

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MACHAKOS COUNTY ASSEMBLY
OFFICIAL REPORT

Tuesday, 13th March, 2018

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

[The Speaker (Hon. (Mrs.) Mwangangi) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

Hon. Speaker: I am looking around to see if we have quorum, Hon. Members. Maybe, Mr. Clerk can guide us. I am informed that there is no quorum. Can Serjeant at Arms ring the bell please?

(Quorum bell was rung)

(Hon. Muendo made to withdraw from the Chamber)

You do not walk out when the bell is ringing. You are now here, Hon. Muendo. I am told we have quorum now so Serjeant at Arms stop the bell so that we start. Good afternoon, Hon. Members. We can start the sitting and we have the order of business for this sitting. Mr. Clerk, proceed.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR
USE OF IPADS

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Members, under this order there is the following communication; the first one is on the iPads which the Hon. Members were given. We received communication from some of the members that they may want to be taken through the process of using and actually activating the iPads. Remember they are going to assist you access the library material and also for your and also for your research and communication.

So, tomorrow in the afternoon, you are requested to come with your iPads so that you can be taken through their use by the ICT department of this House and that is going to be after the afternoon plenary. Remember that.

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2017/2018

The second communication, Hon. Members is on the supplementary budget for the financial year 2017/2018. The current financial year, this is to inform the House that the Assembly received the supplementary budget for this financial year on 7th of March, 2018. This is I think the time you were doing the public participation on the Finance Bill and this is pursuant

to the Public Finance Management Act section 135(2) it came from the County Executive and that supplementary budget has revised recurrent and development budget estimates.

It is important that the House looks into it with the seriousness that the document deserves. So, it is hereby committed to the budget and appropriation committee and the committee is required to interrogate the supplementary budget estimates thoroughly and bring a report to this House on or before 28th March, 2018. They have just about 14 days to do that.

COUNTY FISCAL STRATEGY PAPER 2018/19

The third communication, Hon. Members is on the County Fiscal Strategy Paper 2018/19. This is again to inform you members that the Assembly received the County Fiscal Strategy Paper on 12th of March, 2018 and this is as required by the Public Finance Management Act section 117(1) and it came from the County Treasury, that is at the Executive.

This is required to be interrogated by this House and the House is to approve it. So, it is hereby committed to the budget and appropriation committee and again it is an urgent document. The deadline for finalizing it was 28th of February. So, because of urgency that committee is required to file its report in this House within 14 days. That is on or before 27th day of March, 2018. Thank you, Hon. Members. Mr. Clerk, proceed.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Members, under this Order we have two businesses, first on by Hon. King'ori and the second one is by Hon. Maitha. Hon. King'ori.

FEEDING PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

Hon. King'ori: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

That aware that children are at a high risk of becoming malnourished which has severe effect on children development, both physical and mental;

Aware that Article 24 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child states that state parties recognize the rights of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and shall take appropriate measures to combat disease on relations through the provision of adequate nutritious foods, clean drinking water, health care;

Aware the Convention on the Rights of the Child consider the right to food as key element for child development;

Cognizant that Article 27(6) of the Constitution states that to give food effect to the realization of the right guaranteed under the Article, the state shall take legislative and other measures including affirmative action program and policy designated to readdress disadvantage suffered by individual or groups because of past discrimination; Acknowledging that part 2(9) of the fourth schedule of the Constitution of Kenya gives the County powers to register on pre-primary education;

Madam Speaker, I wish to give notice of the motion that the County Government of Machakos establishes a feeding program for the children in the early childhood education institutions.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. King'ori, Hon. Maitha.

TAPPING AND DISTRIBUTION OF WATER FROM NGALALYA BOREHOLE

Hon. Maitha: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

That aware that the mission for the department of water delegation in Machakos County is to contribute to County development by promoting and supporting water resource management in order to enhance water availability and accessibility to all;

Further aware that in the context and strategy and budget allocation for the Financial year 2016/2017, the department of water and irrigation was to ensure adequate and reliable supply of water and sewerage services, irrigation development and water storage; Informed that Matungulu west ward is endowed with three bore holes namely; Ngalalia boreholes which are situated near each other and have a high capacity of water about 100,000 liters per hour; Remembering that the last financial year, the department of water and irrigation initiated drilling of many boreholes most of which were dry, which translates to misuse of public funds and lack of value for money;

Cognizant that rehabilitation of the very productive bore holes in the County is cheaper and more realistic than drilling many boreholes which end up being dry or with low water capacity;

Aware that boreholes were sunk and left without developing a distribution system to the residences of Matungullu West ward;

Madam Speaker, I wish to give notice of the motion that this Hon. House discusses and approves that Machakos County Government, through the department of water and irrigation, should tap and distribute water from the highly productive Ngalalya boreholes in Matungulu West Ward during the financial year 2017/2018 in order to increase water availability and accessibility in Matungulu West ward and the surrounding areas.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Maitha. Mr. Clerk, proceed.

MOTION

FEEDING PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

Hon. King'ori: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, that aware that children are at a high risk of becoming malnourished which has severe effects on children's development both physical and mental;

Aware that Article 24 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child says that States parties recognize the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and shall take appropriate measures to combat disease and malnutrition through the provision of adequate nutritious foods, clean drinking water, and health care;

Aware that the convention on rights of a child considers the right to food as a key element for child development;

Cognizant that Article 27(6), of the Constitution states that to give full effect to the realization of the rights guaranteed under this Article, the state shall take legislative and other measures, including affirmative action programs and policies designed to redress any disadvantage suffered by individuals or groups because of past discrimination;

Acknowledging that part 2(9) of the fourth schedule of the constitution gives the County powers to legislate on pre-primary education;

Madam Speaker, I wish to give notice of the motion that the County Government of Machakos establishes a feeding program for children in the early childhood education institutions.

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I call upon Hon. Kiilu to second the Motion.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Kiilu. Thank you, Hon. King'ori.

Hon. Kiilu: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand to support the Motion in that it is actually wanted; it is needed and very urgent. I support.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Kiilu.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Speaker: The motion is open for debate. Hon. Museku.

Hon. Museku: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand here to support this Motion by Hon. King'ori on the provision of a feeding program for children in the early child hood education institutions. I think the early stages of a child's life determine a lot on how that child is going to be throughout his entire life and career. Those early formative years are the ones which at the end of the day determine whether the child grows to achieve their full potential in all there areas, both mental and physical.

It is important therefore, that in as much as we are providing ECDE facilities in our areas, constructing them and also employing teachers for ECDE not to forget that the children who are going to those institutions need food and they need to be fed. I believe those of us and I think the majority of us who are here, back in the days, we used to enjoy the Nyayo milk program.

Some of us took milk from the early years from nursery all the way to standard seven, which was free, and I do believe that, that milk supplemented the diet we were taking hence the kind of good brains you can see some of us have.

So, what we need to do, is to ensure that our children in Machakos are given the best chance in life and we as an Assembly, have that responsibility of ensuring that, our County Government establishes a feeding program for our children so that we are, at least, assured that when they are in school they are taking a proper balanced diet.

It might not be possible to ensure that it happens within the homes of everybody, but if you can ensure that when the children go to school that they are getting a fully balanced diet, then we can say we have played our parental care role. Therefore, I fully support this Motion that

the Machakos Government does establish a feeding program for children in the early childhood educational institutions. Thank you.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Museku. Hon. Kiilu.

Hon. Kiilu: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Actually, when you observe, I went a bit silent I wanted to make the contribution that I realized that I might go contrary to the rules and regulations. Allow me to, first, thank Hon. King'ori for bringing forth this Motion; actually, we were discussing the same with him little did I know that, he has overtaken me because I wanted to bring the same but because he has done it, allow me to most sincerely thank him, this is an area of need. As we all know that proper nutrition of young children is essential in terms of their growth, brainwise and the mental and the body.

I want to make three comments; that one, proper feeding of these kids will make the school's enrollment to grow. What I mean is that, if we can start this feeding program in schools, there are some effects that we observed. One, growth of enrollment and absenteeism would decrease and will grow mentally.

So, Madam Speaker, I totally support that Motion by Mheshimiwa King'ori and let it be taken seriously. There was a program that had started with the County Government and it happened in a few schools, it was humbled. Let it happen in the whole of Machakos County. I support. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Kiilu. Hon. Hellen Matee.

Hon. (Ms.) Ndeti: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I support the Motion. I think our young children should be taken care of so that they can be awake and alert as they go about their schooling.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Hellen Matee. Hon. Minority, Kamitu.

Hon. Kamitu: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, let me first congratulate the mover of this Motion, Hon. King'ori. Madam Speaker, I want to be very brief that, in fact parents would bring their kids when they are young; they make them as a pillar. So, what I am saying is that, if these arrangements of feeding children at the very early stage are very important because for one, Madam Speaker, you are aware that it is not all of us who can be able to afford some of these feedings in some of our homes.

So, if it is harmonized in the schools it's going to help those parents who are not able to feed their children. So, it is an exercise that is going to be undertaken by Machakos County, the responsibility to feed the young kids, we shall be bringing up a healthy nation. So, I support this motion. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you Hon. Kamitu. Hon Constance Mbula.

Hon. (Ms.) C. Nzioki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank Hon. King'ori for the motion...

Hon. Speaker: Point of order from Hon. Mitaa.

Hon. Mitaa: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I think it is important for my colleague to recognize that you are a she not a he.

(Laughter)

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Constance Mbula, I believe the communication has reached you. Proceed.

Hon. (Ms.) C. Nzioki: Thank you about the correction. I am sorry about it. I want to thank Hon. King'ori for bringing this motion; it is good as a man he realizes that children need to be well fed. Children as young as the first day they are born need to eat well as they grow and go to school need to be fed well.

I am sure most of the families do not afford the three meals in a day; in fact, most of the children will go to school carrying almost empty, packed parts of food and when this motion goes through, it will be very food for all the children who will be fed, and those are the Members of County Assembly and Senators we are expecting for tomorrow.

Early childhood is very good, if we feed them, we shall have helped Machakos County as a whole. So, I support the motion. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Dominic.

Hon. Ndambuki: Thank you, Madam Speaker for the opportunity to contribute to this motion. One of the key agendas in the Millennium Development Goals is reduction in illiteracy levels in our country and as legislators, we are mandated in ensuring we realize this millennium goals.

One way of supporting this is ensuring that we keep the young ones in school especially those in their formative stages. If we do not have high enrollment rates in schools and retain these kids in school, it means that we will not realize these goals.

So, by ensuring we have school feeding programmes for the young ones especially those in early childhood institutions, then we will ensure that we have high enrollment rates and we will contributing towards reduction in illiteracy levels. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Dominic. Hon. Angela.

Hon. (Ms.) Munyasya: Thank you, Madam Speaker for the opportunity. I support the motion in the sense that it is at this stage when a child is born they need to be developed both physically and mentally. I happen to be a board member in a primary school where we have the early childhood class and you find those small children come to school hungry, given the kind of area that we come from is arid and semi-arid. The child comes from home not having been fed so they come with a cup and they keep going to the water tank to take some water hoping to fill their stomachs.

So, you find children are malnourished and when they go back home there is nothing to eat. So, this will encourage enrollment which is going down especially in government

institutions. You find there are very many mushrooming private institutions because the people who can afford to pay for private institutions take their children there giving the other no option but to either go to school hungry or risk dropping out of school.

Madam Speaker, to encourage primary school enrollment and growth, we need to start from the grass root and it is therefore important to have the early childhood children encouraged to enroll in schools to grow our educational institutions to a higher level. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Kisini.

Hon. Kisini: Thank you, Madam Speaker for giving me this chance. I want to support this motion brought by Hon. King'ori. It is true, more specially at my ward, I have many slums and many children there are malnourished, they are not in good health. We all know that the government has supported education by paying school fees or saying that all children should go to school but even if the child goes to school in an empty stomach, whatever he learns from the school, he or she will not learn anything.

So, it is good while we are getting support from the Central government, it is also good to see to it that the County Government supports that feeding programme by making sure that if the National government is allowing the children to go free, the County government feeds the children. These children are our future leaders, they might miss getting education even if they are going to school because of being hungry.

We are seeing the County government supporting projects which are not very much ideal so when its prioritizing its projects, it is very important that it prioritizes this school feeding programme. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Kisini. Hon. King'ori, the mover, I invite you to reply.

Hon. King'ori: Thank you, Madam Speaker...

Hon. Speaker: Come to the Table please, Hon. King'ori.

Hon. King'ori: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I beg to thank all the members who have contributed to this debate and all those who are willing to debate I thank them. I have read the mood that everybody is ready to support this motion. I am also happy to say that, in order for any person to grow, we go through stages but there is only one stage we can change our life; on ECDE on our children in school. Because they understand and they can even manage to get nine languages in that period of their life.

We can destroy that person because of him/her being hungry because we shall have so many dropouts at that level which is very dangerous. I think this is the best thing this House has done today. Asante.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you Hon. King'ori.

(Applause)

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNEMENT

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Members, at this juncture the sitting of the House is adjourned to the Wednesday, 14th March, 2018 at 10 a.m.

The House rose at 3.03 p.m.