COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KISUMU

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KISUMU

THE HANSARD

Official Report

THIRD ASSEMBLY – SECOND SESSION

Wednesday 05th March, 2023

House met in the Main Chamber at 9:00 a.m.

(The Speaker (Hon. Elisha Jack Oraro) in the Chair)

PRAYER

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Good morning Honourable Member, I want to request that, pursuant to the provisions on Kisumu County Assembly Standing Order No. 32 (2) that the Serjeant-at-Arms rings the quorum bell for five minutes.

(Quorum bell rung for five minutes)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): The Honourable Deputy Whip, please confirm if we have the required quorum before we proceed.

The Deputy Whip (Hon. Obonyo, MCA, South West Kisumu): Thank you Mr. Speaker. There is quorum.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Mr. Clerk, please take us through the Order Paper of today.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Next order!!

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members, as I did communicate yesterday that we shall be having a "kamukunji" immediately after this session. I am also informed that the County Assemblies Forum Executive is already within the precincts of the Assembly. So, please stay behind after this session. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Next order!!

STATEMENT

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Yes Hon. Mildred Ajumbo.

Hon. Ajumbo (MCA, Central Seme Ward): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Standing Order 41 (2), (a) and (b), I wish to request for a Statement from the Chairperson of the Sectoral Committee on Public, Works, Roads and Transport on the Status of Posta-Nyamgun Access road in Kombewa Central Seme Ward.

Hon. Speaker, the Chairperson in his response should provide this House with the following:

a) Bill of Quantity of the foregoing projects from the successful Contractor,
b) LSO,
c) Contract Agreement and Letter of Award and;
d) Total amount allocated for the project.

Thank you Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): I am unable to see the Chairperson of Roads Committee. However, I can see Hon Ann who is the Vice Chair for Roads.

Hon Anne (Nominated Member): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to request this Honourable House to give us one week.

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Honourable Members, I want to direct this Statement to the Committee on Roads and Public Works. And as per the request by the Vice Chairperson, within one week, provide the details. This one should not even a week because it is very much direct. Chairperson and the committee of Roads, please handle this. Next order.

MOTION

ADOPTION OF THE REPORTBY WELFARE AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE ON THE CONSULTATIVE MEETING WITH LAPFUND IN NAIROBI

BY

HON. MILDRED AJUMBO, MCA, CENTRAL SEME WARD

(CHAIRPERSON, WELFARE AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE)

The Speaker (Hon. Oraro): Hon. Mildred Ajumbo.

Hon. Ajumbo (MCA, Central Seme Ward): Thank you Mr. Speaker. The committee on Welfare and Equal Opportunity is one of the Select Committees of the County Assembly of Kisumu; mandated to look into the Welfare of the Members of the County Assembly and the staff. The committee may also study matters referred to it by the County Assembly or on its own initiative, and undertake studies within its areas of responsibilities.

Mr. Speaker Sir, on behalf of the Select Committee on Welfare and Equal Opportunities, pursuant to the provisions of the County Assembly Standing Orders no. 163 (c) and 182; it is my pleasant pleasure and privilege to present to this House the Report on Meeting of the Committee on Welfare and Equal Opportunities and the LAPFUND in Nairobi. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss the savings and investments with the Lapfund.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mr. Speaker Sir, the Select Committee on Welfare and Equal Opportunities resolved to have a consultative meeting with LAPFUND at the Head Offices in Nairobi. This was agreed in a meeting by Members of the Committee, owing to the fact that the third Assembly has just began and Members are beginning to save with them and also invest with them as far as Makasembo Houses are concerned and this enabled elaborate discussion over the same.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

Mr. Speaker Sir and honourable members, the objectives of the committee meeting during the visits were:

1. To discussion on status report of the Assembly contributions to Lapfund and identify any gap.
2. To train members on how they can interpret their statements.
3. To have an elaborate discussion with Members on Lapfund investments especially Makasembo.
4. To train Members on calculations of the tax on gratuity and other benefits.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

The committee on Welfare and Equal Opportunities as currently constituted comprised of the following Members:-

1. Hon. Mildred Ajumbo - Chairperson
2. Hon. Maurice Ngeta - Vice Chairperson
3. Hon. Joachim Oketch - Member
4. Hon. Mariam Abeid - Member
5. Hon. Geofrey Warindu - Member
6. Hon. James Were - Member
7. Hon. James Ochieng Omollo - Member
8. Hon. Pete Oiko - Member
9. Hon. Ann Achola - Member
10. Hon. Eunice Alando - Member
11. Hon. Samuel Dede Otieno - Member
12. Hon. Samwel Onyango - Member
13. Hon. Emily Oginga - Member
14. Hon. Alice Wajewa - Member
15. Hon. Fredrick Adonija - Member

Secretariat:

1. Benard Abuodha – Committee Clerk
2. Ms. Brenda Chasi – Clerk Assistant
3. Jesca Atieno – Hansard
4. Ms. Olga Owano – Serjeant-At-Arms

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mr. Speaker Sir, special appreciation goes to Hon. Speaker Kisumu County Assembly, his officers and Members of the County Assembly Committee on Welfare and Equal Opportunities, and staff who participated during the meeting in Nairobi. The Committee wishes to extend its gratitude to LAPFUND Officers both at the Western Region Offices in Kisumu and Nairobi Headquarters for the good cooperation and warm reception they accorded to the Committee during the meeting.

Mr. Speaker Sir, on behalf of the Select Committee, pursuant to the provisions of the County Assembly Standing Orders no. 163 (c) and 182; it is my pleasant pleasure and privilege to present to this House the Report of the Committee Meeting with LAPFUND in Nairobi.

DELIBERATIONS

Mr. Speaker Sir, the committee was warmly welcomed by the officers from Lapfund. The officers included;

1. Ms. Bridget Kaari – Benefit Administration Officer.
2. Mr. Edwin Kayonzo - Benefit Administration Officer.
3. Mrs. Gloria Koin – Benefit Administrations assistant.
4. Mr. Erick Otieno – Finance and Investment Officer.
5. Mr. Moses Maroa – Finance and accountant receivable officer.
6. Ms. Monica Gikaru – Marketing Coordinator.

The Committee then proceeded for an interactive joint session with Lapfund at the Boardroom.

OVERVIEW OF LAPFUND

Mr. Speaker Sir, Local Authority Provident Fund (Lapfund) is a Defined Contribution Scheme registered and regulated by the Retirement Benefit act of 1997 and subsequent Regulations. It is a state Corporation which was established by an act of Parliament Cap.272, Laws of Kenya, in 1960 as a defined contribution scheme. The scheme currently operates under the County Government Act of 2012 (section 132) which states that subject transitional provisions herein, all members, officers and staff of county governments shall subscribe to an existing pension scheme for officers and staff of local governments, Regulated by the Retirement Benefits Act of 1997 and subsequent regulations.

LAPFUND caters for all employees of County governments and water Companies, where Members contribute 12% while the Sponsors contribute 15% of the Members' gross salary (basic salary plus house allowance).

LAPFUND membership as at June, 2022 was 62,103 members, an increase by 46% from 45,426 members in 2018.

The total contribution by Members to LAPFUND as at June 2022 was Kshs. 8.39 billion an increase by 52% from Kshs. 5.53 billion in FY 2017/2018.

The contribution from members are done inform of normal, voluntary and gratuity contributions. The funds collected are subjected to investment and made available in form of members benefits when need arises.

LAPFUND operates as a parastatal under the National Treasury licensed and regulated by the Retirement Benefit Authority (RBA); Audited by Auditor General; and supervised by the Inspectorate of State Corporations.

LAPFUND INVESTMENTS PROJECTS

1. GOLFVIEW SERVICED APARTMENTS

Golf View Serviced Apartment was established as a flagship project of LAPFUND, in order to enhance the investments and returns to members. The apartments are located in Nairobi, on Mucai drive, off Ngong' road and comprises of;

i. Furnished serviced apartments
ii. Conference facility
iii. Restaurant
iv. Gym
v. Steam & Sauna
vi. Swimming Pool
vii. Ample Parking
viii. Security

Room Prices - Golfview Serviced Apartments			
		Bed Only	**Bed & Breakfast**
Studio	Single	5,000	5,800.00
	Couple	5,000	6,600.00
		Bed Only	**Bed & Breakfast**
1 Bedroom	Single	7,000	7,800.00
	Couple	7,000	8,600.00
		Bed Only	**Bed & Breakfast**
2 Bedroom	Single	10,000	10,800.00
	Couple	10,000	11,600.00

2. LAPFUND GARDENS, MAVOKO

LAPFUND Gardens is a gated development, comprising of 131 modern units of maisonettes, Kindergarten and 5 shops, located approximately 1.3kms off Mombasa Road.

PROPOSED RENT TO OWN FOR LAPFUND GARDENS, MAVOKO						
TYPE 1 - ACACIA						
Purchase Price	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000
% Deposit	50%	50%	40%	40%	30%	30%
Initial Installment (Deposit)	5,000,000	5,000,000	4,000,000	4,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000
Outstanding balance after deposit	5,000,000	5,000,000	6,000,000	6,000,000	7,000,000	7,000,000
Interest charge p.a	5.0%	5.0%	6.5%	6.5%	8.0%	8.0%
Years	5	10	5	10	5	10
Total periods	60	120	60	120	60	120
Monthly Payment	**94,356**	**53,033**	**117,397**	**68,129**	**141,935**	**84,929**

PROPOSED RENT TO OWN FOR LAPFUND GARDENS, MAVOKO						
TYPE 2 - BAMBOO						
Purchase Price	10,250,000	10,250,000	10,250,000	10,250,000	10,250,000	10,250,000
% Deposit	50%	50%	40%	40%	30%	30%
Initial Installment (Deposit)	5,125,000	5,125,000	4,100,000	4,100,000	3,075,000	3,075,000
Outstanding balance after deposit	5,125,000	5,125,000	6,150,000	6,150,000	7,175,000	7,175,000
Interest charge p.a	5.0%	5.0%	6.5%	6.5%	8.0%	8.0%
Years	5	10	5	10	5	10
Total periods	60	120	60	120	60	120
Monthly Payment	**96,715**	**54,359**	**120,332**	**69,832**	**145,483**	**87,053**

PROPOSED RENT TO OWN FOR LAPFUND GARDENS, MAVOKO						
TYPE 3 - CIDER						
Purchase Price	12,400,000	12,400,000	12,400,000	12,400,000	12,400,000	12,400,000
% Deposit	50%	50%	40%	40%	30%	30%
Initial Installment (Deposit)	6,200,000	6,200,000	4,960,000	4,960,000	3,720,000	3,720,000
Outstanding balance after deposit	6,200,000	6,200,000	7,440,000	7,440,000	8,680,000	8,680,000
Interest charge p.a	5.0%	5.0%	6.5%	6.5%	8.0%	8.0%
Years	5	10	5	10	5	10
Monthly Payment	**117,002**	**65,761**	**145,572**	**84,480**	**175,999**	**105,312**
Total paid (monthly + deposit)	**13,220,099**	**14,091,274**	**13,694,329**	**15,097,563**	**14,279,946**	**16,357,482**

3. MAKASEMBO by LAPFUND

Proposed Units				
Type	**Area (Sq.M)**	**No of Units**	**Total Built Up Area (Sq. M)**	**% Allocation**
Commercial - Shops	26	13	360	
Kindergarten	944	1	944	
Premiun Units				
-2 Bedroom Units	60	600	36,000	32.1%
-3 Bedroom Units	80	700	56,000	37.4%
		1,300	**92,000**	**69.5%**
Parking for Premiun Units		1,210		
Affordable Units				
-1 Bedroom Units	30	180	5,400	9.6%
-2 Bedroom Units	45	100	4,500	5.3%
-3 Bedroom Units	60	290	17,400	15.5%
		570	**27,300**	**30.5%**
Parking for Affordable Units		544		
Total no of Apartments		**1,870**	**120,604**	**100.0%**
Total no of Parking		**1,754**		

Selling Prices		
Type	**Area (Sq.M)**	**Price**
Premiun Units		
2 Bedroom Units	60	4,450,000
3 Bedroom Units	80	5,850,000
Parking for Premiun Units		
Affordable Units		
1 Bedroom Units	30	1,800,000
2 Bedroom Units	45	2,950,000
3 Bedroom Units	60	3,850,000
Commercial - Shops		
Shop 1	18	1,620,000
Shop 2	26	2,340,000
Shop 3	30	2,700,000
Commercial - Daycare	462	43,720,000
Commercial - Kindergarten	462	43,740,000

Mr. Speaker sir and Honourable Members, during deliberations, it was stated that all affordable units (both one and two bedroom) houses at Makasembo are fully booked.

The Products Lapfund Offer

1. Statutory Contribution (Gratuity)

This structure applies to all employees of County Governments, Water Companies and associated companies, where Members contribute 12% while the Sponsors contribute 15% of the Member's gross salary (basic salary plus house allowance).

2. Additional Voluntary Contribution

This is designed to enable contributors enhance their retirement packages by making additional contributions.

It is open to both statutory contributors and Non-statutory contributors.

3. Diaspora savings Product

The Diaspora retirement and saving plan/ product is a voluntary savings and retirement scheme option, especially designed for discerning Kenyans in the Diaspora. It is an individual pension plan agreement between the willing member and LAPFUND.

CALCULATION OF TAX ON SAVINGS

Mr. Speaker sir and hon. Members, during payment of the savings to the members by LAPFUND, only gratuity and interest accrued will be subjected to taxation at a rate of up to 30%, this is specified under tax allowable column in the financial statements. Gratuity are taxed because the funds are released from the sources (County Assembly) as gross, not yet taxed, hence must be subjected to taxation. People who are tax exempted (PWDs) enjoy tax exemptions of up to the tune of Kshs. 150, 000 as a requirement by the law.

It is also important to note that the money saved by the members earn interest at a rate of 5%. The interest is calculated from the time LAPFUND receives money from the employer. Late payments to Lapfund do not earn interest to members. The remittances to Lapfund should be done before 15th day of every month.

During taxation, different parameters are taken into considerations. Age of the beneficiary is one of the factors which are considered. It is also important for members to note that, members enjoy tax relief of Kshs. 60,000 yearly and this is applicable to all Members. The tax relief of Kshs. 60,000 is only applied on complete year (12 months) for MCAs it's projected to be 4 complete years at the end of the term; therefor tax free lump sum is Kshs. 60,000 x 4 years= Kshs. 240,000 which is applicable to all.

Taxable brackets are given into two; members who are 50 years and above; are taxed using a different bracket from those who are below 50 years.

GUIDELINES FOR THE CALCULATIONS OF TAX

Calculations of tax for members who are 50 years and above;

Accumulative benefits (total gratuity and interests)

Tax free lump sum = Kshs. 240,000 (4 complete years).

Taxable amount= Accumulative benefits less tax relief.

Taxable amount is subjected to taxation using the KRA pension tax band below;

Phases	Amount in Kshs.	Taxation rate
1st	400,000	10%
2nd	400,000	15%
3rd	400,000	20%
4th	400,000	25%

Any amount above 1.6 million of the taxable amount is taxed at a flat rate of 30%

Under 50 years; taxable amount is subjected to taxation using the KRA pension tax band below;

Phases	Amount in Kshs.	Taxation rate
1st	288,000	10%
2nd	100,000	25%

Over Kshs. 388,000 of the taxable amount is taxed at a flat rate of 30%

FINDINGS/OBSERVATIONS

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, during deliberations, members observed the following;

a) In Kisumu County, it was noted that affordable houses are on high demand as compared to premium houses. All affordable units in phase one, are fully booked.

b) There are some additional charges that have been realized by the members who are applying to acquire units at Makasembo, the additional charges on top of the prices quoted are legal fees and stamp duties which keep on changing .
c) Late disbursements from the National Government to Counties have greatly affected the remittances to Lapfund by Counties.
d) All gratuities for Members of County Assembly of Kisumu have been paid from September 2022 to January 2023.
e) On the Voluntary Contribution, Members can access their savings after three years while gratuity can only be accessed at the end of the contract.
f) A total of eighteen MCAs (18) from Kisumu County Assembly did not apply for Voluntary Contributions.

COMMITTEE RECOMENDATIONS

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, after long deliberations with the Lapfund officials, the committee came up with the following recommendations;

1. THAT, LAPFUND to prepare and provide members with bi-annual report (financial statements); to enable members follow up on their voluntary and gratuity contributions.
2. THAT, people who are tax exempted (PWD); to present the documents which support the same to LAPFUND when payments of gratuity are made to ensure that they enjoy the tax relief.
3. THAT, LAPFUND should venture on affordable houses in Kisumu and not premium, as it is evident that Kisumu City is very interested in affordable houses.
4. THAT, additional charges that have been realized on the cost of units at Makasembo should be provided under total cost to avoid confusion.
5. That the Members to always check their statements properly to ensure that any discrepancy identified is corrected in time.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, Pursuant to Standing Order No. 152 (2), of the Kisumu County Assembly Standing Orders, the committee requests this Honourable House to adopt this report with or without amendments to enable the Committee carries its mandates in uplifting the Welfare of Members as far as individual Contributions and Gratuity are concerned. May I request Hon. James Were to second the report?

Hon. Were (MCA, Nyalenda "B" Ward): Thank you Madam Speaker. I rise to support the report as presented by Hon. Ajumbo. I want to confirm that I was part of the delegation that attended this meeting. The LAPFUND is a big investor and we felt as a committee that the welfare of the Members is well taken care of by the LAPFUND and the savings made through gratuity is a real investment that we cannot ignore.

Madam Speaker, we learnt that the LAPFUND is investing in housing, rent collection and these are really areas that are very lucrative. I second the report.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA Manyatta "B" Ward): Honourable Members, a report by Welfare and Equal Opportunities Committee on its Consultative Meeting with

LAPFUND in Nairobi has been presented by the Chairperson Hon. Ajumbo and seconded by Hon. Were. I therefore, put a question that the report is open for debate.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta 'B' Ward): Yes, Hon. Dede

Hon. Dede (MCA, North Kisumu Ward): Thank you, Madam Speaker; I rise to support the report by the Committee of Welfare and Equal Opportunities on LAPFUND and also being that a member of the committee, which travelled to the LAPFUND offices in Nairobi County.

Madam Speaker, the sentiments raised are of great importance, and the most important issue is that as the deductions for Gratuity are being done, we should see it prudent that after our five years contract elapses and upon exiting the services of this Assembly; we will get something to start life with. Most of us might not make it back in the next Assembly but after vigorous campaign, you may not get something to start with. So, if you invest in LAPFUND Projects such as the Makasembo Housing Units, and either purchase one of the units, it will in turn be one of your retirement benefits. As you are all aware that we are contracted and not permanently employed, so our investments therefore form part of our retirement benefits, and that is the gratuity part of it.

Madam Speaker, I therefore beseech Members to invest with LAPFUND because prior to the nominations, you might be tempted to withdraw all that you have saved to assist in running or financing your campaigns because you are allowed to withdraw your funds or contributions after a period of three years as it has been stated. Fortunately, you find that to our members, and the rates at which we are being taxed have been exempted from the tax rates on up to Kshs. 240,000 for a span of 4 years. This is a huge amount that if it is exempted from taxation then it is a major advantage to us.

Finally, on the recommendations; I have seen where it is stating that there should be the inclusion of additional charges that have been realized on the cost of units at Makasembo, this should be provided under the total cost, to avoid confusion. Madam Speaker, most of us who have invested in Makasembo, which are the low affordable houses which fetches approximately Kshs. 1.8 million and some goes as far as up to Kshs. 1.9 million at the end of the payment. So, if it is all aggregated it can give us an easy time to understand the total cost as Kshs. 1.9 million but not Kshs 1.8 million.

Lastly, the recommendations made that members should endevour to regularly check their statements to ensure that if there are any discrepancies identified, it is corrected in time. A recommendation that was made from this is that our members should strive to do endevour to always request for quarterly printout of statements and make follow up so that they know the status of their savings in LAPFUND. Otherwise, I support the report, thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta 'B' Ward): Yes, Hon. Benny Pete Oiko.

Hon. Oiko (MCA, Kabonyo- Kanyagwal Ward): Thank you Madam Speaker, I also want to give my view of this report. The report is well done, and gives a good picture of our savings and how it is done, and the precautionary measure that we ought to take. Madam Speaker, on page fifteen of the report, we are informed that late disbursement of funds from the National Government to

the Counties have greatly affected the remittance to LAPFUND by the Counties. That is true because there is late disbursement of funds from the National Government and that has brought problems on the ground.

Madam Speaker, in the past, it has been realized that members' remittance were done late and there are other instances whereby remittance were not made at all up to the end of the five year period. Counties would then struggle to do their remittance so that Members would get their benefits. That is why the committee discussed this at length with officers of the LAPFUND and the advice which came up were; we should be provided with our financial report from LAPFUND on quarterly basis so that we are able to monitor our contributions in case our deductions are not remitted, what can be the real course? Despite the fact that the National Government remit funds late to the Counties at times, what effort is being taken by the County Government to ensure that there is no delay from their side. This is the reason why this came up very prominently since we were informed that if the in various instances LAPFUND contributions are not remitted on time, and the trickle effect is that they do not earn interests. So, if that happens up to the end of the final year, it will imply that we have not invested.

Therefore Honourable Members, it is now upon you that when this matter comes up that remittance to the LAPFUND are not being done on time; it your effort and contribution which will matter here. This House Committee has come up with this kind of report at the right time which will act as an eye opener to Members so that you are made aware of your role in terms of the investment that we are going to do with the LAPFUND.

Madam Speaker, those Members who served in the First and Second Assembly experienced challenges and this is why this time round during the Third Assembly, we felt it wise that the eyes of the Honourable Members should be opened on this matter in good time for close monitoring so that we do not lament at the end of this period, thank you Madam Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Okombo MCA, Manyatta "B" Ward): Honourable Lumumba Owade.

Deputy Leader of Majority (Hon. Owade, MCA, South East Nyakach Ward): Thank you Madam Speaker. I rise to support this informative report. From the report, we are being encouraged to at least look at this as an investment. I would urge my fellow Members that let us look beyond 2027. If you have to do so, this is one of the flagship projects that we should invest in. Madam Speaker, I have seen from Members of County Assembly who served during the First and the Second Terms, some have benefited while majority have not. Therefore, I do not wish to see Members of the Third Assembly in that situation. I therefore urge Members to consider and take this matter seriously and if need be, let us go for it for the benefit of our future, thank you very much Madam Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Okombo MCA, Manyatta "B" Ward): Honourable Kelvin Oraro.

Hon. Oraro (MCA, Kolwa Central Ward): Thank you Madam Speaker. I believe you have recovered from your loss and hope things will be okay for you. Madam Speaker the report tabled by the Welfare and Equal Opportunity Committee majorly emphasis on the welfare as Honourable Members which I believe is important. When we debate on such a report, we debate

with enthusiasm and with passion. Unfortunately or fortunately we saw how our Hon. Dede was contributing and thought he was paid by LAPFUND because he was doing it really well by marketing LAPFUND. All in all, be it LAPFUND or LAPTRUST, the major objective of these organizations is to protect and cushion Members and to see a way of protecting Members interest by saving their pension since we are under contract for five years which some of us might make it back while others might not. When we give such a body an opportunity to hold our money in trust, to some extent it is advisable that this report not only be made in plenary but also in informal meetings so that the Chair and the team can explain further why investing in an apartment or buying one of the houses in a Makasembo is reasonable, viable and a return on investments.

Madam Speaker, today you might think that you are very safe until someone puts an idea in your mind about tomorrow, you will learn that when you are happy today you equally plan to be happy tomorrow. Some of us might be lost today because of power and when tomorrow come you will find Members struggling to survive and for that reason. So, we want to encourage Members just as Hon. Dede has said on the issue of voluntary contribution not only for campaign but voluntary saving is an extra saving that can guide you and cushion you in the future.

Madam Speaker, you are aware that as politicians, we tend to receive somehow a good amount of money in form of allowances. Some of us might spend this money trying to please voters and can do everything in the name of politics, but tomorrow when you are not elected that is when you will realize that you do not have the respect from people and that is the hash time that many do not want to imagine. I and other Members have experienced and witnessed this after missing out in the first Assembly when people do not want to associate with you once you lose in the nomination process. Therefore, when I see a report like this, what count during your time dear Members is what you have invested in individually? As a leader, it is about you and the people you represent, you are being paid because that is what is yours and whether you give it to the voters that is your own choice.

As Members of the Welfare and Equal Opportunity Committee, we highly recommend the report that has been presented in this House. It is not merely a document to be presented to the plenary, but we urge you to take the time and convene a "Kamukunji" to encourage members to engage with it. We must interact with them to ensure they understand the importance of not just voicing support for the report but fully involving ourselves in its implementation, so that Members can see positive results both today and in the future.

Madam Speaker, whether we become leaders or not, we should be proud to visit each other as colleagues of the County Assembly, knowing that we are financially stable. I fully support the report and welcome the LAPFUND team to join us, to enable Members learn the benefits of these contributions and even enjoy some small pleasures while they encourage us to invest. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta "B" Ward): Yes Hon. Obaso.

Hon. Obaso (Nominated Member): Thank you Madam Speaker, I wish to call the mover to reply.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Nereah Akoth Okombo, MCA, Manyatta B): Hon. Members, the mover has been called upon to reply.

Hon. Ajumbo (MCA, Central Seme Ward): Thank you Madam Speaker and Honourable Members. While reading the report, my attention was solely focused on the document, and I failed to notice that I referred to you as Mr. Speaker instead of Madam Speaker. Please accept my sincerest apologies for that mistake.

Madam Speaker, I would like to express my gratitude to the Committee of Welfare and Equal Opportunity for producing a comprehensive report, as well as the committee's secretariat for their outstanding work. I also want to thank all members of this House for their valuable contributions, which I have taken note of. Madam Speaker, I would like to express my appreciation to Hon. Oraro for bringing to our attention the notion that four years can pass quickly. In light of this, I would like to urge those members who have not yet begun to save to consider doing so. Currently, there are about 16 members who are not making contributing. Even if one can only contribute 5,000 shillings, it is still a valuable investment that will eventually provide a return. Thank you, I reply.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta "B" Ward): Honourable Members, a report by Committee on Welfare and Equal Opportunity on its Consultative Meeting with LAPFUND in Nairobi has been read by the Chairperson of the committee, seconded by Hon. James Were and deliberated upon by Honourable Members. I therefore want to put a question on the adoption of the same.

(Question put and agreed to)

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta "B" Ward): Honourable Members, the report by the Committee on Welfare and Equal Opportunity on its Consultative Meeting with LAPFUND in Nairobi is hereby adopted today Wednesday, 05th April 2023 at0 9.51 a.m. I want to direct that, the Hansard report be prepared and the same be communicated to the relevant authorities and bodies. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta "B" Ward): Next Order!!

ADJOURNMENT

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Okombo, MCA, Manyatta "B" Ward): There being no any other business to transact, the House stands adjourned to today Wednesday, 05th April 2023 at 2.30 p.m.

(House rose at 9.53 a.m.)

Addendum

The Hansard Team

Zablon Otiende – Senior Hansard Reporter (Ag. Editor)

Edward Odanga – Hansard Reporter

Fanuel Okode – Hansard Reporter

Patrick Okoyo – Hansard Reporter

Jacklyne Otieno – Hansard Reporter

Jesca Otieno – Hansard Reporter