

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF SAMBURU



THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 12th March, 2025

The Assembly met at the County Assembly Chambers at 9:30 am

The Speaker, (Mr. Lenamarle Stephen) in Chair

PRAYER

MOTION

The Speaker, (Mr. Lenamarle Stephen): Hon. Lenamparasio.

MCA Loosuk Ward, (Hon. Lenamparasio Phelix): Thank Hon. Speaker. I beg to move the following Motions **THAT** pursuant to standing order number 47, this County Assembly debates and adopts the Report of the committee on budget and appropriations in the considerations of the County fiscal strategy paper 2025. I call upon Hon. Silapia to second the Motion. Thank you.

(Hon. Silapia bow to second the Motion).

The Speaker, (Mr. Lenamarle Stephen): Hon. Members I now proposed the Motion that pursuant to standing order 47, the County Assembly debates and adopts the Report of the committee on budget and appropriations in the considerations of the County fiscal strategy paper 2025. Hon. Lenamparasio.

MCA Loosuk Ward, (Hon. Lenamparasio Phelix): Thank Hon. Speaker. The CFSP 2025 is a key policy document that set out County fiscal and economic priorities for the upcoming financial year and the medium term. It serves as the foundation for budget and formulations ensuring that resource allocations align with developments goals, fiscal responsibilities, response and national economic policies.

The County Fiscal Strategy Paper is a fiscal document that outlines the Country government fiscal strategy and priorities for the financial year and serves as the guide for the County government budget. The CFSP is an important document as it set the overall policy framework for resource allocations and informs budgetary allocations.

The 2025 Samburu County Fiscal Strategy Paper is the third to be prepared under the CIDP 2023/2024 as mandated by section 117 of the PFM act of 2012. It sets the County budget priorities and fiscal framework for financial year 2025/2026 aligned with County Integrated Development Plan. The County Fiscal paper 2025 outline strategies, priorities and policy goals guiding the Samburu County government for preparing budget for the medium term and for the financial year 2025.

Section 117(7) of the PFMA provides that the County treasury shall consider any recommendations by the County Assembly when finalizing the budget proposal for the financial year concern. It is what mentioning that once the CFSP is approved, it will form the basis for evaluating the budget estimates for the financial year 2025/2026 for the various spending entities. This is therefore very important stage in the budget circle and it is not only provide recommendations to be considered when finalizing the budgets but also sets the expenditure ceilings for various spending entities which must be adhered to.

The preparation of the CFSP in it accordance with section 117 of the finance magement act 2012 which obligates that;

1. The County treasury shall prepare and submit the Country executive Committee to the Country executive Committee strategic paper for approval and County treasury shall bring the approves the Country fiscal Strategy Paper to the County Assembly by 28th February of each year.
2. The County treasury shall align his fiscal paper with the national objectives in the budget policies statement.
3. In preparing the County Strategy Paper, County shall specify the broad strategy priorities and policies goals that will guide the County government in preparing it is budget for the coming financial and of the medium term.
4. The County treasury shall treasury shall include it is CFSP, the financial out log of the County revenues, expenditures and borrowing for the coming financial and for the medium term.
5. In preparing the County Strategy Paper, County treasury shall seek and take into accounts the views of ;
 - (a) The commission on the revenue allocations, the public, any interested persons or groups, any other forum that was established by the legislations
6. Not later than 14 days on submitting the CFSP to the County Assembly. The County Assembly shall consider and may adopt it with or without amendments.
7. The County treasury shall consider any recommendations made by the County Assembly when finalizing the budget proposal for the financial year concern.

8. The County treasury shall publicize the CFSP within 7 days after it has been submitted to the County Assembly. Because every Member has this document, I just want to read the committee recommendations which in page 31. The 2025 fiscal strategic paper and all-inclusive state of the County enabling the budget and appropriation committee to properly scrutinize the proposed ceilings and proper recommendations.

Some of the guideline areas include the area for resource sharing, half year department expenditure, absorption rates, trends view of the CECM finance current financial year, CRA

Recommendations on ceilings, submissions from the sectorial committees and public participations.

Pending bills and County on sources revenue.

The committee recommends as follows;

I. That the County Assembly plays a critical role in oversight, legislations and representations and must take proactive to enforce physical disciplines by ensuring strict adherence limits and legal expenditure threshold. The Assembly must prevent budget overrun ensure efficient use of public resources and the executive accountable for financial decisions.

1. To enhance transparency and accountability. The Assembly should strengthen the monitoring of conditional grants to ensure that funds from the national government and development partners are used exclusively for the intended purposes. This includes regular audits, process tracking and enforcing compliance reporting requirement.

2. That the County Assembly should enhance public participation in the budget process by ensuring that stakeholders, civil society band local communities are actively involved in decision making. This will promote inclusive governance, increase budget, legitimacy and ensure resource aligned with a public name. Strengthen citizen engagements, forum and budget sharing will be vital in achieving a transparent accountable and responsive County physical system.

3. To ensure efficient financial management fiscal sustainability and improved service delivery. The County treasury must implement key reforms that enhance

accountability and efficiency. Strengthening internal controls is crucial in preventing financial mismanagement leakages and regular expenditure. This includes enhancing audit mechanism, enforcing compliance with fiscal financial regulations and increasing transparency in public procurement and expenditure tracking.

4. That the County treasury should come up with mitigation measures to control wage bill which now stands at 40.6 percent against of 35 percent for the total revenue as per the section 107 of the PFM cat 2015. Read together with regulations 25(1) d of PFM regulations 2015. Urgent measures such workforce rationalization, performance base budgeting and automation of payroll system should be undertaken to curb the excess personal costs.
5. That the County treasury should put strategy in place to realize the on source revenue targets to improve revenue collections through enforcement, ceiling revenue leakages, expanding local revenue regional base. This will reduce reliance to ensure stable framework for County operations.
6. That the County treasury should put in place a structured payment plans to enhance liquidity and enable the County to clear the eligible pending bills, since some bills may lead to accumulations of penalties on the amount due causing stray on the budget.
7. That the procurement process under the development budget should be initiated in good time to facilitate timely completions and payments of the projects. This aid on addressing the issue of pending bills as projects will be executed and paid by in the financial year in which they were initially budgeted for.
8. The County treasury ensures that all projects in the County strategic paper are captured in the annual development plan.
9. Regulations 37(1) of the PFM act 2015 stipulates that where County Assembly approves cheque in the annual estimates of the budget under section 131 of the PFM act 2012.
10. Any increase or reduction in the expenditure on what shall not exceed 1% of the ceiling pursuant to this provision, any changes to the report coming on the budget estimates adhere to this provision.

11. Section 125(2) of the PFM act of 2012 requires inputs in the County budget making process in adherence to the legal provisions, the committee recommends prioritizations on the programs that emerged as the priority during public forum such as health care, education, water and infrastructure which directly in that order.
12. The committee recommends that the projects ceilings should be greatly heed the preparation of the financial 2025/2026 budget estimates.
13. The County treasury adhere to the financial year 2025/2026 budget calendar.

The committee wishes to thank the office of the Speaker and that of the Clerk for support for fulfilling it is mandates. They are also t5hankfull to the Members of the public who participated in budget process by giving good recommendations to the committee.

The Speaker, (Mr. Lenamarle Stephen): Hon Silapia

Specially Elected Member, (Hon. Lenamatiyo Silapia): Thank you Hon. Speaker, stand to support the Report on committee on budget on County Fiscal Strategy Paper. As we have heard that the timeline of the CFSP, should be tabled to this House on 28th February and that exactly has been done, the committee has taken a very little time to go the public participations, coming up with Report and tabled it yesterday to this House.

Now we are here debate and I want to urge the Hon. Members to support this report as it is where the ceilings are set for the all sectors within the County government and absorptions rates of all sectors. In my observation I came to realize that some departments are not getting their ceiling rising because of the absorption rates. In this Report, the committee states that the County should strengthen the procurement process their work on timeline. Thy also states that the County treasury should come up with mitigation measures to control wage bill.

We have met yesterday with County treasury department lead by the CECM and the CEO for revenue. We came across that revenue do not know what they are doing. The other day we launched the automated supper pay on how to collect revenue. But yesterday the land rates have decline from 40 million to 13 million without and explanation. To my understanding, if we collected 40 million last year, then I will expect this year to have at least 60 million but they are telling us that they did not capture the land rates in the automated supper pay

and at that time, they just used the manual to collect KSHs. 40, 000, 000 and still using the manual mode of payment and they do not have a reasonable explanation as what happened that we have a difference of KSHs. 40, 000, 000 to KSHs. 13, 000, 000, for this reason then Committee observed that the County Treasury must put a mitigation measures to make sure that we have an improvement in revenue collection.

Hon. Speaker, as you understand; we still have a hanging Finance Bill and through your guidance we need to have the Finance Bill being passed in this House.

Secondly, the Chairperson raised a concern that the County Assembly should play its role on oversight, legislation and representation. Hon. Speaker, our Standing Orders guides on how to tackle the issues on Fiscal Strategy Paper, County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP), Budget making process and Budget Estimates Reports. All Sectoral Committees are to sit down, look at the Fiscal Strategy Paper, come up with their reports and then submit the reports to the Committee on Budget and Appropriations. Hon. Speaker, but we do not see them doing so and that is why the Chairperson stated that the Hon. Members need to make sure that they perform their critical roles.

Hon. Speaker, I want to tell the Hon. Members who Chair Sectoral Committees to make sure that they know what is going on because this is where the ceilings for all Sectors are set. Some of them will come when we are making the Budget and complain that the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources has a small budget while they are sleeping when we are passing these documents which is very important.

Hon. Speaker, I want to tell this House that we should wake up and pull our socks to make sure that these things are being done on time, we see that projects for the last Financial Year are being done now just because of procurement.

Hon. Speaker, I think procurement is another elephant in the County that should be put on toes to make sure that they follow the procurement process in time.

Hon. Speaker, The Fiscal Strategy Paper is another document that sets ceiling, we came to realize that some important Department which are first priority are given a small ceiling; for Example, the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources but the explanation

given by the Chief Executive Committee Member on Finance, Economic Planning and ICT is that it is because of low absorption.

Hon. Speaker, Samburu people will not suffer just because of one person in the office who is incompetent. Hon. Speaker, what causes low absorption of rates? It is just because the sector has not expended their money. Hon. Speaker, how are we going to help?

Hon. Speaker, the County should put more measures on how to improve the procurement process. Hon. Speaker I support this document and I call the Hon. Members to support this document because it is generated from the CIDP and it helps the County to prepare budget estimates, thank you Hon. Speaker.

(Applause)

MCA, Lodokejek Ward, (Hon. Lekuchula David): Thank you Hon. Speaker, I stand to support the document and appreciate the Committee on Budget and Appropriations for the good work they have done and for presenting this document.

Hon. Speaker, I want to appreciate the Committee because I see that we are starting the Budget circle on the right foot, immediately we received the document we went for public participation, as you know Hon. Speaker; deliberation and consultation is vital in any process for a proper end result.

Hon. Speaker, the Committee also did summon the Chief Executive Committee Member for Finance, Economic Planning and ICT and her team, we deliberated about this document. Hon. Speaker, I being a member of the Committee stands here to report that we have discussed issues in this document with the Executive, for example; looking at the ceiling for the Department of Finance, Economic Planning and ICT which seems to have the highest in this column, the CECM elaborated and explained why the Department has a huge ceiling compared to other Departments.

Hon. Speaker, we are happy that the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources which is one of the critical Departments in this County got an addition of almost KShs. 100, 000, 000 compared to the 2024/2025 Financial Year Budget. Hon. Speaker, we wanted the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources and the Department of Public Health,

Medical Services and Sanitation to have more money but the problem is that when the cabinet is setting ceilings for these Departments, some of the Departments did not do well in the absorption rate, it is difficult to allocate more funds to the Department and they are not going to utilize.

Hon. Speaker, another point that rose from our discussion was about procurement plan; the CECM explained to the Committee that procurement plan is supposed to be uploaded immediately after reading of the Budget on 30th June, but sometimes, for example, last Financial Year, the Budget was not uploaded until around November, we were still asking the Departments about the projects and they kept telling us that the procurement plan was not yet uploaded; we discussed about this and the CECM assured the Committee things are going to be good now.

Hon. Speaker, I urge the Hon. Members to support this document and the budget for the Departments so that when budget estimates will be presented we will not have difficult discussions during that time. Hon. Speaker, I want to appreciate the Chairperson Committee on Budget and Appropriations because...

(Laughter)

He seems to be lenient to the CECM Finance, Economic Planning and ICT this time around

(Laughter)

I do not know if they went and discussed something outside there, but at least we appreciate the work we did, thank you Hon. Speaker.

MCA, Elbarta Ward, (Hon. Leitoro Jeremiah): Thank you Hon. Speaker, I stand to support the Motion and make my contribution on this important Motion.

Hon. Speaker, I think this is the most important document that we are interrogating and discussing, I want to thank the Committee for the good job they have done. Hon. Speaker, if I am not wrong, I think this is the third County Fiscal Strategy Paper Report that the Committee considered and presented to this Hon House. Hon. Speaker, my only concern is the good recommendation considered by the Committee, I do not know whether they are taken seriously by the Department.

Hon. Speaker, just to give an example; in our last County Fiscal Strategy Paper, there were some recommendations that we made; for example; we recommended that the ceiling for the Department of Public Health, Medical Service and Sanitation be increased, they had a ceiling of KSHs. 1, 400, 000, 000, we said they should maintain the ceiling at KSHs. 1, 600, 000, 000 hence KSHs. 200, 000, 000 be added because it is a critical Department. But they opted to increase KSHs. 150, 000, 000 only.

Hon. Speaker, I understand that they have already considered increasing up to KSHs. 1, 600, 000, 000 in this Fiscal Strategy. Hon. Speaker, due to the needs of the Department of Public Health, Medical Services and Sanitation I think I could have been prudent if they could add up to KSHs. 1, 800, 000, 000. I do not know if the House is aware that we have received petition from the medical workers who have been contracted by the National Government employed to offer medical services in our County at both lower facilities such as dispensaries and health centers and higher facilities like County Referral Hospital.

Hon. Speaker, the petition presented informed that the in their discussion they need around KSHs. 160, 000, 000 for consideration of them being absorbed to permanent and pensionable. Hon. Speaker, there is an increment of KSHs. 100, 000, 000 in this year's Fiscal Strategy Paper compared to last year's. I still feel that the allocation is not enough.

Hon. Speaker my main issue was indeed if this Committee was able to make such good recommendations but they are not taken into consideration it becomes an issue, and that is why as we speaking we find that most of our health services are creepy and people are still struggling.

Hon. Speaker, you all understand that find that in each and every Financial Year there are new dispensaries that are being constructed and they come with other expenditures including employment of health staff, support staff, consideration of drugs and many other issues.

Hon. Speaker, for this Financial Year, I find it somehow fair, but, some Departments need to be given more priorities; Department such as Department of Public Health, Medical Services and Sanitation and Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources. Hon. Speaker, if you go to our villages in all our respective Wards; I think the outcry of water shortage is everywhere and sometimes when are told by the Department that the ceiling of the Department has been by the absorption rate; I find it ridiculous because there is no way a Department such as Department

of Water cannot be able not to have a good absorption rate for repair of boreholes and initiation of drilling of new boreholes.

Hon. Speaker, it is also prudent if comment on the issue of revenue collection. Hon. Speaker, without strengthening our own sources revenue collection, I know so many other things will stagnate, the Department of Health will stagnate, Department of Water will stagnate and employment of Early Childhood Education teachers, Hon. Speaker what will make our wage bill go down is we can only be able to streamline and strengthen our revenue collection mechanism.

Hon. Speaker, we have a number of our Early Childhood Development centers that do not have teachers, I also heard that the Governor is requesting the Hon. Members to stop constructing more ECD and Dispensaries now that the wage Bill does not allow us to employ anymore. By putting measures to ensure that revenue collection strengthens I think we will be able to tackle this issue. As said by Hon. Silapia that we find it ridiculous why our revenue is not going up as required because we thought by employing mechanisms such as automation like the super pay; we expect our revenue to double but we find it ridiculous the projection that they are giving us, initially when I came to this House there was a tendency that they used to predict that our revenue for the next Financial Year will grow by 10% that was the first year I was here then year 2 10% then we questioned what is this 10% to my dismay this Financial Year it has dropped from 10% it has reduced instead of increasing to 15-20 percent now that we have automated revenue collection. The prediction has reduced from 10 down to 5 percent.

I think we have jokers on those manning our revenue and I urge this Hon. House that I think we need to have a special day to audit things pertaining revenue otherwise if we are not going to handle and tackle issues to do with revenue as Samburu County we are going to stagnate. I thank the Hon. Chair and Committee in general for the good work they have done, thank you Mr. Speaker.

MCA Porro Ward, (Hon. Leerte Patrick): Asante Mheshimiwa Spika. Nashukuru kwa nafasi hii na ninaunga mjadala mkono. Mheshimiwa Leitoro amesema kuwa badala ushuru yetu kwenda juu lina shuka hata baada ya Super Pay. Katika soko la Poro watu wanaokota ushuru ikiwa pesa taslimu na kulingana na hali ya sasa mtu hawezi kuokota ushuru na kuleta ofisini ilhali hana pesa mwenyewe. Bunge linatengeneza sheria na hakuna wajibikaji. Labda mwaka ujao hatutapata kitu

kamwe. Namshukuru mwenyekiti na kamati yake, wamefanya kazi nzuri ya kutengeneza sheria lakini hofu langu ni kuwa sheria hii kweli litafanya kazi ama ni kwa maandishi tu.

Unapoangalia pia viwango vya ardhi vimeharibika zaidi kila mtu anachukua pesa na hakuna receipts unalipa tu na mnamalizana na ploti linapimwa. Sioni kama own source revenue itasaidia iwapo watu wanaendelea casually namna hiyo. Mahali pengine ni idara ya ununuzi ambayo iko na shida kubwa sana. Ukiweka mradi yako unapoenda kufuatilia na bajeti imeanza kufanya kazi ununuzi inaenda saa zingine hadi Desema ama Novemba kutoka Juni, Julai, Agosti wanazunguka tu sijui ni nini bado. Wanafaa kauhamishwa hapo kwa sababu wakikaa sana hapo wanazoea na kufanya vile wanataka. Nasema hivi kwa sababu kuna ECD niliweka pesa 2023/2024 na mpaka wa leo haijajengwa na hakuna kitu inasemwa na ukiuliza idara ya ununuzi Wanaweka mchezo mwingi hapo. Mwisho ni kuwa ECDs hakuna walimu na tangu nikuje hapa ni wakati mmoja tu ndio walimu wameandikwa juzi juzi, kuna walimu wengi wamestaafu na wengine wamefariki na hakuna waliopewa nafasi hizo. Pia wanapoandikwa ni kwa kujuana alafu mwalimu anachagua mahali anaenda kwa sababu ako na sauti mahali.

Mwaka jana nilileta hoja hapa kuwa kuna mwalimu alijihamisha kutoka Poro hadi Maralal na mpaka wa leo shule hiyo haina mwalimu na nimeenda huko hadi nikachoka saa zingine hii Kaunti tunajitesa kwa sababu wakati maneno ilikuwa inasimamiwa kutoka Nairobi ilikuwa vingine lakini sasa kila kitu imekuja hapa, waziri, CO na Directors wako hapa lakini hiyo idara ya Elimu maneno haiendi vizuri kwa hivyo Mheshimiwa Spika nikimalizia kama tutafanya kwa hiyo pendekezo Mwenyekiti na kamati yake wamesema tunaweza faulu na isiwe tu kwa maandishi. Mheshimiwa Spika naunga mkono na naomba waheshimiwa waweze kupitisha kwa sababu bila kupitisha barua hiyo na kama kuna makosa kidogo tutarekebisha tukisonga mbele kwa sababu tutachelewa na kwa hiyo naunga mkono.

MCA Loosuk Ward, (Hon. Lenamparasio Phelix): Thank you so much Mr. Speaker for this time I had read the report and allow me now to make my individual oversight very quickly. For the team that went to Opiroi for the Public Participation for the Members who were in that forum we were somehow ashamed as an Assembly because it reaches a point where the Public are blaming the Assembly for not doing their oversight role which is true and came out very clearly when the public complained very seriously on the reluctance of the County Assembly. They even had several reasons why they are saying so. One reason is they say that they had some projects

2023/2024 for Baawa Ward that were not implemented until now and these people have budgets that we pass given to them during Public Participation.

If a public member comes with a document like a Budget and asking you a question referring to that Budget you just feel you have no answer to give to that person. I just want to ask this Hon. House that we should wake up and do our oversight. If you just look at the Fiscal Strategy Paper that we are just passing today under the column of economic classification of expenditure by 31st December 2024 our County Government was at 19% absorption rate the whole Departments so you can just imagine that for the last 6 months our County just absorbed 19% of the Development.

The CEC Finance was here yesterday who got some draft and explained to us how she will manage to utilize the remaining 81% in the next 6 months and this has been attributed by the fact that our Sectoral Committees is relaxed and we are doing nothing especially regarding implementation. I have just heard Hon. Leerte here saying that in his Ward Fund 2023/2024 he had allocated some money for the ECD classes which has not been done up to now; that is a very serious issue that as an Assembly that we should all get a solution.

Secondly, if you look at our revenue collection measures yesterday when the Department was here what came out clearly was that the Finance Department are just doing their work with assumptions they are not even following a single rule provided in this County whether PFMA, County Government Act. From their discussion here yesterday, they just wake up as Department individually and decide to do something. This is why Hon. Leitoro is saying here that for the last two years our revenue was projected by an increase of 10% but for this one it was going down. Land rates last time they collected 40 million this time it is 13 million instead of going up. Yesterday they were telling us they have some revenue streams which are not automated so you just wonder why they did not automate all the streams bearing in mind that super pay came to do away with manual revenue collection.

We have a market in Loosuk on Tuesday where you get revenue clerks collecting cash it is high time these guys be given machines so that whenever they go collect revenues they do it electronically. Lastly, the last CSFSP we gave very nice recommendations none was followed. The 13 recommendation we have given here today they are extremely good for the benefit of our

County if at all the Executive and the CEC Finance will go and follow I do not know what happens because what I know myself is that as an Assembly we are just writing these recommendations which are very good but nobody will follow.

I want to promise you that if these recommendations are not followed in this CFSP I think it is high time we send these people packing and go home. Yesterday Hon. Silapia was complaining that the CEC Finance should increase the budget ceiling for the Water Department and the response from the CEC was we make a reduction not even an increase because the money they are given for the last two Financial years the best Financial Year which was last year they had only absorbed 54% I know you are in social media where people complain lack of water every morning and someone somewhere paid salary and has money to provide water for the public and they are not doing.

I am blaming the Assembly and not the Executive because it is our mandate to oversight them. We need to call them and re-vet them afresh so that if they are not competent they go home. We have enough Human Resource in this County; we have people who are knowledgeable and ready to work and learned. The community is suffering because somebody is in the office and he is not working yet he gets salary end month. Thank you Mr. Speaker and I urge the Members to adopt this report as it is, thank you Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker, (Mr. Lenamarle Stephen): Hon. Members I now put the question that Pursuant to Standing Order 47, the County Assembly debates and adopts the report of the Committee on Budget and Appropriation on the consideration of the County Fiscal Strategy Paper 2025.

(Question put and passed)

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Members the time being 44 minutes past 10 o'clock and there being no other business this Assembly now adjourns until Wednesday 12 March 2025 at 2:30 pm.