

PARLIAMENT OF KENYA

THE SENATE

THE HANSARD

Thursday, 23rd May, 2019

*The House met at the Senate Chamber,
Parliament Buildings, at 2.30 p.m.*

[The Speaker (Hon. Lusaka) in the Chair]

PRAYER

Sen. Olekina: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Statement. Over the last few years, our people, mostly pastoralists from Laikipia, Samburu and Narok have been subjected to tough banditry activities. People who are out there taking care of their cows are attacked, yet they cannot defend themselves. Their cows are stolen. The best thing that could happen to this country is that we try to make it easy for people to survive.

There is no reason why we should control everything from a central point. Policies are better made by the national Government, but we can consult local authorities and arm the people who you know can defend themselves.

There was a situation last year where thousands of cows belonging to the Maasais in Laikipia were killed. If they had guns to protect themselves, at least their economy would have been protected. This is not only an issue of security but also affects the economy. Therefore, we have to consider all these entities. If all their cows are stolen and they cannot defend themselves with the guns, they will resort to other measures. According to the Maasai, when you steal a cow, it is not really stealing; you are just repossessing it. Therefore, we have to be practical.

I support the Statement and hope that the Committee on National Security, Defence and Foreign Relations will come up with a better way of dealing with this issue. This knee jerk reaction to policies by the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government is completely ludicrous.

Sen. Olekina: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am baffled by how county governments increase charges or taxes to citizens yet when you look at their financial statements, that information is not reflected.

I just came from the County Public Accounts and Investments Committee (CPAIC) meeting where we were considering financial statements for Turkana County for 2017/2018. When you look at their financial statements, most of the streams of revenue are empty. In fact, in some of them, you will not see a single penny on rents and fees. What is happening? Despite that, many governors put blame on the Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS) and Local Authority Integrated Financial Operation Management System (LAIFOMS).

It is time that this House looked at all the Acts---

The Speaker (Hon. Lusaka): Hon. Senator, you need to be relevant because you are now discussing people from a particular county which was before you.

Sen. Olekina: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am guided. However, I do not think I am off if I discuss a document which is already public. This is public information that anyone in this country can download from the website of the Auditor-General. What I am relaying are facts and you cannot change facts. These are documents which are public. We should look at revenue streams. These are things we talk about when meet executives from each county when they come up with their budgets. A county may say that they are generating money from certain items but that is not reflected.

When Members of the Committee on Finance and Budget will be interrogating issues raised in the Statement by Sen. Khaniri, they should look at how realistic budget estimates are and whether the amount of money being charged on the residents of Nairobi City County is reflected in the financial statements.

I thank you.