess and go and gather much more, be with our people and as we come back recharged. Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker I support.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Joseph Ngware): Thank you; Hon. Alex.

Hon. Alex Mbugua: Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise to support the Motion by the Majority Leader because he is the Leader of this House and as such, he must have seen something that has provoked the change. The state of the Country today, is where we need to engage our people. The elected leaders here, most of them belong to either the group Gen Z or the Millennials because the silent group is very small in this House. We can now go back on the ground, we meet our people; we listen to them, and be able to resonate with them because it is sad that today we still have demonstrations in the Country, even after the withdrawal of the Finance Bill by His Excellency the President.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this calls for us as leaders to go back and really understand what might be ailing us at the grassroots, because the Leadership of this Country is not just pegged on the shoulders of His Excellency the President. It is on the shoulders of every person who lifted a Bible to the service of these people. If the ground, and if *Mwananchi* is requesting for attention, it is upon us today to rise to the occasion and listen to them and we tell them the truth as it is.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, as such, we shall have our Nation because at the end of the day, Gen Zs belong to this Nation, Millennials belong to this Generation, and even the Silent Generation still belongs to this Country and this is our only home we cannot go anywhere.

As a young person, and as a leader, I think I will have a sitting with my people from Naivasha as all of you, those from Keringet you will sit with those in Keringet and talk to them, you get their views so that we can have our Nation together because it will be very bad for us to lose our beautiful Nation. So, I ask my people from Naivasha, let us come together, let us reason together, let us resolve problems together because Naivasha is our home, we do not have another home. If you destroy my home today in Naivasha where I was born and brought up from a tender age, I do not know where else to go. So I ask us all, since the Finance Bill is down, can we reason as a

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Country? Can we reason as a people? Can we be our brother's keeper, and we stop all the burning because this is our only home? That is my passionate appeal to my generation who are out there today. Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, I support the Motion.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Joseph Ngware): Hon. Doreen

Hon. Doreen Jebiwot: Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise to support the Motion on the alteration of the Calendar, and also to say that being the close of the Financial Year, it is important that we break and remind Members to ensure they have filed their Returns on time because our Country needs to run.

Deputy Speaker, as we close the year, you realise that several projects were ongoing in the County, at various Wards. This break will give Members time to go and do the oversight work to ensure that all the projects that were budgeted for were done within the required time, and also check on the projects that were not completed and maybe do follow up.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this would be a healthy break for Members because there is time for everything. It is good to go back and interact with *Wanjiku*, and ensure that we are on the right track. I support the Motion. Thank you Deputy Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Joseph Ngware): Hon. Kalamu

Hon. William Mutai: Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I stand to support this Motion bearing in mind that we have quite a lot as Hon. Members. I want to support what my colleagues have said about going out to have conversations with our young generation. They need us and I am very sure we are going to have plenty of time so that we can discuss in depth, on what more is required.

Deputy Speaker, you are aware I placed a Statement some few minutes ago and I need time to make a visit to the Office of Public Service Board to collect more information on what transpired concerning the employment. There are rumours that there was no balance in terms of employment. We need statistics to that effect, and more so, we need time especially the elected Members, to out there and get information on the enhancement balances of bursaries.

Deputy Speaker, in case there are balances, then we need time to interact with Education Administration at Bondeni so that we can share out whatever balances that are there so that students can benefit as soon as possible. So I support the Motion. Thank you Deputy Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Joseph Ngware): Thank you; Hon. Robert.

Hon. Robert Ruto: Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker. I rise to support this Motion for alteration of the Calendar. I think going on Recess will give us enough time to do our Oversight role which is one of our obligations.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, as Leaders we ought to mingle with our youth and deliberate or give them more information on the Finance Bill; considering the current situation of the Nation, it seems our youth are not much informed about the benefits of the Bill.

So I support the Motion; thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Joseph Ngware): Thank you; Members can we conclude; Hon. Gatuso

Hon. Bernard Gatuso: Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker for the opportunity. I rise to support the Motion. I think it is high time we got back to our community so that we can take stock of projects that we have been able to do in our Wards, and probably have time to visit different Departments and get to know why some projects are not complete.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we will have ample time to engage the communities, especially the young generation, and have conversations with them and also involve them in the objectives or projections we have as a County. Mr. Deputy Speaker, as a House to be able to realise the objectives we have for our people, we can only do so after engaging them. Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, I support the Motion.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Joseph Ngware): Hon. Tallam

Hon. George Tallam: Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker for giving me this opportunity. I want to support our Majority Leader because we are going to meet *Wanjiku* and Gen Zs; and I think this is a good opportunity to go to your Ward and enlighten Gen Zs about the Finance Bill and its benefits. So, I rise to support this, as we go on Recess let us also do our Oversight role and make sure that we get close to *Wanjiku*. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Joseph Ngware): Hon. Kajwang

Hon. Peter Kajwang: Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise to support this Adjournment Motion. You will also give direction because we heard from some sources that we needed to have a *Kamukunji* tomorrow. We anticipated we are going to have a Sitting tomorrow, so maybe you will give us direction because this as I understand, is one of the important information that you needed to pass to this House. Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Joseph Ngware): Thank you Hon. Kajwang. There is a correspondence that will come through other means and I would not want to comment on it here

but you shall get a correspondence on your official page about the *Kamukunji*. Members, can we wind up the debate?

(Question proposed that pursuant to Standing Order 31 this House resolves to alter its adjournment date from tomorrow 3rd July 2024 to today 2nd July 2024 and resume on 23rd July 2024 in line with the Assembly Calendar)

(Question put and agreed to).

This House stands adjourned until 23 July 2024 in line with the Assembly Calendar

(The House rose at 3.05 pm)