

# **COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF NAKURU**

## **THE HANSARD**

**Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2022**

*Assembly Building*

*The House met at 2.50pm*

*[The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Samuel Tonui) in the Chair].*

### **PRAYERS**

**The Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Samuel Tonui): Clerk, what is the order of the day.

### **MOTION**

HOUSE ADOPTS BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT ON SUPPLEMENTARY 1 OF 2021/2022

**The Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Samuel Tonui): Honorable chair for budget, Joel Maina Karuri.

**Hon. Joel Karuri:** Mr. Deputy Speaker sir, thank you for that opportunity to be able to move this Motion;-

THAT the House adopts the Budget and Appropriations Committee Report on The Nakuru County Supplementary Budget No.1 of 2021/2022.

In the morning we tabled the report of the Budget and Appropriations committee on Supplementary 1 for the financial year 2021/2022. Of importance is to look at the rationale for the Supplementary 1 for the financial year 2021/2022. Of significance is that this paper was addressing an opportunity for the residents of this County together with their representatives who are the Honorable Members of this House, to be able to make the changes that they will and the changes that they thought will suite them in response to their service and development needs.

It is important that also in the main budget, there were things that needed to be reallocated and departmental budget needed to be reallocated so that we can now have the desired amount of money to address the needs and expenditure projections. So, basically those were the main reasons for this supplementary and I think going forward when these projects will be implemented that will mean good for this county. It is also good to know that the department within the County Government of Nakuru, starting from page 10, the Office of the Governor, the Deputy Governor, the County Treasury and all the departments, there are slight changes here and there to be able to make the departments carry out their financial needs for the year ending.

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This being the first supplementary, we do not know whether in the future there will be another supplementary but as of now there were need for money for development and other service delivery areas. It is good that the members had this report since morning and it circulated in good time and they have been able to interact with the documents and ask questions here and there where there were issues. So, we go to the committee recommendations on page 21, that pursuant to the section 39 (8) of the PFM Act, that one regulates the County Government. The County is advised to desist from introducing new policy options and service delivery initiatives in the supplementary as this should be in the annual budget estimates.

That, is a very important aspect whereby, as a committee we agree that there are needs and some of these needs are not foreseen at the start of the budget making process for any financial year, although the main budget is being passed. But then, it is important to know that for a supplementary it is not an avenue for new projects, it is an avenue for reallocating and moving funds here and there across the department. But it is important to know that there is no additional money for any development partners or from the National Treasury to fund the County Government of Nakuru and so, we feel that at times there are introductions of other new projects that really distracts the committee and even other development projects and other development programs which is not encouraged.

A major project or programs need to be introduced at the main budget level, we do not oppose continuation of any project that is not complete but introduction of new project as a committee we stand firm and we really urge the treasury not to introduce new items in the budget. The county is directed to upscale the mobilization of revenue collection. That is another area that we have gone on record now and then and I want to really urge the chairman for Finance committee to look into the performance of the county in terms of meeting the target for the local revenue. It is good to give a hint that we are not in a good trajectory, which only serves development deficits which again affects the part of the budget as far as the implementation of the budget and projects is concerned. So, we urge the committee and the chairman to look into that.

The other recommendation is that the committee, has noted that there has been a deliberate omission for the payment of the pending bills that the county owes the suppliers. It is known that a debt is the first charge and so there should be prudence or we allocate money to pay any debts or any pending bills. The committee is of the opinion that the first thing should be to pay the debts and the money should not be used to pay other upcoming issues or other emerging issues. So, that one is an issue because also the CS for National treasury has written to counties urging them to pay so that our suppliers can enjoy business in these counties.

The other recommendation, which is significant is that, accounting officers are directed to ensure expenditure commitments for goods and services is controlled against spending and procurement plans approved by the responsible accounting officer based on allocations and allotments from the

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approved budgets and no projects or programs should be initiated without the requisite budgetary allocation. There are temptations to introduce recurrent that were not in the main budget and spending programs that were not in the main program. So, as a committee we are against this and our recommendation is that accounting officers should not introduce programs that were not in the main budget or supported by the budget.

The committee also noted that the allocation for personnel recruitment in the Department of Lands, Housing and Urban planning remained unutilized, despite the department lacking critical skills and competences in its even establishment. In this regard the department of Lands is directed forthwith to expedite the replacement of critical cadres. It is important to note and even to bring this House into the know that should we require services from the department of Lands there are no workforce in this department, there are no sufficient surveyors, maybe one surveyor is supposed to work on three sub counties. And the minimum 2 sub counties, which is not good for service delivery in that department is critical when it comes to matters development, because development happens from land. And so this is where the committee has pushed for the recruitment of the said officers, because the budget is there.

And it was funny and it was not funny at all, having a budget, and the Department of Lands has not gone ahead to recruit. And so, the committee we specifically and deliberately put this recommendation here. So that now the Kshs 9.9 million can be utilized for employment of surveyors so that now our residents can get the services.

This supplementary, they are changing here and there. The annex on page 23. They are the projects that have been changed. And so, the members having gone through the document from page 10 they can see their projects what was changed and what was moved from this vote to the other, from one department to the other and so I want to invite Hon. Mbae from Kabazi who is a Member of this Committee to second. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Samuel Tonui): Thank you, Chair for budget. Hon. Mbae

**Hon. Peter Mbae:** I Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I rise to second. Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman budget. Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have had a very important task, not very easy to balance, what I would call the realistic view of this budget. The purpose of a supplementary is try to look at from where we are, how best we can move forward with the reality of what may have happened since we passed the last budget.

I would want in my short speech in supporting this, I would want to urge these members, that we have done our best as a Budget committee sitting many hours, to try to rationalize everything from the proposals from the executive and also from some very sensitive initiatives that have come up from this House that wanted to strengthen and make sure they are ...

It is good to start with the with appreciation, when we pass the budget, we remember we came up and through this House, we passed a very ambitious program. The internship programs. And it's

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good to appreciate that today, 600 young people from this county have been able to be absorbed, about 290 of them degree holders, other diploma holders and certificate holders. For the first time since devolution, we are able to give hope to the young people from each ward.

And is good to assure you that by the time we got to this we are able to call the board and they assured that every ward has people who have been picked, I want to thank this Assembly, the second assembly of Nakuru for being so gracious and looking at that as a need.

Also, we passed some money Kshs 86 million for CHVs. The community of volunteers, and it is good to record that as we come to the supplementary that already 3620 community health volunteers across this county have been paid stipend from October. Each volunteer is paid 2000 Kenya shillings. It is good to start with appreciating what this Assembly has been able to do. In its wisdom they were able to scale up the money like internship, the money that was less that was allocated we were able to scale up and also CHVs, the only thing you want to urge is that we had ... budgets 300 ECD teachers up now, they will be recruited we want to urge and we have told the Department of Education. We have told the Public Service Board that 300 teachers, these are teachers who are supposed to go and alleviate the suffering of the parents who actually go with the most vulnerable children to the ECDs.

We want to urge again that within the next week or so, actually days we should have that advert. So, the people of Nakuru, the teachers who have been hired by parents can now get a chance to be able to be hired by the county government.

We were strong on health; we were able to relocate money. We want to decongest PGH and so in consultation with the Health Department and in our wisdom as Budget commitment we were able to give money to other satellite hospitals like Langa Langa, Mithonge, Bahati, Upper Solai that serves Solai ward and upper Kabazi we do not want congestion in the city.

We were strong on agriculture and we have added more money to hire extension officers for each ward to help in agriculture. Nakuru is an agricultural County so we were able to balance and see what is it that mwananchi friendly? What is it that can touch Wanjiku? Because that is the purpose of the taxpayer's money.

My chairman has alluded to the fact that we do not have single valuer in this county as we speak, we have allocated about Kshs 9 million to the Lands Department to hire staff so we have directors and other staff they need.

I would want to end by saying, on the issue of sports, this committee and they urge the House to support, in its wisdom have found it wise to allocate, we have our flagship, you know in Kuresoi we have the athletics area but you also need stadium, like Gilgil, Njoro, Molo, Kamukunji, St. Teresa, others allocated some money for social hall in Kabazi, Molo, Njoro so that we can be able to move forward as a county. I beg to second.

**The Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Samuel Tonui): Thank you Hon. Mbae, it is my time to propose a question,

*(Question proposed that this House adopts the report of the Committee on Budget and Appropriation on the county government of Nakuru Supplementary no.1 of 1 2021/2022 tabled during this morning sitting)*

Now the Motion is open for debate, Hon. Gathariki.

**Hon. Joseph Kamanu:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir. I take this opportunity to thank the chair and the committee members for thorough job and well done. I know it has not been an easy task to burn midnight oil to ensure that we come up with such a document that shall bridge the gap in our budget.

I would like to concur with the Chair that a number of departments are affected by natural attrition. Some of the staffs are no longer there. Some are passed over some are retired and even some have gone for greener pastures. And it is our task to ensure that we bridge the gap and no lacuna that is within the county so that we can ensure that services are there within core departments of the county.

I know there are members who did a lot of input to also to inquire from our constituents to ensure that everything that we had factored in the budget is implemented but unfortunately, due to the shortage of staffs within some departments, the budget has not been affected.

So, within the proposals that have made this supplementary budget, it is timely because we have also got a window to ensure that we also bridge some very needed cases within the wards. And it is we know that the executive to ensure that they implement the proposals and also to ensure that all departments that had been allocated funds within a major budget the proposals are affected.

As Mheshimiwa Daktari has alluded we are lagging behind, and we have set aside funds, some of these ECDs you can meet a class with over 50 or 100 pupils. But being handled by single teacher. we also need to equip some facilities that we have constructed through the county funds. and for our people to ensure that they get value for money. It is that time that executive takes these noble agenda with urgency it deserves to ensure that people get what they need, because we have already set aside for the same. and I am sure as we progress, because you also have time constraints, it would be prudent to ensure that every proposal and every shilling is factored in the major budget and also in the supplementary. I am sure some areas are facing some challenges down there. It is upon the Executive to hold the bull by the horn to ensure that what they have recommended we have adopted and I am sure we shall resolve and resolute they implement to ensure that their people are also employed. At least this House has achieved a number of steps. We are far ahead than other County Assemblies within the Country. We have also set precedent that can be also be replicated in other Counties because we have already set the pace. Without much ado, I do support and it is

my humble request that the County Executive shall work with speed to ensure that we achieve the best within the time remaining. I support. Thank you.

**The Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Samuel Tonui): Thank you. Hon. Vice Chair for Budget.

**Hon. Anthony Rotich:** Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker sir. I stand here to support the Motion and first, let me thank the entire Budget Committee, your office and that of the Clerk for the support during this process. I entirely support the Motion especially on the side of health sector. In Kuresoi South, we have one Sub-County Hospital which is the referral hospital for Kuresoi South and North. The facility has been in a pathetic situation. We do not have a modern mortuary. Dead bodies are being thrown on the floor. Recently, I attended a funeral in my Ward where a certain old man passed and when I was there with our able Deputy Governor, we were accused so much because the body of that old man was rotten and even the mourners were even restricted from viewing the body since the body was in a pathetic condition. I thank the Budget Committee for reallocating funds to purchase a modern refrigerator to assist in preserving the bodie. We have been ferrying bodies from Kuresoi South from that end of Kiptagich, Keringet and those other sides of Nyota and Kiptororo to Molo for the preservation of the dead bodies. Reallocating the funds to the facility will assist us so much that we shall not be transporting bodies from Kuresoi South to Molo. I support this Motion and urge the entire House to support it. Thank you.

**The Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Samuel Tonui): Thank you Hon. Rotich. Hon. Wahome.

**Hon. Isaac Wahome:** Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker sir. First of all, I want to appreciate our able Chair, the Vice Chair and our colleagues in the Committee. We have burned the mid-night oil and that is why we have this good document on our table this afternoon. Having sat on this document, I have no much to say because I agree totally with it. I would wish only to insist and put more emphasis on recommendation especially on recommendation number 2. It reads that the County is directed to upscale the mobilization of local revenue collection. I believe this is not a mandate of this Committee but the Committee on Finance and if the Committee of Finance in the County Assembly of Nakuru does its work quite well, I believe it will enhance revenue collection and this revenue collected will be useful in the subsequent annual or supplementary budget in future.

The other recommendation is number 5 and this is very critical especially right now that we are counting months as we end our tenure. The Ward projects must be prioritized and fastracked to ensure that they are timely completion. Further, the County to undertake economic analysis of the need, sustainability of this project to ensure that only optimal projects are undertaken. Going forward, the County is directed to operationalize and equip already completed projects. This is very critical because each and every Member of this House would wish that all the projects; those that are in the supplementary and the other documents especially the main budget should be fastracked. They should be expedited in implementing them so that they are useful to the *mwanaanchi* because these projects do not serve the MCA, neither the County Assembly but they

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serve directorate and they usually identify them during public participation. Some are very critical and they need to be critically delivered. For instance, bursaries. You will realize we have some cases whereby bursary has long delayed until even some students have completed form four and the cheques have not been disbursed. We would wish that the relevant department usually take first charge and ensure these projects are fastracked. The final one is on the Department of Lands. The Committee noted the allocation for personnel recruitment in the department of Lands, Housing and Urban Planning remained unutilized and the document has addressed the issue of the staffs. This Department has not utilized its funds. We would wish that they address this issue and make sure that after they do personnel recruitment, they absorb their funds. I wish to support. Thank you.

**The Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Samuel Tonui): Alright. Let me give to Hon. Machembu and then I put question.

**Hon. Machembu Chege:** Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker sir. I rise to support the good work done by the Budget Committee led by the able Chair Hon. Joel Karuri. I am particularly impressed by the Department of Roads, Transport and Public Works because the Budget Committee has allocated Kshs 10 million to fuel the machines that we are having as a County. It has been a big problem but sometimes, the machines are not able to operate because there is no fuel. If these machines are put into proper use, then they can change the whole of this County in terms of roads infrastructure. I am also impressed by some of the Members who have allocated some money from the Ward kitty and they have decided to put that money so that in case the headquarter money for fuel is exhausted, then that money can be used specifically for the Ward. I want to say categorically and even the CECM to address the department of Roads Transport and Public Works to hear that any money that has been allocated from the Ward kitty, Mr. Deputy Speaker sir we shall do our oversight and we press that that money will have to go to the wards. There has been a problem that sometimes money has been allocated to the wards but when it comes to implementation, we are not able to quantify clearly that this money was used in a particular ward. This time because we are in a final lap, we need to be very categorical that the department will have to listen carefully and do exactly that by allowing that money that has been allocated by various wards so that it is utilized for the intended purpose. Another area that probably we need also to recommend is that the KRD money, the road levy fund, that somehow it was conditional grant to the County Government but things are changing in that it is no longer conditional and therefore the department and the government will need to relook that so that that money we shall know whether it will be going to roads directly or it can be used for other developments for example in building hospitals, classrooms and so on because that money was conditional, it was supposed to go direct to the roads but now the tag of conditional has been removed and therefore the money looks a bit open and that is an area that we need to look. So originally that money we have been able to enhance from Kshs 118 million from Kshs 102 million so that we are having quite a lot of money around Kshs 220 million that will go direct to the roads and out of that we have gotten some money for fuel and also for the casual workers.

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Currently you will realize that the operators of those particular machines they have stayed for a bit of time without being paid their allowances. Therefore, some of the money, I have noticed it has been allocated to clear the arrears of the casual workers who are in a bad shape. Therefore I want to applaud that decision to allocate money so that we can pay because they are doing some good work and without allocating money probably they will not be paid but now with the passage of this supplementary budget then you will realize they will get their dues and they will continue with the good work they are doing. Otherwise Mr. Deputy Speaker sir, I do support the report and the Motion.

**The Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Samuel Tonui): Thank you. Hon. Eddy

**Hon. Eddy Kiragu:** Mr. Deputy Speaker if you allow me only two seconds. I take this opportunity to appreciate the Budget Committee of which I am a member for the great work done. Basically, I want to raise very important issues; I will take you to page 18 of the report. As the chairperson Sports Culture Gender committee in Nakuru County, I am so delighted that during the Second Assembly and this being our fifth year, we have been doing KISA Games this is very instrumental because you are aware that majority of youth who have talents must be recognized. You see in that page 18 there is allocation of KISA games basically for both below aged 24 and it always happens nationally and this time round it will be in Kajiado County. It will be so unfortunate if Budget Committee could not be in a position to allocate such amount and hence denying our youth such an opportunity. Again, you will see we have various sub counties being captured in regards to stadium. As you are aware, there is construction which is ongoing at Afraha stadium to modernize it. So, we need to ensure that other stadium within Nakuru County or Nakuru city are being developed to ensure that there is continuity. As I wind up, I take you to page 23 where you see the summary of both the HQ and the wards projects. In particular my issue on that page 23 onwards report is about assenting this document. It will be very unfortunate Mr. Deputy Speaker if we adopt this document today, it takes much time to be assented. I request the County Government of Nakuru so that we can give people what they desire service delivery. At this moment of time, we are in a critical time where as much as there are many things regarding politics, we were given an opportunity to serve the people with responsibility. We have all it takes and therefore I request the County Government to go on board and ensure that this document is assented as soon as possible. Thank you and I support.

**The Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Samuel Tonui): Thank you Hon. Eddy. I saw Hon. Virginia trying to raise something there. It's your time.

**Hon. Virginia Wamaitha:** Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker. First of all, I want to applaud the committee for a job well done and my concern is on no. 3 on recommendations about debt service payments. There have been a lot of complains about payment of debts and suppliers and contractors being paid. It usually takes a lot of time and sometimes it requires the contractors and suppliers to get money from the bank and some of them end up being auctioned by the banks. So, because of this document, and now that we are going to adopt it, I would request the relevant department to

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get their suppliers and contractors paid on time so that we encourage contractors and suppliers in Nakuru County to continue working with the county. The other thing is that there has been delays in the procurement department. They were complaining of having shortage of staff and as at last month, they hired more staff and so we expect the projects which need to be procured be done before we start on another budgeting process for the year 2022/2023. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Samuel Tonui): Hon George

**Hon. George Machoka:** Thank you very much Hon. Deputy Speaker I want to take this opportunity to applaud the Budget committee for the good work done...

**Hon Eddy Kiragu:** Mr. Deputy Speaker this is a House of rules and order. One, Hon George Kiere is not in decorum

**The Deputy Speaker** (Hon. Samuel Tonui): So, Hon. George Kiere I think you are not in decorum and I wish you can go out and dress properly then you come

*[Hon George Machoka withdrew from the chamber as ordered by the Deputy Speaker]*

I think Hon. George is there somebody to help him with a tie if he wants to contribute but he is running away. Now I want to propose a question

*Question proposed that this House adopts the report of the Committee of the Budget and Appropriation on the County Government of Nakuru Supplementary no.1 of 2021/2022 laid during the morning sitting)*

*(Question put and agreed to)*

### ADJOURNMENT

This House is adjourned until tomorrow at 9.30 am

*(The House rose at 3.35pm)*