

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

GARISSA COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 18th December, 2024*The House met at the County Assembly Chamber,**Assembly Buildings, at 2. 30.p.m**[Hon. Speaker (Hon. Abdi Idle Gure) in the Chair]*

*Signed by Ibrahim Farah
DIRECTOR
19/12/2024*

PRAYERS

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIR

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Members, I have the following Communication to make; -

As you are all aware, today, 18th December 2024, we are belatedly breaking for the long recess following the extension of the regular calendar on 26th November by an extra two weeks.

Honorable Members, as we adjourn, I wish to take this earnest opportunity to thank Allah for His Guidance and Grace that has enabled reach this far.

I equally take this early opportunity to thank, to congratulate and to appreciate the Honorable Members of the County Assembly and the staff for their dedication in ensuring that the Assembly delivered its mandate

Honorable Members, I wish you well during the long break. I trust you all will have a wonderful and fruitful break together with your families and electorates, including a break for self and institutional evaluation and come back in February re-energized, reinvigorated and with a stronger sense of purpose to deliver for the people of Garissa.

I take immense pride and satisfaction, that we have made significant progress as an institution I wish to highlight some of the achievements:

New Assembly Building

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Honorable Members, as you remember the County Assembly buildings got burnt down but has since then been rebuilt and risen from the ashes like the proverbial phoenix. Today, we have state-of-the-art Chamber and offices block for the Honorable Members and their staff. We have recently also made the bold move of clearing the food kiosks that were at the main entrance and along the perimeter wall of the County Assembly. This Assembly now has a new look, a better ambience and is more secure.

Better Visibility

Hon. Members, in line with the provisions of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 on transparency, accountability and access to information, we have made a significant milestone in the way we engage the public.

We are among the handful few Assemblies that broadcast their proceedings via a live-stream. The broadcast of our proceedings has without doubt impacted audiences' perceptions and attitudes on overall roles of the Assembly. The communication team also shares updates and highlights of the proceedings to inform the members of the public about how well the Honorable Members are exercising their representative mandate.

Enhanced Legislation

Hon. Members, it is encouraging to note that this Third Assembly has so far processed and passed considerable number of legislations that provide legal framework for the operationalization and enhancement of service delivery in Garissa County.

Notably, we have approved the creation of 3 new Municipalities - Dadaab, Modogashe and Bura Municipalities. I am aware that the elevation of Balambala to a Municipality status is awaiting the completion of public participation by the concerned committee.

Honorable Members, the creation of municipalities is one thing, operationalizing them is another. I call on the House to ensure that the newly created municipalities are effectively operationalized and the transfer of municipal functions is executed in due course.

Most of these legislations have been enacted and operationalized. We have also debated and passed 10 substantive motions, considered 69 statement requests, processed over 45 committee reports and one (1) public petition that address the challenges of the people of Garissa and improve their socio-economic well-being. Congratulation MCA.

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This is attributed to capacity strengthening of Hon. Members and Secretariat who have exhibited high level of professionalism as well as enhanced civic education and access to information by members of the public.

However, we have had countless number of times the House adjourning owing to quorum hitches - an area we need to improve on when we come back from the long recess if we are to dispense more crucial matters.

Honorable Members, the issue of strict adherence to the dress codes should be an area we ought to improve on when we come back.

Improved Oversight

Honorable Members, courtesy of our new Standing Orders No. 48, we have invited 4 CECMs to appear before the full House and Committees to get clarification and answer queries emanating from the statement requests of the Members.

However, the Assembly will no longer condone dilly-dallies on the part of the County Executive for not honoring the invites when we resume in February 2025.

Honorable Members, I need to bring to your attention that County Allocation of Revenue Act 2024 has reduced the recurrent budget ceilings for County Assemblies. Our Assembly has lost about Ksh. 275 million. The County Assemblies Forum (CAF) is going to court to halt the implementation of the CARA 2024.

Going forward, we ask for your patience as the budgetary cuts will drastically affect the operations of the Assembly and I call on all to consider the prudent utilization of the scarce resources.

Moving forward, we remain committed to achieving our vision of being a model, independent and people responsive County Assembly in Kenya.

Hon. Members, as we break today, I wish to encourage you to take time off to refresh and reenergize as we look forward to even greater milestones next year, 2025. Insha'Allah I also encourage you to take time to be with your constituents so that you can build a better understanding of their feeling and challenges that we can seek to address when we resume next year.

Finally, I wish to take this early opportunity to wish all Hon. Members and staff a Happy New Year, 2025 and enjoyable holidays and festive season.

NOTICE OF MOTION

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Hon. Speaker: Honourable Khadija Idriss, Chair for Lands

Hon. Khadija Idris (Chair Lands, Physical Planning and Urban Development): Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following motion; That, this House Considers and approve the reports of the Committee on Lands, Housing, Physical Planning and Urban development on the Garissa Municipality Integrated Development Plan (IDeP) pursuant to section 111(6) and 14(3) of the County Government Act, 2012 and section 38 and 39 of urban Areas and Cities Act, 2011 (amended 2019)

Hon. Speaker: Next

Hon. Khadija Idris (Chair Lands, Physical Planning and Urban Development): Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following motion; That, this House Considers and approve the reports of the Committee on Lands, Housing, Physical Planning and Urban development on the Garissa Municipality Spatial Plan

Hon. Speaker: Table clerk next

MOTIONS

Procedural Motion

Hon. Speaker: Honourable Khadija

Hon. Khadija Idris (Chair Lands, Physical Planning and Urban Development): Mr. Speaker sir, I beg to move the following motion; That, the notices of motion given on this afternoon on the approval of the reports of the committee on Lands, Housing, Physical Planning and Urban development on the Garissa Municipality Integrated Development Plan (IDeP) and that of the Garissa Municipality Spatial Plan be exempted from the provision of standing order 57 (6) (b) of the county assembly standing orders that a notice of motion be given at least one day. I beg Honourable Timira to second me.

Hon. Speaker: Honourable Timira.

(Honourable Timira seconded through bowing)

Hon. Speaker: Honourable Timira seconded the motion and reserved her comments.

Pursuant To The Provision Of Standing Order 63(1) I Now Propose The Question; That, the notices of motion given on this afternoon on the approval of the reports of the committee on Lands, Housing, Physical Planning and Urban development on the Garissa Municipality Integrated Development Plan (IDeP) and that of the Garissa Municipality Spatial Plan be

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exempted from the provision of standing order 57 (6) (b) of the county assembly standing orders that a notice of motion be given at least one day.

From the mood of the House, I can now put the question. Put The Question pursuant To The Provision Of Standing Order 63(2) I Now Put The Question; That, the notices of motion given on this afternoon on the approval of the reports of the committee on Lands, Housing, Physical Planning and Urban development on the Garissa Municipality Integrated Development Plan (IDeP) and that of the Garissa Municipality Spatial Plan be exempted from the provision of standing order 57 (6) (b) of the county assembly standing orders that a notice of motion be given at least one day.

(Question put and agree to)

Next Honourable Khadija

THE CONSIDERATION OF GARISSA MUNICIPALITY INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN (IDeP)

Hon. Khadija Idris (Chair Lands, Physical Planning and Urban Development): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the following motion; That, this House Considers and approve the reports of the Committee on Lands, Housing, Physical Planning and Urban development on the Garissa Municipality Integrated Development Plan (IDeP) pursuant to section 111(6) and 14(3) of the County Government Act, 2012 and section 38 and 39 of urban Areas and Cities Act, 2011 (amended 2019). I beg Honourable Faqurdin to second me

Hon. Speaker: Honourable Faqurdin

Hon. Faqurdin: I stand to second

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Proceed Honourable Khadija.

Hon. Khadija Idris (Chair Lands, Physical Planning and Urban Development): Mr. speaker, I hope ever member has a copy of the report. The report is voluminous, I want to guide members the pages that I will be reading. Thank you.

On Acknowledgement Mr. Speaker Sir, the production of this report is a testament to the dedication and commitment of the Members of the Committee, who, despite their demanding schedules, devoted their time to attend meetings and deliberate on this report. The Committee extends its gratitude to the offices of the Speaker and the Clerk of the County Assembly for their invaluable planning, coordination, and facilitation of this undertaking. We also

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recognize and appreciate the efforts of the Secretariat, which provided essential technical and legal support during the review and approval process of this plan. NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to Section 111(6) and Section 14(5) of the County

Governments Act, 2012, and Garissa County Assembly Standing Order, the Committee hereby submits to this House the report on the consideration of the Garissa Municipality Integrated Development Plan (IDeP) for approval by this House.

Mr. Speaker Sir, on page 13. Considering these legal requirements, it is evident that rapid urbanization is placing significant strain on the resources and infrastructure of our municipalities and towns. As urban populations grow, there is an urgent need to plan for effective management of these increases. Approval of the Integrated Development Plans (IDeP) will serve as a vital tool to address the challenges anticipated within Garissa municipality.

This planning approach empowers Town and Municipality Management Board to manage and mitigate emerging challenges effectively. With such plan in place, Garissa municipality can guarantee an improved quality of life for the residents. However, given the dynamic nature of urban spaces and population movement, planning must remain an ongoing process. On Effective Strategic Urban Planning Process Mr. Speaker, it is necessary that this House is informed of what makes or entails a comprehensive and effective Integrated Development Planning process. In this examination, the Committee was guided by the County Spatial Planning Guideline, 2018 developed by the Ministry of Lands and Physical Planning in collaboration with the Council of Governors (CoG). It was noted that, for the success or failure of any Integrated Strategic Urban Development Planning process, there are many factors combined to add to the success of these plans. For example, the plan focusses on the future and aim at predicting how each municipality's environment will look and function within a specified period of time. For the case of IDeP, the period for Garissa municipality spans as follows: -

On Committee Observations Mr. Speaker, on page 19. In light of the considerations made by the Committee on the Integrated Development Plan for Garissa Municipality, the Committee observed **THAT**:

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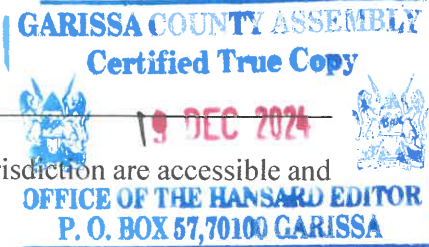
1. The preparation process of the integrated Development Plan (IDeP) was participatory and adhered to urban planning guidelines.
2. The Integrated Development Plan (IDeP) complies with all relevant constitutional and statutory requirements.
3. The plan effectively addresses the specific developmental and regulatory needs of Garissa Municipality.
4. The Integrated Development Plan (IDeP) identifies necessary interventions and promotes collaboration with stakeholders to ensure effective implementation.
5. The Integrated Development Plan for the municipality can be reviewed and amended annually, if necessary, as provided under Section 42 of the Urban Areas and Cities Act, 2011 (amended in 2019).
6. The Committee observed that due to inadequate planning, all the Lagas (streams) have been encroached upon.

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On Committee Recommendations Mr. Speaker, From the submissions made by the participants during the exercise, interactions with experts, the departmental officers and the committee deliberations, the Committee therefore, unanimously recommends that this House approves Garissa Municipality integrated Development plan 2023-2028 with the following recommendations: THAT:

1. This County Assembly APPROVES Garissa Municipality integrated Development Plan pursuant to Section 111 (6) and 14 (3) of the County Government Act, 2012 and Section 38 and 39 of the Urban Areas and Cities Act, 2011.
2. THAT the Municipality be granted autonomy to implement the transferred functions in accordance with its respective Charter of Service as outlined in the Third Schedule of the Urban Areas and Cities Act 2011 (as amended in 2019).
3. The Municipality Board to develop By-laws that shall govern and regulate activities, management and operations of this municipality in line with functions and powers bestowed upon them in section 56 of the Urban Areas and Cities Act 2011) and present to the County Assembly for approval.
4. The municipality shall submit quarterly reports on the implementation of the Integrated Development Plan 2023-2028 to the Assembly without fail.

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5. The municipality shall ensure that all buildings within its jurisdiction are accessible and inclusive for individuals with disabilities.
6. THAT When naming roads within the Municipality, the Municipality shall prioritize the recognition of local heroes and heroines.
7. Establish mechanisms for continuous Monitoring and evaluation to track progress and make necessary adjustments of Integrated Development Plan.

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On Conclusion, Mr. Speaker, The Committee is satisfied that the IDeP for Garissa Municipality adheres to all legal and procedural requirements and offers a comprehensive framework for sustainable urban development. Its approval will enhance the municipality's capacity to address urban challenges and improve the quality of life for its resident.

Attached are picture of the public participation. Thank Mr. Speaker

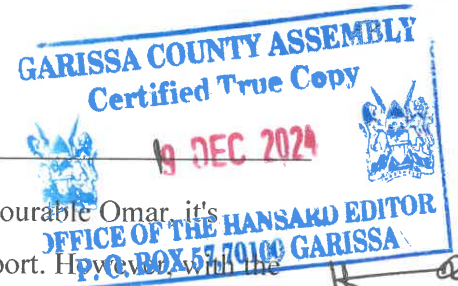
Hon. Speaker: I Now Propose the Question. Pursuant to The Provision of Standing Order 63(1) I Now Propose the Question; That, this House Considers and approve the reports of the Committee on Lands, Housing, Physical Planning and Urban development on the Garissa Municipality Integrated Development Plan (IDeP) pursuant to section 111(6) and 14(3) of the County Government Act, 2012 and section 38 and 39 of urban Areas and Cities Act, 2011 (amended 2019). Honourable Omar

Hon. Omar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I just saw some observations on this report. Mr. Speaker, it's good today we have seen through our direct Facebook live, that whatever was Honourable Chairlady was reading was appearing directly on the screen.

So, it's a good progress, Mr. Speaker, today that the people of Garissa County can prove that this assembly can be seen in live stream on the kind of progress that we are doing. Although, Mr. Speaker, on this report, there is only observation I have seen. It is very unfortunate because we have not seen coloured photos. This is a report which requires on documentation. Mr. Speaker, it's very unfortunate that this beautiful assembly and the kind of live media we are seeing and the kind of photos appearing on this report is very unfortunate.

Mr. Speaker, are we lacking the coloured photos? Do we have any problem concerning on documentation Because I could have seen some of my electorates could be appearing on a coloured photo.

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Hon. Speaker: Honourable Member, Honourable Omar, I said, Honourable Omar, it's important that we limit ourselves to debating the substance of the report. However, with the remarks you have made, I'm glad that you have also appreciated the fact that technology was used, that people of Garissa County are watching you live on those proceedings and the public participation that you have said.

Nevertheless, with the photos here, it's just meant for our internal consumption, but I'm glad that whatever will be put on the website, whatever will be projected on live proceedings are coloured. Therefore, and we wouldn't wish to bring coloured photos here. However, that is part of our prudent use of resources. Proceed, Honourable Omar. Do you have some other submissions to make? Thank you, Honourable Omar. Any other member? Honourable Timira, our Deputy Majority Whip.

Hon. Timira: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the members and chair for the Committee on Lands. We have done good work. I am a member and I should applaud that. Mr. Speaker, I happen to be there throughout when the public participation for IDEP for Garissa Municipality is being conducted. All those people who attended were people from all sectors of this Garissa County.

In fact, there is one person who represented disability who applauded the committee because this is the first time they were involved in public participation in this Garissa. For that, I think we have done great work. In their submissions, they were captured.

Mr. Speaker, people were so impressed with the integrated development plan because I think in the other report that is coming, they said the special planning for this Garissa County was done way back in 1982 or when some of us were not even born. So, Mr. Speaker, you can see when it rains in this Garissa, there's a lot of flooding everywhere because of the encroachment of the lagas that has happened. We appreciate that once we have adopted this report, we should emphasize on the implementation of this recommendation we have done as members of the committee and we should follow up so that Garissa will get back its lost glory, Inshallah. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Timira. Majority Leader, the Honourable Mohamed Farah.

Hon. Mohamed Farah (Majority Leader): Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, first I want to thank the Committee for Land. Honourable Speaker, I participated in

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the public participation that was done by this committee. I was part and parcel of the progress that came through the Committee for Land. Honourable Speaker, my colleague Honourable Timira said that a plan for Garissa was done way back in 1982, meaning that it was very necessary for the County of Garissa to undertake this process. Honourable Speaker, IDEP (Integrated Development Plan), is a strategic tool used for development. Mr. Speaker, Garissa is growing. Population is increasing day in, day out. There are a number of villages being formed or created. There are a lot of people who need water services close to their houses. You know, electricity poles are supposed to reach homesteads and this can only be done making sure that important plans are passed in the Assembly and make sure that this strategic tool must be used to make sure that we reach to the population that has not been reached since 1982. Honourable Speaker, it is only within the Garissa town that was planned in 1982, meaning various strategic points that people have now allocated lands far west of, you know, Waberi, including Galbet Ward, Ifin and all other areas, including township itself, has not been captured very well since 1982. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, this plan is very important for Garissa and we believe strongly that the commitment for this Land Committee is real. It has to keep the ball rolling, making sure that the executive arm works and make sure that the people of Garissa are reached in their far end so that water issues are resolved, making sure those plans affect and become effective programmes for the people who are living. Mr. Speaker, if you see when floods come in, there is havoc throughout. People of Garissa cannot even make sure that they attend to their daily duties because of those floods and all this is happening because of poor planning and with the effect of this plan, Honourable Speaker, it is my hope that all these problems will be resolved so that we see Garissa goes again and does a plan that will be effective in 2024, in the coming 10 years, so that we see people should not be settling haphazardly. There should be a plan to allocate where schools are supposed to be. We see where hospitals are to be allocated. Hospitals, other social amenities; Mr. Speaker and in that context, Honourable Speaker, I support the report of the committee and request the members to equally support this important report. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Majority Leader. The Honourable Minority Whip, Honourable Fatuma Shide.

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Hon. Fatuma Shide: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues to congratulate my super chair and the members, which I'm one of them. Mr. Speaker, the plan has just been brought on timely. Mr. Speaker, as the Majority Leader said this town has been planned. Some parts of this town have been planned in 1982. Not 90, but in 1982 by one of the councilors called Mzee Sahel Dumiye. They named him Sahel Dumiye but by that time, people were feeling it was bad because he was demolishing houses. But later we came to find out that that Mzee has really done a lot of good work. I believe with this committee and the CEO municipality, same will happen so that we can get access roads, feeder roads, and even the waterways to be unblocked. Because currently, you can see, if you go to where I come from Waberi, where I live, some people have even constructed on the laga. That laga is blocked and when it rains, that's how we are getting the floods. You see the markets; People were sitting like orahey right now when we removed it. It's because of the poor planning. The government houses had to be demolished so that we get a market for the community. Mr. Speaker, I also like the way the committee recommendation, one of the parts that says the quarterly report should be brought to this house, which means there will be a working relation between the municipality, the CEO municipality, and the members in this house like the lands committee. It's a way forward and a very important part of the report. Mr. Speaker, I also saw there was a lot of good things like if right now fire breaks in some parts of even the town that was planned like Garissa, just behind to build this *Suq-muqdi*; the houses are so congested that if one house burns, there's nowhere to access to help that house. If that community gets somebody died in one of the houses here in Garissa, just here across the assembly, there's nowhere even to pass the ambulance so that you can rescue that person. So, Mr. Speaker, I support the motion and I am one of the committee members and I will really help. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. The Honourable Mohamed Sheikh.

Hon. Mohamed Sheikh: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From the onset, I start to appreciate the good work of the committee headed by the able chair, Honourable Khadija Idris. Honourable Khadija Idris is a daughter born in Labasigale; That is where she was born and brought up before she schooled in Garissa. That is her area. So, I appreciate the good work she's doing and together with the committee Clerk.

(Point of order)

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Hon. Speaker: Honourable Omar, what is the point of order?

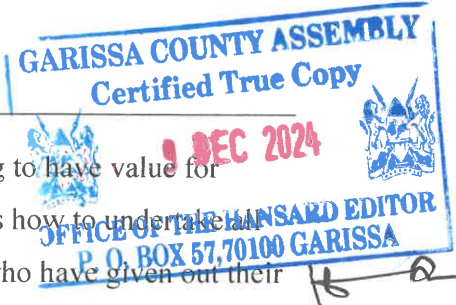
Hon. Omar: To correct the Honourable Member of Labasigale, I think the Honourable Member Khadija Idris has voted in Dadaab ward, Hajji Idris polling station. So, it's better to clarify. So, I'm just telling the Honourable Member to confirm that Honourable Khadija can confirm that and attest that she has voted in Hajji Idris Gali Secondary School. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for correction.

Hon. Speaker: Honourable Sheikh, you're being challenged.

Hon. Mohamed Sheikh: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know if the Member was very attentive. I said Honourable Khadija Idris was born in Labasigale. I was not talking about where she has voted in the last election, but I talked about where she was born and she's here. She can even attest to that and even during the voting, she voted in Labasigale Primary School. I think you can even avail her details from the IEBC records. Going forward, Mr. Speaker, as a member of this committee, we had engagement with the public during the public participation and one thing that I like about the public participation is it involves almost all the stakeholders that are required as per the guidelines and these were people who are professionals and who are very keen. They gave out a very... In fact, they interacted with the document and they gave out their views. All their views, most of the views are in the report and some of the areas that I was very keen about is people with different abilities. Some people call it disability, but I call it people with different abilities. Some of the challenges that they faced in Garissa and this municipality is accessing the public offices and private also hotels because accessing hotels and conferences is becoming a challenge. If it's not on the ground floor, going to the first floor is becoming a challenge because it's not disability friendly. Some of the concerns that they have raised in our plans, next time by the time we are approving any development or any construction of those high-rise buildings, it must be there to those guidelines. The other thing is the essence why we have IDEP is mainly for planning purposes because if you have a good plan, you can allocate your budget very well. You can use or utilize your resources very well.

So, for planning and budgeting purpose and also investment, when you want to develop a certain area, you must have a good plan to undertake whatever resource you want to allocate to that place and also the investment that you want to invest in that area. And also, if there are partners who are ready to support, if the plans are in place and approved by the house, that

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means whatever they are injecting in terms of finances, it is still going to have value for money because there is a policy that guides and a document that gives how to undertake those activities. So, mine is to appreciate the members of the public who have given out their views and with those few remarks, I want to support and appreciate and also call the members to do the same. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

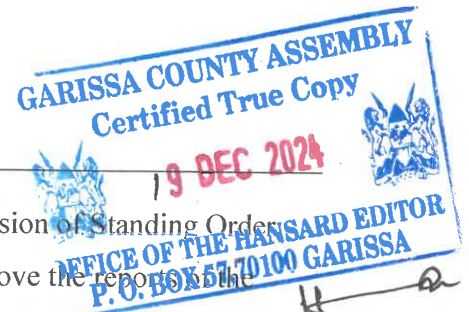
Before I resume my seat, today is on Wednesday and today being the last day of this. But before we go for the break, it's prudent that we give the members time to share their inputs or their statements because we are also supposed to rate ourselves and to see where we are facing some challenges and how to address about it. By the time we are done with these two documents, I know it's voluminous and members want to contribute, but after we are done, we request your indulgence to give the members to also give their views. Members, today being the members, thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Yes, Honourable Fakruddin

Hon. Fakruddin: Thank you, Speaker. But I can say, you said my name, but you have not identified my position as a deputy whip of the minority party. Besides that, I want to support the report. I am a member of the land committee, and the report is very comprehensive. The report has a strategic objective of Garissa municipality integrated development plan, which address to have a safe and a healthy municipality, to have an infrastructure-leading municipality, to have a sustainable human settlement municipality and has a well-governed municipality. It has also identified on how to finance projects using source of revenues, which include the source of revenue from county government, partnering with the national government, public-private partnership, donor financing, development levy and betterment levy or the land levy. The land value also will increase as a result of this upcoming development programme of the IDEP. The other issue is how to implement. As assembly, we will be getting a quarterly report from the management of the municipality.

Also, during the public participation, the following umbrella groups were involved. The religious leaders, youth representatives, business community, civil society, women groups, and persons with disabilities were also represented. I therefore say this is a comprehensive report and we have to adopt it so that this municipality of ours continues to spur and add value to the people of Garissa. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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Hon. Speaker: I Can Now Put the Question. Pursuant to The Provision of Standing Order 63(2) I Now Put the Question; That, this House Considers and approve the reports of the Committee on Lands, Housing, Physical Planning and Urban development on the Garissa Municipality Integrated Development Plan (IDeP) pursuant to section 111(6) and 14(3) of the County Government Act, 2012 and section 38 and 39 of urban Areas and Cities Act, 2011 (amended 2019). 19/12/24

(Question put and agree to)

Next. Yes, Honourable Sheikh

REPORT ON THE PROPOSED GARISSA MUNICIPALITY SPATIAL PLAN

Hon. Mohamed sheikh: Hon Speaker, I beg to move the following motion; That, this House Considers and approve the reports of the Committee on Lands, Housing, Physical Planning and Urban development on the Garissa Municipality Spatial Plan. I request Honourable Member for Damajale to second me.

Hon. Speaker: Yes, Honourable Omar

(Honourable Omar Seconded the motion through bowing)

Ok. He has seconded. Proceed Honourable Mohamed Sheikh.

Hon. Mohamed Sheikh: Thank you, honourable speaker, all the members have this report. The Report on the Proposed Garissa Municipality Spatial Plan. I request members to go to page 3 of the report; on Executive Summary, the preparation of this Plan is guided by the County Government's decision to develop a plan for Garissa municipality, which has lacked one since independence. The primary objective is to establish a framework to guide the Municipality's development and serve as a foundation for creating the Garissa Municipality Land Use Plan. This has been achieved by rationally and appropriately allocating land for various uses within the designated area. The guiding principles in the development of this Plan include promoting optimal, efficient, and economic land use, as outlined in the National Land Policy; encouraging walkability, health, harmony, safety, and efficiency; fostering

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inclusive and coordinated governance systems; and structuring urban development to support environmental sustainability.

Lastly, the plan is envisioned to be fully implemented in order to achieve its objectives and align with Kenya's Vision 2030. This will be accomplished by adhering to the zoning standards and regulations provided, as well as complying with any other laws governing the development of urban areas and cities in Kenya.

Mr. speaker sir, on Mandate of the committee; The committee on Lands, Housing, Physical Planning & Urban Development is one of the Sectoral committees of the Assembly established under standing order no 222(5) whose mandate, pursuant to the standing order 222(6) is to:

- a) investigate, inquire into and report on all matters relating to the mandate, management, activities, administration, operations and estimates of the assigned departments;
- b) study the programme and policy objectives of departments and the effectiveness of implementation;
- c) study and review all County legislation referred to it;
- d) study, assess and analyze the relative success of the departments as measured by the results obtained as compared with their stated objectives;
- e) investigate and inquire into all matters relating to the assigned department as they may deem necessary, and as may be referred to them by the County Assembly.
- f) vet and report on all appointments where the Constitution or any law requires the County Assembly to approve except under Standing Order 184 (Committee on Appointments);
- g) make reports and recommendations to the County Assembly as often as possible including recommendation of proposed legislation.

Mr. Speaker Sir, On Acknowledgement; The Committee is grateful to the Offices of the Speaker and the Clerk of the County Assembly for the support extended to it in fulfilling its mandate.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I wish to thank the Members of committee on Lands, Housing, Physical Planning and Urban Development for their effort in coming up with this report on the proposed Garissa Municipality spatial plan. I also wish to thank the committee secretariat who worked tirelessly to compile this Report.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank Members of the public who sacrificed their time to attend the public participation exercise held at Garissa Primary School and gave their valuable views on

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the proposed Garissa Municipality spatial plan. Once again, I extend my sincere appreciation to the residents of Garissa municipality for their constructive engagement during the public participation session on the proposed Garissa Municipality spatial plan.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I wish to confirm that, the recommendations of the Committee in this Report were unanimous. It is therefore my pleasant duty and privilege, on behalf of the Committee to table this report for consideration and adoption.

Signed by Hon. Khadija Idriss Mohamed, Nominated M.C.A. Chairperson, Committee on Lands, Housing, Physical Planning and Urban Development.

Mr. Speaker Sir, on Adoption of The Report; We, Members of the Committee on Lands Housing, physical planning and urban development have adopted this Report on Consideration of the proposed Garissa Municipality spatial plan and hereby affix our signatures to it to affirm our approval and confirm its accuracy, validity and authenticity: -

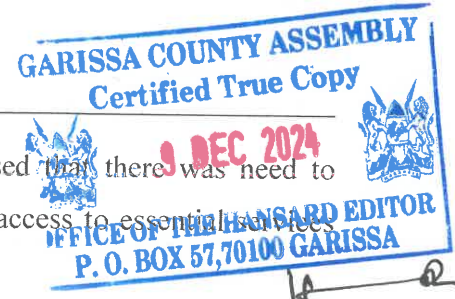
- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Hon Khadija Idriss Mohamed | chairperson |
| 2. Hon. Abdirahman Muktar | vice chair |
| 3. Hon. Noor sheikh | Member |
| 4. Hon. Issa Aden Abdi | " |
| 5. Hon. Mohamed Sheikh Abdi | " |
| 6. Hon. Abdirahman Mohamed Ali | " |
| 7. Hon. Rukia Abdulahi | " |
| 8. Hon. Fatuma Aden Abdi | " |
| 9. Hon. Fakruddin Haji Sadik | " |
| 10. Hon. Ahmed Abdirahman | " |
| 11. Hon. Timira Bishar | " |
| 12. Hon. Fatuma Mohamed Shide | " |
| 13. Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Sigat | " |

Mr. Speaker Sir, on page 13; In support of the spatial plan, members of the public made the following proposals;

On the importance of having a spatial plan for the Municipality

Members of the public informed the committee that the plan has been in place since 1982 and is on track, as planning precedes development. Regarding topography, the department should prioritize matters related to plot assignments. Additionally, a lottery system should be

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employed when assigning plots. Members of the public proposed that there was need to prioritize development in underserved areas to ensure equitable access to essential services such as healthcare, education, and utilities.

On infrastructure Improvements

Members of the public suggested the need to upgrade road networks, drainage systems, and energy access infrastructure, emphasizing reliability and efficiency. Participants also recommended inclusion of a places of worship, feeder roads, water and power lines, as well as drainage systems in the plan. Additionally, they highlighted the importance of maintaining roads, such as bush clearing, and proposed the inclusion of streetlights in the plan.

On Gender and disability Inclusive Planning

participants proposed that Roads should be accessible throughout the year. During road construction, consideration should be given to people with disabilities, ensuring the roads are disability-friendly. Buildings should also be designed to accommodate people with disabilities. Measures should be implemented to address the issue of double-parking. Participants urged the Municipality to design public spaces, streets, and facilities that prioritize safety, accessibility, and usability for women, children, and people with disabilities.

Public Perspective on Affordable Housing Development

The public emphasized the critical role of the municipality in addressing the rising demand for affordable housing. They proposed that the municipality should prioritize land allocation as a foundational step in the development of affordable housing projects. By identifying and designating suitable parcels of land within the municipality, the local government can significantly reduce costs associated with housing development, thereby making homes more accessible to low- and middle-income households.

On environmental Conservation

The stakeholders emphasized the importance of preserving and expanding green spaces, and parks within the municipality as a vital step toward environmental conservation and sustainable urban development. By protecting these natural areas, the municipality can enhance biodiversity, providing habitats for various plant and animal species, while also creating a healthier environment for residents. These efforts collectively contribute to improving the quality of life, fostering community well-being, and promoting environmental resilience in the face of rapid urbanization and climate change.

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On Public Participation

Stakeholders requested the municipality to organize public forums, surveys, and workshops to gather community feedback throughout the planning and implementation process of the spatial plan.

On climate Resilience

The participant informed the Committee that the municipality to identify and protect high-risk areas from flooding or erosion, and invest in climate-resilient infrastructure such as massive tree planting.

On public Transport in the Municipality

The stakeholders proposed the Municipality to develop efficient and affordable public transport systems, including bicycle lanes and pedestrian pathways.

Overall, View of the Public

The public were generally receptive and in full support of the Municipality spatial plan. Members of the public urged the municipality to integrate these recommendations into the spatial plan to ensure it reflects the community's priorities and promotes sustainable, inclusive development. It was in their general view that the creation of the municipality spatial plan would be beneficial to the residents of the Municipality in terms of service delivery and the overall management of the municipality.

On Committee Observations; The committee made the following observation in regards to the Garissa municipality spatial plan:

- a) The plan is intended to guide the Municipality's development for the next 10 years.
- b) The plan is GIS (Geographic Information System) based plan
- c) The plan covers all critical areas that would spur both economic and social development in the Municipality.
- d) The plan requires a wide stakeholder consultation, capacity building, sensitization and awareness building to internalize the plan as legal document with its benefit, output, impacts and constraints for future development of the Municipality.
- e) The municipality need to strictly adhere to the plan proposals on environmental conservation by creating awareness on wildlife corridors to enhance tourism activities in the Municipality.

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On Committee Recommendations; Mr. Speaker Sir, From the submissions made by the participants during the exercise, interactions with experts, the departmental officers and the committee deliberations, the Committee therefore, unanimously recommends that this House approves Garissa Municipality spatial plan with the following recommendations:

1. That, the Municipality to ensure that the spatial plan supports environment sustainable growth by incorporating green spaces, renewable energy solutions, and efficient waste management systems.
2. That, the Municipality shall focus on improving road networks by upgrading main and access roads into bitumen standards, drainage systems, and energy access.
3. That, the Municipality to protect historical sites, wildlife, forests, and water bodies to preserve the municipality's heritage and biodiversity.
4. That, the Municipality shall involve residents in the decision-making process through consultations, workshops, and feedback sessions to ensure that the plan implementation reflects their needs.
5. That, the Municipality to Plan for climate change adaptation by zoning areas prone to flooding or other natural disasters and integrating disaster response infrastructure.
6. That, the Municipality should focus on developing efficient public transportation systems while incorporating infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists to alleviate traffic congestion.
7. That, the Municipality to Identify and designate areas for industrial establishment and commercial markets to stimulate investments, drive economic growth, and generate employment opportunities.
8. That, the Municipality to establish benchmarks and timelines for implementing the spatial plan, with regular reviews to adapt to emerging challenges and opportunities.
9. That, any sector/development partner that want to partner with the Municipality must adhere to the laid down policies and practices of the Municipality.

Attached are photos on the public participation, minute of the committee deliberation and last pages is the gazette notice on public participation.

Hon. Speaker: Pursuant To the Provision of Standing Order 63(1) I Now Propose the Question; That, this House Considers and approve the reports of the Committee on Lands,

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Housing, Physical Planning and Urban development on the Garissa Municipality Spatial Plan. Yes, Honourable Omar.

Hon. Omar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm applauded by the observation and recommendation for this committee. Mr. Speaker, I have to congratulate the chairlady of this committee because we have seen several municipalities were passed, and today she has proved that Garissa municipality has a very eloquent report that can guide them for both recommendation and observation, if practiced, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the best recommendation which I have confirmed today that any sector development partner that want to with the municipality must adhere to the lay-down policies and practice of the municipality. If this municipality practice this policy and adhere to this report. Mr. Speaker, Garissa County will reach further and compete with other counties, Mr. Speaker, I am there for supporting this motion. Thank you,

Hon. Speaker: Honourable Ahmed Sheikh, Majority whip

Hon. Ahmed Sheikh (Majority whip): Mr. Speaker, I stand to support the report of the Garissa municipality special plan. Mr. Speaker, being a member of the committee of land, housing, physical planning and urban development committee led by Honourable Khadija, we conducted our public participation for both reports and especially for Garissa municipality special plan. One thing I like about it, Mr. Speaker, is that all different categories of the society were there, spearheaded by the civil society team, youth representatives, religious leaders, business communities, people with disabilities and women groups. Mr. Speaker, I also want to appreciate our secretariat because we have assured our people that their views and contributions will be taken into account and I was going through the report, I have seen that all their contributions were taken into account, which they have unanimously agreed to welcome and agree with the special plan. Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this plan is, number one, to lay the ground for the development of a new organized and orderly Garissa municipality. Number two, is to prevent land-related conflicts; As you know, we have that problem in Garissa for years and years, and I hope once this plan gets success, we will have limited cases of such kind. Finally, Mr. Speaker, as a committee for lands, we sat down and interpreted the outcome of our public participation and corrected things, and taken the views and the contributions of the public into account, and we finally agreed to unanimously

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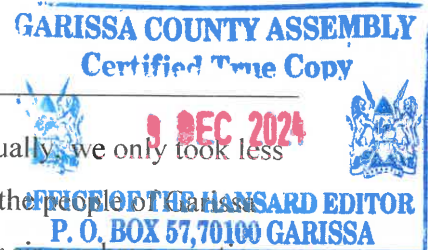
approve, as a committee of lands, this special plan. To add, I request my fellow members in the House to support this, and also approve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Honourable Khadija Idriss

Hon. Khadija Idriss: Mr. Speaker, from the onset, I want to thank the Almighty Allah for guiding us all along during this process. Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank His Excellency the Governor for prioritizing these two plans for Garissa municipality. Thirdly, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank your office and the Office of the Clerk for supporting and guiding this committee during this very tedious work. Fourthly, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Majority Leader and his office for standing with the committee and supporting the committee, and being a ranking member, and time to time guiding the committee, and he stood with us during the public participation of these two plans.

Mr. Speaker, more importantly, I want to thank the Committee for Land, Housing, and Physical Planning. This is a committee that has done tremendous work since the inception of the Third Assembly. Mr. Speaker sir, this is a committee that is dedicated to its work. This is a committee on the record of our settings. We never had a quorum issue to deliberate on the matters of the committee. So, Mr. Speaker, sir, I want to salute and thank the 13 members. Although they are not all of them at equal measure, but they are those few members and I want to particularly applaud the ladies who are the members of this committee, for always being there and contributing and being dedicated to their work, not forgetting the few men, like the Majority Whip and the honourable Mohamed Sheikh. Mr. Speaker sir, as has been said by my colleagues, this is a document that is legally a requirement. For any municipality, for any county to function, they must have a special plan which has a lifespan of 10 years. Mr. Speaker sir, it will be illegal to even appropriate and use resources for the County of Garissa when these two documents are not in place. So, going forward, I just want to caution the members. If the special plan is not in place, appropriating and passing budget in this chamber is illegal, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, sir, during our scrutiny of the special plan, the committee noted there was efficiency and effectiveness in the plan that was presented by the municipality of Garissa Township in terms of zoning. what the special plan provides is the zoning and the space and the land and what the IDEP intends to do is, after the planning, after the special plan, what are the key priority projects that the municipality is intending to undertake. So, Mr. Speaker, thank you very much. Thank you for supporting this committee.

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And by the time these two documents were brought to the House, actually, we only took less than two weeks to first track and come up with this document so that the people of the Garissa Township municipality can benefit from these two plans. Mr. Speaker sir, we have greetings from the audience of the public participation. There was one man who is visually impaired. Actually, he prayed for the committee and he said we pass his greetings personally to you, to the speaker, for providing an avenue for the people living with disability. The first time in the history of the municipalities and all public participation that have been done, whether it was for budget or different documents, the first time the Garissa County Assembly invited people with disabilities. There were different types of disabilities and he said we are praying for the Assembly and also, he said we pass our greetings to you and he also brought forward a request saying that this committee is doing a wonderful job and they must be taken for benchmarking and capacity building. Actually, that's what he said and it was captured in the handset.

So, Mr. Speaker sir, as always, you have been supporting this committee and in our last meeting when we adopted these reports, I think Honourable Timira and Honourable Mohamed Sheikh will attest to it, the committee put me to task. That during this recess, the committee is requesting from your office being the chair of the board that we go for a capacity building training so that we can effectively even do an implementation and oversight on these documents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Honourable Mohamed Sheikh

Hon. Mohamed Sheikh: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to take this chance to appreciate and thank the members for their contribution and for giving support, full support to this motion.

Mr. Speaker, on the special plan, by the time we are talking about planning and surveying and development of Garissa, there are some things that normally necessitates to a special plan. One of it is the population of Garissa. That Garissa municipality currently is fast growing, both in population and status and also, the LAPSET project that is coming up and is already in the process, the emergence of the LAPSET project. The current affairs of the drought and floods that we normally witness. And due to periodic droughts in the larger Garissa trust lands, many residents have lost livelihoods, like cattle rearing, and have moved to urban areas like Garissa municipality. That is becoming, some of them, we call it IDPs in

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courts, because their livelihoods, they have lost their livelihoods and they are within the Garissa municipality. So, it's in essence, we need to have this plan in place to support all the cadre and all the people and emerging issues that's normally happening. So, I want to take this chance to thank you in person, as the speaker of this assembly, and the secretariat, and I really want full support from the members in approving this document. Lastly, I want to thank the municipal manager, the board of Garissa township municipality, for coming up with such voluminous documents, but very, very much has all the details on what is required for this Garissa municipality to develop. And lastly, to the governor of Garissa County, because this is history in making. We are talking of the plan that we had in 1982, and coming up with a good plan that will support the people of Garissa township municipality at large. With those few remarks, thank you Mr. Speaker, and I humbly request all the members to support and approve this motion. Thank you.

At this point, I put the question, Pursuant to The Provision of Standing Order 63(2) I Now Put the Question; **That**, this House Considers and approve the reports of the Committee on Lands, Housing, Physical Planning and Urban development on the Garissa Municipality Spatial Plan.

(Question put and agree to)

[Hon. Speaker (Hon. Abdi Idle Gure) left the Chair]

[Hon. Temporary Speaker (Hon. Khadija M Idriss) Resume the Chair]

BILL

Table Clerk: THE GARISSA COUNTY FINANCE BILL, 2024 (Assembly Bill No 7 Of 2024).

First Reading

A bill for the county assembly of Garissa to provide for the legislation relating to various county property rights, entertainment, tax, and other user charges. Fees, charges, rent, and rates, and for matters incidental to.

Hon. Khadija (Temporary Speaker): Thank you. This bill is now committed to the committee for budget appropriation and finance. Next. Members, as you are all aware, today is Wednesday afternoon, members' day. If anybody has any pressing issue, the floor is open. Honourable Mohamed Sheikh.

Hon. Mohamed Sheikh: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, and today is members' day, and I think it's the last day of this session. We are going for a long recess, and I wish everybody a
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good holiday, and we will all enjoy. We need to reflect back and evaluate ourselves on what we have achieved so far. What we have achieved so far, Honourable Speaker, we have done a lot that is my assessment. We have done a lot in discharging our duties in terms of representation, oversight, and legislations. There are bills that were passed here, motions, statements, as per the communication of the Speaker. I hope during this recess, we also have that energy. By the time we are resuming back, we will improve further and make sure that we will improve our rating, because we have rated ourselves, and we see that at least we are good. Lastly, by the time we are going for recess, Honourable Speaker, there is an issue of concern, and needs to be addressed and addressed immediately That's the issue of the insurance for the members of the County Assembly of Garissa. As you are aware, the health insurance that we had has lapsed. I think this is the second month that we have not yet benefited from this, you know, cover and it's prudent that you take up this matter with the Chair of the Board/the Speaker, the Board members and the majority leader is here with us. I hope also for the interest of the members, we want an assurance that in the next few days or weeks, that matter is addressed because health is a priority for all of us. You know what to do. Maybe as a team, you understand which insurance is best for the members and which is also very convenient. That one is up on the Board, and the team that's supposed to undertake that work but we want that thing to be done and be done immediately. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

Hon. Khadija (Temporary Speaker): Majority Leader. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Mohamed Abdi Farah (Majority Leader): Madam Speaker, it has been a long journey. I am sure today is 'Members' Day, as others put it. Since we are going for a long recess, we are convinced that there are a lot of good things this Assembly has done and there are shortcomings indeed and I am sure we shall improve come the new year, 2025. Madam Speaker, this is our opportunity to go back and reflect on ourselves. Go visit our wards, our respective wards and we count our checks. We see what has happened, or what has not happened, in terms of development and how the people need, and what they need, and what has not gone right, what went wrong. I think this is the time we are supposed to be with our electors. By and large, Madam Speaker, the Assembly has really transformed and I want to sincerely thank the bigger body that is the engine of the Assembly, that is the Secretariat, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, the Secretariat have really done us proud, because this Assembly cannot move without their support. Indeed, I one time proposed that they are supposed to be taken, the whole

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Secretariat, for a serious training on the KSG (Kenya School of Government), so that they see themselves as people who are professionals, so that they practice the discipline on Hansard, of committees, on areas of discipline, what they do in the Assembly, those who do legislation, those who are administrative, also to go and do training on administration, so that they have a refresher course. I am sure Kenya School of Government is not like any other school of government. They go and reward the staff, those who go and attend important trainings, like the senior management course and also Senior Leadership Development Programme courses, which are tailored courses. Madam Speaker, the Secretariat, and I said earlier that we need to also see what benefit they should reserve in terms of their families and their medical cover. Upgrading of staff and elevating them to higher positions, which they deserve, most of them. I have stayed with them here for too long and I know most of the members of the staff, particularly the Secretariat, have reached a stage where they are supposed to be upgraded.

I am sure if the Speaker would have been here, this recommendation must have been recorded very well, so that it reflects very well in our day-to-day operation in the Assembly. Madam Speaker, I kindly share this with the Speaker and also the administration wing. Our deputy clerks are also seated here.

Let us improve the Secretariat, their life stage in this Assembly. Now we are closing the Assembly. We are going through a long process.

They will not break, imagine. They will stay here. I think we must have also them to go and have some of them, and then we remain with the skeleton staff to operate.

So, they also go, some of that section of them, so that by the time we are coming back, all of us, we meet a good number of them also fresh, you know, minds from their families. Madam Speaker, it has been a long journey, as I said. What is required from 2025 is to make sure that this Assembly's attendance is improved.

As the Speaker said earlier on, you can see out of the number 30 elected, we have only 12 or 10 of them being in these chambers. It is really disheartening and we need to speak about it. We should improve on discipline, on members, so that they understand when they are supposed to be here and when not.

Madam Speaker, as I said, members of this Assembly are also in problems. Some of them, in their wards, you know, development is very skewed and some of them have not received

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development projects. It is my belief that once the budget is coming, we must be basing our projects on ward. So that there is no work that is left in terms of development.

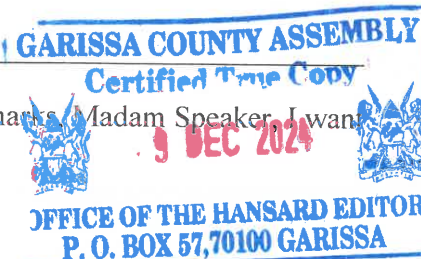
Madam Speaker, on the issue of medical cover, which Honourable Mohamed Sheikh has mentioned, it is true. On this one, we shall inform those who are representing us in the County Assembly Service Board. Member for Modogashe who is also a senior member, is in the board, the County Assembly Service Board.

We have also a member for Nanigi, Honourable Abdullahi, also representing us on Kenya-Kwanza. The two other public members, also representing the entire Assembly including our Speaker, the Secretary, who is our Clerk, to make sure that medical cover for both the staff and members of the County Assembly is improved. There is a new scheme that has already been enrolled throughout our country and that is SHA (Social Health Authority).

We need to come to terms, and we must get advice from people we know, on how this SHA is behaving because most of the Kenyans are now arguing that it is not good, as others are putting it. Madam Speaker, medical cover is crucial, it is important. We want to see this medical cover covering a wide range, both our staff and our members. So that by the time we enter into agreement with them, we see the benefits it carries, alongside what is required within our stack, as members who are elected and those who are specially elected. Otherwise, Madam Speaker, that is a good reflection, and it is my belief and hope that next time when we come back, we shall come back energetic, and keep the ball rolling, God willing. I say goodbye to all of you, since we shall be leaving from tomorrow, back to our homes. Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

Hon. Khadija (Temporary Speaker): Thank you, next.

Hon. Ahmed Sheikh (Majority whip): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Mine is just to support what Honourable Mohammad Sheikh for Labasigale have raised, about the issue of health insurance for the members and staff of the Garissa County Assembly. As we are all aware, it has lapsed about four to five months back. Honourable Speaker, as you are aware, I am not just a majority Whip, I also double as Chair for Welfare for this Assembly. There are a lot of cases from members and compline. I am so glad that Honourable members have already spoken about it, in different platforms, in the committees, in the board sittings and finally it we brought our attention to the House. I would love at least this conversation to reach the highest offices, that is the Office of the Clerk and the Office of the Speaker. At least before we break for the recess,
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we will have guidelines on the way forward. With those few remarks, Madam Speaker, I want to wish everyone a happy holiday. Thank you so much.

Hon. Khadija (Temporary Speaker): Next.

[Hon. Temporary Speaker (Hon. Khadija M Idriss) Left the Chair]

[Hon. Speaker (Hon. Abdi Idle Gure) Resume the Chair]

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Honourable members, for your indulgence. As I stepped out, thank you Honourable Speaker, Honourable Khadija. I am briefed that a number of issues were raised. As we break for this long recess, the issue of the medical cover is being undertaken. We have advertised and I'm sure in a couple of days it will be up and running. I know of, I'm sure, I cannot be able to talk about the procurement issues here but something that is of importance to all of us, medical cover and it is being addressed, advertisement has been done, and the board is, we have just discussed in our last meeting, and that the procurement process is at the last stage and hopefully it will be up and running soon. Because the other one has expired around 14th of December 2024. Other issues are some administrative matters. Which I'm sure I'll take note of that, and address to the board. We have a board meeting, a full board meeting this weekend, coming Saturday in Nairobi. Therefore, these issues are on our list.

However, your mention of emphasizes the importance, therefore they will be addressed. Thank you. I just wanted to communicate that as we break, the committees will be able to function. The committee will work, but only basis. So, in consultation with the speaker and the clerk, committees that have got urgent work. Now I know already that the budget has got something on the table. Therefore, in close coordination, we can be able to work together to ensure that much as we go for our well-deserved holidays or breaks, but nevertheless, we still need to have the committees that have got urgent matters to address, can still work, but in close coordination with the clerk and the office of the speaker, so that we can be able to allocate you the requisite staff and resources. Thank you. Next. The Honourable Majority Leader.

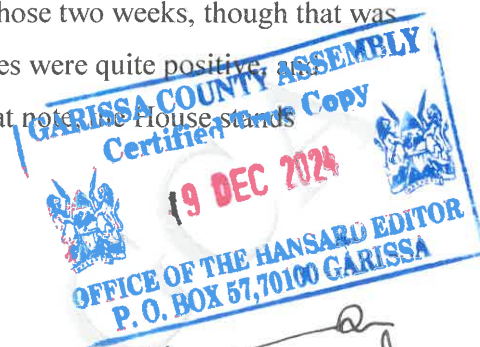
Hon. Mohamed Abdi Farah (Majority Leader): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have forgotten that today is an adjournment day, where we are supposed to close the assembly until 11 February 2025. Therefore, I request your office, this motion remains relevant for us,

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so that it affects our calendar days until that day on 11 February 2025 for adjournment. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Honourable Members, Honourable Majority Leader, just wanted to thank you for that. I know actually our holidays have been cut short by two weeks, but nevertheless, I cannot say we wasted. We have actually done a lot within those two weeks, though that was not the intended purpose. However, the unintended outcomes were quite positive. As a result, therefore, we wish you a very long recess. Therefore, on that note, the House stands adjourned until 11 February 2025 at 9.30 a.m.

(House rose at 4.30 p.m.)



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