

THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA
COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF TURKANA

HANSARD

Wednesday 27th March, 2024.

The County Assembly of Turkana Met at the Turkana County Assembly Chamber on Wednesday 27th March, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Philip Ekuwam) in the chair

PRAYERS

Deputy Speaker: Honourable Members, get seated.

PAPERS

Deputy Speaker: The Honourable Chairperson of Lands, Energy, Housing and Urban Areas Management Committee, Honourable Patrick Esekun, proceed?

Hon. Esekun: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, sir. I rise to lay reports on the vetting of the nominee to the Kakuma Municipality Board.

Deputy Speaker: Proceed? *(Hon. Esekun proceeds to lay the report on the table of the House)*

NOTICE OF MOTION

Deputy Speaker: The Honourable Patrick Esekun?

Hon. Esekun: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to give a notice of motion on the adoption of the report on the vetting of the nominee to the Kakuma Municipality Board that this County Assembly consider and approve the recommendation contained in the report of the committee on Lands, Physical Planning and Urban Areas Management on vetting and approval hearing of the nominee to Kakuma Municipality Board, laid before this House on Wednesday, 27 March 2024 at 9 a.m. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker: That's in order. I think the motion shall be done in the afternoon.

STATEMENTS

Deputy Speaker: Honourable Michael Ewoi.

Hon. Ewoi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to respond to a statement on the utilization of the County's additional allocation/conditional grants for the financial year 2022/2023 a statement sought by the Honourable Member representing Nakalale ward, Dedan Kalimapus. We acknowledge receipt of the letter dated 14 March 2024, requesting for response to the above-mentioned statement. We therefore wish to respond as follows; The importance of the additional locations / conditional grants received from development partners cannot be overemphasized, Funds received from additional locations / conditional grants present an opportunity for the County government to supplement the ordinary revenues received by the County government in offering an array and specific basic services across the entire County or in some identified locations within the County. Generally, there are very clear and elaborate mechanisms including legal frameworks that have been put in place to ensure value for money and prudent management of these funds.

In the financial year 2022/2023 Supplementary Budget Estimates, the County Government budgeted for seven additional allocations/conditional grants summarized in the following table. Generally, the County received a total of Kenya shillings 432,156,229.023 from its development partners representing 76% of the total additional allocation / conditional grants budget of Kenya shillings 570,438,213.88 that particular year. Notably so budgeted none of the DANIDA primary health care conditional grant of Kenya shillings 33,903,563 was received that year. We have a table for grant allocation revised estimates for the financial year 2022/2023 funds received variance and finally performance.

Point of order Mr. Speaker!

Deputy Speaker: What's your point of order?

Hon. Lomodo: Mr. Speaker, we don't have copies of the response that the chairperson is giving so we cannot give our input because we do not have them on the iPads or our tables. How do we give our input when we cannot capture everything that he is saying?

Deputy Speaker: Sure, you are right let the secretariat sort out the matter, Proceed.

Hon. Ewoi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If there are members who are interested in this response to our statement we have enough copies at the clerk's table. As you have directed the clerks to do so, maybe the same needs to be shared. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I beg to proceed.

Deputy Speaker: You can proceed as they get the copies.

Hon. Ewoi: The first grant or allocation is the National Agricultural and Rural Inclusive Growth Project (NARIG) revised estimates for the financial year 2022/2023 is KES 155,480,180, and funds received KES 155,480,180. There is no variance and the performance is at 100%.

The second grant is the Agricultural Sector Development Support Program (ASDSP II) received estimates for the financial year 2022/2023 is KES 34,606,056, funds received KES 25,809,244 and variance is KES 8,796,812 with a performance of 74.58%.

The third grant or allocation is the Drought Resilience Program in Northern Kenya (DRPNK) revised estimates for the financial year 2022/2023 is KES 220,000,000, funds received KES 126,890,977.50 and the variance is KES 93,109,022. 50. Performance is 57.68%.

The fourth grant is the Emergency Locust Response Project (ELRP) revised estimates is KES 102,108,500, and the funds received is KES 99,635,912. 85, Variance is KES 2,472,587.15, performance is 97.58%.

DANIDA grants Primary Health Care in a default context. Revised estimates is KES 33,903,563. There were no funds that were received, then the variance is KES.33, 903,563 shillings, Performance is 0%.

Financing Locally Led Climate Action Programme (FLLoCA), the revised estimates for the financial year 2022/2023 is KES 22 million. Funds received KES 22 million, no variance and performance is 100%.

The other grant is Kenya Urban Support Program revised estimates for the financial year 2022/2023 KES. 2,339,914. 88 cents, Funds received KES. 2,339,914.88. No variance performance is 100%.

Honourable Speaker at this point I want to proceed with this statement by responding to the specific questions and issues as sought by the Honorable Member of Nakalale ward on these grants as follows:

NARIG is a Government of Kenya project co-funded by the World Bank and County governments through the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, State Department for Crop Development and is being implemented in 21 selected counties of Kenya including Turkana County. The project came into effect in March 2018 and is expected to end on 31st March 2024. The project's development objective is “to increase agricultural productivity and profitability of targeted rural communities in the selected counties and in the event of an eligible crisis or emergency to provide an immediate and effective response.”

The value chains supported by the project include sorghum, cowpeas, goat, sheep meat, apiculture, and chicken. NARIG is divided into four components namely: 1. Supporting community-driven development 2. Strengthening producer organizations and value chain development 3. Supporting County community-led development and 4. Project coordination and management.

So the member was interested in these questions what measures are in place to ensure transparency, accountability, and effective utilization of these funds by the County Government of Turkana and how is the County treasury working to enhance oversight and monitoring mechanisms to safeguard these public funds? Response to the question; the project operates on a reimbursement basis where previous disbursements received must be accounted for fully before subsequent disbursements are released. The national project team regularly does oversight and audits and reports are shared with all stakeholders. The project is audited by a designated external auditor in the office of the Auditor General. A dedicated internal auditor from the County Treasury, they audit the project quarterly. The County Project Steering Committee provides oversight as provided for in the project implementation manual (PIM). We have formed and established a Social Accountability and Integrity Committee to provide oversight at the community level. We have established a Project Management Committee (PMC) at the community level responsible for the recruitment of youth engaged in Sustainable Land Management (SLM) activities, supervision and payment of wages based on total labour days generated. We have established a County Technical Advisory Committee (CTAC) subcommittee on labour that determines wage rates and provides oversight in recruitment and recommendation for payment of youth engaged in SLM activities.

Question number 2, were there work plans/procurement plans for the utilization of these funds? If there were, were they submitted to the County Assembly for consideration? The response to that question is during the financial year 2022-2023 annual work plans and procurement plans were generated and approved by the County Project Steering Committee as provided before by the Project Implementation Manual and Project Appraisal Documents (PAD).

Question number 3; which programs and projects were implemented by the said funds, and how many of the 30 wards benefited? In the financial year 2022/2023 KES 36.4 million were disbursed to 141 common interest groups through 16 Community-Driven Development Committee (CDDC) (each ward has one CDDC comprising of 16 members with ward administrators and chiefs being ex-officials). Two water infrastructures (Value chain multi-community investments) were established namely; Lopeduru-earth dam was worth KES 26.8 million in Katilia ward and Kachoda-Waterpan worth Kenya Shillings 33.6 million in Lapur ward. 4 SLM projects worth KES 30.9 million were implemented under cash for work approach whereby selected youth were temporarily employed and engaged in SLM activities these sites are Lomil SLM in Turkwel ward, Kachoda SLM in Lapur ward, Kangitit SLM in Lokori/ Kochodin ward and Lopedru SLM in Katilia ward.

Conditional Grant number 2. Agricultural Sector Development Support Program (ASDSP II) is a 5-year donor-funded programme domiciled in the County Department of Agriculture and Land Reclamation and implemented by the state Department of Agriculture at the National level. ASDSP II is financed by the government of Sweden through the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) while the National government and Turkana County government provide additional matching funds. The programme is intended and geared towards the realization of the Millennium Development Goals under the economic pillar of the Vision 2030 Blueprint through the transformation of crop-livestock and fisheries production into commercially oriented enterprises that ensure sustainable food and nutrition security. It is implemented in all 47 Counties of the Republic of Kenya. In Turkana ASDSP II is a capacity-building programme whose main intervention is to build the capacity of farmers, pastoralists, and fisher folk as well as provide extension staff and service providers in the three prioritized value chains. This is done through training and provision of inputs to value chain actors to facilitate production and commercialization of the value chains.

The programme has three main outcome areas: productivity of prioritized value chains increased that is, sorghum, goat meat and fish; entrepreneurship skills of prioritized value chain actors

strengthened; access to markets by value chain actors improved; structures and capacities for consultation, cooperation and coordination in the sector strengthened.

The prioritized value chains for Turkana County that the programme is supporting in partnership with other stakeholders are: goat meat; fish; and sorghum.

What measures are in place to ensure transparency, accountability, and effective utilization of funds and how is the County Treasury working to enhance oversight and monitoring mechanisms to safeguard these public funds? Response; generally, the programme's financial management is guided by the Public Finance Management Act of 2012. Additionally, we have in place a programme called financial and grant management guideline that was developed by the National treasury and is being used for implementation. There is a memorandum of understanding and financial agreement that was signed by His Excellency the Governor that guides the operation of the programme. Rolling audits are done by the County treasury and can now be considered as a standing private independent auditor Price Water House Coopers. The programme has an Information Management System and tracker used to monitor the implementation of programme activities. The Chief Officer of the Treasury and Chief Officer Department of Agriculture are members of the County Agricultural Sector Steering Committee (CASSCOM) which is an oversight structure that guides the implementation of programme activities. CASSCOM approves the budget for the programme and also undertakes quarterly review meetings and monitoring visits to the beneficiary groups and value chain organizations that the programme supports. Monthly statements of expenditure and financial reports are prepared and shared with the County Treasury, the National Treasury, and the Donor.

Question number 2; were there work plans, and procurement plans for the utilization of these funds? If they were, were they submitted to the County Assembly for consideration? Yes, the programme develops annual work plans and procurement plans which are approved by CASSCOM before implementation. The County Assembly approved the budget for the programme as part of the budget for the County Department of Agriculture. The County Assembly Committee of Agriculture was sensitized on the programme activities during inception. Value chain action plans are developed and approved by the value chain actors and farmers as part of the community participation in the development of the programme activities.

Question number 3; which programs and projects were implemented by the said funds and of the 30 wards, how many/which wards benefited? Response: Rainwater harvesting structures for

sorghum production and provision of seeds and farm tools at Nanyangakipi in Songot ward. Rainwater harvesting structures for sorghum production and provision of seeds and farm tools at Amanaemoit in Lokirama/ Lorengippi ward. Provision of seeds to farmers and training in Lokori/kochodin, Lobe/ Kotaruk Kerio, and Katilu wards. Distribution of cool boxes and motorcycles for the fish value chain to beach management units BMUs in Kalokol, Kerio Delta, Lake Zone, Kakuma, Lodwar Township, and Kangatotha. Pasture establishment and provision of seeds and lay bales in Oropoi, Song'ot, Turkwel, Kaputir, and Katilu.

Drought Resilience Program in Northern Kenya DRPNK: The Government of Kenya and the Federal Republic of Germany through KFW signed a loan and financing agreement in December 2018 towards implementation of the Drought Resilience Program in Northern Kenya DRPNK in Turkana and Marsabit counties for the period of six years. The Separate Agreement spelling out modalities of implementation was signed in February 2020. The programme primarily finances the following types of contracts: detailed design and construction supervision, construction implementation of rehabilitation works, procurement of goods, consulting services for implementation support, and studies e.g. environmental and social impact assessments.

Question 1; what measures are in place to ensure transparency, accountability, and effective utilization of these funds by the County Government of Turkana? And how is the County Treasury working to announce oversight and monitoring mechanisms to safeguard these public funds? The Drought Resilience Program in Northern Kenya DRPNK has an implementation structure that emanates from grassroots intervention, and identification of projects through the guidance of relevant line departments in areas of operations (4 clusters). Community Action Development Plan is the primary document that spells out the priorities of the community that are used in the development of the Annual Investment Plan (AIP). AIP is then approved by the County Steering Committee (CSC), before submitting to KFW Development Bank for no objection. The programme design entails an International Support Consultant (ISC), whose role is majorly on quality control assurance and accountability on utilization of the funds. Quarterly reporting and evidence of the use of funds are part of mechanisms put in place to guarantee proper monitoring mechanisms. The programme utilizes a replenishment model which guarantees monitoring of the funds. Donor releases funds upon accounting of the previous disbursement. The financial report submitted to KFW Development Bank must be endorsed by ISC, GOPA for the donor to release any subsequent financial requests (withdrawal applications).

Question number 2; were there work plans, or procurement plans for the utilization of these funds? If they were, were they submitted to the County Assembly for consideration? The response is; procurement plans for the programme are in place, which were approved by the KFW Development Bank for Annual Investment Plan 1 (AIP 1). DRPNK programme structure has an Apex body, County Steering Committee that approves Annual Investment Plans before submitting them to KFW for no objection.

Question number 3; which programs and projects were implemented by the said funds and of the 30 wards? How many/which words benefited? The allocation and distribution of the projects are based on the ranking scale that was developed during intervention and identification methods. The projects are distributed in four clusters, Kalokol, Kakuma, Loima, and Lodwar, as designed in the separate agreement signed by the Government of Kenya, the County Government of Turkana, and KFW Development Bank.

Conditional grant number 4; Emergency Locust Response Project (ELRP). ELRP is a three-year World Bank-funded project domiciled in the County Department of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, whose main development objective is the mitigation of livelihood threats caused by desert locust invasion, livelihood restoration, and effects of climate change. The intervention was to prioritize coverage of 16 Wards; Kapedo, Lokori, Kalapata, Kaptir, Kerio, Kanamkemer, Lobei/Kotaruk, Lokirama/Lorengippi, Letea, Kaeris, Katilu, Lokichar, Loima, Kangatotha, Nakalale, and Songot. From the 27 Wards invaded by the desert locust, a total of 82,646 households were affected; 23,500 households of crop farmers and 59,149 households of livestock keepers. An acreage of 461,949 acres was damaged. 452,500 acres of pasture/fodder, and 9,449 acres of crops.

Question number 1, what measures are in place to ensure transparency, accountability, and effective utilization of funds by the County government of Turkana? And how is the County Treasury working to enhance oversight and monitoring mechanisms to safeguard these public funds? Response, the utilization of the funds is well guided by the Public Finance Management Act of 2010 and the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act of 2015. Project Grants Manual Intergovernmental Participation Agreement between the Government of Kenya and the County Government of Turkana Project Financial Agreement. The project is audited by the Office of the Auditor General, World Bank, National Government, and County Government Internal Auditors. The project has a dedicated Project Accountant, a Project Procurement Officer, and an Internal Auditor seconded by the County

Government. The project adopted County fiduciary structures, policies, and regulations to implement activities. The project has an activity tracking system by the National Office and County Project Coordinating Unit. The Chief Officer of Agriculture and Land Reclamation is the accounting officer for the sake of internal controls. Agreements for community grant guidelines are available too. The County Executive Committee Member for Finance appoints Project Operation Account Signatories as guided by the Project Finance Manual Project Implementation Manual and Participation Agreements. The Chief Officer of Finance is a member of the County Project Steering Committee (CPSC), which is chaired by the CECM for Agriculture, Livestock Development, and Fisheries. The County Project Steering Committee (CPSC) does the final approval and evaluation of annual work plans and budgets, furnishing the treasury with project progress, monitoring and evaluation, and periodic reports (financial and non-financial reports). All micro-project proposals and sub-project funds to the communities are officially launched publicly in the presence of targeted beneficiaries. Project status reports are also sent to the County Agriculture Sector Committee (CASCOT) for monitoring purposes.

Question number 2; were there procurement plans for the utilization of these funds? If there are any, were they submitted to the County Assembly for consideration? There are approved annual work plans, and budgets together with the procurement plan for the financial year 2022/2023. According to the Project Implementation Manual and Project Finance Manuals, there are three levels of project plans; annual plans, work plans, procurement plans, and budget. Approval is done by the following; County Technical Advisory Committee level, County Project Steering Committee level, and National Technical Advisory Committee level. The County Assembly Select Committee members were however, briefed and sensitized on the project at its inception.

Question number 3; which programs and projects were implemented by the said funds and out of the 30 Wards, how many benefited? There are programs in the name of windows of development, micro-projects, sub-projects, and FPOs/POs. All these are funded through proposal development from the target community groups, common interest groups, and vulnerable marginalized groups. The proposals go through rigorous approval processes/levels from community development-driven committees, sub-county technical teams, the County Project Coordinating Unit, the County Technical Advisory Committee, and finally, the County Project Steering Committee. ELRP targets 16 wards. Below is the fund's implementation status: A total of 651 micro-proposals were funded across the wards of KES 108,661,688. 4 farmer producer organizations were funded; Lokubai, Lodot, Kangalita, and Nariemeto at KES 500,000 and a total of Kenya Shillings 2 million. Sub-projects funded were as

follows; animal health vaccination across the County, KES 9,989,400, benefiting 2,858 households. Supplementary animal feeds across the County, KES 900,000 benefited 2,019 households. Borehole equipping/reticulation at Niimwai, at Kaeris ward, at KES 9,900,000, benefited 9,336 households. Provision of gillnets at Kerio-Kalokol, and Lake zone wards at KES 9,980,000 which benefited 1,201 households.

The fifth is on conditional grant, Kenya Urban Support Program (KUSP). The KUSP is six six-year programme that started in July 2017 and was majorly funded with support from the World Bank to cover 45 County governments including Turkana County. The two Counties excluded are; Nairobi City and Mombasa County. The main aim of the programme is to support the Kenya Urban Development Program which is a Kenyan government development strategy emanating from Kenyan national urban development policy. The objectives of the programme are specifically to achieve the following: 1. establishment of urban governance and management structures. 2, providing funding to County Governments to allow urban structures to fully implement their mandates. 3, provide capacity development to the national government state department of housing and urban development for you to further train Counties on urban issues.

Specific questions: What measures are in place to ensure transparency, accountability, and effective utilization of these funds by the County government of Turkana? And how is the County treasury working to enhance oversight and monitoring mechanisms to safeguard these public funds? Response: We have in place the Municipality board which manages the activities of (KUSP) within the Lodwar Municipality. Additionally, we have the Urban and Cities Act which guides the operations of Municipality operations. KUSP funds are audited routinely and quarterly by auditors from the World Bank, auditors from the national treasury, auditors from the office of the Auditor General, and internal auditors from the County Treasury. These audits cover both financial and non-financial activities of the programme.

Question number 2: Were there procurement work plans for the utilization of these funds? If they were, were they submitted to the County Assembly for consideration? Response; the annual work plans, procurement plans, and budgets are prepared annually and approved by the Municipality board. There was an advisory letter from the state Department of Housing and Urban Development on how to utilize funds between eligible UIG and UDG activities depending on the priorities of each County and Municipality.

Question number 3: Which programs and projects were implemented by the said funds, and of the 30 wards, how many/which wards benefited? The following activities were implemented by this fund during the year: 1. Delineation of the boundary of Makutano/Gold, Naduat, and Lolupe Town at Nakalale ward. 2. Assessment of all KUSP projects within Lodwar Municipality and Township and Kanamkemer ward.

Conditional grant number six, Financing Locally-Led Climate Action (FLLoCA) programme. The programme aims to increase local-level resilience to climate change and other hazards by strengthening the capacity of the County Governments to deliver locally-led climate change adaptation and resilience actions. The programme is Nationwide in scale with a focus on rural communities linking local-level actions to national-level coordination and planning processes. It is designed to strengthen County capacities and structures by devolving and decentralizing climate funds to support the principle of subsidiarity where local communities have greater influence to identify, prioritize, implement, and monitor climate adaptation investments and solutions. Climate actions prioritized at the local level by communities will be largely informed by County risk and vulnerability assessment.

Question 1: What measures are put in place to ensure transparency, accountability, and effective utilization of these funds by the County Government of Turkana? And how is the County Treasury working to enhance oversight and monitoring mechanisms to safeguard these public funds? The programme is generally managed through the Turkana County Climate Change Fund Act. We have Ward-based fund boards in place, and we have a dedicated fund accountant, who ensures compliance in the utilization of the fund finances. The fund is regularly audited by internal auditors from the County Government and the National treasury in addition to external auditors from the office of the Auditor General and the World Bank group.

Question number 2: Were there work plans, and procurement plans for the utilization of these funds? If they were, were they submitted to the County Assembly for consideration? The fund had an approved work plan, procurement plans, and budgets for the financial year 2022/2023, approved by the fund boards. Operations of the fund are guided by the approved fund act which vets the role of approval of work plans and procurement plans on the fund board.

Question number 3: Which programs and projects were implemented by the said funds, and of the 30 wards, how many/which words benefited? Therefore, the funds were received, but they could not be utilized due to delays in the appointment and operationalization of the fund boards and late

disbursement of funds. The funds were carried forward to the subsequent current financial year 2023/2024. The programs and projects of the fund will be implemented in all 30 wards.

Conditional grant number 7, DANIDA grants primary health care in a devolved context. The primary health care support programme aims to improve health care with a focus on reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health. Given the 2020 COVID-19 crisis, there was a significant risk that other essential health services such as antenatal care, deliveries with skilled birth attendants, child vaccination, and family planning were to suffer in the short and medium term. This amplified the relevance of the programme.

The programme has two main elements; conditional grants to primary care at the County level and long-term advisor support. The year-marked financial year 2022/2023 funds, were to be used to complement County Government resources in meeting the following expenses: (a) basic recurrent operations and maintenance cost at the level 2 and level 3 government of Kenya health facilities in accordance with Facility Annual Operating Plans (OAPs) and Quarterly Implementation Plans (QIPs) prepared by the Health Facility Management Committees (HMCs) and approved by the County governments. (b) Integrated Supportive Supervision Costs to be incurred by the County Health Management Teams (CHMTs) as per approved Annual County Supervision Plans; and (c) Support to the facilitation of County Health Accounting by County treasuries to support health facilities and the respective Counties in accounting and financial reporting.

Question 1: What measures are in place to ensure transparency, accountability, and effective utilization of these funds by the County Government of Turkana? And how is the County treasury working to enhance oversight and monitoring mechanisms to safeguard these public funds? Response: the utilization of DANIDA funds follows the standard financial management requirements as per the (PFM) Act 2012. The Controller of Budget (COB) regularly refused to whether the County has complied with the agreements and guidance established between DANIDA and the County Governments as a requirement before the release of funds for spending. Once funds are in the facility bank accounts and AIEs have been issued the facility and CHMTs use funds based on approved work plans and budgets and (AIEs) issued. Funds for the following quarter can only be released when the previous quarter's funds have been fully accounted for and reported on. Where necessary, DANIDA, in consultation with the National Treasury and the County governments commission special audit of funds provided. The National project team regularly does oversight and audit and reports are shared

with all stakeholders. The project is audited by a designated external auditor contracted by the donor (Royal Danish). A dedicated internal Auditor from the County Treasury audits the project on a quarterly basis. The County Health Management Team (CHMT) provides oversight as well as supervisory role.

Question number 2: Were there work plans/procurement plans for the utilization of these funds? If they were, were they submitted to the County Assembly for consideration? The County Assembly approved the budget for the programme as part of the budget for the County Department of Health. Facility Annual Operating Plans (AOPs) and Quarterly Implementation Plans (QIPs) are prepared by the Health Facility Management Committee (HMCS) and approved by the County Health Management Team.

Question number 3: Which programs and projects were implemented by the said funds, and of the 30 wards how, many/which benefited? Whenever funding is received, it is disbursed to all level 2 and level 3 facilities, which are facilities that are found across all the Wards in the County. The basic operations and maintenance costs disbursed by these facilities cover the following costs; Utilities (water and electricity), communication, non-medical supplies, allowances for outreach services, fuel, casual support, staff salaries (e.g. security, accountants), and finally minor repairs and maintenance of facilities.

In the FY 2022/2023, there was no funding hence no disbursements were made to the level 2 and level 3 facilities.

Find attached the approved annual work plans for these grants.

We have the work plans for the National Agricultural and Rural Inclusive Growth Project (NARIG), and we have the work plan for the Emergency Locust Response Project (ELRP). We have the agriculture sector development support programme 1 and 2. We have the Financing Locally-Led Climate Change Program (FLLoCA), we have DANIDA, and we have the Kenya Urban Institution Growth (UIG). Then finally we have the Drought Resilience Program in Northern Kenya (DRPNK) by the Government of Kenya and KFW. Those work plans and the procurement plans, the ones that have been attached to this response, are available for your perusal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Okay that's the response. I now ask the Honourable Dedan Kalimapus who had sought for the statement.

Hon. Kalimapus: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. First and foremost, through the Chair, let me appreciate the Ministry for giving a comprehensive response. It is good that they acknowledge the role of conditional grants in supporting the County Government to enhance development.

Nevertheless, I just have a few issues to raise with regard to the response. From the questions I asked, 1, measures for transparency, accountability, and utilization of the funds. That part was answered adequately in every case. 2, work plans for utilization and whether such plans were submitted to the assembly. There is a concern in part 2 of that question, I realized that most of their plans were not submitted to the County Assembly for approval yet you understand that we are concerned with the budget estimates. We appropriate these funds and most of these funds were not submitted to the County Assembly. Maybe through the chair, we would like to find out more about what happened in the ministry. Part 2, programs implemented and which wards benefited? That was also answered adequately. However, there were instances where answers were not convincing. For example, Page 8 of 12, there is an outline of some programs or other estimates, question 3 part (a) a total of 651 micro-proposals funded across the awards. That response was too general and yet from my question, I needed the Chair to be specific as to which wards exactly benefited so that Honourable Members in the House can confirm whether the programs that are listed happened in their Wards or not.

Those are the concerns I had and then there was something on 2023/2024, on item number six, financing local-led climate change action. The last part of that question says, that although the funds were received, they could not be utilized due to delays of appointment and operationalization of the fund Ward. I don't know whether you meant the ward fund or what. There is a financial year 2023/2024, what happened to the 2024/2025 financial year? That should be the next financial year. I think those are the concerns I had Honourable Speaker.

Otherwise, I think they have attempted to go to the specifics with regard to the issues I raised. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker: That's in order. You know you were the one who sought the statement and we always want the person who sought the statement to be satisfied and that what he had asked for is addressed and the House as a whole so that we get contented and that our people are getting services

like these grants. Is it reaching all wards or is it just some wards only that are getting it all the time? What was it the leader of the minority, you were just rising. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

Hon. Lomodo: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I also want to give my input on the response that has been given by the Chairperson of the Committee on Finance, Economic Planning, Trade, and ICT in this County Assembly. I beg that I proceed.

Deputy Speaker: proceed.

Hon. Lomodo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First and foremost, allow me to thank the Chairperson of this committee for bringing this report in time to the County Assembly of Turkana. Allow me also to thank the Committee for coordinating hand in hand with the County Executive Committee Member. I want to thank Dr. Michael Eregae, the County Executive Committee Member for the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, Trade and ICT for the detailed report he has given before the floor of this House.

Mr. Speaker, just a few concerns on NARIG that is the National Agriculture and Rural Inclusive Growth Project. We have been given a response to the third question that Hon. Kalimapus sought, which programs and projects were implemented by the said funds and of the 30 Wards how many benefited? Mr. Speaker, the response here goes that in the financial year 2022/2023, KES 36.4 million were disbursed to 141 common interest groups through 16 community-driven development committees. Each ward has one CDC, comprising 16 members with ward admins, and chiefs being ex-official Members. Mr. Speaker, I want to confirm that it is true we have 16 Members within the Wards, but I also want to confirm that Lokichar Ward, the Ward which I come from, did not receive any single cent from the KES 36.4 million that was launched sometimes in the Department of Agriculture. And I want to guess that even there are more other wards that did not receive these monies for NARIG that were supposed to go to support cooperatives within our wards. It was supposed to go and support our groups for youth and women within our Wards. What I want to raise to the chairperson is that, yes, we have committees in our wards, but at the moment some Wards have not received these funds, we are requesting that the remaining Wards that did not receive the funds be factored in the 2024/2025 financial year funds that are going to be received under NARIG. I'm also told that this programme will end in March 2024 from the response that I've seen here, the agreements that were signed between the County Government and the Partner.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Kalimapus raising this question intended to confirm whether these projects are distributed equally across the 30 Wards. These programs are indeed skewed to some specific Wards. We want to urge the chairperson that if you engage the County Executive Committee Member for Finance, especially for the budget that we are going to approve, the budget estimates that are going to be brought before the floor of this House. We are expecting as an Assembly that all the conditional grants that are going to be approved before the floor of this House as estimates, all those programs be distributed across Turkana County because each Ward has a challenge, and we are expecting that we are treated equally, not that programs are only featured into specific regions.

Finally on the issue of Committees; there are some conditional grants here and we've been told that there are committees within our wards. Mr. Speaker, I cannot ascertain some Committees in Lokichar Ward, probably the honorable members who are here can tell us if there are committees that are managing these programs at the ward levels. But from where I come from, Lokichar, I can only ascertain of the one for the groupings that were supposed to receive funds. These other ones for Danida Mr. Speaker, I can't cheat. In Lokichar, where I come from, where I represent the great people of Lokichar, I can't ascertain either of those groups or committees. It would be so prudent if the chairperson could also tell us where specifically in Lokichar we have those committees. Finally, as I sit down, Mr. Speaker is on the issue of Danida grants. We've been told that DANIDA grants are grants that normally support the operations of our Level 2 and Level 3 facilities, which are facilities that are found across all 30 Wards in the County.

Mr. Speaker, it's in the record that the last response in this statement says that in the financial 2022/2023, there was no funding, and hence no disbursements were made to level 2 and level 3 facilities. I want to inquire with the chairperson and the CECM, why are we not receiving these DANIDA grants. Before we get into the nitty grids, I said sometimes before the floor of this House that we need to have what we call financial prudence. The previous regime misused these funds. We've been told that these funds were put into a different course and that is why this grant could not be disbursed again in this County.

Mr. Speaker, we want to know the progress because we were told DANIDA had given the County Government instructions that they need that money to be refunded. So, when soon? Our level 2, and level 3 hospitals are just, even the staff who are working there are not getting anything. Even the funding from the County Government to those dispensaries is not getting there, most of those

dispensaries are getting to be Houses of Bats. And it seems like we only have just a nurse there. We have someone who is just a support staff there and he or she is not getting any support.

It would be so prudent for us to understand when soon we are going to receive the DANIDA grants because it is this grant that has been supporting the support staff in those dispensaries. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Honourable Members, this is not a motion and I beg that you know it is Honourable Dedan Kalimapus who sought the statement. It is prudent if you take the very shortest time to make your observations so that you can give the chair some time to respond to the comments you are making. I will give a chance in this order; Honourable Mary, Honourable Deputy Leader of Majority, and then finally the Whip of Majority.

Hon. Nakapwan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have a lot to add to this. First of all, I want to thank the Chair and the Committee who undertook this. They have a detailed response and I must thank the concerned department. But Mr. Speaker, there is something that has caught my eye, and that is the issue of National Agriculture and Rural Inclusion Growth Projects. It is about the third question that Honourable Dedan had asked, which programs and projects were implemented by the said funds and of the 30 Wards how many benefited? Now I am specifically interested in this response. They are saying Kenya Shillings 36 million were disbursed to 141 common interest groups through 16 community-driven development committees. The composition of the committees is 16 members with Ward admins and chiefs being ex-officials.

Mr. Speaker, during this period I was a Ward admin and I am saying that this is just for PR purposes. Wards admins are never involved in this. They don't know what is happening. I could see NARIG and didn't understand what they do.

I wish to urge that the County government involve its staff in matters that involve the County Government. Like now, maybe in this scenario, the chief could know what was happening with NARIG, and yet the Ward Administrator who is an employee of the County Government does not know. There is no need to employ staff and yet you don't involve them in what is happening in the County Government. That is the little concern I had out of experience, they don't involve the staff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Honourable Abdifatar?

Hon. Abdifatar: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I also want to add my voice and give a few observations regarding the response given by the Department of Finance. Much of our concerns are pressing on the NARIG issues. NARIG is a vocabulary in my Ward, let me just say so, because this organization or funding is not working in my Ward and that is contrary to the response given that 141 common interest groups through 16 Community-driven development communities are distributed to all Wards. I stand to be challenged, maybe through the Chair, we could ask more. I needed to know who these beneficiaries who benefited from Kaaleng/Kaikor are. Because of what I know, the project is not doing anything in that area.

My last concern regards the issue about the climate change FLLoCA thing, they have mentioned that the programs and projects were implemented by the said funds in the 30 Wards which we've been told that they have not been maximized, nothing has gone through, but the state they have made is that they have constituted committees in every ward. I also disagree with that idea because none of those committees exist in my Ward.

Lastly, I want to comment something on the report, you know it's good if you give satisfactory evidence or response to a member of the County Assembly, and it's good that to attach some documents that can justify the expenditure of these funds in particular projects. But none of those expenses, no justification attached, no list of beneficiaries benefiting from these funds. It's very hard to accept this theory at times. That's my observation. Through the chair, tell these people to attach some supportive documents to justify the expenses incurred or how this money was spent on a particular project in every Ward. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker: Finally, Honourable William.

Hon. Etubon: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I am going to take a very short time. First of all, I would like to thank the Chairperson for the Finance Committee as well as Honourable Kalimapus for asking about this. It is indeed true that we have these funds, but what we need to say is that most of these things are like private activities, they run their things in a very skewed manner. What is done is just something that is known by somebody from the headquarters with the chief, and maybe one village admin who is well connected with the provincial administration.

I know of these cases, like even in my own Ward, during the campaigns, some of these organizations, these funds, were being used to run campaigns. When you talk of CDDC, you only hear that there are committees. You know I am interested in agriculture and I am a very serious stakeholder, but you won't be surprised to know that some of these funds that target agriculture are House of Darkness, even in my own Ward. It is high time through the Chair that those powers need to come in the open.

If I talk of this one called the Drought Resilience Program in Northern Kenya, they have a very well-designed project in a place called Smailele in Katilu Ward, a project that has never ended. Asking about that project is like having a wild goose chase, why? That thing has been there. The design of the canal was even corrected by laymen. I am not an engineer, but my experience has taught me how to get a canal from the river that will irrigate farms that are there. But you find somebody who is an engineer just getting a canal directly, 90 degrees from the river, ignoring the slopes that are there, and dreaming that he's going to irrigate that piece of land. That is the case of Smailele, where even those old men, when we took the engineer there, they ridiculed the engineer and asked him, what sort of an engineer are you? We are laymen, we know the right way to bring this canal here.

What is done there is so skewed such that even the department here cannot say anything. The NIA cannot say anything. They have a coordinator who comes from Nairobi, a very arrogant one, the one I witnessed, he kept on shouting at all of us. The project has not been completed. And the funny thing is that they even go to hand it over to somebody who is not a chief officer of agriculture, somebody who is not the County Executive Committee Member for agriculture. They just get one of these people and do that.

This programme Honourable Speaker needs to be handled seriously. We cannot be receiving money from donors, and then we have a very bad report, like that one of the Minister of Education in 2003 when partners supported free primary education, and then money was looted, and then we were blacklisted. That's why we still have a lot of wolves in our Education sector. These programs are the personal properties of those who coordinate. We need to take action on that. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker: Okay. Finally, Honourable Chair, do you want to make some clarifications on those observations raised by Members?

Hon. Ewoi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to first of all thank the Honourable Members for their remarks and observation in regard to this statement on the utilization of the conditional allocations and grants. The Honourable Member representing Nakalale Ward raised an issue on the work plans and procurement plans, whether they are submitted to the County Assembly or not. He alluded that part of the question was not satisfactorily answered. Yes, it's indeed true. In this response, there was no clear indication from the Department whether the work plans and the procurement plans had been submitted to the County Assembly. I think from the seven conditional grants, we've all heard from this response, there are so many players, right from the National Government, the County Government, to a representative of the donor. We've been told in this response that we have coordinators, accountants of some of these conditional grants, the very people who are not working with the County government, save for maybe some procurement officers who are attached to some of these programs. We have the agreements signed by the County Government of Turkana and the National Government and some of these development partners. It's like there is no clarity on whether the work plans and the procurement plans have to be submitted to the County Assembly. That is the biggest undoing some of these agreements have but I would want to persuade all of us, there is nothing that stops the County Assembly from demanding or requesting these work plans and procurement plans. The moment we are through with this statement, the County Department of Finance and Economic Planning has to submit all these work plans to this House.

Going forward, we need to be vigilant, let's make sure each and every year a member can request or demand for this or the relevant committee of the House has to demand for these work plans and procurement plans for us to see how the distribution of the conditional grants has been shared across the 30 Wards. The other concern that was raised by the Member was about NARIG, the emergency locust response project whereby in question three, which programs and projects were implemented by the said funds, and of the 30 Wards how many benefited? The member had a concern of that response whereby the department said a total of 651 micro proposals funded across the Wards at Kenya shillings 108, 661,688. According to the Member, he said this was a general statement, but Mr. Speaker, this project, the Emergency Locust Response Project ELRP we are told it's operating in 27 wards. The 27 wards are where the 651 micro proposals are funded across the Wards that is where those micro proposals were derived from. It's the 27 wards apart from only three wards which are not beneficiaries of that.

The Honourable Leader of Minority raised some pertinent concerns on NARIG. He pointed out that in the financial year 2022/2023 KES 36.4 million were disbursed to 141 common interest groups through 16 community-driven development committees. He alluded that Lokichar Ward never benefited from NARIG. That could be true because of the 141 common interest groups through 16 community-driven development committees, 16 community-driven development committees represent 16 wards, out of the 30 Wards it's 16 wards that have benefited from NARIG. I know the concerns raised by the Honourable Member representing Kaaleng/ Kaikor Ward are also valid because it's not all wards benefited from NARIG. I remember in Turkana North it's only Nakalale Ward and Lapur Ward that benefited at some point from this support. At least I'm aware and privy to it.

The issue of the inclusion of the Ward admins as the ex-officials in the CDDC. That could be true but I know we still have challenges between the National Government and the County government. We are all aware of the functions of the National Government but what is happening on the ground is that the National Government administrators seem to be very powerful compared with the County Government administrators. What is there is that there is a need for the County administrators to fight for their space because these agreements were signed by the County Government and those development partners and of course with some National Government representation. In that case, the County Government becomes handy because where these projects are being implemented are in the County Departments like now agriculture to support the issues of food security. But you will find most of our administrators shying away leaving the National Government administrators carrying the day. That is why you see the chiefs are still very powerful, you find in any activity that is there you find a chief is there and the village administrator is nowhere to be seen. What is there is, these people, the Ward administrators and the village administrators have to stamp authority so that they can find their place in some of these government operations. On the FLLoCA, the Honourable Member representing Nakalale Ward, the reason why the FLLoCA funds were not disbursed in time is the delay in the operationalization of the Ward Climate Change Committees.

The Honourable Member representing Kaaleng/ Kaikor Ward, we have the Ward Climate Change Committees in every Ward. I am aware in Turkana North they were supported by Lokado. Lokado is the one who helped in the establishment and the formation of these Ward Climate Change Committees and they were done some time back in 2022 before the third Assembly. Maybe you can do your small research, they are there. On the delay of FLLoCA, of course, we were expecting to get funding from FLLoCA but in one of the supplementary budgets as a County Assembly, we committed

resources so that we can attract that funding from FLLOCA. But what happened was there was a delay in the release of the FLLOCA funds and at the same time training was still being done for the Ward Climate Change Committees.

On the conditional grants, yes as you've observed there has been a skewed distribution of these conditional grants across the County. I know for some of us who've been there for a while we've been in fights and disagreements with the County Executive Committee Members and the Chief Officers of some of these Departments because they would redirect these conditional grants to where they come from and that is the reason as to why some of the Wards have missed from benefiting from these Conditional Grants. Now that the other day we approved the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Conditional Grants, we need to make sure that we do this from the beginning. Right from the identification of these projects; so that we are made aware of the projects to be funded through the Conditional Grants.

We also have a role, it's unfortunate, the chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture and other Sectoral Committees of the House; where these County Departments receive this donor funding from our development partners. What the Ministry of Finance does is only to help in reporting; they help in accounting, and the signing of the agreement. That is what the County Department of Finance and Economic Planning does. Of course, planning and making sure that the matching grants have been included in the budget estimates and all that. The implementation bit is done by the specific County Departments, for instance, Agriculture, it's unfortunate when the Member was giving his observations and remarks, the Chair of the Agriculture Committee was not in and yet in this response, the CECM has mentioned more than two Conditional Grants where the Sectoral Committee on Agriculture has been brought on board during the inception of these Conditional Grants. Just to share with the Sectoral Committee for Agriculture on the availability of these funds. The Committee on Agriculture will now have to push and make sure that there is inclusion of all the Wards in the distribution of these donor funds.

Otherwise, as I oversight the Finance committee, ours is to make sure that reporting, and the planning are done satisfactorily. Then...

Deputy Speaker: Maybe chairman, I don't know if you remember the last part of Leader of the Minority concern or observation?

Hon. Ewoi: I'm coming to that.

Deputy Speaker: Okay.

Hon. Ewoi: Thank you very much. On the committees managing some of these Conditional Grants as alluded to by the Leader of the minority, because he said in his Ward, these committees are not feasible, maybe we need to raise those concerns about whether there are no committees in some wards to manage some of these funds. That has to be raised so that the responsible departments ensure that the committees have been established to manage the affairs of the Conditional Grants in those wards.

On DANIDA grants, I think this is not the first time we have been confronted with these claims of misuse of funds by the previous regime. I want to report to this House that on several occasions we've engaged the Department of Health on this matter and they have always distanced themselves from the misuse of these funds. What they always say is that there were issues with reporting, there was a delay in reporting and that is the reason why for the last financial year we could not benefit from the DANIDA grants, at the same time, I would want to report to this House that the DANIDA grant is back. When we approved those Intergovernmental Conditional Grants allocation agreements, DANIDA was among the list of the Conditional Grants this County Government is going to receive, and there are a lot of terms and conditions in those agreements. Therefore, the delay in reporting, and a failure to allocate matching grants for the same, will prevent the County Government from not receiving the grant. The issues surrounding DANIDA, will attract a lot of penalties in case of misuse of resources.

Finally, the Honourable Member representing Kaaleng/Kaikor Ward was, in response was interested in a list of attachments on the expenditure of the funds, and the list of the beneficiaries per Ward. In this response or rather in the question that was asked by the Honourable Member representing Nakalale Ward, he was not interested in the expenditure and the list of the beneficiaries. We can only avail the information as per the question raised by the Member. But if we had concerns or questions regarding the expenditure and the list of the beneficiaries of the programme, we would have still availed that information.

Mr. Speaker, I want to once again thank the Members for their key observations and remarks in regards to the utilization of the Conditional Grants and this is like an eye-opener. Moving forward, we

need to make sure that we've played our oversight role on how the Conditional Grants in this County are being utilized. With those few remarks, I say thank you.

Deputy Speaker: Honourable Members, I think you have heard the Chair. He has tried to even make further clarifications on the observations made by Members. As I started, I said, the Honourable Member who sought a statement expressed his appreciation for the response and we can't make further directions. What's important is that as Honourable Members, we can continue as much as possible to push for things that are not available. Like the list, those appendices that need to be attached to these reports and approvals. If there's a gap in approvals, then there is a problem because all plans are supposed to be approved by the County Assembly.

By extension, even if it's grants, it's part of these matching grants approved by this Assembly, that should not have a gap, it is us the Honourable Members, who can push further so that we get as much information as possible and our oversight role is really appreciated and taken seriously.

Honourable Members, let's end that matter there on the response as we push for further oversight to the Executive. I appreciate those questions by Honourable Dedan Kalimapus, It is opening the Members that, even now, this thing is skewed. Some wards in the process are not benefiting. We have heard even from the chairperson that the CECMs or the Chief Officers in one way or another may have their interest so that when these grants come, they try to channel from where they come from or areas they represent. So that's an eye-opener, and because we still have one more statement, we can rest the matter there.

There is this other response by the chairperson or the vice chairperson sought again by Dedan Kalimapus on the status of Spatial plans for eight towns. Honourable Member representing Lodwar Township?

Hon. Kuya: Ahsante sana Bwana Kinara. Majibu yetu yataletwa kesho wakati Mwenyekiti wa Kamati atakuwa.

Deputy Speaker: Mumekubaliana tayari atapatikana kesho ama nitakapopeana mwelekeo utabadilika baadae?

Hon. Kuya: Atapatikana.

Deputy Speaker: Okay. Honourable Members, because the Committee Vice-Chairperson has asked the House to give them till tomorrow so that they can respond to this particular statement. Let me direct that this statement shall be responded tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT

Deputy Speaker: Honourable Members, there being no other business, the House is adjourned until today at 2.30 p.m.

House Rose at 10:54 a.m.