

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF UASIN GISHU

THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 22nd September, 2021

The House Met at Assembly Chambers at 3:40 pm

[The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir) in the Chair]

PRAYER

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Clerk!

NOTICE OF MOTION

TENANCY POLICY FOR COUNTY RESIDENTS HOUSES

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Hon. Mary Goretti Boroswa.

Hon. Boroswa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. Allow me to give the Notice of the following Motion:

Aware that the County Government of Uasin Gishu inherited residential houses from the defunct Municipal Council of Eldoret; **Further aware that** these houses are intended to offer affordable housing to County staff and attract revenue; **Noting that** some funds were set aside for fencing and refurbishment of some houses; **Concerned that** there is no policy on the tenancy of County residential houses; **Further concerned that** there is no data on the tenants currently occupying these houses: This Honourable House urges the County Government of Uasin Gishu to:

- 1) Provide to this Assembly a list of all tenants occupying all County residential houses.
- 2) Prepare and submit to this County Assembly a tenancy policy on County residential houses.
- 3) Prepare and submit to this House a report on rent collection procedures for all County residential houses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Thank you, Honourable Members. The motion will move this afternoon as scheduled by the House Business Committee (HBC) and indicated on supplementary orders on the day. Hon. Tenai, on behalf of Leader of Majority.

NOTICE OF MOTION

ADJOURNMENT OF SITTINGS

Hon. Tenai: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I beg to give notice of the following motion:

That this House do adjourn its sitting pursuant to standing order No 25(3) for a period of 14 days starting from 22nd September to 5th October 2021, both days inclusive in order to allow Honourable Members to conduct their business outside the station.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Thank you. Clerk.

STATEMENTS

RECOVERY OF OR COMPENSATION FOR TRADER'S IMPOUNDED GOODS

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Hon. Ramadhan Ali.

Hon. Werambo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. I wish to make the following statement:

Aware that Uasin Gishu Government is known to encourage trade by providing a conducive business environment; **Further aware** that by doing so is one way of encouraging self-employment; **Cognizant that** the Uasin Gishu County Finance Act 2013 stipulates various charges to various businesses; **Further cognizant** that failure to comply to pay the required fee within the stipulated timelines the premises will be impounded and released on compliance; **Concerned that** one such trader by name Mbee Victor Musuta of mobile no. 0716 285864, 0701 550 475 operating outside opera building whose assorted goods worth Kshs. 300,000 were impounded in November 2020 and to date all attempts to get his goods back have fallen on deaf ear even after paying the required fee. I request the Leader of Government Business to liaise with the relevant department and bring a lasting solution to save our traders from harassment and ensure that one Mbee Victor Musuta gets his goods back or is compensated.

Mr. Speaker, attached are supporting documents on a goods that were collected. It was taken that he was selling his goods where he was not supposed to sell at that time. On follow-up, he paid all charges and fees that he was asked to pay in terms of penalty. On going to pick his things, the wares were nowhere to be seen and he has been going and coming back from 2020 to date. Nobody seems to care. That old man is now actually thrown back to ground without anything to do. He has children; he cannot take them to school. Even where he was living, he is now living in a very pathetic position.

Therefore, I wish through your chair, this response should come with immediate effect and let us assist this trader. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): What were some of his items?

Hon. Werambo: Mr. Speaker Sir, this old man used to sell those boxes, fuel jerry cans, *nyungus* (Pots), and *kibuyus* (Jerry cans). There is a list here of the things he used to sell outside Opera shop near the wholesale market. There is a list of those things, and he has a receipt of what he was asked to pay, but when he went there, he did not get his things and he has not been given to date.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Thank you, Hon. Ramadhan, for that statement and the attachments of the items. I will give direction for both statements.

Hon. Member for Ziwa, you can proceed with your statement.

BROKEN-DOWN GRADER IN SOY SUB-COUNTY

Hon. Korir, K: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to make the following statement:

Aware that the department of Roads, Energy, Transport and Public Works has twelve graders and other machines used for road construction and maintenance; **Further aware that** the department assigned two graders to each of the six sub-counties; **Concerned that** in Soy Sub-County, only one of the two graders is working while the other grader KCA 227 has been down for the last one year. This has greatly caused poor service delivery in road maintenance within the Sub-County.

Mr. Speaker Sir, can the Leader of Government Business through the relevant department furnish this honourable House with information on measures the department is taking to repair the stalled grader, and what they are generally doing to ensure that roads are well maintained in the County.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I have brought this statement because of the problem in Soy Sub-County. We have twelve graders in the County, where each Sub-County has been allocated two graders. One of the graders in the Sub-County broke down one year ago. We have been going to the concerned County Executive Committee Member (CECM), the Chief Officer (CO), and even the people in charge at the department, but there are no answers.

There was a time, Mr. Speaker, I even went out of my way and tried to call the Chairman for our general Welfare, Hon. Muya, who is also a Chair in his Sub-County, to assist us to tackle this issue. All the seven MCAs in Soy---

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): What is out of order?

Hon. Tenai: (*On a point of order*) Hon. Speaker, I want to understand the relationship between a Chair, Welfare, and the department of roads in terms of the grader. I do not know and that is where I fail to understand because this Honourable House has the Chair in charge in Roads, Energy, Transport and Public Works. Why would you be engaging a Chair, Welfare? What is the relationship?

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Hon. Member for Ziwa, you can proceed. I do not know how you came up with that.

Hon. Korir, K: Mr. Speaker, we met with Hon. Muya when we were complaining as members from Soy. Then I asked him to accompany us to the CEC's office to address and help us with the issue in Soy. He can attest to that. Now, the CEC, CO, Director, and the engineers at the department assured us that by Friday that week, the grader would be working. That Friday is almost a month ago now. That is why I thought it wise to see we can do for Soy. This is because we are in the eleventh hour and there is nothing that we are doing as seven members from Soy.

Mr. Speaker, I asked myself which other office could help. It is now the office of the Leader of Majority that can intervene. Maybe we were not heard by the department and that is why I have

brought this statement to the House. In fact, my concern was that grader, KCA 227; however, there are other graders and bulldozers that have broken down.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the other day when we were doing a supplementary budget, we were told that these machines would be repaired. To date, that machine is still down together with others. Again, we are asking ourselves, we are going for another supplementary budget while this machine is still lying there.

I brought this statement today because we might leave this Assembly before this machine is repaired. Therefore, I am seeking this statement so that we can see what to do as House to help Soy Sub-County. We cannot use one grader that always breaks down. We even use our own money for repairs, and you can even bear us witness. Most of these honourable members go to their pockets to sort minor repairs while there is a budget for maintenance of these machines.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, that is the explanation. I do not want to say much. We want the Leader of Majority to assist us as an Assembly. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Thank you, Honourable Member for Ziwa and Honourable Member for Kiplombe for the two statements. The statements are deemed directed to the Leader of Government Business. Though he is not in, Clerk, I want us to be serious now in terms of these statements. I want to borrow a leaf from The Senate; they have a tracking system. For our case, since we do not have the system in place now, create a hard book where you will indicate the name of the member who gave the statement, the time the statement was given, and the concern raised.

I therefore direct that within 14 days, the two statements should be responded to. We should henceforth be tracking statement using our small hard book here until the systems are in place.

We already have about three statements now. Clerk, ensure that you indicate the first statement from Hon. Tenai, when he presented it and the date given to the Leader of Majority. This should apply to the other two for record purposes so that we can track them. The statements stand directed to the Leader of Government Business, and within 14 days, we expect him to give a report on the same. Clerk.

MOTION

TENANCY POLICY FOR COUNTY RESIDENTS HOUSES

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Hon. Mary Goretti Boroswa.

Hon. Boroswa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. Allow me to move the following Motion:

Aware that the County Government of Uasin Gishu inherited residential houses from the defunct Municipal Council of Eldoret; **Further aware that** these houses are intended to offer affordable housing to County staff and attract revenue; **Noting that** some funds were set aside for fencing and refurbishment of some houses; **Concerned that** there is no policy on the tenancy of County residential houses; **Further concerned that** there is no data on the tenants currently occupying these houses: This Honorable House urges the County Government of Uasin Gishu to:

- 4) Provide to this Assembly a list of all tenants occupying all County residential houses.

- 5) Prepare and submit to this County Assembly a tenancy policy on county residential houses.
- 6) Prepare and submit to this House a report on rent collection procedures for all county residential houses.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are all aware that during the defunct Municipal council, we had residential houses, which were actually meant to be occupied by employees of the County. Currently since we have devolved this to the County government, I want to believe that the same residential houses should be serving this County government of Uasin Gishu and the reason why we are requesting for the three from the executive is because one, we want to safeguard those residential houses.

We are all aware that people can easily change user of those houses by making them private and, at the end of the day, you might find it having turned to a personal property. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, one reason we would really want to have the records straight is to stop anyone or any private investor taking those houses to belong to him or her.

Secondly, these houses were provided so that the workers can work very effectively and efficiently. We have workers of the County Government of Uasin Gishu. For example, even for the teachers within the towns, we have servant quarters for teachers within the school premises. Nevertheless, you will find that those houses are currently not even being occupied by the teachers; they are occupied by people who are not even working for the school and yet this is a premise that is within the municipality.

These houses are all over and again we allocated funds for fencing and even refurbishing the houses, but who are in this houses, are they providing services to the people of Uasin Gishu or they are just there and for how long is one supposed to remain there and who is collecting the rent and how is it being collected at the end of the day.

I want to believe that this honourable House is going to support this Motion so that we safeguard the properties and the same facilities should give service to the people through efficiency and effectiveness in terms of working.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I want to request Hon. Werambo to second.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Hon. Ramadhan.

Hon. Werambo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although I would wish to second, some issues should be put correctly, whatever the mover has said.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): You either decline to second.

Hon. Werambo: Yes, I decline.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): I can still exercise discretion and allow Hon. Gorette to have another Member seconding that, and then it will be a subject to discussion.

Hon. Boroswa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. May I request Hon. Talam to second. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Hon. Member for Soy.

Hon. Talam: Thank you very much, Hon. Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to second this Motion.

To me this Motion has come at the right time because we have County houses; we have our County staff who are working for this County government of Uasin Gishu yet some of them are not housed. We have these houses but we do not know how much the tenants, who are there, are paying.

We have put a lot of money in these houses. We are aware that in our budget we have seen a lot of money being pumped in terms of making sure that there is a perimeter wall. Yesterday we were going round to oversight some projects. We went to rehabilitation centre; when we were going there, we saw some houses, which have been occupied by people.

The county government has put a perimeter wall to all those buildings. We assume the government is investing a lot in those houses because of the security purposes. As we put a lot of money there, it is also our concern as an assembly, to know how much we are collecting from these houses, how much people the tenants are paying for these houses where were putting a lot of money.

We want to have a data for us to know how much we are getting from all these estates that the tenants are occupying.

We have to ensure also that our workers get where to stay. From the information, it is within our knowledge that these houses are the cheapest so far. Putting into account the fact that the remuneration of ours staff is not that good, it will be better if we house these staff in some of these houses. However, it does not say we chase away those other tenants who have been leaving there. Let us try to balance.

As we renovate, we also ensure that our staff get somewhere to stay. The important part of this is to know how much we are collecting from these houses.

If we are getting good money that is enough for us to put more funds for renovation, security, lights and water, We have to weigh between putting more money in these houses. Are we getting enough income but if not then we weigh options.

This Motion has come at the right time and it is good if this assembly will be provided with the list of houses and with the tenants living there and then the policy that will govern.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): What is out of order?

Hon. Muya: Though the eyes of the chair are always blind, I do not know what we need to do because we do not have a quorum, I do not know what the quorum is. kindly guide us.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): I can see how many members are there virtually. Clerk?

(Clerk reported three Members were present virtually)

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): In the chambers?

(Clerk reported seven members were present in the Chambers)

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): We have not met the quorum. We need at least 13 in view of the COVID protocols.

I am aware that there is a committee that never followed the instructions in the morning. That committee is hosting members from the County Service Board and it has requested to seek leave. We can still proceed as I do some consultations with the Whip. Proceed.

Hon. Tallam: Thank you so much, Hon. Speaker. As I had said we need the other side of the government to prepare and submit to the County assembly tenancy policy that will help govern the administration of these houses.

We also need a clear and properly outlined report on how rent is being collected from this particular houses honourable Speaker.

This is a good Motion that has come at the right time, Hon. Mary Goretti. We need to have data of all these so that it can also assist in policy formulation, So that whatever we are doing here there is value for money.

Therefore, I stand and I urge all other Members to support this Motion. I stand to support, Hon. Speaker. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Thank you. A Motion has been moved, it has been seconded by the Member representing Soy Ward. I therefore propose the question.

(Question proposed)

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Ensuing debate, Hon. Members! Hon. Member for Kiplombe!

Hon. Werambo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. I stand to oppose this Motion. Why?

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Point of order! What is out of order, Hon. Muya?

Hon. Muya: Mr. Speaker, learning is truly a continuous process and because I want to be a better parliamentarian than yesterday, I want through your Chair to guide this House especially me about the Standing order talk, when the quorum has been asked.

And two, on seeking leave of a Committee that is supposed to sit while the plenary meeting is ongoing. What do the Standing orders direct? Because this is a House of rules and you have used your discretion. But because I am learning, I would to get to know better because whatever we are doing here is for posterity. And whatever we are discussing here is very important and that is why I saw you consulting with the- so that he can whip Members. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Thank you, Hon. Member, for that concern. I was consulting in terms of quorum. We can confirm the quorum now and then I give the direction on the second bit of Hon. Member's concern.

Order, Hon. Ramadhan! You will have a dissenting voice in due course. Confirm the quorum. Just have in terms of number. Clerk! Why should you consult with the Deputy Whip?

(14 Members present in total; three virtual and 11 in the chambers)

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): We have met the quorum to transact the business. However, I want to seek the indulgence of the Members because if the discussion will prolong, then there will be no quorum. It will subject the Chairperson now to give further direction over the same.

On seeking the leave, it is the discretion of the Chairperson basing on Standing order No.1 to see the weight of the matter. The issue at hand, at Public Service Management (PSM) is an issue touching on our employees and on the recent recruitment of interns; internship it was considered under Standing order, Hon. Muya; on a weighty matter within the county concern. That is the direction.

Order, Hon. Member. I have already given direction over that. It is a weighty matter. Proceed, Hon. Member for Kiplombe Ward!

Hon. Werambo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I had started, I oppose this Motion. First, as a government; County Government of Uasin Gishu. If you go to our Constitution 2010, there is a provision that is written; ‘we have to provide low-cost houses for our residents.’ This is not the first county to have inherited houses from the defunct local authority.

These houses were not meant for staff. It was a provision of houses for residents; low cost houses for urbanized residents who are living in Eldoret town. That was the then Eldoret Municipal Council.

Mr. Speaker, the issue of providing the list of the occupants in the residential houses is totally in order. But the issue of tenancy policy to be put in place in place is in order, the issue of report of collection procedures is totally in order because we have to be informed about the same.

But Mr. Speaker, the issue of saying that we as the Assembly, we have provided funds the way it has been said; it is the World Bank that we used because of urbanization. And why I am saying I should; the language used here,...as staff and we are asking the executive to come and give us a report on the same on what we have asked. I have been in this leadership for some time; we pass some issue in this County Assembly but if not well narrated, when it goes out, you get that our people suffer.

We go by this, tomorrow you will get all other members or all other residents who are living; who are non-staff will be removed from the houses.

Mr. Speaker, what has been taking place now; that is why I am saying the issue of policy is in order, is that the Chief Officer (CO), in charge of housing can wake up in the morning and say that this is what we are supposed to do. And it is just the other day when the residents had gone to court. It took so long to finish that case because that policy is not there. And so guidance in terms of the residents who are living there is not properly, you know, stipulated.

So Mr. Speaker, if it goes on like this and it is strength of saying these houses are meant for staff, it goes there. Tomorrow somebody goes to court, we are still not going to realize the revenue that we are looking for. Revenue is there, people living in those houses are there, they have not refused to pay or do anything as per the terms and conditions that would-but the language being used, I am afraid it is going to be misused when it goes to the department.

Mr. Speaker, even now, as I am talking to you, I have been attending to many cases between the tenants and the department. They do not agree because of lack of policy. You get today there is harassment but where to these tenants run to? They go to court; it takes a lot of time. Therefore, this motion is good for us to be told the status of our estates. It is good for the House to be aware of all that has been asked by the mover of the motion.

But, Mr. Speaker, the language used or what the Motion is saying. As per constitution, we are supposed to provide the low-cost housing or shelter. As the constitution says, we should provide clean drinking water for our residents and this one goes in line with that.

However, Mr. Speaker, what I am saying will take place here. You get that a worker, who tomorrow may be given or released to live in this House; may be retires or dies; he has a family through this person goes to be buried and the next minute the family will be evacuated. Why? It is Because of saying this estate belongs to the staff.

So, Mr. Speaker, the idea is not bad, but the framing and the way it may be taken here is misinterpreted. Tomorrow when the outcry comes, people are removed from house these houses and the answer being given is that the County Assembly is one who directed us to do this.

This would be the way we had an outcry in the street, about the hawkers. We just said offenders should be arrested the hawkers, not chasing and beating them around. But you yourself what happened in streets saw and even we discussed this in the House. It was misinterpreted by the department and what happened in the field was actually very wrong.

So, Mr. Speaker, the idea is good, but the language that should use ... let us use the language so that even it goes to department, it can open up Pandora's box for somebody to do something other than the intention the House had . This is because I know we understand what we want and what we demand . However, to them they do not understand and they say, "Today I do not have a house and they have said this." now it will be misinterpreted and things may go wrong/bad on the ground.

So, Mr. Speaker, I felt we should have used a better language urging the County Government to provide affordable housing for its residents. However, it may be a challenge for everyone to get a house because they are few. But any member or any resident of Uasin Gishu, you have chance of getting a space to be tenant. Therefore, let that person to be allowed.

This is because not everybody is able. Maybe you have a job here you cannot commute from home, you cannot go to private housing because you cannot go for same level in terms of payment with these government houses.

These are government property, and therefore you cannot put a comparison with the private developers. So, Mr. Speaker, what we passing today, tomorrow another generation, seated in this house, will either be benefit or we suffer. Tomorrow maybe a grandson will get a job in this town and may be will be denied an opportunity to occupy a house yet there may be space.

Not everybody can have his or her plot and build. So, Mr. Speaker, the issue of saying this was made for staff that is wrong. Because we do not have anywhere that it was written they were made or built for the purpose of giving for staff.

The staff only got a chance when the tenant in that House could pay the rent, then we removed the municipal council. Tenants could go to the housing department and the department would allocate the housing and the staff who were there were saying "we are here we do not have housing ."

Anybody could get the house following the procedure that were put there, but were not made for staff only. So if we live it to go like this, it will have a repercussion and this repercussion

may not affect only us. It will affect our future generation. Let us put it clear that County Government as per the constitution 2010, we are supposed to provide affordable housing and how we can provide is through our estates that we build. These estates belong to the County Government.

So Mr. Speaker, I would wish the mover of the Motion could withdraw and put it in the better language so that we ask for all the issues that we want to know to be brought to this House, for the House to have the knowledge and know-how. These are our assets and this is part of investment.

So it right for this House to know everything: who are the tenants? How are they paying? And also ask to put a policy. We need legislate on a better way that our tenants should live but not give a piece meal language that will go and affect other people tomorrow. When we say staff, it can affect anybody who is not a staff. Right now, I am an MCA but tomorrow I will not be. Maybe I am living in this house but my child will be removed from this house because a policy that we have made in this House our self .

So, Mr. Speaker, I requests my dear colleagues, let us not see now; let us see also tomorrow. If you can withdraw, rewrite it well in a good language that is going to be convincing now and tomorrow and to the coming generation ...

I stand to oppose, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Honourable Muya.

Hon. Muya: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I want to congratulate the mover of this motion, because the prayer is very valid. It is only a stupid person who cannot see the prayer or what of is being asked, Because, Mr. Speaker...

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Order, Hon. Member that language, stupid person, is not parliamentary.

Hon Muya: I will withdraw that. What I will say is only an unreasonable person who cannot see the intention of the prayer. The prayer of the motion is good; I totally support, but Mr. Speaker, the member who has just opposed or from the Floor have just suggested is only a sentence that has brought the all issue.

Because having the institution memory, the building were constructed long time ago and were never made for staff. In fact, the 95% of the occupiers were never staff. The only houses, which were strictly mentioned the occupiers were the housing for teachers in school . But all other Estates: Macharia, Kodhek were made to offer affordable housing to the great people working within Eldoret municipality. Even Wareng County Council had houses in Kilimani as a way to offer affordable housing and to have an income.

Therefore, it will be wrong to insinuate that they were made for the staff of either for defunct councils or the current County Government of Uasin Gishu . Therefore, I propose we amend this motion because it is good, by only deleting the issue of the County staff because the intention is to offer the affordable housing, but not for staff.

Therefore, I propose that we pass this with amendment by deleting the word the ‘County staff.’ However, the other issue is a noble idea and very good.

AMENDMENT MOTION

RESOLUTION TO DELETE WORDS

Hon. Muya: I do not know whether I am in order, Hon. Speaker. If I am in order, I propose that the Motion on the Floor of the House is amended by deleting the words, ‘to County Staff’, because it was meant to offer affordable housing to whoever. That is County staff and even the members of the public.

I therefore move that Motion, that we pass this Motion with that amendment by deleting that phrase, ‘to County staff’ and ask Hon. Gilbert Tenai to second.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Thank you, Honourable Member for Langas. The procedure for moving an amendment is stipulated under our standing order. In view of the importance of this Motion, I will exercise my discretion and allow that amendment to be moved within the Floor of the House. I request Hon. Tenai to proceed and second.

Hon. Tenai: Thank you, Hon. Speaker, for allowing me to second what Hon. Muya has suggested where we amend the Motion. We propose an amendment by deleting the phrase, ‘to County Staff’, to read, ‘further aware that these houses are intended to offer affordable housing attract revenue’. I support the amendment simply because this is a noble Motion that will address some of the challenges that we face currently in terms of those occupying the houses.

Mr. Speaker, as the County Assembly, we passed in this House a Finance Act which is currently operational for the previous year. We are also awaiting the one for this Financial Year. As a member of the Finance Committee, there are rates that we passed in this House for those low-cost houses where we have the residents of Uasin Gishu living in the same houses.

Hon. Speaker, this amendment is important because we need to know the Tenancy Policy so that we stop the issues of litigations all the time. I am meant to understand that there are houses that were occupied by people who were in Uasin Gishu some time back and the same people are now getting rent from the people occupying them now. This is because there was some goodwill for those occupying them now.

Mr. Speaker, if this Motion will be approved by deleting that part as proposed, we will be able to establish the current genuine tenants who should be paying directly to the County Government of Uasin Gishu. That is where we really need to ensure that we remove all these problems. For the purposes for those who are staff of the County Government, who have secured the same buildings, we want to establish if they are paying or there is a check-off arrangement. This is because there is no need for somebody to reside in the houses and he is not paying revenue to the County Government yet he still earns a house allowance. This Motion will also address this situation.

Hon. Speaker, housing is a very important factor in the big four agenda that was moved by the current leadership in the national government. It had a very good intention of providing low-cost houses. This was realised way back by the defunct Municipal Council and the Wareng County Council. We want to laud them for that venture. However, the dream by the Jubilee National Government has not been implemented because there was a lot of push and pull in terms of the political breeze that happened after the handshake. This has caused many issues.

Hon. Speaker, when we were at the Devolution Conference sometime back in Kakamega in the year 2019, I remember very well that Uasin Gishu was one of the counties that had been identified for funding by the National Government for low-cost houses. We even entered into an agreement with the Permanent Secretary (PS) for the ministry at that time that they were pumping a lot of money for low-cost housing. That has not happened.

Hon. Ramadhan here talked about the upgrading of those houses in terms of fencing and maybe painting, and that the money was given by the World Bank. However, the same County Assembly is the one that appropriated the same funds whether from World Bank or whichever consolidated accounts. We are equally tracking what these funds did in that department. Where the money came from is not the issue; the issue is that the money was appropriated in this County Assembly, and that is why we also need to pass this Motion for purposes of addressing the challenges that have been seen by the members representing the town wards.

Mr. Speaker, I know most of the estates fall under Hon. Ramadhan's Ward. He is talking out of experience because there have been many complaints. If by deleting the phrase as proposed will not offend anyone, it will be a good Motion. I do support. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Thank you. A Motion of amendment has been moved on the substantive Motion that we delete the phrase, 'County staff', so that it can be in line with the prayer.

(Question Proposed)

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Ensuing debate over that amendment, Hon. Members.

(Silence)

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): I therefore put the question.

(Question put and agreed to)

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): The ayes have it, Hon. Members. The Motion will read in part:

Aware that the County Government of Uasin Gishu inherited residential houses from the defunct Municipal Council of Eldoret; **Further aware that** these houses are intended to offer affordable housing and attract revenue.

Hon. Members, we can proceed with that amendment.

Hon. Member for Kimumu.

Hon. Malel: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. Let me first start by thanking the mover of the Motion for bringing this Motion to this House this afternoon. Indeed, I am one of the honourable members with these facilities. This Motion has reminded me what we carried out during our Ad-Hoc Committee sittings. We were concerned about the houses that even the courts condemned but you find that some of our staff inherited and lived in. That was a major concern and even to date, those people have not been moved from those houses.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the real meaning of devolution was even for the County Government to generate income to sustain themselves. I do not foresee from where I sit today the seriousness

that County Governments have; that is including ours, on the direction that they have now so that one day self-independent, that even if we say that we do not get allocation from the National Treasury, we can sustain ourselves by paying our staff and continue providing services for our people.

We are losing a lot in terms of revenue collection when we do not take serious concern to renovate and make sure that these houses really give us money so that we can sustain other projects in our County.

We have to learn. We shall not always be ticks but we have to learn how to get what is ours on our own, so that we do not always say the treasury has not released. Therefore, it can help us to move on. This Motion is timely. When we will have a policy to regulate and give us how we shall run these houses, then this one we will be heading in the right direction. In addition, we will be able even to project what we will be collecting to finance our budget and realize development.

It will also give us a very clear accountability when we want to interrogate the revenues that we collected from this department of lands. I want to believe that these houses are under lands currently.

During our budget, we can see that this department managed to generate this amount of money that supports our local revenue collection for our road development. Otherwise, I do support the Motion and thank the mover.

Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Hon. Member for Langas. Just a minute, let me allow a Member who wants to contribute virtually. She has been requesting for some time. Hon. Nancy, you can proceed.

Hon. Sang, N: Thank you, honourable Chair. First, I want to applaud the Hon. Member who has brought this Motion to the Floor. I want to commend Hon. Chomba for the amendment Motion supported by Hon. Tenai.

By this Motion, we will be able to profile the tenants who are there.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Hon. Nancy, a Member is on a point of order.

Hon. Werambo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. The Hon. Member contributing virtually does not know that we no longer have a Member called Chomba; it is Hon. Muya just to correct you. Even if we have Hon. Chomba, it is Mrs. Chomba not Chomba. Therefore, Speaker, I stand to be corrected.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): I think Hon. Nancy, it was Hon. Member for Langas. Hon. Muya, you can proceed.

Hon. Sang, N: Thank you. Hon. Muya, sorry for that. It is true that we need to profile the tenants not for any victimization but because we need to know the people who are leaving in these houses, and it is true that we are all beneficiaries of these houses. It does not matter whether you are a staff; as long as you are the resident of Uasin Gishu County and it is true and by so doing though it was not mentioned on the Floor. There is transition.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Sorry, the network has gone down. We can have her later but you can proceed, the Hon. Member for Langas, and sorry for that short interruption.

Hon. Muya: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I always laud the Hon. Member who was on the Floor virtually because she makes effort whether she is around or not around.

Hon. Sang, N: So I really support this Motion. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Thank you, Hon. Nancy.

Hon. Muya: I do not feel offended always when Members and friends confuse me with my late friend because even when he was alive, they were confusing us, so I do not feel offended, even the wife herself calls me Chomba.

I want to support the amended good Motion brought by Hon. Goretti. In fact this is what we say as leadership and having a foresight of where we are heading. Sometimes I wonder when I try to compare the current generation with the former generation because these houses were built by our Grandfathers. Some of us are their fathers and some of them were illiterate but they had this good vision of how to house the people who are working for us, the people who have come from rural area to town and they managed to do what we are seeing today.

The County headquarter where the Governor is sitting in was built then. It shows those leaders however they were, had a very good intention for this great County. For example, when they were vacating people from Macharia Estate, it did not really go well with me because it was as if they were killing the dreams of those fore fathers. What they ought to have done as a County government is to go for an open area within the same estate - because all the estates have those areas - come up with high rises where they can house the current few people who are in that estate and have excess houses for other new tenants.

For example, if you go to Kibera there was that good project by the government to have good and affordable housing units for Kenyans living there, but sometimes I wonder how we think as black people because the story goes those who were living in Kibera, even after being given chance to occupy new houses, did not take it. The houses were occupied by different people.

The Jubilee Administration had this good dream of offering housing units to Kenyans. Uasin Gishu was given the first priority as Hon. Tenai has stated. I was looking at it, for example, if you go to Pioneer Estate those County houses sit on a prime land but who are they housing? Very few people.

I was privileged to be taken out to Singapore by this honourable House. When you land in Singapore, you will see high rises, very big houses, taller than Daima Towers. You will think that this is the town centre but you are told that those are the housing units by the Singaporean.

What we need to think as the County government of Uasin Gishu, we just do not want to house our people; we want to give them affordable and good houses. We can have categories: bedsitters, one-bedroom or two-bedrooms because we have more than enough land. What we need to do ... this Motion first is asking very pertinent issues. We cannot go there without knowing the tenants occupying these houses, what is our capacity and currently what we are housing.

Two, we cannot moderate and make sure that that issue that we have; a tenant who is being paid for him to pay County Government because it is happening. By having this tenancy policy on county residential houses, we are going to moderate and make sure that there is nothing happening to the tenants that are being housed in our houses.

Three, it will help us to know the income we are getting currently. As honourable Sarah Malel has said, you know, it is so disturbing that all county governments wholly depend on the national exchequer transfer.

In the defunct councils, there was a policy that anything to do with personal emolument, you were to cater with your local revenue collection. That one moderated how many numbers could have been employed by either municipality or Wareng County Council. This is Because you could be given money only for development. However, for personal emolument, you were to collect and generate yourself.

Nevertheless, what is happening today? You see even very good houses like Kodhek that were high standard houses within the Eldoret Municipality; they were fenced by the name of renovation. Moreover, I doubt whether today they are being occupied. I doubt. Pardon? However, there was a time that there was that dispute. It seems that we are not keen.

Hon. Tenai: Point of order!

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): What is out of order?

Hon. Tenai: Honourable Speaker, I find honourable Ramadhan out of order to be answering Muya and Hon. Muya accepting actually; he has answered.

(Laughter)

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Too I am surprised because ... Order, Hon. Member for Langas! They are very senior Members of this House and they know the procedure. Proceed.

Hon. Muya: Sorry for that. Mr. Speaker, we have come from far. There were houses around Sayona, others in Elgon View areas. In addition, when the County Government came, they did not see it as a source of revenue. In addition, today this Motion after getting what we are requesting, we can have a plan for the future without even the national government.

For example, the Ksh500, 000, 000 that we were setting aside for new office building, I was thinking myself; if we could have identified place like Pioneer, and decide to come up with affordable housing units, we could have housed more that thrice of those tenants that we are housing today. In addition, by so doing, we would have increased our local revenue through housing.

Therefore, I think this information is going to inform the County Government of Uasin Gishu of where we are. In addition, whether we do we need to do to make sure that we have enough income. Mr. Speaker, if private sectors are busy building houses; residential houses that are always occupied. In addition, the price that they are giving out within town area is good enough to make that person to invest and another building.

Therefore, the County Government needs to go a direction of seeing the chance of increasing revenue in this sector. Moreover, that one can only happen when we get to know the capacity and the kind of tenants we have.

We want to know If our employees are paying as one Members asked. Maybe we are saying that that person or tenant has accumulated hundreds or thousands, and yet we are giving him or her salary each month. Who is the failure here? I think it is the County Government. Because they ought to have deducted from source, if so be it.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I think this Motion is timely and I totally support it as amended and ask other honourable colleagues to consider passing it because it is for the good of this County. I stand to support.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): I therefore now put the question, Hon. Members. I have now the amended Motion with me here and I want to assure the Hon. Member for Kiplombe that this is a copy that will go to the executive.

(Question put and agreed to)

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): The ayes have it, Hon. Members, and it has been taken, and I have also had some Members virtually who have also accepted this Motion.

Clerk!

MOTION

ADJOURNMENT

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Hon. Tenai on behalf of the Leader Of Government Business!

Hon. Tenai: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I beg to move the following Motion:

That this House do adjourn its sittings in terms of Standing order No. 25(3) for a period of 14 days starting from 22nd September to 5th October 2021 both days inclusive to allow honourable Members to conduct their business outside the station.

Honourable Speaker, this adjournment Motion is in respect on what is to happen on Friday 24th where, pursuant to Article 174 of the Constitution of Kenya, the County Governments Act and the Standing orders, we will be having a public participation for the Trade and Industrialization dealing with markets and for devolution and public administration that will be dealing with Uasin Gishu County Inspectorate Service Bill, that we are to subject it to the public participation on Friday.

Honourable Speaker, because of what has happened previously where this County Assembly at times receives some audit queries in terms of money being used but not finalizing the whole process. We need to be cognizant that value for money will only be realized when as public participation has been done, a report has been developed. Such that when we resume back to this honourable House, that report will have an opportunity to be tabled before the entire House.

Honourable Speaker, that is why we will be moving out for report writing and it will affect the normal plenary sittings for Tuesday and Wednesday. Because probably under normal circumstances we always go for six days because these are two Bills, it can be extended to seven days for purposes of the honourable Members ensuring that they sit and make a very good report.

Hon. Speaker, interfering with the sitting of Wednesday and Tuesday means that we resume back to this plenary House on 5th. That is why we are talking about the 15 days because it will affect the sitting for next week.

Honourable Speaker, that is actually why we are here to request that this House to request that this House do accept that we adjourn from today until on 5th. I want to request Ramadhan, who is the leader of minority to second this Motion.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Thank you. Honourable Minority Leader!

Hon. Werambo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I totally support the motion moved because we should leave a legacy; we should leave something that those who will come, will know that there were some members before them. So whether we are going to do, should make sure we brush and make everything in order, put everything in order.

This is Because, Mr. Speaker, it is just next year, so the time remaining time we have to make sure we brush everything, we put everything in order. Therefore, I totally agree with mover of the Motion that we adjourn for that number of days to be in position to do what we are supposed to do and bring report to this House. I stand to support. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon . Hosea Korir): Thank you. I therefore proposed a question.

(Question proposed)

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): Ensuing debate. Hon. Goretti.

Hon. Boroswa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First I thank the Honourable Members for amendment that they did in the first motion. I really want to appreciate.

Secondly, I want to support the adjournment of this House so that the Members be able to attend the public participation together with report writing . In addition, to do other business outside this honourable House. Mr. Speaker, which one will also give them time to interact with constituents while they will be outside there and we discharge other duties.

Mr. .Speaker, it is a requirement of the constitution that if there is any policy to be passed or any Act that needs to be recommended, it has to be taken through public participation. This is exactly what this honourable House is doing: Following what the constitution stipulates. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I want to say I support that because it also allows the members to able to exercise what the constitution requires of them.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker .

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): I therefore now put the question, Hon. Members.

(Question put and agreed to)

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): The ayes have it, Hon. Members. Before we adjourn, I want the direct the clerk to inform the two committees, particularly the committee on Trade and the committee on Devolution that on 5th they will tabling those reports.

We are not be extending a week or two. Immediately we come from out station, we will schedule those to be handles this within House Business Committee, So that we cannot have those prolonged period staying with reports. So stand guided, clerk, and inform them in advance. When they will be proceeding from 22nd , on 5th in the morning they will table the two reports, as the House Business Committee will schedule So that we do not have piled-up business within the Committee.

The Deputy speaker (Hon. Hosea Korir): There being no other business in our order paper, Hon. Members, The House stands adjourned until 5th of October 9:30 am.

The House rose at 5:00 pm