

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MACHAKOS COUNTY ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Tuesday, 10th March, 2020

The House met at 2.41 p.m.

[The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Museku) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Good afternoon, Hon. Members.

Hon. Members: Good afternoon.

PAPER LAID

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, under this Order, we have one business to be transacted as per the appendix by Hon. Dominic Ndambuki. Is that school from the Hon. Members place? Hon. Dominic, you have some business to be transacted before the House. You can go ahead, please and maybe before the Hon. Member, proceeds with the business, I think today we have visitors in our gallery we are pleased to host Ngomeni Primary School is in Mutituni Ward, I am meant to understand there is a class which has come here and you can see them in the gallery. Good afternoon!

Pupils: Good afternoon, Sir!

Hon. Deputy Speaker: How are you?

Pupils: We are fine. Thank you, Sir!

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, very much we welcome you to the County Assembly of Machakos; this is where we transact our businesses as Members of County Assembly for Machakos, we are pleased to have you today with us. Young leaders of tomorrow; I can see Senators there, I can see legislatures sitting right there from Ngomeni Primary School and your teacher. The Hon. Member for your area, Hon. Johana is going to be in shortly and as soon as he comes in he will be able to address you so in the meantime Hon. Members, may we appreciate the presence of Ngomeni Primary School.

(Applause)

I think you have come with your teachers so we welcome you, feel at home, follow the proceedings as we go through this afternoon and I am very sure you are going to be able to learn quite a bit about parliamentary procedures and what we do here as representatives of the people. So, welcome and *karibu sana*. Hon. Dominic, proceed.

COUNTY BUDGET REVIEW AND OUTLOOK PAPER

Hon. Ndambuki: Thank you. Hon. Speaker, I beg to lay the following Paper on the Table of the House today, Wednesday, the 10th day of March, 2020; the report of the Committee on Budget and Appropriations on the County Budget Review and Outlook Paper. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: The Paper is here with me so it has been laid. Thank you very much, Hon. Member. Mr. Clerk, proceed.

NOTICE OF MOTION COUNTY BUDGET REVIEW AND OUTLOOK PAPER

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, under this Order, we have one business also to be transacted by the Chairman, Budget committee Hon. Dominic.

Hon. Ndambuki: Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker, that aware that the County Budget Review and Outlook Paper is prepared in accordance with Section 118 of the Public Finance Management Act of 2012 which requires the County Treasury to prepare and submit it to the County Executive Committee for approval by 30th September, in each financial year.

Aware that the County Executive Committee shall consider the County Budget Review and Outlook Paper with a view to approving it with or without amendments, not later than fourteen days after its submission;

Further, aware that not later than seven days after the CBROP has been approved by Executive Committee, the County Treasury shall submit the paper to the Budget Appropriations Committee of the County Assembly to be laid before the County Assembly and publish and publicize the Paper not less than fifteen days after laying the Paper before County Assembly;

Cognizant that the County Assembly received the County Budget Review and Outlook Paper and the Paper was committed to the Budget and Appropriations Committee;

Hon. Speaker, I wish to give notice of the motion that this house discusses and approves the report of the Committee on Budget and Appropriations on the County Budget Review and Outlook Paper;

Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Dominic, Chairman, budget committee for that Notice of Motion. Mr. Clerk, proceed.

MOTION REPORT ON STUDY TOUR TO THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, under this Order, we have one Motion to be tabled or to be moved by Hon. Cosmas Kieti, Member Broadcasting, and Library Services Committee. Hon. Cosmas.

Hon Kieti: Hon. Speaker. I stand in for the Chair.

Hon. Speaker, that aware that study tours help institutions and specifically County Assembly Committees to compare their practices with best practices from their host; Aware that a delegation of members drawn from the Committee on Broadcasting and Library Services attended the study tour to the East Africa Legislative Assembly from 25th to 31st August, 2019;

Hon. Speaker, acknowledging that pursuant to the Standing Orders of the County Assembly of Machakos, the Broadcasting and Library Committee is mandated to, among other duties, consider and report on all matters relating to the broadcasting of Assembly proceedings, advice the Assembly on matters related to public participation in the Assembly and make reports and recommendations to the Assembly, including proposed legislation on matters relating to the broadcasting of Assembly proceedings and related matters;

Hon. Speaker, aware that the intentions of the study tour were to learn on live streaming of plenary and Committee proceedings hence binding to the provisions of Article 196 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010;

Hon. Speaker, I wish to move the motion that, this honorable house discusses and approves the Report of the Broadcasting and Library Services Committee on a study tour to the East African Legislative Assembly.

I call upon Hon. Jacinta Luka to second the Motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Jacinta Luka.

Hon. (Ms.) Luka: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to second the Motion. Thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Jacinta. Hon. Kieti, you may read the report.

Hon. Kieti: Thank you. I am standing in for the Chairman, Broadcasting and Library Committee to present a report of the committee on the study tour to East African Legislative Assembly held in Arusha.

Preamble

Introduction

Hon. Speaker, benchmarking is the process of comparing one's practices with best practices from other institutions. From the benchmarking visits, Committees are able to gauge their performance and pinpoint their short comings.

Hon. Speaker, the need to benchmark was triggered by the Committees' desire to share from their counterparts on how they undertake their legislative, representation and oversight roles especially in the Committee.

Background

Hon. Speaker, the Broadcasting and Library committee is established under the Standing Order 215 of the County Assembly of Machakos Standing Orders to counter the lack of awareness accompanied by a general public opinion that Parliament is an opaque institution devoid of transparency and accountability.

The committee was formed in November, 2016 to create an avenue that would lead to greater public awareness and appreciation of the work of the County Assembly, better public attitude and perception towards parliament and greater involvement of the public in Parliamentary debates, hence helping in making politicians more accountable.

Committee Membership

Hon. Speaker, the current membership of the Broadcasting and Library committee is as follows:

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|----|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. | Hon. Florence M. Mwangangi | -Chairperson |
| 2. | Hon. Abdirahman Ali | -Vice Chairperson |
| 3. | Hon. Eric W. Musembi | -Member |
| 4. | Hon. Cosmas K. Muia | ” |
| 5. | Hon. Jacinta N. Luka | ” |

Hon. Speaker, it is worth noting that the following members of the County Assembly attended the Study tour to the East Africa Legislative Assembly for purposes of learning the best practices:

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|----|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. | Hon. Abdirahman Ali | -Vice Chairperson |
| 2. | Hon. Eric W. Musembi | -Member |
| 3. | Hon. Cosmas K. Muia | ” |
| 4. | Hon. Jacinta N. Luka | ” |
| 5. | Hon. Pauline M. Munguti | - Invited Member |
| 6. | Ms. Norah Muteti | - Clerk Assistant |
| 7. | Ms. Louisa Kamau | - In charge, Broadcasting Unit |

Mandate of the Committee

Hon. Speaker, the Broadcasting and Library committee is a select committee mandated under Standing Order 215(3) to undertake the following duties:

1. Consider and report on all matters relating to broadcasting of Assembly proceedings. These include reporting on rules, policies and procedures and any other matters relating to broadcasting in plenary, committees and events.
2. Advise the Assembly on matters related to public participation in the Assembly. It is the duty of the committee to formulate guidelines to be followed when it comes to public participation in Assembly business.
3. Make reports and recommendations to the Assembly, including proposed legislation on matters relating to broadcasting of Assembly proceedings and related matters.
4. Recommend to and advise the Assembly on matters related to the provision of library, publications and research services in the Assembly. These include recommendations on how to ease access to available information, holding sensitization forums on services available to the members and the general public among other recommendations.
5. Assist members of the County Assembly in utilizing the facilities provided by the library and research services including the use of information and communication

technology. This refers to offering assistance in utilizing different tools to access both internal and external information on the Assembly as well as promoting uptake of the systems in place.

EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Establishment

Hon. Speaker, the partner states of the East African Community are the Republic of Uganda, the Republic of Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Republic of Rwanda, the Republic Burundi and the Republic of Southern Sudan.

The East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) is a sub-organ of the larger East African Community, being the legislative arm of the Community. Hon. Speaker it is worth noting that the membership of the Assembly comprises of the following:

- a) Nine members elected by each partner state.
- b) *Ex- Officio* members consisting of:
 - i. The Minister responsible for East African Community Affairs from each partner state;
 - ii. The Assistant Minister or Deputy Minister or Minister of state responsible for East African Community affairs from each partner state;
 - iii. The Secretary General and the Counsel of the Community.

Among the responsibilities of the East African Legislative Assembly are:

To debate, discuss and approve policies of the Community;

To consider annual reports on the activities of the Community, annual audit reports of the Audit Commission and any other reports referred to it by the Council of Ministers;

To discuss all matters pertaining to the Community and make recommendations to the Council as it may deem necessary for the implementation of the Treaty;

For purposes of carrying out its functions, to establish any committee or committees for such purposes as it deems necessary;

To make its own rules of procedure and those of its committees.

BROADCASTING OF PLENARY AND COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

Article 10 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, provides that the national values and principles of governance bind all state organs, officers and persons when interpreting the Constitution and when making or implementing public policy decisions. These values include rule of law, participation of the people and transparency. Article 35 recognizes that every citizen has a right of access to information which is held by the State or another person which is further effected by the Access to Information Act, No. 31 of 2016.

The County Assembly of Machakos, being a constitutional body established by Article 176(1) and 177 of the Constitution, is a state organ and hence is bound by the national values and principles of governance.

To ensure effective performance of its duties, various committees, regulated by the Assembly Standing Orders, are constituted and must conduct their business in an open manner and facilitate public participation and involvement in their activities, except in special circumstances that are justifiable.

Pursuant to the Standing Orders of the County Assembly of Machakos, the Broadcasting and Library Committee is mandated to, among other duties, consider and report on all matters relating to

broadcasting of Assembly proceedings, advise the Assembly on matters related to public participation in the Assembly and make reports and recommendations to the Assembly, including proposed legislation on matters relating to broadcasting of Assembly proceedings and related matters.

Opening the County Assembly further by broadcasting the proceedings of the Assembly to the public serves to ensure that the public becomes participants in debate by accessing the deliberations of Parliament and its committees on important county issues.

Additionally, the Members of the County Assembly enhance their discourse since they are made more aware of their duty to put the County Government in check since the public will be sensitized.

The objective of the tour to the East African Legislative Assembly was to:

1. Engage the East African Legislative Assembly with a view of borrowing the best practices on matters relating to video coverage and broadcasting of plenary and committee proceedings.
2. Establish the strategies used by the Legislative Assembly in development of policies relating to broadcasting of plenary proceedings and dealing with the media landscape.
3. Enhance the Assembly's interaction with its stakeholders by conducting site visits in areas of broadcasting in EALA, Tanzania.

In essence, the tour in EALA, Tanzania, will help the Committee to gain skills and knowledge on how to propose legislation on enhancement of public participation in the business of the Assembly as well as enhancing the broadcast function of the Assembly.

LESSONS LEARNT

Hon. Speaker and Members, our future as a County Assembly lies in investing in the innovation that is crucial to our long-term growth, so that we can enhance greater community participation in the affairs of the Assembly.

We recognize that consumers media consumption habits are always changing, and we continue to evolve with these changes. We are witnessing an exciting revolution in radio and TV with the increased uptake of social media by both the young and the old.

Broadcasting has the power to reach and impact people like no other medium, and innovations are expanding and improving the delivery of emergency updates, news and entertainment that listeners and viewers value.

Although the committee noted that inadequate finances was the main challenge inhibiting broadcasting services at the East African Legislative Assembly, Members affirmed that broadcasting had led to increased public enlightenment and participation in the work of the legislative assembly.

It was further noted that live parliamentary broadcasts had resulted in increased public interest in parliament and its works. Live parliament broadcasts had also made the public gain knowledge on the importance of parliament as an arm of government that helped bring together the countries represented therein.

During the study visit, it was noted that the general public attitude towards parliament is negative and not many people understand what happens in the East African Legislative Assembly. Subsequently, legislators, not only at EALA but also us here in Machakos, ought to work diligently to improve the image of the workings of parliament.

Parliament is an important arm of government for any country and it is important to utilize a mix of radio, television and the internet channels to broadcast the proceedings of the Assembly, for effective participation of the public in parliamentary affairs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Hon. Speaker, according to surveys carried out on the public after the 1985 six months' experiment of televising the House of Lords, television was considered the best medium in helping one comprehend more about the workings of parliament. Television was also seen as the best medium for citizens to get to know Members of Parliament's true feelings about national concerns.

Moreover, live Parliament broadcasting was also deemed as the best avenue for encouraging decorum among Members due to the publicity that comes along with it (Wober, 1990).

In the words of former Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Kenneth Marende, opening Parliament to the public will recast the manner in which Parliament does its work. The public will be participants in the national debate by accessing, real time, the deliberations of Parliament and its committees on important national issues, as well as its duty to put the Government in check.

From the foregoing, several measures can be utilized to enhance public knowledge, attitude and perception about the County Assembly of Machakos and its works. They include:

1. The County Assembly in collaboration with other partners could come up with well-equipped centres in every sub-county of Kenya where citizens can be able to listen and watch live County Assembly broadcasts.
2. The County Assembly should endeavour to make more information available and to communicate in a manner understandable to the majority. This is to help members of the public that lack accessibility to this information.
3. Members of the County Assembly should inject more substance to the quality of their debates by focusing more on issues that affect their electorate or the Kenyan population at large. This will not only make the public feel that the County Assembly represents their aspirations, but also make the debates interesting to listen to and watch.
4. The County Assembly should consider partnering with media houses to have replays, at prime hours, of the live Assembly broadcasts on the salient issues debated. Such a strategy would increase public listenership and viewership. This is because, the time when parliament proceedings are aired, most of the people are at work or in college, and the only time to get most of them is in the evenings and over the weekends.
6. The County Assembly should also encourage more interactivity with the public through social media such as; Facebook, Twitter and Google. This would help the County Assembly to be presented as an up-to-date and dynamic institution, to engage with different individuals, especially the youth, who might not get involved with parliament in any other way, to cut down on costs and the speed of reaching a vast number and range of people about an issue, or for awareness and education purposes.
7. The County Assembly should intensify outreach programs and campaigns aimed at educating and sensitizing the public about it and its works.

CONCLUSION

With the knowledge and networks gained at EALA, we will be able to enhance the participation of the public by obtaining the relevant technologies to enhance the broadcasting experience.

By broadcasting and televising of parliamentary proceedings, we shall be able to boost public awareness of parliamentary activities, enlarging public participation in governance and increasing accountability and transparency in parliamentary dealings.

Hon. Speaker, we thank the members of the committee for their cooperation and zeal in undertaking their duties of making our vision of parliamentary broadcasting a reality. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Kieti, for the report well read.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Members, you may debate on this and as you debate I want to first welcome Hon. Johana, Member for Mutituni ward and give him time to address students from Ngomeni Primary who are with us today.

(Applause)

Hon. Munyao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Ngomeni primary School a school within my ward. You have the privilege to have hands-on regarding devolution. Previously, we had the National Parliament and the equivalent of that is the County Assembly. I am sure you will have a session to really get to know what goes on within a County Assembly; you will be able to learn some terms which will be applicable in your learning in social studies, you will be able to tell what HANSARD is.

Already you have known there is a Mr. Speaker, you have known there are two sides of the Assembly, you will also see Members contributing in the Assembly, you will also at times hear the Speaker talk of order because it is a House of order and it is a privilege also to visit us and get to know that from the same schools, we were able to be cultured, we went bare footed in those schools and through hard work, that is why we are where we are and it is our prayers and my believe that in very near future we will also have same representatives here representing the great people of Mutituni and the other areas.

So, feel in the right pace and am sure you will have all the time with us and you will enjoy your stay with us. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Johana. Hon. Moses Mitaa.

Hon. Mitaa: Thank you, Hon. Speaker, for granting me the opportunity. I also wish to join my senior colleague and thank kids from Ngomeni primary school and we welcome them and my word of encouragement to them is to put more efforts in their education so that at the end they may see fruits of their success.

Hon. Speaker, I want to thank the broadcasting committee under the leadership of Hon. Speaker through Hon. Kieti for the report which he has tabled in this House. Indeed we can attest fruits from that trip, Mr. Speaker. Currently, we are airing our sittings livened we must admit that the world now has become a village; anyone from all corners of this world can follow our sittings on real

time. Hon. Speaker, even our residents know that technology has brought everything to our hands. Even our residents back at the villages can also follow our sittings live.

Mr. Speaker, I must congratulate them because even in this Assembly Mr. Speaker, you remember we used to have only one set and currently we have three. We have also seen improvement in terms of security because we have CCTV cameras everywhere. I believe it is going hand in hand with what they were trying to do as far as improvement of our proceedings is concerned. So, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank that committee fully and I encourage them, in case there is more improvements which we can make, to proceed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Moses. Hon. Mueni.

Hon. (Ms.) Mueni: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again, I welcome the kids from our *Mheshimiwa* I tell you the girls you have to take care of yourself because if you do not you will not see yourself being somewhere. The boys will use you and dump you so I ask you girls to take care. The other thing is I support the committee for the work they have done a very good job with our able Speaker and our Speaker, is a lady so imagine one day you will be the Speaker, of this House. The one you are seeing is a Deputy Speaker.

So, I thank them for the work they have done because nowadays you hear everybody in the village telling you *Mheshimiwa fulani* does not talk in the Assembly. So the people who do not talk or give their minds to other people, *mheshimiwa* take care of yourself because the time is going and you know *Mheshimiwa* Alice today said everybody might not come in this House so do hard work and even trying to pay the fees of the children who are here. Do not do like the *waheshimiwa* of Nairobi they have eaten the bursary and it was very shameful even listening that the *waheshimiwa* have sent the money to their accounts.

It was so shameful o the whole of Kenya because even I think the Assembly of Nairobi by that they might be dissolved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Mueni. Hon. Justus Katumo.

Hon. Katumo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to applaud the committee for the good work they have done. Actually, it is good to keep benchmarking so that you can align yourself with the best practices within the region. I think where we are as a County Assembly we are doing very well; we have seen a lot of improvement in terms of the facilities we have.

Actually, we enjoy knowing that somebody somewhere is working and this committee has done a lot and we want to thank them and to continue benchmarking to make sure that they bring us to the state of the art that we require to be. Thank you; I support the report.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Alice.

Hon. (Ms.) Nzioka: Asanti Bw. Spika kwa kunipa nafasi. Bw. Spika, kama vile mbavyo unajua kulikua na enzi ambazo ulikua ni lazima uandike barua, utafute mtu umpe barua ama upee gari barua imelize kama miezi mitatu. Bw. Spika, hizo enzi tumemaliza tumefikia enzi za dijitali. Bw. Spika, kuna dijitali ambazo zimekuja; kuna barua pepe, kuna ujumbe mfupi na zote zimekuja na zote zinaleta habari kwetu.

Nipongeze kamati ya utangazaji na habari kwa kazi nzuri ambayo wamefanya. Tumekua na mfumo kwamba katika bunge letu sio ule wakati ilikua ni lazima watu waelezwe eti mheshimiwa

fulani kwa bunge haongei; sasa mtu akienda katika dijitali unaona kama ni mheshimiwa wa sehemu yako anaongea. Pia sisi kama wabunge ambao tuko katika hili unge la Machakos, ni lazima tuone tumeenda na wakati. Hio kamati imefanya mambo mazurina tunaendelea kuona wanafanya vizuri. Safari yao kwenda kuangalia walienda safari ili kwamba waongeze utaalumu.

Nina haki kwamba utaalumu tutaona kazi ambayo walienda kufanya chini ya uongozi wa Spika wetu Bi. Florence Mwangangi. Najua alienda kazi nzuri kufanya na tutaona bunge letu litafikia sehemu nyengine.

Bw. Spika, kumbuka kama bunge letu kuu ukiangalia kwenyw televisheni, utaona wakichangia pia ni lazima wale wamekuchagua wakuone kwamba unaregesha mabo yao ambao wamekutuma. Pia ni lazima uwe mkakamavu kwa maanna unaonekana katika runinga ama unaonekana katima barua pepe; hizo vitu zote ni gigitali kwa hivyo Bw. Spika, mimi nina furaha kwamba bunge la Machakos tumefuata mkono wa dijitali njua tutafanya mengi. Asante.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you very much. Hon. Jacqueline Nziva.

Hon. (Ms.) Nziva: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members present. I wish to applaud the committee on broadcasting for the good work that they have done. Change is always inevitable so we have seen great change in the Assembly and even in the Assembly precincts. I wish to thank the office of the Speaker and that of the Clerk for allowing members to go bench mark in the country and even outside.

We have witnessed many members and committees bringing several reports to the House after benchmarking o I wish to ask their offices that is the office f the Speaker and that of the Clerk to continue facilitating Members to go out and bench mark so that the best practices would be practised and witnessed and even done in our Assembly and even in our great county of Machakos. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Munyao, you will conclude. Hon. Thomas.

Hon. Mutinda: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me start by thanking the committee for good job done and Mr. Speaker, we are seeing results because after they have been going out we have seen how this House is improving. The infrastructure which we are using now like what we have, the cameras these are more modernized and I think I should congratulate them for that good work done.

Mr. Speaker, I wish they continue going out so that they also continue getting exposure and also we have a House move up to another scale because we should have a House where we sit, we are able to raise up our hand without raising up the hand itself but you raise your hand up from the system and you are able to tell us okay by allowing us with the system.

Mr. Speaker, I think the services we will be getting will be high and I must say we are in another level where we are being observed or looked at in the YouTube so Mr. Speaker, it is good work, there is value for money and I wish they continue going and even other committees continue going so that we bring that exposure here and share the experiences and knowledge found from other areas. So, I support the report Mr. Speaker, and I say thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Kisini.

Hon. Kisini: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to first to welcome the young school pupils from Hon. Johana's ward and tell them welcome feel at home. I think he spoke very clearly and he

welcomed them most of them must have started saying when I grow up I would like to be like *Mheshimiwa Johana* I would like to be like the Speaker so on and so forth. So emulate that and you may achieve it in the later years.

I still once again want to support the report which was brought by Hon. Kieti in the committee of broadcasting and I want to say from the report we have learned a lot. I think from when we came, we used to have some of these communication gadgets which were off but now we do not see them; it is very hard to see a small mic being transferred or being taken to a member to communicate. So that is a very big improvement.

We also want to applaud the improvement on the communication more specially said and I do not want to repeat about the TVs about us being heard from outside. So, we are also benefiting from that tour such tours are also benefiting us when the Members come back. So I want to say echo to the committee continue that way and we will hope to see more of that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Geoffrey.

Hon. Kamulu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also applaud the committee because of the good work which actually we have seen the fruits. Hon. Speaker, as we welcome the pupils who have come here, Mr. Speaker, it is also in order that we involve them in this debate because we are also teachers. I know there are teachers who have come with them and some of us Hon. Members are teachers.

So, Mr. Speaker, with your permission I want to pose to them a simple question so that when they go home they can have it as an assignment because the topic today is on communication means. Because the students are listening to a teacher, this is the question; the following are traditional ways of communication except?

- a) Runners.
- b) Horn.
- c) Internet.
- d) Letters.

The following.....no letters are not traditional. Hon. Members, Hon. Kieti is here he is also a teacher because we are exposing the students, Hon. Speaker, to a situation where they also benefit from the County so Hon. Cosmas Kieti can also add for me number (d)---

Hon. Kieti: Drum.

Hon. Kamulu: Drum; thank you very much. So I repeat the question...

(Laughter)

Hon. Speaker, the following are traditional ways of communication except?

- a) Horn.
- b) Runners.
- c) Internet.
- d) Drum.

That is the assignment and I know they will give the feed back to their teacher. Hon. Speaker, thank you very much that is my contribution today thank you very much.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you very much, Hon. Geoffrey Kamulu who is a trained teacher of repute and I believe the students will have a quiz to answer when they get back. Hon. Johanna.

Hon. Munyao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again, I stand to support this report by broadcasting committee. Mr. Speaker, it is important to appreciate the role technology is playing. Mr. Speaker, we have been able to see things like teleconferencing where we are able to see a broken screen and featuring two different scenes as we watch our TV. Mr. Speaker, all the deliberations of this House were only being heard within the walls of this Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, by benchmarking and going by a local saying which is literally translated that; whoever doesn't visit other places thinks that it is their mother who is the best cook.' By going out and learning other practices and appreciating the role of technology, the committee on broadcasting has been able to gather the intelligence, come back home and apply and by so we are now able to say that you can watch the proceedings of this House from whatever corner of your room of the country.

Mr. Speaker, it is also a justification that various committees do not just go out for the sake of just having leisure or that. We go out to improve on the quality of our operations in this House. So, I would encourage more committees to also go out come back home enrich our programs, enrich our operations and by so doing this House is going to be a House also to pose others to come and benchmark even some international communities to come and benchmark with us. So, Mr. Speaker I really appreciate the good work from the committee on broadcasting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Johana. May I call upon the mover of the motion to respond please?

Hon. Kieti: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I reply, I want to welcome the pupils from Ngomeni Primary School. Mr. Speaker, when I was chairman of KNUT, I used to get a lot of votes from Machakos Central and Ngomeni Primary school is in Machakos Central and most of the teachers from that school are my supporters. So, I take this early opportunity to welcome you to Machakos County Assembly and I hope you are going to gain a lot as you interact with the Hon Members and with the environment.

Hon Speaker, as *Mheshimiwa* Kamulu has cited, I was a teacher and I taught business studies and computer studies and one of the topics in Form Four is about networking and information and communication. So, as a committee we are gaining a lot from the exposure that we have as Hon. Members and also from the visits that we undertake and I want to appreciate that members you have appreciated that our benchmarking visit to Arusha was not in vain; it has brought some fruits and we are gaining a lot.

Mr. Speaker, just to mention some of our achievements as a committee; we have a studio. I don't know whether Hon. Members are aware that we have a studio where that we have a studio with us in this Assembly or within the precincts along the corridor we have the studio whereby you can see what is happening here that is why nowadays you don't see the cameras here, we have a studio courtesy of the broadcasting committee, a child of one of the benchmarking that we did in America at Las Vegas.

Within our committee, Hon. Speaker, we have been able to initiate *Bunge Mashinani* which has also been a success. At the same time, we also have the use of the YouTube which has been mentioned by Members. I don't know whether the Members are aware that every proceeding that we have carried out within this Assembly is within the public domain all the time and if you need some

information or some proceedings that took place in this Assembly, when you go to the YouTube you can trace it and get it.

So, those are some of the achievements that we have achieved as a committee and we have another service; the messaging service whereby members can download or can access members of the public can access all information of our county. The only problem, what is remaining is that we have not bought the software that can assist in that, otherwise, once that software is bought, it will enhance public participation because anyone within the county who needs some information within our county would just be able to send a message and he/she gets all the information which he needs from our Assembly.

Hon. Speaker, appreciating our Constitution Article 10 emphasizes a lot on the national values and one of the key issues within our national values is transparency and the only way transparency can be achieved, one way is sharing of information which is also shared in Article 35 which recognizes that every citizen has a right of access to information which is held by the state or another person.

So as an Assembly, as an independent entity, any information that is generated within the Assembly should be shared to the public so as to enhance the public image and also to enhance transparency, to make people aware of what goes on within the Assembly and by so doing it will also improve our image as an Assembly and also improve members participation in Assembly proceedings and therefore I want to thank the Members for recognizing our efforts as a committee of ensuring that we get to a stage whereby any proceeding of the Assembly reaches the electorate that we serve.

At the same time, Hon. Speaker, as a committee, we are looking for ways and means of ensuring that we have screens mounted either within our sub-counties so that people within Kathiani sub-county, Masinga sub-county or Mwala sub-county can see what is happening. Like now when I am talking here, people within my local area Kathiani can see what we are saying when we are here in Machakos.

So, as a committee, we are looking for ways and means of ensuring that any proceeding of the Assembly is broadcast and at the same time we are also looking at ways of mounting a screen at the Bus Park so as to increase the accessibility of Assembly proceedings to the public.

Otherwise, the recommendation that we made, I think, Hon. Speaker, Members have recognized the importance of them because most of the proceedings that we have in the Assembly.....when the Assembly is on session, in most cases people are at work and at the same time the youth and other people may not be able to access the information during the real time.

But with one of the recommendations, we have said that when the information is repeated within the television, either before or after news, then we will be able to reach a wider coverage and when the information is shared within other platforms like the Twitter, Facebook by so doing then we will be able to reach a wider coverage and by so doing our transparency as an Assembly will be enhanced. Thank you, Mr. Speaker; I support all members for supporting our report. Thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you very Much, Hon. Kieti.

(Question put and agreed to)

Hon. Members, again I commend our gallant students from Ngomeni Primary school for being with us this afternoon, I commend their representative for that area Hon Johana for you facilitating your people to come here and be able to learn a lot. I think as a result of that the teacher,

who must have been wondering what quiz he is going to give them, has just been given a question here by one of the Hon. Members here, the learned Geoffrey Kamulu who is a learned teacher he is been teaching for quite a while and the mover of the motion Hon. Kieti, who has also been a teacher for a long time and indeed the member himself for that area. So, I believe you are going to learn a lot from your interaction with the members of the County Assembly through this procedure.

One thing, which has come out clearly from this debate which has been ensuing here and which you have already approved is that communication is key and civic education, especially for us, so that members of the public can be able to understand clearly the roles played by both arms of the government.

It is key for us to continue ensuring that through the broadcasting committee and through the initiatives they are coming here that the interaction between the Assembly and the public is so enhanced that they understand the roles of members of County Assembly, what you are supposed to do and where your so-called responsibilities reach and where the responsibilities of the executive begin.

You find that unless we do that sensitization, it is a very grey area especially to the public where members of the County Assembly roles start and where they end and that is the reason you find up to today, the public when the roads get destroyed by rains they tend to ask you what is happening to this road, why has our road not been made. When they find that bursaries have not been issued to the schools they ask you; *Mheshimiwa* where are the bursaries not there because the impression which is outside there is that you are the one who is supposed to repair the roads, you are the one who is supposed to give the bursaries, you are the one who is supposed to do all those things.

What they don't know is that the role you play is to ensure that you have put all those responsibilities in your budget and you have approved the budget and provided the executive with funds to be able to perform those duties. So, it is key for us to keep making sure that communication is done.

The Hon. Member has said that there are a few things which I have noted here; the billboards, the live billboards and if they can be mounted in each sub-county, at least one live billboard per sub-county, because not all our mothers and our elderly people can be able to access YouTube.

I remember when you came here there was a suggestion for one to be put at the market place so that when we are going live the ladies even as they transact their business in the market they can be able to see the proceedings from the billboard. If that can be budgeted for and now I am talking about the practical part of it to the Chair, what we need to do for this one is to ensure the County Assembly Service Board budgets for it so that now when we come to approve, we approve the budget for those things to be done because so long as we keep talking about them if they are not included in the budget then it wouldn't be done. So if we can get them budgeted for, then it would be a very good thing.

Bunge Mashinani has been a wonderful and it has helped us a lot and I would hope that it is enhanced. Another member talked about digitization of our Chamber here whereby most of the other areas, the Speaker sitting here can be able to tell who wants to contribute, who wants to do what right from the.....you can be able to communicate whatever you want from your machine there. You can even be able to vote from there, so that also needs to be budgeted for so that as we upgrade ourselves we go digital all the way.

So with those few remarks, again I would say thank you very much to Ngomeni primary students for coming and sharing the afternoon with us, as you go back to your home I wish you journey mercies.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, that brings us to the end of the afternoon sitting and the House now adjourns to Wednesday the 11th day of March, 2020 at 10 a.m. Thank you very much, Hon. Members; may you enjoy the rest of your afternoon.

The House rose at 3.47 p.m.