

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

UASIN GISHU COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THE HANSARD

Monday, 11th May 2020

The House Met at the Assembly Chambers at 3.15 PM

[The Speaker (Hon. David Kiplagat) in the Chair]

PRAYER

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

WELCOMING REMARKS

The Speaker (Hon. David Kiplagat): Honourable Members, welcome to today's session which is a Special Sitting following the request from the Majority Leader requesting for a Special Sitting. The office of the Speaker gazetted the Special Sitting in our Kenya Gazette under the County Assembly Standing Orders.

“Special Sitting for the County Assembly. Pursuant to Standing Order No.26 of the County Assembly Standing Orders, it is notified for the information of the public that the Assembly shall have a Special Sitting on Monday 11th May at 2.30pm, at the County Assembly Chambers for purpose of the passing of the Uasin Gishu County 1st Supplementary Appropriation Bill No.17 of 2020. This includes the supplementary report from the Budget and Appropriation Committee.” This was gazetted today in Gazette Notice No.34.

I want to inform this honourable House that the by the time we were having our House Business Committee meeting, the Appropriation Bill had not been gazetted. Therefore it shall not be in our Order Paper. We shall proceed with it on Wednesday in the morning session. Today we are only going to look at the report alone. Thank you.

What is out of order, Honourable Ali?

QUORUM

Hon. Werambo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Motion before us is a very important Motion. We do not meet the quorum and yet we have Members around. We do not have the quorum to continue with the business. Thank you.

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The Speaker (Hon. David Kiplagat): Clerk, can you confirm the quorum

(Six Members were present against a quorum of 16)

The Speaker (Hon. David Kiplagat): Sergeant-at-Arms, please ring the quorum bell. Who is acting on behalf of the Whip in whipping the Members? Chair budget, because this is your Motion, it will be prudent if you whip Members.

(Quorum bell was rung)

(Members walked into the Chambers)

The Speaker (Hon. David Kiplagat): Clerk, you can now confirm whether we have quorum to proceed.

(19 Members were in the House)

Hon. Jonathan Ngetich (Kaptagat Ward), Hon. Nicholas Talam (Soy Ward), Hon. Sarah Malel (Kimumu Ward), Hon. Ramadhan Ali (Kiplombe Ward), Hon. Gilbert Bett (Kuinet/Kapsuswa Ward), Hon. Joseph Korir (Ziwa Ward), Hon. Josphat Lowoi (Karuna/Meibeki Ward), Hon. Isaac Kemboi (Kapsoya Ward), Hon. Edward Yego (Segero/Barsombe Ward), Hon. Julius Meli (Moi's Bridge Ward), Hon. Hosea Korir (Kapsaos Ward), Hon. Samora Machel (Nominated MCA), Hon. Samwel Choge (Tapsagoi Ward), Hon. Leah Sambai (Nominated MCA), Hon. David Keitany (Sergoit Ward), Hon. David Tarus (Kapkures Ward), Hon. Hillary Rono (Kipkenyo Ward), Hon. Mary Goretti Boroswa (Nominated MCA) and Hon. Eileen Kendagor (Nominated)

The Speaker (Hon. David Kiplagat): We can proceed. Clerk! Chair budget!

PAPERS LAID

COMMITTEE REPORT ON COUNTY FIRST SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET FOR 2019/2020

Hon. Ngetich: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. I wish to lay the following papers before this House. The Supplementary Appropriation [Bill No.2], 2020 and Budget and Appropriation Committee 3rd Report on Uasin Gishu County First Supplementary Budget for Financial Year 2019/2020.

The Speaker (Hon. David Kiplagat): Thank you, Chair Budget. The report is now within the Chambers for purposes of discussion.

NOTICE OF MOTION

COMMITTEE REPORT ON COUNTY FIRST SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET FOR 2019/2020

The Speaker (Hon. David Kiplagat): Chair Budget.

Hon. Ngetich: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. I rise to give notice of the following Motion:

That this County Assembly do adopt the Committee on Budget and Appropriation Third report on the Uasin Gishu County First Supplementary Budget dated 8th May, 2020 and tabled in the House today with or without amendments.

The Speaker (Hon. David Kiplagat): Thank you, Honourable Ngetich. The Notice of Motion has been issued.

MOTION

COMMITTEE REPORT ON COUNTY FIRST SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET FOR 2019/2020

The Speaker (Hon. David Kiplagat): Chair budget, proceed.

Hon. Ngetich: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. I rise to move the following Motion:

That this County Assembly do adopt the Committee on Budget and Appropriation Third report on the Uasin Gishu County First Supplementary Budget dated 8th May, 2020 and tabled in the House today with or without amendments.

Before me is a very voluminous report and I want seek your direction so that I can give a summarised version of the report. I believe all Honourable Members have been given a copy of this report.

The Speaker (Hon. David Kiplagat): Sorry for interruptions. I can see from the Order Paper No.8 that the Appropriation Bill will be done on Wednesday. We are skipping No.8. Proceed.

Hon. Ngetich: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the communication. Allow me to give a summarised version of the report.

The first Supplementary Budget for Financial Year 2019/2020 has been necessitated because of the following reasons:

1. Addition in CARA Act of Ksh130Million and changes in donor grants which have been incorporated in the budget
2. It has also been necessitated by COVID-19 pandemic which has posed a threat to the county and the whole world.
3. Ballooning pending bills together with re-allocation of funds from various departments that might not be consumed within the remaining period of one month and half before the end of financial year.

The unbudgeted increases in health spending are likely to distract other planned development activities due to the re-routing of funds to address the pandemic. As a consequence, this move may cause serious harm to economic growth and making the effort to end the extreme poverty almost impossible. However, the Economic Commission of Africa has advised the African governments to review and revise their budgets to prioritise budgets towards mitigating the expected negative impact of COVID-19 on their economies. They say that if Africa plays its card correctly the chances of saving its economy from the aftermath of corona virus 2019 are still valid.

The proposed available funds for these four main reasons I have indicated is an addition of Ksh123,985054Million from the CARA for the County Executive and another addition of

Ksh6, 014, 946Milion for the County Assembly, making the addition of CARA allocation to be Ksh130 Million. We have Ksh8Milion that is not likely to be spent from the County Assembly; this was a vote for foreign travel. We have savings from the recurrent expenditure in the Executive arm of the government of Ksh40Milion and savings from the development of the County Assembly of Ksh50Million. The savings from development in the County Executive is Ksh538Million giving us the available funds at Ksh767Million. The re- allocation for the proposed expenditure for these funds is COVID-19 and road maintenance elevation at Ksh449Million and then re-allocation in various departments at Ksh325Million.

To be specific in terms of the allocation in health, we have equipments for our facilities so that our facilities can be prepared to handle the issue of COVID -19, within the quarantine centres at Ksh60Milion, logistics for the same at Ksh20Million, food for the vulnerable has been provided in the emergency fund at Ksh33Million.

For road maintenance to curb the heavy down- pour and damages we have round Ksh113Million for the department of roads. We have personnel protective equipment at Ksh30Milion.

The other proposed expenditure is the re-allocation of votes. There are some vote lines that had limited amount of money. These include staff medical personnel for the executive at Ksh46Million, internet Ksh5Million, Rescue Centre Ksh3Milion, office of the governor Ksh10Million and Agricultural Support Development Programme, that is seed money, so that it can allow donors to give us more money.

We also have development progress for a programme that was held in Kisumu; security purposes Ksh15Million, drainage access Ksh30Milion, dump site acquisition Ksh110Million, pending bills at Ksh86Million, land rent at Ksh1.8 Million and rent for KVDA as a pending bill at Ksh2million. An office in Nairobi needs Ksh6milliion so that we can clear all the pending Bills. Those are the specific areas that need urgent intervention from this supplementary budget. The source of the various re-allocations is clearly indicated in the document and I urge Members to go through that document.

On observations, the Committee Members on Budget and Appropriation observed the following in regard to the proposed first supplementary for Financial Year 2019/2020:

1. The need to budget for additional funds as per the CARA ACT 2018 of a sum of total of Ksh130Milion
2. Need to budget for mitigation measures to COVID-19 Pandemic which pose a threat to the county and the country at large
3. Need to settle off the pending bills
4. Need for re-allocation of funds from the various department

Without taking a lot of time, I want at this point to request this House to approve this report so that the other arm of the County Government together with the County Assembly can move with maximum speed and with minimal delay so that we can consume the money before the end of the financial year and purchase equipments in the department of health and take measures in the department of roads so that drainage works can be taken care of.

It is now my distinguished honour to submit the Committee's report to this honourable House on the proposed Uasin Gishu County First Supplementary Budget for Financial Year 2019/2020 for approval.

The reasons for the supplementary budget have been provided and are well known to us. We have additional funds from CARA and secondly we have the pandemic that is in the country and the entire world. This is the reason we are behaving like this in the County Assembly putting on masks. We need to ensure that people in Uasin Gishu take precautionary measures so that the disease does not get closer home.

We have had heavy rains that have destroyed the roads foot paths and drainages in our areas. The roads that were recently murrumed have been washed away. We need to do something and do repairs. That is why we have done more allocation to the department of roads to handle the issue. This is the right time for us to do this supplementary budget; any delay will not be good for the people of Uasin Gishu.

With all those many communication in this report, I request this House to approve the third report of Budget and Appropriation Committee on the first supplementary budget and request honourable Hillary Rono to second.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. David Kiplagat): Thank you, Chair Budget. Honourable Hillary.

Hon. Rono (*Seconded*).

The Speaker (Hon. David Kiplagat): The Motion on supplementary budget has been moved and seconded, and I herby want to propose.

(Question proposed)

Ensuing debate!

Honourable Lamai.

Hon. Hosea: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I rise to support the Motion that has been moved by our Chair Budget and Appropriation.

First I want to appreciate this Committee. As a member, we had a lengthy deliberation on this supplementary budget. What necessitated this supplementary budget is very clear; it is the pandemic that is ongoing and we saw that it is very important that we consider appropriating monies for this. The situation might worsen and we might not find time to come to this honourable House. It is good that we do preparedness as early as possible.

Considering the rains that we have had for the last one month, our roads are not passable and by engaging our youth and women we might be able to open these drainages using the monies that we have already appropriated in our various wards.

I urge all the Honourable Members that we approve this report without amendment so that we allow the executive to start running some of these programmes as soon as possible. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. David Kiplagat): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Leader of Majority!

Hon. Lowoi: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker Sir. I stand to support the report of the committee on Budget and Appropriation in which I sit as a member. We all know what is going on in the entire world and in Kenya with the COVID 19 and the rains. There is need for re-allocation of funds that had been budgeted for other activities to go fight the pandemic and at the same time save us from the heavy rains.

This morning the Principal Secretary and Cabinet Secretary of Devolution gave figures showing Kenya has lost 30 people to COVID 19 but it has lost 222 people to floods that have affected this country. Many people have been displaced - around 100, 015 people have been displaced - and as we can see the rains are continuing and might take some time.

As we fight COVID-19, we also need to be ready to have some cash in our emergency fund to buy our people blankets when they sleep out and also buy them food so that we become a government that is responsive to people's problems. The pandemic is all over and it is increasing in doubles every day for the last one week; we are heading to over 700. Soon the country will be in problems because managing such a big number will be a problem because of facilities.

As Uasin Gishu County, we need to be prepared before we are caught up with time. An English man said if you fail to plan then you are planning to fail. This is just but planning and we need to be ready just in case anything comes around.

I support this report. Also, with the additional funds from the CARA approved from the Senate and the National Assembly of Ksh130Million, some grants were pulled out and re-allocated within the departments to suit the current needs of the county.

I stand to support and call upon all the Members to support this report.

The Speaker (Hon. David Kiplagat): Thank you, Leader of Government Business. Hon. Malel.

Hon. Malel: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I rise to support the report which has been tabled in this House by Chair of Budget and Appropriation Committee. The situation at hand was not anticipated and it has really hit the entire world. I thank the government for re-allocating some money so that we can deal with the pandemic. I represent people from my ward who survive on daily income where most of them depend on what they do on a daily basis and dine in the evening. Since business is not usual, these people are home and have nothing to do. I commend the allocation on the budget by the executive arm of the government so that these people can have food.

Hon. Speaker, the challenge that has been brought by the rains is due to climate change since in the recent past we have not experienced it. There are a lot of floods and my ward has been hit hard leading to the displacement of people. When we get these funds I believe that it will help our people to move on with their lives.

I support the report because I am also a Member of the Budget and Appropriation Committee and urge all the Hon. Members to support so that we can help our electorate and the good people who live in this County. I support.

The Speaker (Hon. David Kiplagat): Thank you, Hon. Malel. Hon. Butuk.

Hon. Tarus, D: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I rise to support this supplementary budget and before I do so, I thank the Chair and Members for Budget and Appropriation Committee for coming up with this budget. Supplementary budgets are done to help the government in realigning its budget and this has come at the right time because these programmes have to go on up to June. If not that way, the monies might be rolled over and in view of the fact that we are faced with the COVID-19 pandemic which needs money in order to be contained. My only concern is that these monies channelled to contain the COVID -19 should be used in the right way because there have been concerns even from the National government that Ksh40 Billion was set aside and yet it was not felt on the ground. It will be very good if the government would take its role very seriously so that our people will feel there is value because many people are not working as they have been told to stay at home and they need help. This is the right time and the fact that Ksh130 Million from CARA (County Allocation Revenue Act) was added into our budget then it necessitates this supplementary budget to be passed.

With those remarks, I support. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. David Kiplagat): Thank you, Hon. Butuk. Hon. Korir.

Hon. Korir, K: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I support this report that has been brought by the Chairman – Budget and Appropriation Committee where I am also a Member. This budget will be of great assistance to this County and especially now that we have the COVID- 9 pandemic which has affected the world and, as a County, we have also been much affected.

There is another emerging problem caused by rain havoc and I think since 1968 we have never experienced such kind of rain. As the leaders of Uasin Gishu County, we need to find a way because you will find that some houses have been built on riparian areas that is the most of the houses where washed away. As a county we need to plan for such people. Many families have been misplaced because of flash floods and also crops around the valley have been washed away. As we discuss this budget and appropriation, I want us to support the motion because our people are suffering yet we do not have money. Let us pass this supplementary budget so that we use the money to construct roads in the affected areas. As it had been mentioned by Honourable Members, we had constructed roads before the rains started but they have been swept away because of heavy rains. It is high time that we passed this motion with speed for implementation process to start.

I support this Motion.

The Speaker (Hon. David Kiplagat): Honourable Sang.

Hon. Sang, K: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to also add my voice to this supplementary budget. As I contribute, I wish from the onset to thank the committee and the able Chair for coming up with this noble supplementary budget. This time round the supplementary budget is sensitive because we are trying to balance development and a need that has come to us because of the pandemic.

I wish to congratulate Budget Committee for appropriating enough resources for personnel protective equipment. You realize that as we fight the pandemic one of the key issues that has been raised time and again in developed countries that were hit severely by the pandemic we have lost many of our health workers in our county. This is going to address the fears that the health workers have. You can imagine walking into a room that has patients who have this virus and you are well resourced in terms of protective equipment. This will go a long way to fighting this pandemic. The war against this virus will be won when we properly resource our health workers and also in terms of equipment and drugs. This budget is addressing the need effectively and I only wish that this can be moved with much speed.

I was talking to a nurse who works in one of my facilities and they are really worried because they do not even have masks.

With those many remarks I hope that the Budget and Appropriation Committee on Implementation will push the executive to move fast so that we address this issue as we come to the end of financial year.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. David Kiplagat): Thank you, honourable Sang. I can give the mover of the motion an opportunity to reply.

Hon. Ngetich: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me take this opportunity to thank Honourable Members for supporting this motion. We still have the Supplementary Appropriation Bill that we are likely to discuss on Wednesday. I urge Honourable Members to come in numbers so that we can support the Supplementary Appropriation Bill because the two have to go hand in hand.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. David Kiplagat): Honourable Members, there being no other contributions on the Motion, I hereby put the question.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker (Hon. David Kiplagat): There being no other business in our Order Paper the House stands adjourned until our next sitting.

The House rose at 4.15 pm