

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MACHAKOS COUNTY ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Tuesday, 12th November, 2019

The House met at 3.00 p.m.

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

PRAYERS

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Good afternoon Hon. Members. Okay members let us start this session sorry for the delay. Mr. Clerk, proceed.

MOTION

REPORT ON BENCH MARKING VISIT TO KERICHO COUNTY ON EARLY CHILDHOOD
DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION (ECDE) CENTERS

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, under this Order, we have one business to transact and this is a motion by the Hon. Daniel Kiilu the chairperson education committee. Hon. Daniel Kiilu.

Hon. Kiilu: Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

That aware that Article 43(1)(f) of the Constitution provides that every person has the right to education and that aware that Part 2(9) of the Fourth Schedule confers to County governments the responsibility to provide pre-primary education and childcare services and such services are collectively encapsulated in the phrase Early Childhood Development and Education (ECDE), which is the holistic development of a child's social, emotional, cognitive, linguistic and physical needs in order to build a solid and broad foundation for lifelong learning and wellbeing;

Aware that Machakos County Assembly Committee on Education is a member of the Competence Building Society of Early Childhood Education (CBSECE KENYA), an organization that brings together all the 47 County Assembly committee's on Education, Education stakeholders, Researchers, National/ Senate members of Education Committee who are in charge of the Policy formulation, Oversight authority and Legislation;

Further aware that in a joint meeting held between ECDE teachers, representatives from the 47 Counties and the stakeholders in ECDE at the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) it was resolved to have a joint

bench marking trip to Kericho County being one of the 47 counties that has successfully implemented the ECDE and Vocational Training Centers(VTCs) programs from which other counties would gather valuable information on measures that the County has put in place on training, inspection, monitoring and evaluation of ECDE and VTCs programmes;

Hon. Speaker, I wish to move the motion that this Hon. House discusses and approves the Committee report on bench marking study visit to the County Government of Kericho and the Early Childhood Development Education Centers within the county.

Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I wish to call upon Hon. Kalumu to second the motion.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Francis.

Hon. Kalumu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to second the motion.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Francis. Hon. Daniel, you may read the report.

Hon. Kiilu: Thank you.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Hon. Speaker, on behalf of the Members of Education Committee and pursuant to the Provisions of Standing Order 190, it is my pleasant privilege and pleasure to present to this Hon. House the committee report of the findings and recommendations on the benchmarking study visit to Kericho County Government and the ECDE Centre within the County.

1.2 COMMITTEE MANDATE

Hon. Speaker, the Committee had the specific mandate of undertaking a study visit in Kericho County to appreciate the best practices that the County had put in place in managing and coordinating the ECDE programs.

Hon. Speaker, the Education Committee is one of the Sectoral Committees of Machakos County Assembly established under Standing Order 190 whose mandates, pursuant to the Standing Order 190(5) are as follows:

- a. Investigate, inquire into and report on all matters relating to the mandate, management, activities, administration, operations and estimates of the assigned departments;
- b. Study the program and policy objectives of the departments and the effectiveness of the implementation;
- c. Study and review all county legislation referred to it;
- d. Study, assess and analyze the relative success of the departments as measured by the results obtained as compared with their stated objectives;
- e. Investigate and inquire into all matters relating to the assigned departments as they may deem necessary and as may be referred to them by the County Assembly;
- f. Make all reports and recommendations to the County Assembly as often as possible, including recommendation of proposed legislation.

1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE BENCHMARK VISIT

Hon. Speaker, the Committee's objectives were to:

- a. Learn and appreciate measures that the Kericho County has put in place on training, inspection, monitoring and evaluation systems in ECDE centers and Vocational training centers.
- b. Learn measures that the Kericho County has put in place to improve Early Childhood Education Services through development of pedagogical and training programmes.
- c. Study and appreciate best practices in managing and coordinating ECDE programs and Vocational training Centers in Kericho County.
- d. Establish links between ECDE facilities and public primary schools within Kericho
- e. To enable the committee drill down into existing performance and identify areas for improvement.
- f. To gain an independent perspective about how well Kericho County has performed compared to Machakos County and other Counties.

1.4 COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

The Sectoral Committee on Education comprises of the following Honorable Members:

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|-----|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. | Hon. Daniel Kiilu | -Chairperson |
| 2. | Hon. Hellen Ndeti | -Vice Chairperson |
| 3. | Hon. Jane Nyawira | -Members |
| 4. | Hon. Phoebe Koki | “ |
| 5. | Hon. Margaret Ndalana | “ |
| 6. | Hon. Geoffrey Kamulu | “ |
| 7. | Hon. Benedette Musyoka | “ |
| 8. | Hon. Joseph Musau | “ |
| 9. | Hon. Francis Kalumu | “ |
| 10. | Hon. Alice Nzioka | “ |
| 11. | Hon. George King'ori | “ |
| 12. | Hon. Ikusya Kaloki | “ |
| 13. | Hon. Angela Munyasya | “ |

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Hon. Speaker, ECDE is part of Early Childhood Development which includes child health care, education, and access to clean water, safety and protection from harm. Different counties in the country have developed strategies and programmes for Early Childhood Development Education that are geared towards responding to the education/training needs of the child.

Competence Building Society of Early Childhood Education for Kenya (CBSECE Kenya) is responsible for the spirit of promoting quality services for children by overseeing the adherence of standard and quality assurance guidelines in Early Childhood Development and Education in Counties.

Machakos County Assembly Committee on Education is a member of the Competence Building Society of Early Childhood Education (CBSECE Kenya), an organization that brings together all the 47 County Assembly committees on Education, Education stakeholders,

researchers, National/ Senate members of Education Committee who are in charge of the policy formulation, oversight authority and legislation.

In a joint meeting held between ECDE teachers, representatives from the 47 Counties and the stakeholders in ECDE at the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD), it was resolved to have a joint benchmarking trip to Kericho County being one of the 47 counties that has successfully implemented the ECDE and Vocational Training Centers (VTCs) programmes from which other counties would gather valuable information on measures that the County has put in place on training, inspection, monitoring and evaluation of ECDE and VTCs programmes.

Hon. Speaker, according to the Competence Building Society of Early Childhood Education (CBSECE Kenya), benchmarking with the Counties within the Country will immensely help boost the ability of the members to do better in legislation and oversight effectively as required by the Constitution of Kenya 2010.

3.0 COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES AND FINDINGS

3.1 COMMITTEE FINDINGS

Hon. Speaker, in order to promote the implementation of ECDE programs and services, County Government of Kericho has enacted the following policies and legislations;

- The Kericho County Child Care Facilities Act, 2016.
- The Kericho County Early Childhood Education Act.
- The Early Childhood Education infrastructure.
- The Kericho County Bursary Act 2016.

Hon. Speaker, all these policies and legislation has been achieved as a result of great effort and commitment by the Kericho County Assembly Committee on Early Childhood Education and Vocational Training.

3.1.1 Kericho County Early Childhood Education Act 2016

The legislation was passed by the Assembly to provide guidelines on early childhood development and education programs within the County. The Act has led to establishment of early childhood development and education Centers within or near the existing primary schools. In addition, the Act has a provision which allows the primary schools with Early Childhood Education Centers to receive funding from the County Government for renovation and upgrading the existing Early Childhood Education Centers to the required standards.

Further, the Act has a provision for establishment of Board of Management in every Early Childhood and Development Education Centers with the following roles:

- i. Handling petty cash.
- ii. Ensure smooth running in the early childhood education and development Centers.
- iii. Ensure that the building plan of each early childhood education Centre is done according to the Basic Education Act 2013.
- iv. Ensuring the security is maintained at the Early Childhood Education Centers.

3.1.2 Early Childhood Education infrastructure

Through the initiative of the Kericho County Assembly, the County Government has been allocating Ksh. 10 million per ward each financial year which has enabled the Department to put up a complete ECDE unit which comprises of:

- Two classrooms – PP I and PP II.
- Office.
- Kitchen.
- Toilets.
- 10,000M3 water tank.
- Provision of outdoor play equipment and classrooms furniture.

Since the inception of the County Government, the department has been able to construct 165 model ECDE centres. Hon. Speaker, since the inception of the County Government, Education Department has been able to construct 600 modern ECDE centers with 1,135 care givers on payroll. This is geared towards achieving child's holistic development in the County and the provision of improved infrastructure has brought out the following impact:

- i. Increased enrollment from 25,000 children in 2013 to 39,510 children by 2017.
- ii. Presence of good and attractive learning atmosphere.
- iii. Shorten the average distance which the children used to cover before devolution.

(A Hon. Member spoke off record)

Hon. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member is reading a report let him finish please. Let the Hon. Member finish I think it would be important for him to finish then we can raise points of orders.

3.1.3 Kericho County Child Care Facilities Act, 2016

The Act was enacted to provide for the registration, licensing and inspection of child care Centers in the county. The Act further provides for the functions of the department responsible for matters relating to education and among these functions are the responsibilities to regulate and license child care facilities within the county; develop and implement the policy on child care facilities; develop standards for child care facilities; and receive and investigate complaints on child care facilities.

The law guards against mushrooming of unlicensed child care facilities which if not regulated, run the risk of compromising the quality of learning in such Centers due to administration of inconsistent and unapproved curricular; such Centers may also result in defrauding of unsuspecting parents in addition to subjecting children to learning under unhygienic environment.

3.1.4 Kericho County Bursary Act 2016

The legislation was passed to provide procedures and guidelines for the efficient disbursement of bursaries within the County and such related matters. In addition, the Act has led to establishment of Bursary fund to cater for the needy and high performing students in special schools, secondary schools, technical colleges, medium level colleges, vocational training Center and recognized universities.

4.0 VISITS TO COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KERICHO ECDE CENTRES

4.1 CHEMUGUSU ECDE CENTER -KAPKURGERWET WARD

Chemugusu is one of the 600 ECDE Centers that have been fully constructed by the Kericho County Government with a population of 82 children and two trained ECDE caregivers employed by the Kericho County Government.

Committee Findings

The ECDE center has adopted the new ECDE model plan consisting of:

1. Two classrooms each with adequate teaching aids and an office in between the classrooms.
2. An established kitchen that is used to provide ten o'clock porridge for the pupils.
3. A complete set for outdoor playing equipment.
4. The center has learners' tables and chairs courtesy of the County Government.

4.2 SEBETET ECDE CENTER IN KIPCHIMCHIM WARD

- The center has three set of classrooms constructed by the CDF at a cost of Ksh. 1.5 Million, previously owned by the primary section.
- The county Government has constructed two additional new model classrooms at a cost of Ksh. 750,000 each.
- The center has a two-door pit latrine for staff and pupils.
- The ECDE section is distinct from the primary section.
- The parents are actively involved in the management of the ECDE center.

4.3 AINAMOI ECDE CENTER IN AINAMOI WARD

- The center has a modern ECDE classroom distinct from the primary section.
- This ECDE center has adopted the new ECDE model that has three sections that is; main classroom, sleeping bay and veranda. This new model was constructed by the County Government of Kericho at a total cost of Ksh. 750,000. However, this amount was not inclusive of the cost of furnishing the classroom.
- The center has sufficient playground for young learners.
- The building has a ramp to ease access by those with mobility challenges.
- The ECDE classroom has adequate teaching aids.
- The classrooms are well cemented, clean painted walls and windows glazed making the classroom conducive for learning.

5.0 VISITS TO COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KERICHO VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTERS

5.1 KIPSAMUNGUT VTC IN KAPSOIT WARD

The VTC was funded by the County Government of Kericho and commissioned officially by H.E Hon. Paul Chepkwony, Governor Kericho County, on the 14th April, 2017. The VTC has been commissioned as a center of excellence that offers the following courses:

- Automotive engineering.
- Building and construction technology.
- Civil engineering and Domestic textile.

The County Government of Kericho initiated this programme to help train youths drawn from the 30 wards across the County on different disciplines of interest at an affordable cost. The County Government has further subsidized the cost of training by paying part of the tuition fee of Ksh. 2,000 to every student in the facility.

This programme has benefitted the County Government in terms of revenue collection. The committee noted that all Kericho County Government vehicles are serviced at the center hence reducing maintenance cost. Subsequently, the center is open for the public vehicles which in turn attract revenue collection to the County Government. It was noted that the VTC has played a major role in terms of youth employment hence low rates of vices associated with unemployment.

5.2 YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM IN CHEMOSOT WARD

This is one of the most inspiring programme started by the County Government of Kericho. The program was started in June 2018, with a total of 750 recruits drawn from the 30 wards of Kericho County. Each ward was given a slot of 20 youths of all gender to be absorbed in the program hence ensuring principle of equity and inclusivity. The program is a mirror of the National Youth Service where youths are trained on basic life skills, drills, parade command among others.

The youth empowerment program is a fully sponsored program by the County Government of Kericho. Recruits therefore enjoy free training as their tuition fee and welfare is catered for by the County Government of Kericho. Recruits are only required to budget for personal effects on admission.

The program empowers youths in various disciplines such as, hair dressing, domestic textile, mechanical engineering, electrical and electronic engineering.

6.0 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Development of complete ECDE Centres

The committee recommends that the County Department of Education should build more ECDE classrooms as well as upgrade the existing ECDE classrooms into complete ECDE Centres with the following facilities included within the establishment; office, kitchen, toilets, water tanks, playing ground and outdoor playing equipment.

6.2 Department's Comprehensive need assessment

The County Department of Education should undertake a comprehensive need assessment by carrying out a baseline survey to assess the current need situation and opportunities within the ECDE sector as well as carry out feasibility study in all the wards in order to establish the specific needs it should address.

This will lead to the development of a sectoral strategic plan, development of data bank on ECDE Centres, and enrolment rates for the sector.

6.3 Learning on best practices

Members recommend for development of better policies and legislations to streamline the operationalization of the ECDE programs and vocational training centers across the County.

6.4 Learner centered teaching and learning materials

To further improve on the quality of education and learner attainment in ECDE centers, the committee recommends for development of learner centers teaching and learning materials. This includes purchase of plastics table, talking classrooms, learning corners and lockable cupboards a shift from normal wooden desks.

6.5 Content and Curriculum Development

The committee recognizes the current existing curriculum for the sector but there is need for the County Department of Education to develop a comprehensive content and curriculum, in order to serve specific needs affecting the sector in the county.

7.0 CONCLUSION

Early childhood development education (ECDE) globally and Kenya in particular has been recognized as a child's holistic and integrated education that meets the cognitive, social, moral, spiritual, emotional physical and developmental needs of a child.

Article 53 b)(c) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 stipulates that every child has a right to free and compulsory education, basic nutrition, shelter and health care which are fundamental to the child's holistic development.

It is important to note that early childhood development education interventions are significant to the social and economic development of a county as they provide children aged between three five year with a strong start in life. It is noteworthy that ECDE centers are critical for the long term progress of the county in terms of laying a solid foundation for education success. Better policies and legislation should be developed to streamline the operationalization of the ECDE programs across the County.

Lack of proper policy and legislation to guide Education Department has left most of the Vocational Training Centres as well as the Early Childhood Education Centres in deplorable condition despite the ECDE and VTCs programs being a fully devolved function of the County Government, the department of Education should advocate for adequate budgetary allocation to enhance proper management of the sector.

The sector is not only under resourced but has also failed to grow at a sufficient rate to cater for the increasing number of young pupils in need of learning. This Assembly has a huge responsibility to motivate and expedite development of policy and legislation that will enable efficient management and growth of this important sector. These policies should include policies on the harmonization of teacher training, curriculum assessment and other ECDE aspects, to ensure children get a firm learning foundation.

The County Department of Education needs to plan more ambitiously for the sector and thus the County Government needs to increase the financial allocation to the sector to help reduce school dropout rates in the county.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Madam Speaker, the Committee extends its appreciation to the Offices of the Speaker and the Clerk of the County Assembly for the support accorded to it in the execution of its mandate and the opportunity accorded to its Members to develop this report. Mr. Speaker, On behalf of the Education Committee, I now wish to present this report to this Hon. House for consideration and adoption. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Chair Daniel Kiilu, for that report on education you have presented.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Members you may now debate on the Motion. Hon. Kamulu.

Hon. Kamulu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First I want to congratulate the chair and the rest of the members of the committee for having a very, very good report. One thing Mr. Speaker, I have noted about the report is on the employment of caregivers in that county where this research was done. Mr. Speaker, in our county we have a problem of the same so if our count actually can employ more caregivers I think we are going to increase the number of students in our ECDEs.

Mr. Speaker, the model which has been mentioned above the classrooms through the report is the best. In fact, Mr. Speaker, just going in schools and constructing a single classroom, I don't think whether that one is adequate. So, if our county can adopt this method of having several classes instead of a single classroom, this will cater for the PP1 and also the PP2 kind of curriculum which has been started in Kenya.

Mr. Speaker, in that report, we have noted that learning material and also the teaching materials are very necessary in the ECDEs; even the talking classrooms, and so forth, Mr. Speaker if monies are located in our ECDEs actually that one will be very good if we ensure that one is provided .

Mr. Speaker, when we went there we also noted that the model was constructed in a manner that the children could have time to have a rest when they get tired just within the classroom. The facilities especially the seat the seats and the desks were made in such a way that they fit the little children. So, Mr. Speaker, if this one is also adopted in in our county, I think it will be one of the best. Otherwise, Mr. Speaker, I stand to support the report by the education committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Thomas Mutinda.

Hon. Mutinda: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to thank the chairman and his committee for this good report and Mr. Speaker, I say it is time our government comes up with the policy either through it CEC of Education to have a way of knowing how we can build our classes. The current situation, Mr. Speaker, is that we even have the schools which do not have even a single ECDE class.

Now when it is that way and we expected to have two, then we end up in problems because like every ward most wards have 20 to 40 schools and not all of them are ECDE classes.

Others have one and even when you go to the teachers, you find it is only one teacher and they are supposed to be two.

So, we have a very big shortage as far as ensuring that our education is running smoothly and even with the teachers, when you see one teacher and you know, they are these young ladies so at a certain time that employee will require maternity leave, so when you talk of maternity leave for three months, it means there is a time when our children will not be in school or parents will have to cushion and look for a standby teacher.

So there must be a solution to such problems and we have to come up with the policy so that our education system is running well. When you see that County, they have tried to do their best and but it is also important that we also have such a structure but also include something like a toilet because the toilet which is used by a Nursery School child should not be the same as the one which is being used by standard four standard five children, because those are slightly mature and these are very young children.

So we have to have an accompaniment of a toilet and also the type of desks used for ECDE are not the normal desks which you will find anywhere. They are special desk so that we have a good and a standard ECDE. So, Mr. Speaker, I think the way we are going as a county a policy of either one class by per year per financial year or two minimum of that.

If we don't run faster, then we might end up taking 30 years or 20 years to have each school with an ECDE class. So there must be a measure, there must be a policy, there must be a program, there must be a budget to match all that so that within a stipulated time, the county can achieve the aim of the goal of having all our primary schools with their two ECDEs and the same for the teachers so that we have a running and a good system where our children will get that type of education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Steve Mwanthi.

Hon. Mwanthi: Thank you, Hon Speaker. This report is not only comprehensive but also its enticing when you hear what that county has been doing to its children. Hon. Speaker, it is true that one of our obligations as a County government is to work on ECDEs more than even what we are doing to the secondary school and other institutions.

So with such a report, I think it is as if we have been taken to square one whereby we feel it is as if we have not been doing, in fact, anything when you go through this report. I think it is good again for the committee may be to go back now and meet their respective CECs and COs and come up with the good policy maybe that can emulate this.

This should be the spirit for bench marking when people benchmark and come with such reports, I think we will be going far; only I will be left with the chairman has to tell me what are talking classes. It is unfortunate if that name is coming from Kericho when we are here and we don't know whether that is. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Cosmos.

Hon. Masesi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First and foremost, I would like to appreciate the reports by the education committee and Mr. Speaker at the time I was feeling that Machakos County is one among the fastest growing counties we don't need to benchmark but I made to understand we are far in terms of development.

Mr. Speaker, I have seen our understanding of ECDE class is different from Kericho because ECDE class is coming in two classrooms, an office, a kitchen and the toilet and the water tank 10,000 meters cubed. Mr. Speaker, I have seen the county has done marvelous because they have already done 165 ECDE classes. Mr. Speaker, worth noting the difference with our county is that they have special budgets of Ksh. 10 million per ward, Mr. Speaker, which is made specifically for ECDE progress.

Mr. Speaker, I have seen the county is much smaller than ours because they have got 30 wards. If you compare to ours with the 40 wards and Mr. Speaker, I want to believe what can bring all this difference is for us to budget for these specific events going forward. I want to believe in terms of the budget, we still can have some money, which can be meant for this and what has meant some of our ECDE classes not to pick up the ones which we had budgeted in the Ksh. 10 million, I want to believe the budget which had given for a class is too much below to way below while the contractors feel that they have been shortchanged.

My thinking is that when the classes are being re-tendered again, maybe we need to look at the budget so that we can also motivate the contractors. Otherwise, Mr. Speaker, the feeding program is very key among the children so I have not seen any ECDE school or class within my ward where the children are taking food at the school. We need to note and take which can be of benefits to this County and implement since we have got handshake in place; let us the push and what you can do within the remaining two years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Justus Kiteng'u.

Hon. Kiteng'u: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I would like to support the report; it is timely and Hon. Speaker, I must attest that what we need in our ECDE or schools is ECDE centers and not ECDE classes because I remember last time we were interrogating the Chief officer, education department, we could differentiate between the ECDE classes and ECDE centers because Hon. Speaker, if we are doing a budget like the previous one, we are doing one class for Ksh. 1 million and to have a complete ECDE center, then we have page eight whereby the problem of complete ECDE centers, the recommendation of the committee where the center will have an office, kitchen, toilet, water tanks, playground and outdoor playing equipment for our kids, Hon. Speaker.

So, I must attest that if we sit down as a county and try to add some budget on education because if we have, for example in my ward, in one location we have more than 50 something schools and if we go by each school we are doing one ECDE class and then we have PP2, then doing one and the we have two classes going on at the same time, then I have visited like Matungo Primary school where they have just done a partition of the iron sheets or a piece of cloth and whereby when a teacher is teaching on one side, they are just confuse each other, Hon. Speaker.

So, we need to sit and plan for the betterment of our kids and we can be able to deliver because you know this is the beginning of our child education and education is the key to success. I would like to request this Hon. House, as we support the document; we also try to follow up on our caregivers.

I remember recently, there was a motion which brought by Hon. Mwanthi, so that their salaries can be increased because these people get tired trying to change a child from a toddler to something and you realize that they are being paid less than Ksh. 10,000 and that person has a diploma, they have families. So, for us to succeed, let us support this document and the

implementation committee makes sure that everything is done to the way as the report has indicated. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Kisila

Hon. Kisila: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a very popular saying that says ‘if you don't travel, you think your mother cooks better.’ This is a report which clearly shows that we are very much behind as a county when it comes to ECDE. It is a pity that the committee went for this benchmarking without the CEC and the Chief Officer because, I think ignorance sometimes can lead people not to know what they are supposed to do and honestly I don't think the Executive understands the magnitude of what is happening in other counties.

This is one of the best reports; unfortunately I was trying to raise my eyes to catch the number of Members who are here, but this is a report which is one of the best ever produced in this Assembly and our future is on ECDE. Unfortunately, what you have been constructing are just classes; a house where children sit. Hon. Speaker, you remember when we were down in Mombasa; I had a very serious heated debate on the budget allocation to education versus what is happening on the ground.

If we don't allocate money on education, we are jeopardizing the future of our children. If you go to page five, just look at that infrastructure of a class; I was bragging I have constructed six ECDE classes last financial year but I am sorry I have constructed six classes or halls but they are not ECDE centers. If you look at what it takes to have an ECDE center, two classrooms, PP1 and PP2; an office, a kitchen, toilets, water tank and playing equipment and that is like a private institution but this is a public institution.

Going further, Bw. Speaker, if you look at the number of ECDE centers which have been constructed in this county, 600 modern, with 1,135 caregivers on a payroll; Members understand our ECDE teachers are not on payroll. They cannot even go to a bank to get a loan leave alone being listened to because they don't have a pay slip. You know a pay slip tells you, you can go to a bank and say I am employed. We don't have such in this county.

It is a very emotional thing when you meet these ECDE teachers; actuality, they are not caregivers; they are ECDE teachers because from what we pay them and the kind of quality we give them, they actually don't deserve to be called caregivers. A caregiver is somebody who you entrust with your child. Look at the numbers, the way this county has progressed; 25,000 children in 2013 to 39,500 in 2017.

I think this is very remarkable in a very interesting and most important sector which enhances the future of our children. Hon. Speaker, if I may draw your attention to page 6 of the report, one ward has constructed 600 ECDE centers. That is very interesting and the fact that they have been able to allocate a budget and as one of my colleagues said that the budget is too low. Actually, our budget per ECDE class is Ksh. 1 million but these guys are doing it with Ksh. 750,000.

So it shows we can actually construct more classes with the budget which we have. So our issue is not the budget; it is maybe the way we are doing it. Hon. Speaker, I think my take out of this is that we need to continue benchmarking with other counties especially the ones which are progressing very well, we need to ensure the budget committee and now let us be firm on this as a committee and as a House, we need to allocate money to education and the department of education needs to have money.

You remember when I was asking that question; we have constructed the classes but actually we are not equipping them so, we construct something very nice but we don't have a budget for equipping. I hope that the Members of the Budget committee when you present the supplementary budget here, we are going to see a turnaround of the way first of all, the way we are going to equip the current ECDE centers and secondly when we say an ECDE center, it comes as a package Bw. Chairman Budget; we need that package.

Just listen to what these guys do; Ksh. 10 million per ward on ECDE alone. Mr. Speaker, that is the amount of money we are being given for a ward to construct everything. So, budget allocation and I am very emotional about this topic because this is the future of our county; that is the amount of money we need to pump in every ward for ECDE centers alone, Bw. Chairman Education and Bw. Chairman Budget.

So it means, out of 47 wards, we need Ksh. 470 million for ECDE alone. That way we will be home and dry and we within the next two years, we can be able to say without any worry that we are going to have enough ECDE centers.

At the same time, Hon. Speaker, we would like to see in the supplementary budget, line payment for of ECDE teachers. We are paying a minimal amount, we need to look at how much the rest are being paid in the rest of the ECDE teachers, something good amount, some are even Ksh. 25,000 others are paying Ksh. 30,000. If we are entrusting people with our children, why can't we pay them well? So can we have these ECDE caregivers prioritized, given good amount of money and they should be on the payroll. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Dominic Ndambuki.

Hon. Ndambuki: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I arise to support the debate that is on the floor of this House and I am doing so on two accounts; first one being that the report has served as an eye opener to us legislators in this county. From the report, it is clearly captured that Kericho County has demonstrated how ECDE centers need to be constructed. For example, they have two classrooms; PP1 and PP2. What we have currently in Machakos County is only one classroom where we have combined PP1 and PP2.

In such an environment, Hon. Speaker, our young ones may not be able to learn well. It is very important for this county to ensure that we follow suit, we copy what Kericho County has done. We construct two classrooms per center. Hon. Speaker, still on ECDE, what we have is that in most of the centers, we have one caregiver who has been employed by the county Government whereas, we have PP1 and PP2. The question that begs an answer is, who pays the other caregiver? Where do they get money?

The other time, Hon. Speaker, we experienced uproar from the public when parents said that they will not pay some amount that they were being requested to pay or to give to pay the extra caregiver. We request and ask the county Government of Machakos to employ the extra caregiver so that we can have at least two caregivers per ECDE center. On top of that, there are ECDE centers that do not have a government-employed caregiver, what happens to such institutions?

It means that these young ones may not go through the requisite preparation before they join grade one as it is called nowadays. Hon. Speaker, if we miss our steps during the formative stages of our children, then it means we are going to breed a nation that is not upright. We want to have a nation that has people that are intellectuals.

On the second account, we have been given an example of youth empowerment programmes in Kericho county, this is something that as Machakos County we can replicate and ensure that we empower our youth. Hon. Speaker, we have our youth polytechnics that we are currently calling vocational training centers but when you look at these institutions Hon. Speaker, a lot needs to be done for them to live up to the standards of other institutions of similar standards.

If we can have a fund or a kitty set aside by the relevant departments to ensure that they empower our youth; we have a similar program that we call the scholarship program that is run by the office of the Governor. Hon. Speaker, if this kitty is well-managed and we have involvement of Hon. Members from this House to ensure that we vet the beneficiaries of this kitty and ensure that we have programmes that are going to impart good and necessary skills that are competitive in today's world, then we would be putting the youths of Machakos county on a global map to ensure that especially during this time when the government of Kenya is looking at the Big 4 Agenda, where we have industrialization and others being funded by the national government.

If our youths get requisite skills, they can be able to find jobs that are there in the market and that are competitive. Hon. Speaker, I call upon the county government of Machakos to move with speed and ensure that we support our people. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Alex Kamitu

Hon. Kamitu: Thank you very much, Hon. Speaker. Hon. Speaker, I would stand to give a bit of a summary in relationship to what the Hon. Members really have said because we normally know that a good foundation realizes good management and what I am saying is that, Hon. Speaker as I congratulate the Chair and this committee, it is also important as I said I want to give a summary. It is also important to ensure that the ECDEs as we know, they are the first learning institutions in this country. So I am talking of a good foundation that will eventually result in having a good education system.

Hon. Speaker, it is also important to note that, us as legislators, this is the time that any report coming to this House that entails or that gives us a direction to take, we must stand, we make a policy so that this policy during our time and even when our time passes out those other Hon. Members who will come into this Assembly would have a background, a foundation that our policy was made, good plans were made because when we make good plans, it means the end results will be documented and during the implementation part of it, the executive will be able as a policy from the legislative from the Assembly, the executive who is supposed to implement issues will have a document, a base to start.

So what I am saying is that Hon. Speaker, as the Committee did, we should embark on that. We plan and we put now the legislative policies down so that as a document, it will be our reference. Hon. Speaker, I would also like to add that this was a very good benchmarking and I would also request the Chair that in addition to what we have found from Kericho, I have been to Sweden and if the same committee could make a trip to Sweden, I am telling you when they come here, it will now be an additional report relating to what they have found out in Kericho and by so doing we shall live a legacy as a committee and as an Assembly that went and this is what they brought because that will be ECDEs is the basic foundation of the academicians we have in Kenya.

I stand to support the committee, I stand to support this report and I stand to ensure that whatever has been brought down here should be put down in action because in addition to that they have also given us a report about the ECDEs caretakers. If the ECDEs caretakers are taken care of, if they are motivated outright, there is no question. Our kids will also be motivated; there will be a learning atmosphere conducive to the kids hence putting a well-done job.

Otherwise, I stand to support and say this is the time that we should make a good move so that this Assembly would be seen and they will leave a legacy to talk about. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

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

Hon. (Ms.) Mueni: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mine is that I support the report which has shown us the way of which our County is supposed to be doing to the ECDEs. Most of our ECDE children use the same toilets with the pupils of the primary schools which is very bad and they can even become sick anytime. That is very bad. The other thing is that they are building those we are calling the classes, they are not equipped and those children will do the same exam with the children who are in Nairobi or who are in the Machakos and they have been given the material for the ECDE pupils. It is very unfair.

To add to that, even some schools have not yet built the classes which were appointed to be in every primary schools and we were asking for the two classes, which is very unfair. So the executive I think they have to release the money for building the ECDE classes very fast before you go home you people because when you go home you will not tell the people there what you are doing in this Assembly and those teachers most not most every teacher is not having a payslip which is very unfair and you cannot go to the bank and ask for something to come and help yourself.

I think so the executive is there.....Mheshimiwa Kamitu you have to go there and talk to the executive. Thank you.

Hon. Museku: Thank you, Hon. Mueni. May I call upon the mover of the motion to respond, please?

Hon. Kiilu: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. Allow me to first of all thank the Hon. Members for keenly listening to the report and actually allow me also to thank them because of the good comments. More so allow me to thank the Minority leader because of course, he has said that we need to do a benchmark to Sweden and I believe that the Clerk at the Table has taken the notes.

(Laughter)

Actually, as the Members were commenting, Hon. Speaker, you realize that they are three things that were distinctive that number one, we need to pump finances to these institutions if we want to change these classes, we need to pump more finances to that department and number two, there were also Members commented that we need to remunerate well our caregivers and actually there is a report that we are almost doing on the same. We are doing site visits and soon we are bringing that report to the floor of the House.

Again, there is the issue of the caregivers, as Hon. Ndambuki has said; you realize that if you want good education, definitely there should be a relationship between the teacher and the

pupil known as the teacher-pupil ratio which should be 1:30 and not more than that. When you move to most of our schools you realize that there are 70 to 60 pupils in one class which cannot be managed by one ECDE. Since there is a problem of the classes you go to a school and realize that there is only one PP1 class and you are supposed to have two teachers you realize there is one teacher and you are supposed to teach a PP1 and PP2 but they cannot have the two teachers because there are no classrooms.

So once we pump the money there we can do the structures. There is one Hon. Member, Hon. Mwanthi who asked what is a talking class. During the construction, you do a hall; there is a difference between a hole and a class and a class becomes a talking class when you instal some teaching aids inside. You get inside you realize that there is a flower, the flower is there and then there is a tag written flower. It can talk for itself.

If a pupil, a student or an ECDE learner gets inside, he or she can be able to be reading or revising by himself or herself. Bone, pot, flower, there is a nature corner somewhere; that is what we call a talking class and it is more evident in Kericho County. Then, again let me say that implementation, has been mentioned by one of the Hon. Members, it is important that once we put the reports here, it is good for the same for the follow-up to be done for implementation. Otherwise, thank you, Hon. Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you very much.

(Question put and agreed to)

Hon. Members, let me just put one or two words before I close the day. I think like almost what the Hon. Members have said, the future of any country rests upon its children. If we do not start well, in our children then definitely our future will be bleak. Kericho County and the people in it seem to have understood this factor very well and are investing heavily in their early childhood development.

Our children are going, like Hon. Mueni has said, to be competing with those children from Kericho; doing the same exams and competing for the same job in the future. I think it is critical for us to pay close attention to what is happening in other counties so that we are not left behind. One of the things I have heard Hon. Members here talk about mostly is on the issue of provision of funds. It is in our hands. We need, as an Assembly to come out with legislation, which guides the executive on the budget process. You can come out with legislation on how much funds should be allocated per Ward every year and it becomes law.

Once you pass legislation that becomes a policy document that will be followed by the executive. You can come out with legislation on how much funds should be allocated in each ECDE class in each Ward. The ball is in our court Hon. Chair of education and the other Hon. Chairs of the various committees. It is important for us to come out with legislation because once the Hon. House passes a legislation, most of these.....one things which I found myself is that most of these County Assemblies have passed legislation dictating how where they want the policy to go.

If you want as a House to guide policy on early childhood education, then we need to pass legislation and ensuring funds are channeled to early childhood education. If we need Wards to develop, we need to pass legislation channeling budget money and saying that a

specific percentage.....you can pass legislation saying that at least 25 per cent of the development budget should go to Wards.

If that is put in place, then there is no way the executive is going to be able to do differently from what the legislation has done. So instead of waiting for them to come and negotiate with you on what funds you need to be allocated where, let us come up with legislation and guide policy. That is key so let us come out with the necessary legislation and guide the policy so that we can be able to achieve what we want.

You have heard of the Youth Employment Programme, Hon. Members, whereby these people have put a Youth Empowerment program where every year they give 20 slots per Ward. Hon. Members, you know the problems we are having with our youth; these people have found a solution to the youth problem. They are giving 20 slots every year per Ward for Youth Empowerment programs and they do what? They recruit, they give free training and the only thing, because they pay the teachers and the tuition fee or anything, that you can cater for is their own personal effects. That is powerful, Hon. Members.

Sooner than later we are going to meet eye-to-eye with the electorate again, the same youth. So it is high time we woke up and realized that we need to empower our youth, we need to ensure that we come out with legislation to guide policy. We can say, you can take this as an example and say it should be implemented here, calculate the costs and come out with legislation saying that so much amount of money needs to be allocated towards youth empowerment every year.

The ball is in our court, we are the legislators, we are the ones who guide on policy, the Governor gives policy and you also guide the policy. So you can come out with legislation to guide our policy towards the achievement of these goals and I am very sure what the Hon. Chair and his team have come out with, can be an eye-opener for us and we can be able to achieve a lot as a County. Thank you very much, Hon. Members.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Deputy Speaker: With that the House adjourns to Wednesday the 13th day of November, 2019 at 10.00 a.m. Enjoy the rest of your afternoon.

The House rose at 4.11 p.m.