

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



BOMET COUNTY ASSEMBLY

ASSEMBLY DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

DAILY HANSARD

Wednesday, 21st April, 2021

PLENARY

BOMET COUNTY ASSEMBLY
OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

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

THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 21st April 2021

*The Assembly met at the Assembly Mini-Chamber,
Main Assembly Buildings at 2:30 p.m.*

[Hon. Speaker (Hon. Nelson Mutai) in the Chair]

PRAYER

MOTION

REPORT ON THE BOMET COUNTY FIRST SUPPLEMENTARY
BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2020/2021

Hon. H. Kirui: Hon. Speaker, Sir, thank you. I rise to Move that this County Assembly adopts the report of the Budget and Appropriation Committee on the Bomet County Supplementary Budget Estimates 2020/2021 laid on the Table of the County Assembly on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 and pursuant to the provision of Section 135 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 and Standing Order 2018 approves the Bomet County Supplementary Budget Estimates 2020/2021 with amendments.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, I take this opportunity on behalf of the Members of the Committee on Budget and Appropriation to present to the Assembly the Committee's report on both the County

Executive and the County Assembly first supplementary for financial year 2020/2021 as provided in Section 135 of the PFM Act, 2012 and in accordance with the Standing Order 190.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, the members of the Budget and Appropriations Committee as constituted are thirteen. In line with the Constitution and the PFM Act, 2021, the first supplementary budget estimates for the two arms of County Government was submitted and Tabled before this County Assembly on the 6th April, 2021 and committed to my Committee immediately thereafter.

In the view of the proposed Supplementary Budget, the Committee managed to obtain views from the County Assembly Service Board (CASB) on matters pertaining the County Assembly Supplementary Budget and the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Finance and Information Communication Technology (ICT) on matters relating to the County Executive Supplementary Budget.

I wish to acknowledge that a lot of sacrifices were made with a view of making this budget a success amidst the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to appreciate various stakeholders who played a key role. First, the Committee Members for their commitment, energy and the sacrifice they made to interrogate and deliver this Supplementary Budget. I also thank the CEC Member for Finance and ICT for engaging the Committee. I also thank the Speaker and the Clerk of the County Assembly for facilitating the Committee to finalize on the matters at hand. Equally to the staff who participated in the processes to provide technical input and support. All the Members of the Committee appended their signatures.

On the Committee findings and recommendations, the Committee made the following observations;

1. That in spite of the urgent need to address the emerging issue, there was minimal changes that could be made since most of the departments had already utilized or committed their allocations.
2. Secondly, the Supplementary Budget sought for Kshs. 272,000,000 as an additional allocation for Personal Emoluments. It is worth noting that this Assembly had scaled down some allocations for Personal Emoluments by Kshs. 160,000,000 in the County Fiscal Strategy Paper for the FY 2020/2021. Therefore, the Committee noted that the amount sought was way above what was expected. That in spite of the persistent effort to

obtain the necessary information, regarding the true position of the personal emoluments, there was little or no cooperation whatsoever from the relevant departments to help the Assembly in resolving the issue.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, after a wide consultation, the Committee found the need to make the following minor but necessary adjustments in the proposed Supplementary Budget to address the critical areas.

Since the document has been shared in soft copies to the hon. Members, as well as hard copies with some hon. Members, I will not read through all the adjustments.

Mr. Speaker, Sir. The approved budget for the County Executive for the FY 2020/2021 was Kshs. 1,703,107,874. The approved first Supplementary Budget is Kshs. 1,723,357,730. The Administration's approved allocation in the Supplementary Budget is Kshs.77,691,839. The County Public Service Board's approved Supplementary Budget for the FY 2020/2021 is Kshs. 34,134,200.

The Department of Finance's approved Supplementary Budget is Kshs. 200,743,170. Department of Economic Planning is Kshs. 311,469,598, Lands, Housing and Urban Planning is Kshs. 354,731,541, Youth, Sports, Gender and Culture is Kshs. 85,942,870, Medical Services and Public Health is Kshs. 1,897,310,596, Education and Vocational Training is Kshs. 263,845,038, Water, Sanitation and Environment is Kshs. 448,052,338, Agriculture, Cooperatives and Marketing is Kshs. 499,333,032.

The Department of Roads, Public Works and Transport is Kshs. 797,138,977, Trade, Energy, Tourism and Investment is Kshs. 77,450,000. The Executive's total approved budget estimates for the FY 2020/2021 was at **Kshs. 6,591,583,750** and the approved first Supplementary Budget is **Kshs. 6,809,605,929**.

Mr. Speaker, Sir. The County Assembly's approved budget was **Kshs. 771,321,526** and in the first Supplementary Budget is **Kshs. 803,120,118**.

Mr. Speaker, the County's total budget is at Kshs. 7,612,726,047 against budget estimates of Kshs. 7,362,905,276. This comprises of the personnel emoluments of Kshs. 2,793,402,952 while the operations and maintenance is Kshs. 2,047,783,189 and the development vote is Kshs. 2,

771,539,906. As a percentage the personnel emoluments is 37 per cent, operations and maintenance at 27 per cent and the development at 36 per cent.

This Supplementary Budget has an increase in the personnel emoluments from 34 per cent to 37 per cent. This is because we have been having issues with the matter and we have never resolved after several attempts through several committees including the Ad Hoc Committee, the Budget and Appropriation Committee and the Committee on Labour and Public Service but we have not been able to solve the issue and we hope that this issue is resolved very soon.

I wish to present to this Assembly the First Supplementary Budget 2020/2021 report and I urge this honourable Assembly to adopt this report. Having read through I wish to request Hon. L. Kirui who is a member of the Budget and Appropriation Committee to second. Thank you.

Hon. L. Kirui: Hon. Speaker I stand to second this motion and also congratulate the Committee on Budget and Appropriation together with the members of this County Assembly because we sat and we were able to scrutinize this budget and it was not an easy task. Honourable members of this Assembly committed themselves and put the interests of the people of our great County first.

As per what the motion mover has gone through, it is very clear that little amendment was done in this Supplementary Budget. I want to bring to the attention of this Assembly that after looking at this Supplementary Budget there was no money which was available for re-allocation. The reason behind this is that the designated budget was done towards the end meaning for the past three quarters the departments have been spending their respective allocated money and there was an indication that most funds were already utilized and committed so there was no balances that could have been re-allocated.

Secondly, through the wisdom of the Budget and Appropriation Committee, when we were doing the budget estimates for the year 2020/2021 there was a vote head through which we had overseen that there would be balance that would be in the treasury. If you look at the budget, there was the vote head on balance carried forward. Already Ksh. 409,110,277 had already been put in the budget estimates; the balance carried forward. This means we had a lot of money which was already in the treasury and the adjustments was only Ksh. 64million and that was one of the reasons why there was no money to be re-allocated in this Supplementary Budget.

There were a lot of expectations especially from the members of public thinking that this Supplementary Budget will deal with some of the promises made earlier but this budget may not be able to achieve those expectations. Most of what was moved was already done by the treasury because once the supplementary was tabled most of the deductions were already done and the deductions and additions were addressed through the pending bills. What was done mostly is only to check on those areas which there are tendencies of non-absorption so that we avoid a lot of money lapsing and we went to an extent of deducting fifty thousand shillings.

As per what the chairperson has said, we have a problem in terms of Personnel Emoluments (P E) where they stated that they required Ksh. 272 million. Almost 90% was moved to the P.E and we have shifted the issue to the 2021/2022 financial year budget. I am calling upon the County Government and the County Assembly to cooperate so that we tackle this issue which is taking money meant for development. That is the best the Budget and Appropriation Committee could have done so I second this motion. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Members I now propose the question which is that this County Assembly adopts the report of the Budget and Appropriation Committee on the Bomet County First Supplementary Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2020/2021 laid on the table of the Assembly on Wednesday April 21st 2021 and pursuant to provisions of section 135 of the Public Finance Management Act 2012 and Standing Order 218 approves the Bomet County First Supplementary Budget Estimates for 2020/2021 with amendments.

Members you may now debate.

Hon. A. Maritim (Leader of Minority): Thank you very much Hon. Speaker. I rise to support the motion. As member of the committee we realized that most of these vote heads have been exhausted and nothing much was supposed to be done. We came up with small adjustments. Most of the vote heads have exhausted their money so there is no money left to re-allocate for developments. As members of Budget and Appropriation Committee we are forced to table it the way it is. We urge the Members of this Assembly to approve this report so that we can move to the main budget of the next financial year. Honorable Speaker I support.

Hon. D. Maritim: Thank you honorable Speaker, sir. I wish to contribute to this Motion. In the budget circle, we need to know the balance carried forward before we move to the next financial year so as to avoid budgeting for Pending Bills. The year lapses but the money is in County

Revenue Fund (CRF) Account remains. The money in CRF account should be appropriated first before we debate on the budget estimates that we are adding to money carried forward.

In the department of Education, there are some Early Childhood Development (ECD) classrooms being constructed. It will be within the budget estimates for the financial year 2021/2 as balance brought forward. In that case, therefore, when we are doing budget estimates, we need to return money meant for Early Childhood Development Education (ECDEs).

Hon. A. Koech: Thank you honorable Speaker, Sir. I stand to support the motion. Hon. D. Maritim has stated that the pending Bills that spill over to the next financial year should be discarded. The money that we are supposed to appropriate in this Supplementary Budget has been committed in various dockets. We need to stand firm and question these pending Bills that is denying us development. We are from the field now and the contractors and workers in various works have been paid. They have gone out of the sites and work has not been completed. I support this motion but let us scrutinize the pending bills that will come in the financial year yet the money had been appropriated in the current budget.

Hon. R. Rono: Mr. Speaker, sir. The committee has been working to re-allocate the money but there is no money. The members of the public should know that there is no new project to be started. There are a lot of promises made to the members of the public. Honorable Speaker I support this motion.

Hon. R. Serbai: Mr. Speaker, I apologize for coming in late. As we approve the Supplementary Budget, there are many questions. A lot of things have been said about the County Assembly. We are not the ones having the money. We only approve the budget estimates. The Executive implements what we approve here.

At one time, we were told that until we resolve the issue of staff, then Supplementary Budget is going to be given to this Assembly for approval. But today, even if it is true that what we are being told that the numbers of staff in this County are 5,600; when you divide them among the five sub-counties, each Sub-County should be having at least 1,120. If you also divide the same into Wards, each Ward should be having 224 staffs. Am very surprised in my Ward they are only less than 60 employed and they want to tell me in my Ward they include tea pluckers. If the tea pluckers are County staffs I will go and tell them to stop plucking. My people should not be

made to be pluckers while others are seated in the office waiting for those plucking tea leaves to get the revenue in order to be paid.

I don't have even a single Chief Officer (CO), I am the only senior most member in my ward and I am approving a whooping money here; Ksh.272 million. Who are these people being paid? The Ksh. 272 million we are approving here is supposed to be on development issues, but I don't know whether we are paying ghost workers or the money benefit employees from other Sub-Counties that have more staff than other areas.

There is a lot of inequality in this County and corruption here. If you check the sample, a whooping pending bill of Ksh. 84 million out of this budget that we are just approving Mr. speaker. When we asked each Member of County Assembly (MCA) here whether there is any project that had pending bills, we found out that there is none. It is time for this County Assembly wakes up and out oversight role seriously.

As I conclude, I want to request this; which I think is very much possible, that Chairperson of every committee should request to be given list of the employees working in their departments so that we can know who are these employees and where are they coming from. For example there is somebody allegedly working in Constituency Development Fund (CDF) office somewhere and is earning money from this County Government. I understand also that there are those in Australia and earning money from this County. Does this County Government have an embassy in Australia? If we have one can we be told? Why particularly in Australia is where we are paying ghost workers. In the past four, five or six months or thereabout, their accounts were almost reading Ksh.3.1 million. It has not been withdrawn. Or it means there are a lot of loopholes where money we are just approving today will go to the wrong hands.

There are also those who were part of contracted employees of former regime and they are being paid to date. They have not been removed from the pay roll. For the betterment of our County, we are just approving this budget for the sake of our people. Thank you.

(H Kirui rose on a point order)

Hon. H. Kirui: Thank you Hon Speaker, I want to appreciate hon. members who have contributed to this motion. I want to echo what hon. Maritim, MCA Ndanai/Abosi Ward. Who spoke about the balances brought forward. I am happy about the way the members have really

upped their game in terms of oversight until a time when we are recommending such healthy and high level tools for oversight.

We are going to take note of this in the coming financial year. We are not going to allow instances where the balances carried forward are coming up again in going to wrong places and we are told about pending bills. This is an instance where we need to know if the Chief Officers are incompetent and their accountants or they are playing some games. I want to tell them that this honorable Assembly has got highly qualified members who are highly placed to oversee and they will not escape in the next financial year.

Secondly, is the issue of P E. Hon. R. Serbai has really elaborated on this issue. The other hon. members are talking about this P E. We have come a long way trying to solve the issue of P E through the Labor and Public Service Committee but County Executive is not responding to this issue.

The recommendations from this Assembly in the next budget which is coming on 28th of this month, if this issue of P E if not resolved, it is not going to be business as usual because we are not going to approve anymore allocations from this Assembly where we are not sure of the people who are being paid.

Finally, we own this budget and we are requesting this honorable Assembly that we approve. We are asking the County Executive to implement it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir. We don't want to see instances where a different budget is being implemented apart from what we are approving here. I want to challenge my colleagues that we up our game and we do our oversight right, starting from this first Supplementary Budget.

I want to appreciate this honorable Assembly for always being keen on budget matters. They have always been serious all along. I urge this Assembly that we approve this budget. Thank you so much.

Hon. Speaker: Hon members, I would now put the question which is that this county assembly adopts the report of the budget and appropriation committee on the budget, county Supplementary Budget estimates 2020-2021 laid on the table of county assembly on Wednesday April 21st,2021 pursuant to provisions of section 135 of the public finance commitment Act 2012 and standing order 218 on approved budget, the Bomet county Supplementary Budget estimates

2020-2021 with amendments. (*Question put and agreed to*). Next sitting will be on 27th April 2021 at 9a.m.

Adjournment

The Assembly rose at 3:30 p.m