

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MACHAKOS COUNTY ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday, 13th March, 2019

The House met at 10.11 a.m.

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

PRAYERS

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Serjeant at Arms, ring the bell for 10 minutes; we do not have quorum.

(Quorum Bell rung)

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR
WARD PROJECTS

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Good morning Members. I have three communications to make. The County intends to execute development projects in all the 40 wards this financial year of 2018/2019. To achieve this objective, each elected Hon. Member is notified to submit ward projects worth Ksh. 10 million from his or her Ward by close of business 13th March, 2019 which is today. Those projects need to be handed over to the Wards Projects Committee who will be able to compile and hand them over to the CEC Member in charge of finance. You are requested to adhere to this deadline strictly as the earlier deadline of 6th March, 2019 has since lapsed.

As earlier advises, procurement process for the projects needs to begin immediately and remember we only have two or three months before IFMIS starts being closed down so we need to ensure those projects we are giving are captured and committed in the next two three months; so there is urgency in this matter. You are advised to further note that any Member who will not have submitted his or her projects at the end of business today risks their projects being left out from inclusion in the supplementary budget. I think it is very critical to ensure that by close of business today you have handed those projects.

One way of doing it because these are your pet projects and close to your heart, it is Ksh. 10 million, so you allocate it. For example, you can say i want to put up a health facility, Ksh. 3 million, two boreholes each at Ksh. 2 million and something else, totaling to Ksh. 10 million. Once you hand over that to the ward projects committee, they will be able to compile the full list and then we know how many are required when we are doing the budget process.

This Ward Projects Committee needs to ensure that they submit that list to the Executive by 8.00 a.m. on Thursday, 14th March, 2019. So, today we finish compilation of the projects, the ward and projects committee will burn the midnight oil and tomorrow morning 8:00 a.m. they make sure that list is delivered to the Executive.

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES

The Budget Committee has been allowed by the Hon. Speaker to be away from the Plenary on Wednesday, 13th March and Tuesday, 19th March to finalize on the Supplementary estimates and County Fiscal Strategy Paper; which all have deadline days. The Committee is urged to ensure that the two reports are fast tracked and presented before the House.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OF COUNTY FISCAL STRATEGY PAPER

Public participation on the CFSP as earlier communicated by the Hon. Speaker, this exercise will be conducted on the week of 25th March, 2019 and it will be done at the Sub-County level mostly at the Sub-county headquarters; because remember this is setting ceilings for the budget items not the actual itemized things which we want to be put in the budget which will now be done a public participation for when we will be conducting the main budget public participation.

It is important to ensure that each one of us attends this public participation on the County Fiscal Strategy Paper because once those ceilings are set you cannot exceed them by more than one percent. Thank you very much.

PAPER LAID

REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

Hon. Deputy Speaker: We have one Paper to be laid by Hon. Mitaa.

Hon. Mitaa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Hon. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 190(5), I wish to lay the following Paper on the Table of the Assembly today, 13th March, 2019; report of the Powers and Privileges Committee on Administrative Procedures.

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

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Hon. Deputy Speaker: We have two notices of motion, the first by Hon. Mitaa and the second one by Hon. Justus Kiteng'u.

REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

Hon. Mitaa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker, that aware that Chapter Six of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, outlines the principles of leadership and of much emphasis is integrity;

Aware that Section 33(1) of the Public Officers Ethics Act, 2003 requires responsible Commissions (*the County Assembly Service Board for our case*) to

develop administrative procedures to manage declarations of income, assets and liabilities by public officers:

Further aware that, the Ethics and Anti- Corruption Commission in exercise of its enforcement and oversight mandate wrote a letter to all County Assemblies' Powers and Privileges Committees requiring them to develop and publish the administrative procedures pursuant to Section 33(2) of the Public Officers Act, 2003 thereafter which the procedures shall be operationalized;

Hon. Speaker, aware that the Powers and Privileges Committee developed the administrative procedures for declaration of income, assets and liabilities (part IV of the Public Officer Ethics Act, 2003);

Hon. Speaker, I wish to give notice of motion that this Hon. House discusses and approves the Powers and Privileges report on Administrative Procedures.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you very much, Hon. Moses. Hon. Justus Kiteng'u.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO POWERS AND PRIVILEGES COMMITTEE FOR THIRD SESSION

Hon. Kiteng'u: Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker, that aware that Section 15(1)(b) of the County Assemblies Powers and Privileges Act 2017 establishes the Powers and Privileges Committee;

Aware that the composition of this Committee as set in Standing Order 189A is the Speaker, the Chairperson of Committees and not more than three other members who shall be nominated by the Assembly Parties and approved by the House.

Hon. Speaker, Standing Order 189A(c) provides that the Powers and Privileges Committee should be appointed at the commencement of each session;

Aware that the Committee is crucial in inquiring into the conduct of members whose conduct is alleged to constitute a breach of privilege;

Aware that the nominations should take into consideration interests of Independents and aware that parties have nominated members to serve in the Powers and Privileges Committee;

Hon. Speaker, I wish to give notice of motion that pursuant to Standing Order 189A(c) the House approves the appointment of the following members to the Powers and Privileges Committee for the Third Session of the Second Assembly of Machakos County in addition to those members specified under paragraph (a) and (b)

1. Hon. Robert Kisini
2. Hon. Moses Mitaa
3. Hon. Margaret Ndalana

Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

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

MOTIONS

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members we have two motions by Hon. Betty Nzioki, chairperson culture, social welfare and tourism committee and second one by Hon. Justus Kiteng'u, Deputy Majority leader and a Member of the House Business Committee.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORT OF TOURISM AND CULTURE FOR 2017/2018

Hon. (Ms.) B. Nzioki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker, that aware that Article 183(3) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 stipulates that the County Executive Committee shall provide the County Assembly with full and regular reports on matters relating to the County;

Further aware that Article 185(3) states that the County Assembly while respecting the principle of separation of powers, may exercise oversight over the County Executive Committee and any other County Executive Organs;

Hon. Speaker, aware that Standing Order 190(5)(b) mandates sectoral Committees to study the programme and policy objectives of the departments and the effectiveness of the implementation;

Acknowledging that the Committee on Culture, Social Welfare and Tourism received the Departmental Report for the FY 2017/2018 from the Department of Tourism and Culture; Cognizant of the fact that the Committee conducted site visits to ascertain the status of the projects indicated in the report and compiled a report;

Hon. Speaker, I wish to move the motion that, this Hon. House discusses and approves the Tourism and Culture Departmental Report for the FY 2017/2018.

I wish to call Hon. Alice to second my motion.

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

Hon. (Ms.) Nzioka: Hon. Speaker, I second the motion.

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

Hon. (Ms.) B. Nzioki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With me is the report of the status of departmental performance for the financial year 2017/2018 for the tourism, culture and social welfare committee.

INTRODUCTION

Hon. Speaker, Article 183(3) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 stipulates that the County Executive Committee shall provide the County Assembly with full and regular reports on matters relating to the County;

Further Article 185(3) states that the County Assembly while respecting the principle of separation of powers, may exercise oversight over the County Executive Committee and any other County Executive organs.

Hon. Speaker, based on the above provisions, the Chief Officer in charge of the Department of Tourism and Culture submitted Departmental report for the 2017/2018 for consideration.

MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE

Hon. Speaker, the Culture, Tourism and Social Welfare Committee is established under the Second Schedule of the Machakos County Assembly Standing Orders to deal with all matters related to cultural activities, public entertainment and public amenities, including betting, lotteries, casinos and other forms of gambling, racing, liquor licensing, cinemas, video shows and hiring, libraries, national heritage, museums and cultural activities and facilities and county parks, beaches and recreation facilities; control of drugs, pornography and tourism and social welfare.

Further, Hon. Speaker, Standing Order 190(5)(b) mandates sectoral Committees to study the programme and policy objectives of the departments and the effectiveness of the implementation.

COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

Hon. Speaker, the committee has thirteen members as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Hon. Betty Nzisa | - Chairperson |
| 2. Hon. Benedette Mueni | - Vice- Chairperson |
| 3. Hon. Francis Ngunga | - Member |
| 4. Hon. Jeremiah Munguti | “ |
| 5. Hon. Alice Nzioka | “ |
| 6. Hon. Joshua Muli | “ |
| 7. Hon. Dominic Ndambuki | “ |
| 8. Hon. Hellen Ndeti | “ |
| 9. Hon. Moses Mitaa | “ |
| 10. Hon. Anastacia Mutuku | “ |
| 11. Hon. Justus Kiteng’u | “ |
| 12. Hon. Pauline Munguti | “ |
| 13. Hon. Stephen Mwanthi | “ |

OVERALL 2017/18 BUDGET

Hon. Speaker, in the financial year 2017/18 the County Assembly approved the Department’s total budget of Ksh. 157,397,499 comprising of Ksh. 106,327,869 recurrent funds and Ksh. 51,069,630 for development funds.

The first quarter is usually the period from 1st July to 30th September. The second quarter follows from 1st October to 31st December. The third quarter runs from 1st January to 31st March and lastly the fourth quarter start from 1st April to 30th June.

COMMITTEE FINDINGS

DEPARTMENTAL REPORT FOR THE FY 2017/2018

Hon. Speaker, according to the status report presented by the Chief Officer, the department indicated that it had managed to undertake the following projects;

FIRST QUARTER

Quarter	Project name	Division	Project Status	Estimated Cost	Source of funding	Expenditure to date
	Tartan installation	Tourism	On going	37,000,000	Machakos County	25,000,000

1 st Quarter					Government	
	Ground preparation during tartan installation	Tourism	complete	1,200,000	Machakos County Government	1,200,000
	Paul Ngei statue	Tourism	complete	1,000,000	Machakos County Government	1,000,000
	Mulu Mutisya statue	Tourism	complete	1,000,000	Machakos County Government	1,000,000
	Muindi Mbingu statue	Tourism	complete	950,000	Machakos County Government	950,000
	Stadium renovation	Tourism	complete	2,970,000	Machakos County Government	2,970,000

SECOND QUARTER STATUS REPORT

Quarter	Project name	Division	Project Status	Estimated Cost	Source of funding	Expenditure to date
2 nd Quarter	Cultural dance trip to Laikipia and Kakamega	Culture	complete	1,121,700	Machakos County Government	1,121,700
	Repair of wash rooms at Machakos People's Park	tourism	complete	3,200,000	Machakos County Government	3,200,000

THIRD QUARTER STATUS REPORT

	Project name	Division	Project Status	Estimated Cost	Source of funding	Expenditure to date
	Installation of signage	Tourism	On going	1,500,000	Machakos County Government	1,500,000

3 rd Quarter	Installation of signage	Tourism	On going	946,800	Machakos County Government	946,800
	CEC office renovation	Tourism	On going	489,000	Machakos County Government	489,000
	Ground improvement and maintenance at Machakos People's Park	Tourism	On going	3,000,000	Machakos County Government	3,000,000

FOURTH QUARTER STATUS REPORT

Quarter	Project name	Location	Project Status	Estimated Cost	Activities Implemented	Expenditure to date
4 th Quarter	Installation of Gantries	-Kyua -Ngoliba -Thwake - Kithyoko	Four Completed	10,000,000	10- gantries were awarded 7- Approved by KENHA 4- Complete 3- Ongoing	0

SITE VISITS

Hon. Speaker, further the Committee conducted site visits to the Stadium and the People's Park to ascertain the works reported to have been done by Department and found out the following:

1. The tartan installed at the Kenyatta Stadium is peeling off despite having been installed in the first quarter of the Financial Year. The ground preparation works were not properly done as it was evident by the uneven tartan. The tartan was also torn and the personnel managing the stadium had taken up the initiative of using nails to fix it to the ground.
2. The statues of Mulu Mutisya, Paul Ngei and Muindi Mbingu were complete but the cost quoted was not realistic.
3. The amount spent on installation of signage is way above the realistic figure noting that most of the signage had less or no impact to the residents of the County.
4. The Committee noted that the works done in the repair of washrooms at the Machakos People's Park was way below the amount spent.
5. During the visit to the Stadium, the Committee did not witness any renovation works yet the estimated cost had been put at Ksh. 2,970,000
6. As at the time of the visit, no ground improvement and maintenance of the Machakos People's Park had been done. The Committee noted with disappointment the long and unmaintained grass against a quoted cost of Ksh. 3,000,000 in the said works.

DISCUSSION WITH CHIEF OFFICER

Hon. Speaker, Article 195(1) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 stipulates that “a County Assembly or any of its committees has power to summon any person to appear before it for the purpose of giving evidence or providing information.” Further Section 39(2) of the County Governments Act, 2012 states that “a committee of the county assembly may require a member of the executive committee to—

- (a) Attend or appear before the committee; and
- (b) Answer any question relating to the member’s responsibilities.

The Committee wrote two letters Reference No. (MKSCA/ PCS/CMM/TCS/VOL.2/11) and (MKSCA/ PCS/CMM/TCS/VOL.2/05)- (*Letters annexed to this report*) to the Department inviting the Chief Officer in charge to a Committee meeting to shade light on this report and the invitations were not honored. Issuing summons was not possible because there is no substantive Chief Officer in the Department.

COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS

Hon. Speaker, based on the above findings, the Committee observed the following. Public Funds were misappropriated by the Department of Tourism, Youth, Sports and Culture in the FY 2017/2018. This was evident in the sub-standard works done in installation of tartan, ground preparation during tartan installation, construction of statues, renovation of the stadium, installation of signage, repair of washrooms at the Machakos People’s Park and ground maintenance at the Machakos People’s Park.

COMMITTEE RECOMENDATIONS

Hon. Speaker, Article 201(d) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 stipulates that “Public money shall be used in a prudent and responsible manner.” Further Section 102(1)(c) of the Public Finance Management Act provides that each County Government shall ensure adherence to the National Values set out in the Constitution which among others include patriotism, integrity, transparency and accountability.

Hon. Speaker, based on the observations made, the Committee recommends that the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission as established under Section 3(1) of the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2011 probes and take necessary action on the expenditure of the Department of Tourism, Youth, Sports and Culture for the following projects undertaken in the FY 2017/2018.

1. Tartan Installation.
2. Ground preparation during tartan Installation.
3. Construction of statues;
 - a. Paul Ngei
 - b. Mulu Mutisya
 - c. Muindi Mbingu
4. Repair of washrooms at the Machakos People’s Park
5. Installation of signage.
6. Ground preparation at the Machakos People’s Park.
7. Renovation of the Kenyatta Stadium.

CONCLUSION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Hon. Speaker, the Committee is grateful to the office of the Speaker and that of the Clerk to the County Assembly for the support accorded during the committee sittings and visitation. I wish to express my appreciation to the Hon. Members of the Committee who sacrificed their time to participate in the activities of the Committee and in preparation of this report.

Hon. Speaker, it is therefore my privilege, on behalf of the Culture, Tourism and Social Welfare Committee, to table this report and recommend it to this Hon. House for consideration and approval. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Betty.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Members, you may debate on the motion. Hon. Katumo.

Hon. Katumo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I begin by thanking the committee and applauding the able chairperson for work well done. Actually, speaking the truth this is quite good report that has given details and is very clear on what has been happening especially in that docket of tourism, culture and social welfare. I do not really understand these departments keep on changing because the other time we had education, sports and what...and now we have tourism, culture and social welfare so we need to be advised well but to the report actually I was going through the report which is well written and looking at what the committee sought to find out I think they did a good job.

Looking at the projects especially page four on tartan installation, ground preparation that is making sure in the stadium make sure that the standard of the stadium is upgraded but my concern is the amount that is being quoted. Go through then you look at the projects that are mentioned that is the first quarter, second quarter, third quarter and fourth quarter and then of course when I look at it simply Mr. Speaker, Hon. Members, I think it is just a balancing act.

You see, this is what is called trying to balance books of account but figures are just brought from somewhere just to balance because some of the figures quoted here are too high. They are highly exaggerated and I think I agree and concur with the recommendations here. These agencies should be invited actually to take action to this embezzling of funds in Machakos County.

You see when funds just get lost like that and then we sit pretty, I think we are losing it because I have been in that stadium, I have been training there but once you go there you will never understand is this tartan a plastic one, is it.....you know you cannot tell. I have been to Nyayo stadium, I have been to Kasarani for competitions but you look at this particular one, even less than a year it is in tatters.

So, I think Mr. Speaker, this House is a House of dignity and laws and respected in the land and therefore we should not let such good recommendations go to waste when of course our people and residents are crying out there for services and delivery of services. We will never achieve what we intend to achieve if money is getting lost like this.

Now you see when a project is said to be complete, you know you are given...I do not know whether the committee sought further although they are saying there is no substantive CO in the office to be given the breakdown to know how much money was paid to who, who was the

contractor and how of course money moved from one station to another or from one account to the other but when you just see figures, it is not very nice in this era of our times.

Now, we are in a different season and the country is trying to fight very much on issues to do with corruption and therefore we should also aid the National Government in doing the same. Our brothers up are fighting every day and we should not be left out but I think something must be done and done quickly to recover such monies that are getting lost and we cannot really see services being done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Muthoka: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me first support this report and congratulate the committee. Secondly, even before I comment on the report, I want to urge this House to know co-operation does not mean compromise; working together does not mean we over see something being done and we keep quiet. We will still co-operate with the executive, where there is a mistake we will say there is a mistake, where they have done good we will say they have done good.

So, if you look at this report, second quarter status report, repair of washrooms at Machakos People's Park at Ksh. 3.2 million. If you have Ksh. 3.2 million to repair, why repair; just build a new one. Why repair with Ksh. 3.2 million; are you in real sense? Are you thinking right? So some things we have to talk and we do not fear being victimized.

Go to ground improvement and maintenance at People's Park and it is shown as ongoing at Ksh. 3 million. How much are we getting from this People's Park; if we can allocate Ksh.3 million, we should also be asking ourselves how much are we getting and I think the committee should go further and look at how much we are getting from this People's Park and if it is not viable, we close it down.

Mr. Speaker, this issue of substantive CO, I think it is a thorn in the flesh; we should sit down as a House, the leadership of this House should sit down and work out on this issue of COs and CECs because now even if you say somebody takes responsibility, who will take responsibility? Even if this House wants to censure somebody who are you going to censure? So, Mr. Speaker, I think it is the high time for this House to sit down and look at that issue of COs and CECs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Kiteng'u: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. Hon. Speaker, let me start by thanking the committee for the good report they have done. Hon. Speaker, the report itself is self-explanatory but Hon. Speaker, mine is on the recommendations and I think we have done many reports and I would like to do a follow up through Hon. Speaker. The Assembly has written several requisition for the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission to find out on various departments in our Machakos County and Hon. Speaker, I have never heard any report coming from the EACC giving out a feedback on the findings from our departments because Hon. Speaker, if this House cannot do a follow up, then our departments will not perform, we will have money getting lost.

My request is; if the office of the Clerk has all these reports from the EACC, please let us as the Hon. House find out so that we do not just work without getting the results. The recommendation of the committee is in order and the EACC should investigate the mentioned projects which, to me, also I concur with the report that like if you look at second quarter, we

have cultural dance trip to Laikipia; I think Ksh. 1,121,700 and this is something which you cannot be able to account because you do not know whether the cultural dancers went to Laikipia or not.

If you look at the Hon. Member for Mitaboni, Ksh. 3.2 million for repair of toilets; Hon. Speaker, I am a contractor and this Hon. House can attest that we have done a budget to our ward offices of Ksh. 2.5 million and we are going to do new offices for our wards but this is just a toilet and is being renovated. Let us get serious. Let us follow up the money for Machakos people.

Otherwise, we will be doing all these reports and no results will be found. So, let us do where the EACC.....if the EACC are not doing their work, where else can we ask for assistance. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

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

Hon. (Ms.) Mueni: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the report is very clear and what Mheshimiwa Kiteng'u has said I think those people up are the ones not doing their work. This is a place of getting money because they do nothing. Every time we just give them money, the CECs who are there in culture come after a year and go because of getting money.

That is a source of getting money and they go very rich even they are not in Kenya, they are outside so I think the EACC is the one doing nothing and we can ask them to be brought back to Kenya and taken to court what Hon. Raila is saying; they be imprisoned because they have eaten a lot of money for Kenyans. It is not Governor Mutua who is eating the money but those people misuse him by getting the money. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(Applause)

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

Hon. Mitaa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for granting me this opportunity to also add my input as a member. I wish to thank my colleagues in the committee for the jobs well done and our chairlady Hon. Betty Nzioki. Mr. Speaker, in the process of analyzing the expenses for this department Hon. Speaker, it came out clear that priorities were not given Mr. Speaker. In my own sense, it is like whatever funds that were available Mr. Speaker, were directed in certain quarters which somehow raised eyebrows that there was a reason Mr. Speaker, because analyzing the full year first, second, third and fourth quarter, you find out that things that were being done were not well spread across our county Mr. Speaker, and looking at it, the target was big money projects which to me did not have long term impact Mr. Speaker.

Looking at the amount which has been spend on the stadium, there is some sort of repetition, there is some sort of lack of planning because you find within one stadium, there is other small departments. There is tartan, there is ground, there are toilets and you wonder why split; why can't you just come up with one project which caters for all these things.

So, Mr. Speaker, it is true we need to invite those relevant bodies and one thing I think the Governor is out and is on record stating that we must finish corruption within Machakos County; he cannot do these things alone Mr. Speaker. He needs our input and this is part of our input Mr. Speaker, so my humble request is that immediately this report is adopted by this

House, it is passed to the relevant bodies and we help the Governor in fighting this vice, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

(Applause)

Hon. Deputy Speaker. Thank you, Hon. Moses. Hon. Steve Mwanthi.

Hon. Mwanthi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am a member of this committee and there are so many things that we realized when we were going through this report including somehow fake reports if I may say from the Chief Officer because Mr. Speaker, if you go through this report, I am worried that we are talking of Ksh. 25 million that was spent for installation of tartan at the Stadium but the funny thing with the same is according to the Controller of Budget Report and that was done during the first quarter of the year but if you go through the COB report, the entire year, that department only managed to spend Ksh. 9.6 million for development only.

So you are worried what kind of information these people are trying to give to this House from the executive. I think it is the high time these people styled up and took us serious with whatever we are doing. In the report, you realize that the entire department had an allocation of Ksh. 100 million only with Ksh. 75 million for recurrent expenditure and Ksh. 24.8 million as development. Only Ksh. 9.6 million as per the report were spent on development; so where did they get this money they are indicating here?

This shows how somebody is incompetent in the office he is holding or the way he is taking this House for granted, Mr. Speaker.

(Applause)

It is high time some of these Chief Officers are called to this Hon. House and explain as to why they are giving such reports; to some extent it is wastage of time to our committees. We do a lot of investigations and yet they bring us fake information, Mr. Speaker. So, it is my kind request that they come or whoever is concerned should come and give the correct information. If the Controller of Budget is the one who is deceiving, at least we know and if the person is deceiving, necessary measures should be taken to that person because it is wrong for one person just to take the entire House for granted and give such misinformation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Member, Hon. Koki.

Hon. (Ms.) C. Koki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank you for giving me this opportunity to contribute on the motion. First of all, I would like to thank the committee on culture through its chair Hon. Betty and all the members. They have properly highlighted what is happening in Machakos or rather in that department; what I can say is that this is broad daylight corruption on public funds being misused, mismanaged and as a Hon. House; we cannot allow that to happen, Mr. Speaker.

What caught my attention and I would also like to thank the committee for that is the amount allocated to these statues and some of the statues are even falling off. I have a few pictures on my phone, Mr. Speaker, if you allow me the Serjeant art Arms can pass them to you because even the public is aware that their money had been misused in erecting those statues and

some of them are not in good condition like the statue of Muindi Mbingu; as at 9th of March, 2019, one of its arm was falling off.

You are left wondering; was that statue worth Ksh. 950, 000. This shows very well the departmental heads do not even have the people of Machakos at heart, they do not care how the money is going to be used, these are taxpayers' money and we have to be strict. I also stand in support of the recommendation of the committee that EACC should move with speed and take action to whoever is misusing the money of the people of Machakos.

So, Mr. Speaker, I do not have much to say; all I want to say is to urge the Hon. House to support this motion because we cannot stand by as one of our roles is to oversight and this is what we are going to do. We are not going to stand by and watch public funds being misused. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Koki. Hon. Cosmus Ngula.

Hon. Masesi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first I would like to applaud the committee for a good report. Just before I throw in my input, Mr. Speaker, this reminds me of our tourist site Fourteen Falls which every kid in Machakos County knows that it belongs to us. Mr. Speaker, how it happened that that tourist site belongs to Kiambu County, even the Assembly cannot explain.

So, Mr. Speaker, it is timely for the committee to move quickly and look at the issue of Fourteen Falls site so that the Assembly can take the necessary steps Mr. Speaker, accordingly.

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker, we are looking at report of 2017/18 when we are in the third quarter of 2019, Mr. Speaker. I wish each and every committee should be submitting a report on the status of every department on the lapsing of each quarter for this House to act when things are still raw. It will be too bad for us Mr. Speaker, to sit here and discuss matters of 2017/18 when we were still here and something has to be done to make sure that reports of every department, as per committee, see their way to this House soonest the lapsing of each quarter, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the report is very clear on the budget of Ksh. 3 million for ground improvement and maintenance of Machakos People's Park. I am trying to imagine how Ksh. 3 million could lapse or the BQs of the budget but Mr. Speaker, some figures cannot be accepted by this House. Mr. Speaker, I want to echo the sentiments of the vice chairman of the committee whereby she said we need to visit the offices of the EACC and ask questions and push them to act.

Mr. Speaker, if we do not have any positive results as to why Machakos monies are being used in and out we will not have done to the people of Machakos a good thing. Otherwise, Mr. Speaker, I support the report fully an urge this House, since on 22nd last month, we had the handshake with the Governor and we need to support the Governor and make sure that the culprits are brought to book. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Cosmus. Hon. Winfred.

Hon. (Ms.) Mutua: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to applaud the committee for work well done and to tell them to continue like that but reading and seeing on the report, it is really wanting. The President when he was launching the Big Four Agenda also spoke about transparency in the procurement process. What process has been done for these jobs, what criteria was used when these people were being given the tenders.

He introduced something called e-procurement; I think we should follow the process to know who did this people acquire the tenders? How did these people acquire the jobs and was it something that was transparent or it was relatives and friends being awarded. It is good that we follow the criteria that have been used so that we may push forward as a county. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Winfred. Hon. Helen Ndeti.

Hon. (Ms.) Ndeti: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also applaud the committee for a very well written report. I happen to be a member of that committee but in my mind I have been asking myself; as a County Machakos, the place to be, do we really need to have a department for tourism? Do we understand what spending money allocating money for tourism means? Tourism is normally a source of income; you come up with the budget to identify places from other parts of the country or from overseas can come visit and pay some fees but currently as a resident of Machakos, I wonder if we have got any tourist attraction in the county that we have identified and maintained so that we can attract tourists to come and spend money in our county.

Why do we need that department? Maybe we should talk to the Governor so that it can either be scrapped because it is a conduit for stealing funds. I wonder whether the Governor is aware of what is going on. So, mine is to request that the Governor gets involved, he whips the people who are in that department so that they can wake up to reality and come up with proper sites that can be identified and worked on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Helen. Hon. Tariq Mulatya.

Hon. Mulatya: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Good morning everyone. Mr. Speaker, I stand to support the report, it is well done and I wish to make only two comments supporting Hon. Helen on what she just said but just to add on something small. In Machakos County we have tourist sites, we have Fourteen Falls, we have some water going uphill here and we have Wamunyu where all the carvings come from.

These are tourists sites what we need to do is good implementation on the same if these people are getting allocations they are supposed to implement and make sure these sites are functional and are attractive. Social media is there, advertising worldwide is there and I remember when we went to the Governor's office as House leadership just the other day we were talking of airstrip in our area. These are things that can attract tourists so I support the tourism department to be there but to be implemented the proper way and not to be made a department of just taking county money.

I think as one of the Hon. Members has just said, Mr. Speaker, after the handshake with the Governor, we have come to realize that the people behind him are the ones who are curtailing this county. I remember just the other day, the Governor called all the workers of the county; it was a shock for him. He was even asking people are all these workers for the county because others have been working in the municipalities long time ago, they are getting their salaries but they are not working in the county but doing their own businesses.

So, we need to move fast just like this committee that has compiled a very nice report. It is a challenge now to the other committees in this House to come up with the same and I think Machakos will be where it is supposed to be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Tariq. Hon. P.J Mutiso.

Hon. P.J. Mutiso: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My worry is on page six, number six; a month ago, I was at People's Park and as it is recommended by the committee, I think it is very clear there are some problems because if you go there Mr. Speaker, you do not find the maintenance that was supposed to be done. If you go there, there is nothing which was done and as far as I have seen this report, it is a good report which was done well by the committee so I congratulate the committee through the chair Hon. Betty but my worry is; who was the CO that time? Although I have seen somebody by the name Kilonzo but my worry is if such a person is in office, as we are talking, because such a person is not supposed to hold any public office especially in this County.

Why? If you can misuse public funds in such a department, I think you are not supposed to hold any office or to continue working in such a place because maybe in future a huge amount of money will get lost. Even I think as many members have said the Governor might not be aware of what is happening there and if I can give an example, Mr. Speaker, a month ago you saw what happened in Machakos Level V. The Governor was not aware of what was happening there were some drugs brought there worth over Ksh. 40 million but after three days the committee of health and emergency which is under Hon. Masesi went there and there were no drugs and it was only three days when we heard that there were drugs worth Ksh. 40 million.

When our Governor went there after sometime, he found there was nothing it is only that I heard there were some 'men' drugs that were found somewhere around the hospital. It is the same thing which is happening here Mr. Speaker, so I urge this Hon. House let us follow the law and procedure as I echo the sentiment of Hon. Mitaboni. It is very right let us do our work without fear because this Hon. House is the House which will save this county. That is all that I can say Mr. Speaker because our Governor is only one person but I urge this House to support him because maybe like in my area there are things which are happening and he is not ware about them.

So many things are done in a short way; we have a bridge there Mr. Speaker, which was supported by the World Bank at a big amount of money, Ksh. 1.2 billion but after three weeks, it collapsed. You are all aware about it, you even saw it on social media Facebook, so the Governor maybe is not aware of that but what I can say is let our Governor be careful of some things. When we raise some issues it is very clear let him not see we are witch hunting. We do not have witch hunting it is only that we are telling the truth so if you want to be safe let him have ears and take it in a simple manner that we are not witch hunting.

So, Mr. Speaker, we want to know who the CO is because he is not supposed to hold any public office. Thank you.

(Applause)

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Peter Mutiso. I call upon the mover of the motion to respond.

Hon. (Ms.) B. Nzioki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to take this opportunity and thank this Hon. House for supporting our report but Mr. Speaker, I want to highlight on a few things that some of the Hon. Members have raised in this Assembly. Mr. Speaker, we have some sites within our wards that can bring revenue within our county. Just to mention a few we have Macmillan in Matungulu North, Kyamwilu that is Mutituni North, Fourteen Falls it is Kyeleni, Thui is in Matungulu North and then where we have our carvings in Wamunyu Ward just to mention a few.

Mr. Speaker, if we can come up with a formula, these are some sites that can bring revenue to our County and I want to ask this Hon. House, as a committee we need your support so that we can come up with a schedule to do site visits to those places and still bring a report and our recommendation to this Hon. House. Mr. Speaker, also I want to report to this House that we are not witch hunting anyone and when we met the Governor of our County H.E Dr. Alfred Mutua, he is against corruption.

As leaders, when we talk of integrity, when we talk of transparency and accountability, this is not about witch hunting, this is not about fighting the executive and I am 100 per cent sure Mr. Speaker, some of these things that are done in our departments do not even reach to our Governor the way they are, and this is the high time us as the members of this House; please, let us make a difference, stand for the truth. Let us give our Governor the support that he needs for us to fight the corruption and the impunity that is going on within our county and I know that one day one time we shall all give accountability of what we did when we were in this Assembly.

Let us stand for the people who have elected us 59 members of this County Assembly, and by doing that, standing for the truth, nothing but the truth God is going to bless us. Thank you very much Mr. Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Betty Nzioki.

(Question put and agreed to)

To just also put two observations because now you have passed the recommendations and the first one which is very key is what Hon. Helen and other Hon. Members have highlighted here. It should be the work of the committee to work closely to the department concerned and identify the genuine tourist attraction sites and come out with budget proposals for what needs to be done on those sites to ensure enhancement of attraction for tourists to come there and also to ensure that there is revenue generation.

We came from Singapore the other day and that town, apart from having a free port, the number one single earner of Singapore is tourism. Yet they do not have animals like us, they don't have parks. They are not endowed with game reserves as we have but what they have done is they have put things in place which will make you want to go there. Ours are natural, theirs are

man-made. So, if somebody can make something which is man-made and bring 190 million tourists in a year from something which is man-made; what about us who have been endowed with natural attractions?

Kyamwilu, for example, it is true you pour water there and the water goes as it is moving upwards. People have been going to see that for ages. It is natural, it is there. We do not have to invest a lot in that, they are already the structure is there. What we need to do there is top put a viewpoint, to put up recreational facilities around there so when people come and pay a fee to be able to enter the area to be able to the recreational areas and they spend money in our area; that is what we are talking about. So when we talk about culture and tourism, we are talking about sites which we should invest in with an aim of getting revenue out of those sites. That should be key.

The other item is what has been spoken about here is for example, I have seen that report and when we talk about a cultural dance, they went to Laikipia for a cultural dance. Is that a project? Does that qualify to become a development project or is it a recurrent expenditure yet it is put here as a development project. Going for a cultural dance is not a project; it is not something that you can say it is a project. This is just a normal expenditure.

One thing which Hon. Steve Mwanthi highlighted and which is key and which you need to look at it from a very different angle also is that if the Chief Officer says that what they gave in the report is what was spent by the department and the Controller of Budget has different figures from what the Chief Officer has, then what the committee needs to do is to request for the LPOs which were issued for this project, tabulate them and if they actually are there and this money has been spent, then now look at what documents were given to the Controller of Budget. Are we together? It could be that the money was physically spent and LPOs expended but was provided to the Controller of Budget is very little money which means that there must have been some cover up being done so as to be within the budget allocations.

Some of those things which are done crafty Chief Officers, as some of you have said, action needs to be taken and I would be directing the office of the Clerk to write to EACC on this specific recommendation which has been done here and on top of that, follow up, ask, send reminder letters on all the others like Hon. Justus Kiteng'u said, all the other letters which have been forwarded to them on the status, you need to go back to EACC and tell them to give you a status report on the things which have been picked up with them so that the Hon. House can be kept informed on the processes which are happening as far as the items they are raising in the Assembly are concerned. Thank you Hon. Members. Mr. Clerk, proceed.

CALENDAR OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE SECOND ASSEMBLY

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Under this Order, we have motion which is going to be moved by Hon. Justus Kiteng'u, Deputy Majority Leader and a member of the House Business Committee.

Hon. Kiteng'u: Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker, that aware that the house business committee is mandated to prepare and if necessary from time to time adjust the Assembly calendar with approval of the House;

Aware that the Assembly has resumed from long recess for the third session and that the House needs to be guided on the dates of these sessions;

Further aware that the regular sessions of the assembly should commence on the 2nd Tuesday of February and terminate on the 1st Thursday of December except the session commencing immediately after general election;

Aware that the assembly calendar once approved by the assembly shall be published in the gazette, Assembly website and at least two newspapers for national circulation;

Hon. Speaker, I wish to move the motion that pursuant to Standing Order 25(1) and 151(5)(a) the assembly approves the report of the House Business Committee on the calendar of the Assembly of Machakos County for 2019 of the Third Session.

Thank you, Hon. Speaker and I call upon Hon. Peter Mutiso to second the motion.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Peter Mutiso.

Hon. P.J. Mutiso: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I second the motion.

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

Hon. Kiteng'u: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. Report of the House Business Committee on Calendar of the Second Assembly, Third Session.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Preface

Hon. Speaker, the Assembly calendar provides for periods in which the Assembly is to transact business during a session and it is informed by the constitution, the County Government Act, the Assembly Standing Orders and the relevant laws and traditions and practices of legislators the world over. The calendar enables the Assembly to plan executions of its business and sets out schedule for days for the House sittings and days of recess. Standing Order 24(1) provides that the regular sessions of the Assembly shall commence on the 2nd Tuesday of February and terminate on the 1st Thursday of December.

Standing Order 24(2) provides that assembly may by a resolution of the house alter the commencement and termination of dates of the given session. Further Standing Order 24(3) states that the Assembly shall continue to be in session and may adjourn for such number of days as it may terminate the calendar while Standing Order 24(4) requires that a period of three months shall not intervene between the last sitting day of the Assembly in one session and the first sitting of the next session.

Hon. Speaker, Standing Order 25(1) requires the House Business Committee, with approval of the Assembly to draw up a calendar of the Assembly. In addition, Standing Order 25(2) states that once the Calendar of the Assembly is approved by the House, it shall be published in the gazette, the Assembly website and at least two newspapers for national circulation.

Further, Standing Order 27(1) provides for the hours of the meeting of the House on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 10.00 a.m. for morning and 2.30 p.m. for afternoon sittings in both days. Standing Order 27(3) provides that the House may resolve to extent its sitting time or to meet on any other time on the sitting day or to meet on any other day in order to transact business.

1.2 Mandate of the Committee

Hon. Speaker, the mandate of the House Business Committee is stated under Standing Order 151(5) and includes the following:

- a. Preparation and if necessary from time to time to adjust the Assembly calendar with approval of the House.
- b. Monitoring and overseeing the implementation of the House business and programs
- c. Implementing the Standing Orders respecting scheduling or programming the business of the Assembly and the functioning of the committees of the House.
- d. Determining the order in which the reports of committees shall be debated in the House.
- e. Taking decisions and issuing directives and guidelines to prioritize or postpone any business of the House acting with the concurrence of the Leader of the Majority Party or the Leader of Minority Party as the case maybe.
- f. Considering such matters as may from time to time arise in connection with the business of the House and shall have perform such powers and functions as conferred on and ascribed to it by these Standing Orders or from time to time by the House.

1.3 Acknowledgement

Hon. Speaker, I am grateful to the office of the Speaker and that of the Clerk to the County Assembly for the support accorded during deliberations and preparations of the proposed calendar tabled before this House with this report. I wish also to express my appreciation to the Hon. Members of this committee who sacrificed their time to participate in the activities of the committee and preparation of the calendar.

2.0 Committee Composition

Hon. Speaker, the membership of the House Business Committee as provided in Standing Order 151(1)(a) includes the following members:

Hon. Florence Mwangangi	- Speaker/Chairperson
Hon. Paul Museku	- Member
Hon. Mark Muendo	- Member
Hon. Alex Kamitu	- Member
Hon. Justus Kiteng'u	- Member
Hon. Tariq Mulatya	- Member
Hon. Jacqueline Nziva	- Member
Hon. Betty Nzioki	- Member
Hon. Angela Munyasya	- Member
Hon. Francis Kalumu	- Member
Hon. Peter Mutiso	- Member
Hon. Antony Mulu	- Member
Hon. Annastacia S. Mutuku	- Member

Hon. Joshua N. Muli - Member
Hon. Judas Ndawa - Member

3.0 Calendar of the Assembly

Hon. Speaker, in coming up with the calendar, the committee was guided by Standing Order 24(1)(3) and (4). In this regard, the committee makes the following recommendations for the Calendar of the assembly in the third session.

1. The session commenced on 12th February, 2019 and terminates on 4th December, 2019 with a total number of 114 plenary sittings.
2. The third session is divided into three parts; four short recesses and one long recess. (See annex of the Calendar below).
3. The first part runs from Tuesday, 12th February, 2019 to Wednesday, 15th May, 2019 and we will have a short recess of 26 days starting from 4th April to 29th April, 2019.
4. At the end of this first part, the Assembly will take a short recess of 32 days starting from Thursday, 16th May to Monday, 17th June, 2019. The second part will commence on Tuesday, 18th June, 2019 and it will run up to Wednesday, 2nd October, 2019 with a short recess of 32 days starting from Thursday, 1st August to Monday, 2nd September, 2019.
5. This will be followed by a short recess of 32 days starting from Thursday, 3rd October to Monday, 4th November, 2019.
6. The third part will begin on Tuesday, 5th November, 2019 and end on Wednesday, 4th December, 2019.
7. The third session will be completed by a long recess which will commence on Thursday, 5th December, 2019 and run up to Monday, 10th February, 2020 when the fourth will begin.

However, it should be noted that committee sittings will commence of second week of January, 2020. Hon. Speaker, the recommendation on the proposed sitting of the assembly and recesses have been made taking into account calendar of other legislatures such as the National Assembly, the timelines of the budget cycles such as discussion and approval of the County Fiscal Strategy Paper within 14 days after the submission on 28th February, 2019, approval of the County Appropriation Bill by 30th June, 2019 and approval of Finance Bill by 30th September, 2019.

Among the important festivities like Easter and Christmas holidays; Hon. Speaker the sittings of the house shall be as per provisions of Standing Order 27(1) and such sittings of the house will be on Tuesday and Wednesday at 10.00 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.

4.0 Conclusion

Hon. Speaker, the calendar of the Assembly, once approved, shall be published in gazette, the Assembly website, and at least in two newspapers of national circulation pursuant to Standing Order (25)(2). This will enable the County Assembly stakeholders such as the executive, Senate, development partners, civil societies, and the public among others to participate in the Assembly activities accordingly.

I urge this Hon. House to approve the calendar for the smooth operations of the Assembly in discharge of its constitutional and statutory mandate. Hon. Speaker, it is therefore my duty and privilege to present this calendar of the Assembly to this Hon. House for review and approval. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you Hon. Justus Kiteng'u for the report on the Calendar of the House.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Members, you are invited to debate on this calendar. Hon. Katumo.

Hon. Katumo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I support this Calendar of business for the Assembly. When I am looking at the first part, especially at the annex on page six, you look (a) and it is sitting days from when we began 12th February to April, we have 32 sitting days. Then (b) short recess for 26 days, then we come again (c) 14 sitting days, then short recess 32 days.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my concern is very simple that we will be away for 26 days then we come again we of course do the same by 17th June, 2019 for 32 days. Those are a lot of days and my wise thinking is that we allocate money for sitting for each and every member because there is a lot of budget in it. So my request is as we go for this recess, we should also budget on how we will handle our recess so that we don't miss what have allocated ourselves for because I find we are sitting for few days, then of course going for recess for a lot of days because you look here 32 for 26 and 14 then 32 days.

So we should look into that we make sure that we don't lose so much. I don't want to go to the second because it is just a repetition of the same; 32 days and.....what I am saying is that what others have done is to make sure that there are appropriate arrangements; there are better ways of addressing such issues I am raising. So, the same should be done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Justus Katumo. Mine is just to give direction. At times it is good to be guided as to what the thinking behind this is concerned. You look at the timings of what the recesses have for and you will find that there are in tune with the budget cycle. During the period of May to June, we will have to do public participation on main budget. We will have to do committee sittings and discussions on the main budgets.

Each committee will have to review its own budget after submission after you have done the public participation. Each member will come and bring their own budget for the main budget and each committee will have to compile the items for their own department and sit down and go through those ones and go and do presentations to members, the way we normally do in Nairobi for the budget to be approved by the House before it is again discussed with the executive before it is presented before the House.

So, the reason why you are seeing that they can seem like they are many days, those days will be fully occupied by committee sittings which will enable us to be able to do public participation and engage one another in committees and also engage the executive before we bring the budget here for approval. If you look at it we are coming back the recess is ending on 17th of June, because remember the budget deadline is 30th of June. So, we will have two weeks

for us to be now able to do the debates in the House and pass the budget for it to be consented to by the executive.

So, those are the things which we have to put into consideration during this period and I request also the office of the Clerk to look at the number of sittings. There is the minimum number of sittings which the Hon. House has to sit. It has been taken care of in this. We cannot sit fewer than the allowed statutory minimum number of sitting days. So that has also been taken care of in this report. It is only that you are seeing as if the recesses are many but we, the House Business Committee took all that into consideration before we came with that. So, that was just for a guideline. Thank you. Hon. Cosmus.

Hon. Masesi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the committee has done well, it has given us the calendar of the year. Mr. Speaker, I will add weight to my Hon. Member's concern bearing in mind that it is only November and December which we do not have a budget as far as our allowances are concerned. Mr. Speaker, I have looked at the number of days excluding the long recess and they are 112 days, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we need to agree on whether the days we will be on recess can push the number of committee sittings to eight instead of four whereby we can push for more committee sittings to eight instead of the normal four sittings. Mr. Speaker, that one will do a big boost to the members bearing in mind that when we are on recess, we stand to meet our people more often.

Mr. Speaker, we are not disputing on the calendar but still something needs to be done. So, my request is that we push the number of the committee sittings to be eight when we will be on recess. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Cosmus. That is well-noted, your concerns and the special committee which was elected to look at those issues, I am very sure they are well represented here and they are going to ensure that all those other items are taken care of. The main reason for this calendar is to give the Hon. House a direction for the Third Session.

It is not cast on stone, it is approved by the House, it gives you a general direction and the key happenings of the calendar of the Assembly. Obviously, we need to take into consideration the concerns you have raised; no problem with that. Thank you very much. Hon. Pauline.

Hon. (Ms.) Mene: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to support the report on the Calendar of the County Assembly. However, I have looked keenly and I want to make reference to the short recesses. Mr. Speaker, I have noticed the recesses are in alignment with the school calendar that is April, August and December when our children close. So this means you have considered that we as parents we need to spend time with our children.

But Mr. Speaker, I wish to request the House that during the short recesses, that are the 26 days, the 32 days and the 112 days; we set aside a few days when we are not required to have any committees' meetings so that at least we can spend time with our family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you Hon. Pauline for your observation; it is noted. Hon. Mueni.

Hon. (Ms.) Mueni: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the calendar is opening the eyes of the members because it has gone up to 2020 and by 2020, we will be talking about 2022.

(Laughter)

So, when you talk about being with your children at home, I think you are making a mistake; we are exiting from that time so look for where you will go and land.

(Laughter)

So I think the committee has to look for where it sees that the members can be coming to committees as much as possible because you will be looking for money to go and ask the seats or whatever. You will want to have money because you are not sure whether you will be coming back or what.

(Laughter)

One day you will wake up in the house and ask yourself, ‘2021, where am I going and what am I going to do?’ This place is a place of the owners; there outside. They will decide whether they bring you back or not. So the elected and the nominated, you better know where you are going and be thinking that you are going home; this is not your place. Thank you.

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

Hon. (Ms.) Kanini: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the calendar is quite elaborate and I want to thank the House Business Committee for sacrificing a lot to come up with such a calendar and I want to support it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Rozina. Hon. Kisila.

Hon. Kisila: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I tend to agree with Hon. Mueni. I think the recesses are too many and although I am supporting it, we need to be careful on why there seems to be underlying factors about the recess. We might lose some good amount of money because of the recess. So what I want to propose *Bw. Spika*, is let the committee insert and give us confidence that during the recess, we will have additional committee meetings.

It is important that it is noted here. Otherwise, the concerns of members are valid and even me, I fully support too many days at home means a lot and when you are at home, you are increasing your expenditure by almost 50 per cent; you would rather be here.

So, *Bw. Spika*, let us look at these recesses, they are too many and if we are going to keep the recess, can we be assured that we will have committee meetings and how many they are so that we are sure of what Mhe. Mueni is talking about. Thank you very much.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Kisila.

(Question put and agreed to)

Thank you, Hon. Members. I would like just to highlight on two things you have raised important items which I needed to discuss only after the question has been put and the things I would like to point out are these; short recess means full committee operations.

(Applause)

So, full committee operations means site visits, committee sittings, committee retreats which means if you look at it from where I am looking at it. Thank you much. I think you have looked at it, you need to be accountants and if you are accountant you understand where I am coming from.

In other words, this is off the cuff and what I trying to say is you stand to gain more during that period than.....(Inaudible)

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you very much. Hon. Members, with that, the House stands adjourned to Wednesday, 13th day of March, 2019 at 2.30 p.m. Thank you Hon. Members.

The House rose at 12.05 p.m.