

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF LAMU



THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAMU

THE HANSARD

Thursday 2nd July, 2026

*The Assembly met at the
Main Chambers, at 2:30 p.m.*

[The Deputy Speaker (Honorable Paul Kimani Njuguna) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

[The Deputy Speaker (Honorable Paul Kimani Njuguna)]: Next Order.

Clerk-at-the-Table: Communication from the Chair.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

Re-committal of a petition to the appropriate sectoral committee

[The Deputy Speaker (Honorable Paul Kimani Njuguna)]: Honorable Members, I have a communication to make: -

Honorable Members, Pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution of Kenya, the County Governments Act, 2012, the County Assemblies powers and privileges Act, 2017, and the Standing Orders of the Lamu County Assembly relating to petitions and the referral of business to committees, I wish to make the following communication: -

Honorable Members, will recall that on Tuesday, 23rd June 2026, a petition by Lamu County Representatives of the Coast Regional Budget Hub and Faza

Youth Action Group regarding systemic non-compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements for public participation and transparency in the budget process was laid on the Table of the Assembly and subsequently referred to the County Assembly Procedure and Rules Committee for consideration.

Upon a review of the subject matter of the petition and the respective mandates of the Committees established under the Standing Orders, it has become apparent that the petition was inadvertently referred to a Committee whose mandate does not extend to the matters raised therein.

Honorable Members, the issues raised in the petition properly fall within the mandate of the Committee on Delegated County Legislation, justice and legal affairs which is responsible for considering matters relating to Constitutional Affairs Laws and Justice.

Inorder to ensure that the petition is considered by the Committee with the requisite jurisdiction and expertise and to uphold the constitutional right of every person to petition the Assembly. I hereby direct that the petition be withdrawn from the County Assembly Procedure and Rules Committee and referred to the Committee on Delegated County Legislation, Justice and Legal Affairs for consideration and reporting to the Assembly within the period prescribed under the Standing Orders.

The Clerk is directed to immediately transmit the petition together with all accompanying documents and records to the Committee on Delegated County Legislation, Justice and Legal Affairs and notify both Committees accordingly.

Honorable Members, the timelines for consideration of the petition shall commence from the date of its referral to the Committee on Delegated County Legislation, Justice and Legal Affairs unless otherwise directed by the House.

[The Deputy Speaker (Honorable Paul Kimani Njuguna)]: Next Order.

Clerk-at-the-Table: Statements.

STATEMENTS

Implementation of digital water meters by the Lamu Water and Sanitation Company (LAWASCO) in Lamu town.

MCA Mohamed Aboud Abubakar (Faza): Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker. Mr Deputy Speaker Sir, I rise to seek a statement from the Chairperson of the relevant Sectoral Committee responsible for water, environment and natural resources, pursuant to Standing Order No. 47 regarding the implementation of digital water meters by the Lamu Water and Sanitation Company (LAWASCO) in Lamu town.

Mr Deputy Speaker Sir, this statement is intended to safeguard consumer rights, promote transparency in public service delivery and ensure that residents of Lamu receive fair, accurate and accountable water billing services in accordance with the Constitution of Kenya, the Water Act, 2016, and the principles of good governance under Article 10 of the Constitution.

Mr Deputy Speaker Sir, water is an essential public service and every consumer is entitled to accurate billing, transparency in tariff application and adequate public information regarding changes affecting water supply services. Recently, LAWASCO has rolled out digital water meters in Lamu town. While modernization of water metering is a commendable initiative aimed at improving efficiency and accountability, numerous consumers have expressed serious concerns regarding the way the system has been implemented.

Mr Deputy Speaker Sir, residents have reported that they were not adequately informed about the operational changes associated with the digital matters. There is widespread confusion regarding water bills, as the readings displayed on the digital meters appear inconsistent with the amounts charged. Consumers are also unable to ascertain the applicable tariff per cubic metre of water consumed, making it difficult to verify whether they are being billed accurately.

The lack of public awareness and transparency has created uncertainty, mistrust and numerous complaints from consumers who are unable to match the units bought to the digital metre.

Mr Deputy Speaker Sir, inlight of the foregoing, I request the Chairperson to provide a comprehensive statement addressing the following issues: -

1. State whether LAWASCO conducted adequate public participation.
2. Provide the current approved water tariff structure applicable to domestic, commercial and institutional consumers, including:
3. Explain how the digital meters calculate water consumption, and how the recorded meter readings are converted into the amounts reflected on customers' bills.
4. Clarify why some consumers have reported discrepancies between the readings displayed on the digital water meters and the amounts charged on their bills.
5. State the measures LAWASCO has put in place to enable consumers to independently verify their consumption, understand their bills and lodge complaints where discrepancies arise.
6. Indicate whether the digital metering system has undergone independent testing, calibration and certification by the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS).
7. Outline the dispute resolution mechanism available to consumers who believe they have been wrongly billed, including the timelines for handling complaints and correcting erroneous bills.

[The Deputy Speaker (Honorable Paul Kimani Njuguna)]: Response from the Chairperson of the relevant Committee.

MCA Fahd Dini Adnan (Nominated): Asante Bwana Naibu Spika. Bwana Naibu Spika, ningeomba nipewe muda wa wiki mbili ili niweze kuleta majibu.

[The Deputy Speaker (Honorable Paul Kimani Njuguna)]: Honorable Mohamed Aboud, are you satisfied with two weeks?

MCA Mohamed Aboud Abubakar (Faza): Mr Deputy Speaker Sir, as I have said earlier this is a serious matter because its now 4 years now we haven't get fresh water in my Ward (Faza) and now this problem has now come to Lamu West. So we have to get the response by next week.

[The Deputy Speaker (Honorable Paul Kimani Njuguna)]: Honorable Fahd Dini, Honorable Mohamed Aboud is not comfortable with two weeks.

MCA Fahd Dini Adnan (Nominated): Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker. Mr Deputy Speaker Sir, I will try my level best so that I can come with the answer by next week In Shaa Allah.

[The Deputy Speaker (Honorable Paul Kimani Njuguna)]: What is it Honorable Hope Wanjiku?

MCA Hope Wanjiku Mwaura (Nominated): Bwana Naibu Spika jumanne niliweza kusimama na kufuatilia kuhusu kauli yangu ambayo nilikuwa nimeuliza kuhusiana na swala la "Mpeketoni Rocky Club" na Mheshimiwa Mohamed Aboud alisema ataweza kuniletea majibu jana lakini bado sijapata majibu, kwa hivyo ningependa anijibu.

MCA Mohamed Aboud Abubakar (Faza): Mr Deputy Speaker have tried my best and even wrote a letter to the Executive Member concerned but they have not respond.

MCA Hope Wanjiku Mwaura (Nominated): Asante sana Bwana Naibu Spika. Bwana Naibu Spika, tukiuliza maswali hapa Bungeni huwa ni matatizo yanawakumba wananchi huko mashinani, kwa hivyo bado sijaridhika na jawabu la Mheshimiwa Mohamed Aboud kwa sababu nimeuliza swali hili karibia mara tatu saa hii lakini bado sijapata majibu sahihi. Kwa hivyo iwapo

Waziri husika ameshindwa kujibu barua basi aweze kuja hapa Bungeni na aweze kutujibu ana kwa ana.

[The Deputy Speaker (Honorable Paul Kimani Njuguna)]: Honorable Mohamed Aboud as I can see this is an emergency issue and I direct by next week on Tuesday, please give us full information about street lights. Next Order.

Clerk-at-the-Table: Motion.

THAT, the Lamu County Maritime Training Institute Bill, 2026 be now read a first time.

[The Deputy Speaker (Honorable Paul Kimani Njuguna)]: Next Motion.

MOTION

Diversification of livelihoods and training on alternative livelihoods to reduce pressure on natural resources in Lamu County.

MCA Beatrice Wamaitha Munge (Nominated): Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker. Mr Deputy Speaker Sir, I beg to move the following motion: -

THAT, aware that a majority of residents in Lamu County depend directly on natural resources such as forests, fisheries and land for their livelihoods.

FURTHER AWARE THAT, overreliance on these resources has led to environmental degradation including deforestation, overfishing and depletion of biodiversity.

COGNIZANT THAT, limited access to alternative sources of income has contributed to unsustainable exploitation of natural resources.

NOTING THAT, diversification of livelihoods through skills development and training can provide sustainable income-generating opportunities while conserving the environment.

RECOGNIZING THAT, investment in alternative livelihoods such as eco-tourism, beekeeping, aquaculture, climate-smart agriculture and small-scale enterprises can reduce dependency on natural resources and enhance economic resilience.

FURTHER RECOGNIZING THAT, empowering communities with knowledge, skills and access to resources is key to achieving sustainable development in Lamu County.

THIS ASSEMBLY THEREFORE RESOLVES THAT:

- The County Executive Committee Members in charge of Trade and Agriculture develops and implements a comprehensive program for diversification of livelihoods in Lamu County.
- The County Government establishes structured training programs on alternative livelihoods, including but not limited to beekeeping, aquaculture, eco-tourism, handicrafts and climate-smart agriculture and market linkages for products generated through alternative livelihoods.
- The Department facilitates access to financial support, grants and microcredit to enable residents to start and sustain alternative income-generating activities.
- The County Executive partners with relevant stakeholders, including national government agencies, NGOs and private sector players to support training, mentorship and market access.
- The Department conducts public awareness campaigns on sustainable use of natural resources and the benefits of livelihood diversification and
- The County Executive ensures equitable access to the program, with special focus on youth, women and marginalized groups.

Mr Deputy Speaker Sir with your permission I would like to highlight a few things that I found are necessary to be considered. As we can see we are moving in a digital space and it is important if we can train the young men and women

that we have in our society so that we can have IT people and software engineering. When we come to the trade sector our young men and women are doing well in plumbing, carpentry and welding so when we uplift them we will end up tackle the issue of poverty in our society. The other sector that we can train our young men and women is business, they need to be taught on enterprenuership.

Seconder

MCA Hope Wanjiku Mwaura (Nominated): Asante sana Bwana Naibu Spika. Bwana Naibu Spika nimesimama kuchangia na pia kuunga mkono hoja iliyoletwa na Mheshimiwa Beatrice Wamaitha. Kama tujuavyo watu wengi katika Kaunti hii yetu ya Lamu ni wakulima na wavuvi, kwa hivyo wakipata mafunzo ya njia mbadala ya kutafuta pesa za kujikimu mahitaji yao basi Kaunti yetu ya Lamu itaweza kusonga mbele kiuchumi. Bwana Naibu Spika Kaunti yetu ya Lamu imebarikiwa sana kwa mfano eneo la Mpeketoni tuko na Lake Kenyatta kwa hivyo eco-tourism inaweza kutiliwa maanani na watalii wataweza kuzuru maeneo hayo na kuona viboko na hata vindege. Njia nyengine ya wananchi kujikimu kimaisha ni ufugaji wa nyuki. Kwa hivyo ningeimba Idara husika ishirikiane na washikadau na waweze kuwafundisha wananchi njia ya kutafuta pesa ili waweze kujikimu kimaisha.

Motion Proposed

Members Contributions

MCA John Mburu Gitonga (Hongwe): Asante sana Bwana Naibu Spika kwa kunipa nafasi ya kuunga mkono hoja iliyoletwa na Mheshimiwa Beatrice Wamaitha. Kusema kweli vijana wetu wanaenukia wakiwa na ujuzi wa kuvua samaki, kuwinda na hata kulima mashamba. Kwa hivyo hili wazo alilokuja nalo Mheshimiwa Beatrice ni wazo zuri sana ambalo litawawezesha vijana wetu kujishughulisha na shughuli tofauti tofauti na Kaunti yetu iweze kusonga mbele kiuchumi.

Mover's Response

MCA Beatrice Wamaitha Munge (*Nominated*): Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker and thank you Members for your support. It is now time to adopt the final activity so that it can be handed over for implementation.

(Question put and agreed upon)

[The Deputy Speaker (Honorable Paul Kimani Njuguna)]: Honorable Members, there being no other business, the Assembly stands adjourned until Tuesday 7th July 2026 at 2:30pm.

The Assembly rose at 4p.m.

