

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MACHAKOS COUNTY ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday, 20th February, 2019

The House met at 10.29 a.m.

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

PRAYERS

Hon. Speaker: Good morning, Hon. Members; we start our business for the day. Mr. Clerk, proceed.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 2018-2019

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Members, under this Order, I have two communications to make. The first one is on the supplementary budget estimates for the financial year 2018/2019. Hon. Members, section 135 of Public Finance Management Act provides that a County Government shall submit a supplementary budget in support of the additional expenditure for authority for spending to the County Assembly.

Pursuant to this provision, Hon. Members, the executive member for finance and economic planning has withdrawn the supplementary estimates which he had submitted to the Assembly on the 8th of August, 2018 and has re-submitted a new supplementary budget estimates for the financial year 2018/2019 which was received in the Assembly in the 15th day of February, 2019.

According to the information from the particular CEC, this is necessitated by the amendments to the County Allocations of Revenue Act 2018 which have occasioned a revision of the expenditure estimates; that is the information given to the Assembly. Hon. Members the Assembly has a duty to do on the supplementary budget estimates and the same is hereby committed to the budget and appropriations committee pursuant to Standing Order 186(3) of the Assembly Standing Orders.

LAND FOR WARD OFFICES

The second communication, Hon. Members relates to land for ward offices. Hon. Members on the 12th of February, 2019, I requested that the 40 elected Hon. Members, obviously in conjunction with the specially-elected members from the respective wards, identify suitable public land for construction of ward offices. You remember you passed sometimes back that you want ward offices that are owned by the Assembly for each of the 40 wards.

In that exercise, remember, you are also supposed to involve the public and remember the guidelines we gave; that you try get public land which is in the County headquarters situated at the same place where the county headquarters are situated for ease of access by the public.

Hon. Members, there is a deadline for giving that information to the Clerk because the process of the construction needs to start and so Hon. Members, the communication I have here which is from the Clerk is that you submit the information before 20th February 2019. I notice that 20th February, 2019 is today and so, Hon. Members, because of the fact that today is the deadline; there is an extension of about one week because you come from those areas and you have even identified some suitable areas.

Give the proposal to the Clerk so that the necessary work can be started and I hope that the members will be able to do so without further delay. Thank you. Mr. Clerk, proceed.

STATEMENT

NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF QUARRYING ACTIVITIES IN SYOKIMAU, MUTHWANI AND KINANIE WARDS

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Members, under this Order, we have one business as listed by the Hon. Helen Ndeti. Hon. Helen Ndeti.

Hon. (Ms.) Ndeti: Hon. Speaker, Section 3(c) of the Machakos County Management of Quarrying Activities Act 2016 provides that the object and purpose of this act is to provide a legislative framework for regulating quarrying activities and in particular to provide for the protection of the environment from harmful effects of quarrying activities and related activities.

Hon. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 41(1), I wish to seek the following Statement; what measures the county government of Machakos has put in place to ensure that residents and investors of Syokimau, Muthwani and Kinanie wards are not negatively affected by the quarrying activities.

Recently there has been public outcry from residents from these areas including public institutions whose premises have been damaged by the strong explosions from the quarries.

Further, the immense environmental pollution through dust and noise has made many of the people in the areas develop chest and related illnesses. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Ndeti. Hon. Members, you have set a procedure for prosecuting the business of Statements; usually the Chair invites members for their comments on the matter in the statement and then the necessary reference is done after the members ventilate on the issues. Members, Hon. Ndeti you are the mover of the statement perhaps you could elaborate what you want to seek.

Hon. (Ms.) Ndeti: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, the reason why I thought of bringing this Statement is because I have some business interests in Kinanie ward and I know a lot of investors who pay revenue to this County have got their properties damaged. Many people have put up beautiful houses which have cracked; a lot of people who have got businesses are also suffering because of the dust and the noise; the loud banging noise coming from the quarrying areas.

I think, on a serious note, the Machakos County Government should really try and come up with an Environmental Impact Assessment study on the ecosystem and not just on the human beings; I am sure the animals that are living there are also affected and trees are also not able to grow properly because of the dust. So, I think the entire area should be looked into with a view to eliminating any causes that would bring health issues to the ecosystem. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Ndeti. Hon. Dominic Ndambuki.

Hon. Ndambuki: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you, for the opportunity to contribute. Madam Speaker, in as much as we would wish to encourage industries in Machakos County, there is a need for us to control the activities of these industries so that they do not change from bringing income to the county and then bring disasters.

Madam Speaker, recently we witnessed a school in Mlolongo called Mlolongo primary school where pupils have been evacuated from their classrooms and moved to a makeshift school simply because some activities that were going on near the school affected the structures that were there.

The other day I visited a friend of mine who lives in Kinanie, Madam Speaker, and I also witnessed some residential houses there developing cracks as a result of the quarrying activities occurring in those areas and therefore there is a need for us to and for the County Government of Machakos to control the quarrying activities in those areas so that we can avert crisis that may occur. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Members and for record purposes, I would want to let you know that your Chair is one of the people affected by those activities and it is good practice that you disclose if you have any interest in a particular matter but I am not going to disqualify myself because it is a matter that is of public interest and I am not going to contribute on it.

Also I would like to let you know that as a person I sued; I have a case pending in the High Court of Kenya at Machakos because my premises are almost falling apart because of the quarrying activities. I am not the only one the neighbors too also have a problem.

So, let us carry on with the debate very openly and then you also need to appreciate the process of licensing mining, industries is in the National Government and at the same time the County Government collects revenue from the processes so you need to agree on which way forward because, yes, we want the industries but do we let them destroy everybody and every other property not to mention the environmental issues and I know the people of Ngelani in Muthwani have also had serious issues and as we are talking some members have rocks in their houses because they are thrown by the blast through the roof into the houses and some of them are still resting in those houses but that is what I wanted to let you members know. Hon. Kamitu.

Hon. Kamitu: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is a Statement that should be taken very seriously. In Syokimau areas, I have neighbors, I have relatives and as an environment committee, we have visited the area and it is true Madam Speaker, that the mining activities, what happens is that there are some explosives that are used by the mining firms so my humble request Madam Speaker, is that we should find a way as a House we must have ways whereby we are supposed to join hands with our executive the CEC Member involved in those activities in regard to mining and also the CEC member for environment.

The environment committee can go there and in regard to pollution, take some data and regard also to mining the executive department that has a concern in regard to safety of their residents we can join hands and we see exactly how we can come up with data. It is not that the data is not there this is a very genuine and it is true residents of Muthwani, Syokimau have had their houses affected by those explosives.

Air pollution also because of the dust which is coming from those explosives is evident so this House should take immediate steps Madam Speaker, because now it is an issue that is out there, the outcry is there so we should not wait we should move quickly just to combat...I mean those areas our residents are complaining. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Kamitu. Hon. Kisini.

Hon. Kisini: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to thank the mover of the motion I will say to it that this is a matter that is very urgent; it is very true that there are no controls in blasting and there is a lot of dust which is coming from that blasting. This is affecting people of Kinanie, Mlolongo, Syokimau as said and even Katani. I want to say that there is also the problem of the lorries which ferry that ballast from the queries; those lorries go anyhow and they are also destroying the roads because there are no controls and those lorries are also having dust by themselves when ferrying those quarry materials.

What I am saying is it is also affecting the animals around and maybe even the cows because River Athi passes around and when that dust is blasted, it goes down all the way to the river and that river is serving some many interests; animals, people and so forth.

There are also problems of cracks for many houses around those places we have said. There are so many side effects so I would request the executive moves with speed to control the running of that area although I know the County Government is getting a lot of money from those quarries but there should be controls. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Kisini. Hon. Majority Leader Mark Muendo.

Hon. Muendo: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Let me start by thanking the member for seeking this Statement which actually is a concern for the people of Kinanie, Syokimau and Katani about these quarries.

Let me say Madam Speaker, the executive of the County Government of Machakos is sleeping on this job about quarrying. Madam Speaker, let me say this is affecting the people of Kinanie a lot and Madam Speaker, it is the high time for the executive to regulate and manage these quarries accordingly.

As far as we are getting revenue, our people are suffering because of dust, some of the areas like Kinanie blasting has affected a lot of houses including the Speakers house and it is actually pathetic when you put a house and some blasts from quarries makes it unfavorable for human beings to stay in that house.

Madam Speaker, the best way of dealing with these quarries is the executive to regulate them, follow the NEMA regulations because I understand the problem we are facing Madam Speaker, is when NEMA licenses these quarries without consulting the County Government of Machakos and when you go there those Asians or the owners tell you they have a license from NEMA; it is the high time Madam Speaker, for the County Government, executive to team up with NEMA and also to come up with a policy which will be guiding the quarrying in Machakos County.

Let me say in Kinanie and Muthwani we are mostly affected; when you go to those areas, the lorries pass wherever they see a space and sometimes they want to avoid the weighbridges and they even pass through *shambas* of people and also plots. Let me also say the County Government of Machakos executive should also make sure the roads, because they are collecting a lot of revenue which we know is a lot, they plough back that money to put better roads for these investors doing that business of quarrying.

The other thing, Madam Speaker, is compensation; the County Government should follow those who are blasting because they are not following the laws of blasting they should compensate the owners of the houses which have got cracks. It is not their wish Machakos people to have their houses damaged; it is those investors who are mining who are making them crack. Most probably Madam Speaker, I will also advise the people of Kinanie to move with speed and take action, legal address they go to court and they start chasing matters on their property because this menace is caused by those miners.

Thirdly, Madam Speaker, we passed a Finance Bill here and put measures on how those quarries should be managed. We said we want electronic money transfer from the collecting

centers; up to day Madam Speaker, when you go there you find people with yellow *kabutis* putting money in their pockets---

Hon. Speaker: What is *kabuti*?

Hon. Muendo: Sorry; the yellow dust coat; that is what I mean. We are losing a lot of revenue from those quarries and at the same time, they are damaging our houses, polluting the air in our environment and we are not collecting enough revenue from those quarries. Madam Speaker, I will urge since we are going to see the Governor tomorrow we would like to point out that very clearly. We are losing a lot of money because when I was councilor, those times we used to be called Councilor in Mavoko Municipal, we used to collect Ksh. 1.5 million a day.

Today we are collecting, I do not know if the chairman of finance committee is here, less than Ksh. 300,000 and those days the quarries Madam Speaker, were few; today we have more than 30. The Chinese are there, Indians are there and then we cry we do not have money for development; the money from Mavoko Madam Speaker, those quarries if they are regulated well, the NEMA people team up with executive to come up with policies and also the executive to come in to collect revenue this County Madam Speaker, will not be having problems.

We will not be crying we do not have water, we do not have roads we can get enough money from there. So, Madam Speaker, it is actually overdue; we need action to be taken immediately and the committee which is going to do that Madam Speaker, let the committee involve the members of the areas where they are coming from like Muthwani, Kinanie and Mlolongo because we know exactly how much money should be coming from there and that is the time when we are going to put regulations on mining. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Mark Muendo. Hon. Museku.

Hon. Museku: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Again thanking Hon. Helen for the Statement she has brought to the House concerning destruction or negative impact by quarrying and other mining activities in her area and the area of Muthwani, Kinanie. Madam Speaker, I think as the Majority Leader has rightfully said an Environmental Impact Assessment should have been done long before we started allowing these quarrying activities in our area.

Madam Speaker, I know the effect of these blasting is being caused by those specific firms using cheap methods of blasting. Using methods which are not guided; there are specific methods which can be used of breaking up these rocks but they are a little bit more expensive. They prefer the easier option of putting a blast powder and they blow it up and it spreads all over the place. It is cheaper for them and they make more money without trying to find out what is the impact of these on the people who are around that area.

Madam Speaker, in the Finance Bill which we passed there was an amount of Ksh. 10 million, if I am not wrong, which had been set aside in the Bill for purposes of curbing environmental issues which could be arising as a result of factories or firms in our area. The main issue here to question would be is Ksh. 10 million enough? Has the County Government done a study to find out the impact of this mining and what kind of monies we need to be charging these firms to be able to compensate the people who live in these areas.

Because we say we are going to charge a lump sum of Ksh. 10 million and if you look at the number of houses which are available in that area, it will do very little if anything at all. So, it is important for the County Government to do a proper study and come up with ways of ensuring that whoever we are giving licenses to mine in our areas does not affect the quality of living of our people. You are hearing here the Hon. Helen has talked about people getting chest problems.

Those are health hazards coming as a result of inhaling dust. What controls have they put in place because dust obviously would lead to chest infection, tuberculosis, asthma increased all these

negative impacts are they really...is what we are getting there worth our people who live in that area getting these kinds of sicknesses? So, as a government we need to do that assessment and find out what is the cost-benefit analysis of this and try and minimize on the impact it has on our people.

The roads; I have a farm also in that area, to access my farm is impossible because the roads nobody ploughs back any funds into that area. The roads are as they were, heavy trucks come carrying 25 tons, 30 tons and they are doing it on a road which is of clay, the soil is basically clay soil so they spoil the roads we cannot even be able to access our farms and our other areas there yet the sad thing, as the Hon. Majority Leader, has said is that most of the funds which are being raised there are not ending up in County coffers. They are not ending up in the County fund. People are pocketing funds in the quarries.

We had given a suggestion as the Hon. Member has said to the finance committee that the best way of revenue collection and it is good for me to just point out here in the House; the best way of revenue collection there would be to collect revenue from the source. What does that mean? It means that the County Government just need to do an evaluation; what taxes do we collect from here and put all of them on the quarry owner. Every invoice which you are going to produce here should have cess, should have this and this and all the taxes and they are on the face of the invoice and when the customer is paying, the County Government only collects from the quarry owner, one place.

From the oil industry, I have worked there for the last 20 years, you have never seen any person, the government collecting the taxes in petrol stations. How many petrol stations do we have in Kenya? Very many but the Government, you will never find a KRA agent collecting funds from a service station.

What they do is they collect funds from the oil companies themselves at the source. So, it would be one of the greatest ways of collecting revenue and cutting off all these middlemen and it is to say you are the quarry owner; these are the taxes you need to pass over to the customer, make sure they pay you and you will be paying us.

We know your volume, we have got a weighbridge, we know how much you are selling so it is very easy to compute and determine how much revenue you can be able to get from there. So, how would like the chair finance to look at that consideration very well and go and see whether with the executive they can be able to implement it to enhance our revenue collection in those areas. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Museku. Hon. Ndawa. I will come to you Hon. Maitha. Hon. Ndawa.

Hon. Ndawa: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to start by thanking the Hon. Member who has brought this noble Statement. The issue at hand is something Madam Speaker, is that should not be taken for granted because of the following grounds; Ground number one Madam Speaker, Article 43 of the constitution provides that every Kenyan has a right to live. In the same Article, it also provides that every Kenyan has a right to live in a conducive environment---

Hon. Speaker: You want to refer to Article 43?

Hon. Ndawa: 43, it talks about rights of---

Hon. Speaker: Let us look at 42.

Hon. Ndawa: I do not have it that is not the constitution..

Hon. Speaker: This is not the constitution?

Hon. Ndawa: Sorry, I thought it was---

(Laughter)

Let me have the one...I thought it was the Act.

Hon. Speaker: Please look at Article 42, Hon. Ndawa.

Hon. Ndawa: I am talking about Article 43 not 42.

Hon. Speaker: I am referring to Article 42; can you read it out?

Hon. Ndawa: Yes, I can. Thank you, Madam Speaker. About environment is Article 43. Thank you...

Hon. Speaker: You are confusing me... environment is under Article 42. 43 is social rights.

Hon. Ndawa: Under 42

Hon. Speaker: The more critical one for this debate is 42.

Hon. Ndawa: Yes, thank you very much for the guidance. So in this issue I am saying if we allow the activity to continue, it means that the rights of the residents are going to be infringed. Madam Speaker, it does not matter where the activity is carried and as long as it is within Machakos County where we represent, we must take action because those are residents of Machakos and should live in a good environment as provided for in this constitution.

Madam Speaker, I think sometimes we beat around the bush when we talk about let the executive do; it is we as the Assembly to come up with a legislation, to come up with a Bill which is going to curb this menace. Madam Speaker, the issue at hand is a very serious issue---

Hon. Speaker: Point of information Hon. Majority Leader.

Hon. Muendo: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Let me inform the member; he should not talk about leaving the executive outside because we are doing our job Madam Speaker. We banned sand harvesting in this House as now the menace is more serious than the time we had not banned the sand harvesting. Look at what executive is doing after we pass these resolutions here. That is the information I wanted to give him not to leave executive outside.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Ndawa, you are informed?

Hon. Ndawa: Well informed and that argument is valid. Let the Assembly and the Executive work hand in hand to ensure that we come up with legislation which will solve the problem and once we come up with this legislation, let the body which is mandated to implement do its work so that we do not have to have legislations which are not assisting us Madam Speaker.

The other, issue Madam Speaker, I know there are ways we can introduce; I believe the main interest of those who are mining in that particular area, their main aim is to come up with what we call ballast for construction. If Madam Speaker, we can recommend that instead of using balloon

to blow these stones, if they can introduce a machine cutter and reduce the size of the stones then they take them for grating. I am very sure the issue of noise, the issue of the effects which are making cracks to our investments those are the buildings and schools, Madam Speaker, I am very sure if we use machines to cut those stones, we will have somehow reduced the problem.

The other issue, Madam Speaker, when there are explosions, you cannot even sleep in your house well because the moment you want to rest that is when you hear that blast. It is also even very dangerous for the expectant mothers who are about to give birth. If they keep on hearing those blasts even the formation of the child will be affected. So this is the high time we should move with speed to ensure that if we want our people to survive, we must ensure that the noise is reduced.

Madam Speaker, last year we saw the area MCA almost being lynched by *wananchi* we saw it on the social media Hon. King'ori the residents were protesting saying the area is very dusty. They even spread dust on him which is very unfair, Madam Speaker; this is also endangering the lives of the elected area members of County Assembly and we should not let our colleagues to suffer or their lives endangered by any group of people.

So, Madam Speaker, this Statement is timely, it is valid and we should expect to get the answer to this problem as soon as possible so as to evade more problems, Madam Speaker. Thank you, very much Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Maitha?

Hon. Maitha: Thank you, Madam Speaker for me giving me this opportunity to say a little about this issue and I want to thank the Hon. Member who has sought this Statement; it is long overdue. Again Madam Speaker, I want to sincerely apologize to you for the problems you are facing because of these people who are blasting around your house---

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Maitha, allow me to say that I am just one of the many and I settled in the area many years back and the quarries came and found us there and they started doing their work. So, I am just one of the many members of the...those villages, these areas you have mentioned have thousands and thousands of people only that I could not take it just laying down. I went and sued and the case is going on in the High Court in Machakos.

Hon. Maitha: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It is not only Syokimau, Muthwani and Kinanie wards where we have this problem. This problem has cropped up in Matungulu West ward in an area near Musini Primary School. We have some Chinese, some Kikuyu and many investors who have bought land in those areas and in fact, Madam Speaker, sometimes I pass through that road going to my home and the road is impassable.

People there are crying Madam Speaker, their animals are dying because the grass the animal graze on has turned white and, in fact, they are eating dust. Madam Speaker, as Hon. Ndawa has said I have evidence of some mothers in that area who have miscarried because of the dust they inhale because the menace of those quarries.

Madam Speaker, people around that area and also in these areas we are talking about cannot eat outside their houses because of the dust and Madam Speaker, again they cannot drink water because of the dust. We urge this County Government of ours like Hon. Majority Leader is saying that although the government has a duty we also as Hon. Members of this Assembly should enact a law banning some of these activities taking place in our areas.

Madam Speaker, those people, like the Chinese in my area are very arrogant and in fact when they employ some people, they chase away them after working for only two days and those people are not compensated. Therefore Madam Speaker, this is a menace in this County of Machakos. I wish this Statement is given the top priority and an answer being brought to this Assembly the soonest. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Maitha. I know Hon. King'oris' ward is equally affected but I want to refer this matter to the relevant committee so that they can prosecute it and I know they will bring the matter here back to the floor of this House and I know they are going to visit the various members of the public who are affected they know their work. So, Hon. Members this matter is referred to two committees and the first one is the committee on environment...there is a long name; give me the full name of that committee for record purposes.

The committee on Environment, Land, Energy and Natural Resources to work with the committee on Justice and Legal affairs because you notice it is about environment and there are also issues of interests of the public vested in the constitution and the laws. These two committees are instructed to move with all due speed and file a report before this house within 30 days that is on or before 30th of March, 2019 but 30 days will expire before 30th of March, 2019 because today is 20th so it is within 30 days the two chairpersons of the two committees please mobilize your committees and do what is necessary. Mr. Clerk, proceed.

MOTION

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Members, under this order we have one business by the Hon. Geoffrey Kalumu Chairperson committee on youth women, sports and PWDs. Hon. Kalumu. Hon. Kamulu sorry, Hon. Kamulu.

REPORT ON VISITATION TO SPECIAL SCHOOLS

Hon. Kamulu:

Hon. Speaker, that aware that special schools are vital in the empowerment of persons living with disabilities as they cater to students who have special educational needs due to learning difficulties, physical disabilities or behavioral problems; Recognizing that the Youth, Women and Sports committee is mandated to deal with all matters related to youth welfare, Women affairs, matters of equality and affirmative action;

Appreciating that the committee conducted fact finding missions to select special schools with an objective of understanding the challenges faced by persons living with disabilities with regard to their education and more so the impact of devolution to the development of the special schools;

Hon. Speaker, I wish to move the motion that this Hon. House discusses and approves the Youth, Women and Sports committee report on the visitation to special schools.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: You skipped the word PWDs although it is in the heading of your statement. Your wish, what do you wish the House does?

Hon. Kamulu: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I wish to move the motion that this Hon. House discusses and approves the Youth, Women and Sports committee---

Hon. Speaker: Again you are skipping PWDs.

Hon. Kamulu: Okay.

Hon. Speaker: The last paragraph of your motion.

Hon. Kamulu: Madam Speaker, allow me to repeat the last statement.

Hon. Speaker, I wish to move the motion that this Hon. House discusses and approves the Youth, Women, Sports and PWDs committee report on the visitation to special schools.

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I now request Hon. Katumo to second the motion.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Katumo?

Hon. Katumo: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I second

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Kamulu and Hon. Katumo. Hon. Kamulu, please come back you have the report?

Hon. Kamulu: I have the report with me.

Hon. Speaker: Just read it through but soon we indicated members will be reading before.

Hon. Kamulu: Once again Hon. Speaker, with me is the report on Youth, Women, Sports and PWDs report committee on report on visitation of select special schools.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PREFACE

Madam Speaker, special schools provide individualized Education, addressing specific needs. Student to teacher ratios are kept lower depending upon the needs of the children. They have other facilities for children with special needs, such as soft play areas, sensory rooms or swimming pools, which are necessary for treating students with certain conditions; they focus on children, whose learning needs cannot be appropriately met in a regular classroom setting. The process involves the individual planned and systematically monitored arrangement of teaching procedures, adapted equipment materials and accessible settings.

Hon. Speaker, the youth committee undertook fact finding missions in the months of May and December, 2018 in various special schools which is a devolved function as per Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 specifically, Machakos school for the physically challenged, Likoni school for the physically challenged and Jitegemee. The main objective of the visits was to understand the predicaments faced by youthful persons living with disabilities; status of their education and impact of devolution to the development of the institutions.

The Education Act Cap 211 (Revised edition 1980) states in part that 'no pupil shall be refused admission to, or excluded from, the school on any grounds of sex, race or colour or on any other than reasonable 21 grounds (Admission and removal of pupils).'

This in essence affirms the principle of inclusive education in Kenyan learning institutions. It is in the spirit of this law that the committee undertook the study so as to assist persons living with disability access education which is a right under the Constitution of Kenya, 2010.

1.2 MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE

Madam Speaker, the committee on Youth, Women and Sports was established pursuant to the Standing Order 190 and the Second Schedule of the Standing Orders define its mandate as follows: to deal with all matters related to Youth welfare, Women affairs, empowerment of women, matters of equality, affirmative action and gender related issues and sports activities and facilities.

1.3 COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

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Madam Speaker, the committee has 13 members as follows:

1. Hon. Geoffrey Kamulu - Chairman
2. Hon. Justus Katumo - Vice Chairperson
3. Hon. Phoebe Koki - Member
4. Hon. Margret Ndalana - Member
5. Hon. Irene Mbivya - Member
6. Hon. Christine Koki - Member
7. Hon. Jacinta Luka - Member
8. Hon. Antony Mulu - Member
9. Hon. Michael Mutiso - Member
10. Hon. Margret Mwikali - Member
11. Hon. Grace Mutwiwa - Member
12. Hon. Fredrick Muthoka - Member
13. Hon. Agatha Mutunga - Member

2.0 Visitation to the special schools- JITEGEMEE

Madam Speaker, the committee visited Jitegemee which is a registered non-governmental organization located in Machakos County; it provides children with access to formal or informal Education as well as other health and social support services. Jitegemee is managed in the USA and Kenya, and receives more than half of its annual funding from individual donors and the remainder from family foundations.

Its key program is providing the vulnerable children of Machakos County with access to formal and vocational education. They believe that every child with the desire to learn and the will to succeed should be encouraged to do so and they are dedicated to removing the obstacles that prevent children from attaining their educational or vocational goals.

The organization operates under six support programs namely;

- i. Vocational training. Jitemee provides vocational training to young people outside of the formal education system. After a six month rehabilitation program, a student selects a trade and is paired for one year with a trade mentor in the community after which they take a Government Test.
- ii. School support. This entails providing support to primary, secondary and post-secondary students whose families are unable to afford schooling expenses.
- iii. Feeding program. The program entails provision of nutritional daily meals to ensure no students go hungry while training to learn.
- iv. Health program. Throughout the year, the organization provides health care and support to students. They also host an annual health day during which students and caregivers are given a physical checkup and if needed they receive medication or referrals to specialists, information on disease prevention and sexual education, that is reproductive health.
- v. Computer program. The organization has a computer lab and students receive training throughout the year on computer literacy.
- vi. Parental empowerment. Jitegemee provides support and training to students' caregivers and parents so that they become more financially empowered. Parents learn how to do organic gardening, soap-making, bead-working and participate in a small savings group.

2.1 Visitation to Masaku and Likoni School for the physically disabled.

Madam Speaker, the committee visited Masaku and Likoni schools for the physically disabled which are located in Machakos and Mombasa County Respectively.

The schools management informed the committee that the county governments have not supported the schools as anticipated in the devolution spirit; they requested the county governments to conduct wellness visits and get to understand the particular challenges faced by these institutions.

The committee agreed that in select financial years, funds should be set aside for revamping special schools by provision of educational materials such as braille, provision of therapeutic instruments, employment of trained special education trainers on a need basis.

The committee noted and appreciated the role of the special schools to persons living with disabilities and unanimously resolved to advocate for their support through budgetary allocations.

3.0 Relevance of special schools to persons living with disabilities

Madam Speaker, people with disabilities (PWD) make up 10 per cent of the total population of Kenya, approximately 3.5 million people (WHO 2006). They are the most disadvantaged and marginalized groups and experience discrimination at all levels of society.

A complex web of economic and social issues including gender inequality, create barriers within mainstream education, social and economic life to learners with special needs and disabilities. Therefore, a disproportionate numbers of children and adult with special needs are unable to access quality education and are illiterate. Disabled persons, especially children, face a host of problems as a result of their special needs; many children with special needs live in hostile, bleak environments, where their safety and security is compromised and their future jeopardized.

They are disempowered and marginalized, have no opportunity for advancement and largely remain voiceless as a result of inbuilt social, cultural, economic prejudices, violence and abuse. Their rights are usually violated since existing legislation suffers slow implementation.

The ministry of Education through the Sessional Paper No. 1 of 2005 underscored the importance of Special Needs Education as human capital development that empowers those most likely to be marginalized to participate in mainstream education sector.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (UNCRPWD) 2006 further affirms the right to education in an inclusive setting for all children. The focus here is to enable children with special needs to enroll in schools of their choice within their localities. Therefore, there is need to remove barriers within the education system that bars them from Inclusiveness and equity.

As a nation PWD Education is faced by a number of challenges in its effort to education for children with Special Needs. These include issues relating to; stigma by persons living with disabilities, attitude, quality of the special education, cultural taboos, physical facilities and poverty. Madam Speaker, special schools cater to students who have special educational needs due to learning difficulties, physical disabilities or behavioral problems and as such foster the education of Persons Living with Disabilities.

4.0 Meeting with the Chief Officer- Department of Education, Youth and Social welfare

Madam Speaker, the committee met with the Chief Officer and deliberated on matters concerning persons living with disabilities which is a social welfare function under his department. The committee's objective was to understand how the department had managed issues affecting persons living with disabilities in the County.

The Chief Officer informed the committee that the Social welfare section runs five programmes that touch on the well-being of the vulnerable persons in the County namely;

1. Women and Community self-help development groups.
2. Child protection support for orphans and vulnerable children.
3. Social welfare support for persons with disabilities.
4. Gender based violence and HIV/Aids support programme.
5. Social welfare support for the elderly persons.

Social Welfare is a directorate under the Department of Education, Youth and Social welfare; in its programme-based budget, July 2018 to June, 2019, the above mentioned programmes run by the section will utilize an approved budget of Ksh. 32 million.

Madam Speaker, the committee noted that despite the programmes being sensitive, they had been under funded. The committee also noted that there exists a religious Organization Fund that had an allocation of Ksh. 20 Million; the committee is currently investigating its relevance and expenditure and will table a report in the floor of the House.

The Chief Officer affirmed that the allocated budget was inadequate and would not facilitate achievement of his departmental goals referencing to social welfare. He requested the County Assembly to allocate more funds in the supplementary budget so as to foster achievement and actualization of the sectional policies and projects. The matter of implementation of proposed projects was taken into great consideration as funds were either unavailable or channeled to other projects.

Madam Speaker, it was also noted that delay of funds from the County Treasury was a big impediment as projects with time constraints would be unattainable owing to the delay of funds. This was confirmed by the Auditor General in the Machakos County Budget Performance by department in FY 2017/18; the department of Education, Youth and Social Welfare had an absorption rate of 23.7 per cent on recurrent and 45.8 per cent on development.

Madam Speaker, in the Financial Year 2014/15, the County assembly of Machakos approved the Machakos Social Welfare Empowerment Fund and further appropriated it with Funds amounting to Ksh. 160 million; Ksh. 40 million per ward and the Fund issued checks to registered women groups and youth groups.

Accountability of the Fund has been challenging as appropriate documents requested for by the committee were not availed and efforts to meet the Chief Executive Officer have been futile. Noting that in the First Assembly, the Chief Executive Officer of the Fund wrote to the Assembly through letter dated 5th April, 2016 informing that the Fund received Ksh. 43, 700,000 and not Ksh. 160,000,000; this was questionable since the approved indicated an approved budget of Ksh. 161 million for the MSWEB Fund. Attached is a copy of the letter from the Chief Executive Officer.

5.0 Committee recommendations

Madam Speaker, informed by the visitations and discussions with the Chief Officer, the committee makes the following recommendations all in ensuring that the social welfare aspects of persons living with disabilities are catered for;

- a) Madam Speaker, noting that the MSWEB fund was created in the spirit of uplifting the lives of the people of Machakos with key focus on the elderly, women and youth groups, the committee recommends that the EACC investigates the expenditures of the Fund since its inception in the FY 2014/15. Further, the County Government should establish an Internal Audit committee in line with Section 155 of the PFM Act, 2012 and also as recommended by the Auditor General in the Annual county governments budget implementation review report for FY 2017/18.
It is important to highlight that in the Financial Year 2018/19, the Fund was not allocated any funds; the committee will investigate the administration of the fund and report back with a proposal to allocate funds in the FY 2019/20
- b) Implementation of the Machakos County Persons with Disabilities Act, No. 10 of 2016; Madam Speaker recognizing that the County Assembly approved the Machakos County Persons with Disabilities Bill, No. 10 of 2016 which endeavors to create a Board that will ensure that the rights and privileges of the disabled in the society are upheld and also create awareness of the predicaments that impede the persons living with disabilities in the County; the Chief Officer, Department of Education should appraise the Assembly on the status of its implementation.
- c) The County Government should construct a county owned facility or a special school that caters to the needs of the persons living with disabilities in the FY

- 2019/20. Further, the Department of Education should establish a disability mainstreaming docket to fast track issues relating to disability in the County.
- d) The County government should partner with like-minded organizations that promote the well-being of PWDs like provision of a borehole at Jitegemee considering the organization has a challenge of availability of adequate water supply.
 - e) The County Government should develop a policy document to provide a frame work for the planning and implementation of special needs education. The policy shall provide a comprehensive framework of the principles and strategies to be followed in order to create equal access to quality and relevant education and training for these learners.
 - f) Madam Speaker, the Persons with Disabilities Act 2003 further provides a comprehensive legal framework which outlaws all forms of discriminative treatment of persons with special needs and disabilities. This includes among others access to education and training; informed by this the committee recommends that necessary action be taken on caregivers, parents and governments educational facilities that discriminate and denies PWDs access to education.
 - g) The department of education should carry out a census for persons with disabilities in the County; this will go a long way in planning in terms of budgetary allocations and also in the social-economic purposes.

6.0 CONCLUSION

Madam Speaker, advocacy for the marginalized in the society is a noble duty as it ensures equity and equality. As a County, we should strive to ensure that persons living with disabilities in the county are provided with equal opportunities in Education and more so in the economic aspect. Madam Speaker, it is therefore my privilege and duty to present this report to this Hon. House for consideration and approval. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Member.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Members, you are invited to debate the motion now, Hon. Jeremiah.

Hon. Munguti: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Though I am mourning, I am going to contribute on this report because it is timely and it is a good report.

Hon. Speaker: Why are you mourning, Hon. Jeremiah?

Hon. Munguti: Because yesterday as we were in the Assembly, I was called and given a shocking report from my ward. One of my constituents decided to kill himself and before he did that he stabbed his mother six times and went and hanged himself. He committed suicide and the mother was rushed to Machakos Hospital, she was referred to Kenyatta National Hospital but she later passed on. That is why I am mourning.

Hon. Speaker: Our sympathies to you and to the family and the people of Muthetheni.

Hon. Munguti: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Coming to the report, I want to congratulate the chairman of youth for this elaborate report. I would like to say that people with disabilities have

been marginalized and discriminated simply because there were no people who could speak for them.

Thanking Hon. Katumo for what he has been championing for the people with disabilities. In that line, I have decided to be among those people who will care for the people living with disabilities and in my ward, I have looked for all people with disability, brought them together and created a cell of about five in my ward which contains 10 sub-locations and I have been meeting with these people and they feel that they have a father who can speak for them, care for them and help them where they need necessary assistance.

Confirming this, I went ahead and went to the social welfare, looked among the people with disabilities who were very much marginalized and could not walk or even take themselves to the toilet and secured wheelchairs and crutches for them. For that matter, I am requesting this Hon. House to adopt this report because we cannot lie down and see our people suffer any further.

Secondly, Madam Speaker, in page three; visitation to the special school of Jitegemee, I have highlighted some issues of stigma which among the people with disabilities, either children or the grown up, majority of the parents have left those children or the people with disabilities just to rot in the houses simply because they don't want to bring them out or show them out so that they can be assisted.

Last year, I went with Hon. Katumo and Hon. Jacinta to my ward and we had a successful meeting where we went with Association for the Physically Disabled of Kenya (APDK) doctors of Machakos Level V, they were assessed and majority of them are by next week or next week but one are getting there ID cards which exempts them from paying taxes in case they want to do business.

Madam Speaker, I also want to concur with the report, when I look at point number one on vocational training; I have several people who are mentally retarded who had passed the age of going to primary school but they can attend vocational training. I got three, I have taken them to the vocational training nearby my ward; one is called Mwende Mutua who was just loitering in the towns and now if you see her making a dress, you will be surprised whether this person could be of great help to the family.

As we can see on page four, these people need to be educated on sexual education and reproductive health. I am a witness, among those people who are in my ward and disabled, a young girl was impregnated and fortunately or unfortunately, she gave birth to twins and if you look at that scenario, a disabled person giving birth to twins; how will she manage them? Who will help her to take care of the kids and therefore these people need to be taught about reproductive health so that they can know how to protect themselves because they are human beings like us and they can have those kind of feelings that everyone can have.

Madam Speaker, on the same, we also need to look as an Assembly, we look at the budget because I understand according to our laws, five per cent of our budget should be given to people with disabilities and it is my humble request that this Hon. House considers the budget and be followed that it helps those concerned. I want to say the report is well elaborated and I want to support it by saying that as we look for a special school for PWDs, Machakos Sub-County we have several school for people with disabilities.

In other areas like Katangi, which is a sub county of Yatta, we also have different schools for people with disabilities but in Mwala we have none of these facilities and it is my humble request to this House, as we look into those facilities being put in place that I have government land which these facilities can be built at a place called Kyaume in Kionyoni sub-location. So, I am requesting this House, as we look for funds to build this facilities, I have free land that I can give for people with disabilities so that a school can be built for them so that we can improve their literacy levels. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Hon. (Ms.) C. Nzioki: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to thank the contributor of this motion the chairperson and his team, it is a good report, it is wanting and it needs to be approved.

Hon. Speaker: If you say it is wanting, you mean it has a shortfall; it is bad.

Hon. (Ms.) C. Nzioki: Sorry, maybe my understanding---

Hon. Speaker: It is commendable, it is a good report?

Hon. (Ms.) C. Nzioki: Yes it is a very good report. The report is long and I am not able to go through it because that flickering light is affecting my eyes but all together I have managed to look into page four where it talks about disabilities. In Mua ward, we have eight mentally affected children and they live with their parents but on Thursdays they converge in one home to receive goodies and whatever people take to them in terms of food and I have been assisting those children up to now and I know it is very difficult when you keep children like that.

You cannot understand how these children live because as much as we want to help them, they go through a lot of rape because a child that cannot speak, cannot hear you but somebody there sees this child has grown she is a girl and there is something that can be done but she cannot resist. It is unkind to those children so even the utilities for the grown up people; we have buildings without their lifts, we have toilets without their facilitation, they board public transport like anybody else and all they do is to hang around there until every able person gets in and then they are the last to go in because they have no strength to keep pushing on and on.

To me, I recommend and request this House to approve this; I know there is much I could have said but as for my eyes, I am not able to read through. I request this House to approve and the Government of Machakos does the needful. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Constance Mbula. Hon. Mark Muendo.

Hon. Muendo: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Let me congratulate the committee under the Chairmanship of *Mutema Mbola*---

(Laughter)

Sorry Hon. Kamulu. This report is very good but I would like us to think; who are the people with disabilities in our country and even in our county. The national government has come up with a policy on PWDs; our county government should also come up with policy and regulations because in Machakos County where we belong, we should start by knowing how many people are living with disability by doing a census.

We should move fast to have that register so that when this House is making budgets like the one in another two months, we can know how much we are going to allocate. We the upright people have forgotten about our PWDs; we have forgotten that it is not money which makes them happy---

Hon. Speaker: Point of order Hon. Museku.

PROCEDURAL MOTION EXTENSION OF SITTING TIME

Hon. Museku: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand on Standing Order 27;

That aware that Standing Order 27(2) provides that the Speaker shall interrupt business at 12.30 p.m. for morning sitting;

Aware that Standing Order 27(3)(a) provides that the House may resolve to extend its sitting time;

Aware that Standing Order 27(4) provides that a motion provides that a motion to extend sitting time shall be moved 30 minutes before the time of adjournment;

I wish to move the motion that the House resolves to extend its sitting time until the business at hand is completed.

I would like Hon. Peter Joseph Mutiso to second my motion.

Hon. P.J. Mutiso: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I support that we extend time to have the motion at hand and also other business; so I second.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Museku and Hon. Mutiso. Any Member who wants to comment on that motion for extension of time? Any Member opposing? The Chair notes that the Members are in support of an extension of time and because this is a very important motion, the time will be extended so that we finalize the business. You can proceed, Hon. Mark Muendo.

(The House resumed business in the Order Paper)

Hon. Muendo: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yes this is a very important report we should extend and as I was saying we have forgotten people living with disabilities. It is not money which makes them happy, it is the lifestyle. In our county, we don't have policies or regulations on that and that is why I am saying we have forgotten them. It is not their wish to be born the way they were born and as the population grows they also rise in number. Their lifestyle is important because they need to go to toilet like an upright person; they need to feed like an upright person because that need is there.

What are we doing in our daily living areas; for example, I have seen the new building coming up and we have not considered the PWDs. From the toilets, we don't have special toilets, there is no ramp in that building, which will enable Hon. Katumo to go smoothly.

(Applause)

I really feel for the people with disabilities; I imagine myself with no legs, no arms and I want to go to the toilet; that is normal, they are human beings. So a structure like that with no consideration and we have those people here, they will be visiting us and look at our toilets here. I don't know whether Hon. Katumo has a ladder when he wants to relieve himself because the urinals are very high; he must be struggling very much. Nobody saw that when this chamber was being rehabilitated that we are going to have people with special needs.

In my contribution, I would say let us have the new building put lifts and we create facilities in that building before we talk about others; conducive to our PWDs.

When I look at the allocation of 2014/2015 Ksh. 160 million which the committee is saying the money; there is no clear understanding of how the money was spent. It is the high time, because we make laws and we have the relevant committees, I would like to advice PAIC to take up the matter and investigate the Ksh. 160 million which was supposed to go to the PWDs.

Hon. Speaker: Point of information from Hon. Maitha

Hon. Maitha: Madam Speaker, I want to inform the Member that three of us Hon. Nyanzi, Hon. Margaret and myself were lucky to have been nominated in that MSWEB and we tried our

level best to inquire about the Ksh. 160 million in vain and it is my believe that the former CO, Mr. Kalla must have interfered with that money.

So, as we conclude our discussions here, we invite the DCI and EACC to investigate the former CO of the ministry of education in our county. Madam Speaker, we stayed for one year without allowances going for meetings and not being paid our transport, our fuel, so as Members you discuss this one, you also have to see those board members how they should be compensated because we are here the three of us but there are others who are not here who were not given their allowances. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Muendo: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have taken that information and I think it is very important Hon. Moffat with the other two; they will be the state witnesses when the EACC comes in because they were in that board.

(Applause)

Before I conclude, let us move with speed to establish that policy for us to be guided as a county and the Executive should come up with the policy and we look at it and we pass it.

In the construction industry, that policy will guide that industry. The contractor should be involved in that policy that whenever they are creating a facility or any building, it should be a must they have facilities for PWDs. The county Government should set aside some funds for construction of these special schools because they are only a few. When you go to Mitaboni, Katangi, you find they are congested; I have a case in Kinanie where I had to intervene for one kid to be taken because they don't have space.

Since we are going to be making the budget soon, let us think about putting good funds for PWDs. These schools also need special teachers to train these kids not just any teacher; they need to take teachers for special training at Kenya Institute of Special Education (KISE); that is the only school that gives teachers the right knowledge to handle these kids. We are talking about employing teachers in our ECD classes, but none of those teachers can handle kids with special needs. We also need, because that is our docket of ECD teachers when they are employed we make sure they go for that special training funded by the county because these are our people, we live with them and it is not our wish to have them around, it is God's wish.

Madam Speaker, on the funds which were allocated this year Ksh. 15 million; when we go to visit the Governor tomorrow, we should highlight that because they have not received any funds. I understand from Mheshimiwa Katumo that people now look at him as though he is the one who can give them whatever they need like the walking aids, wheelchairs. Let us put a lot pressure and receive that fund so that our people can live comfortable. As I said, money is not what they require, they require a lifestyle. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Majority Leader. Hon. Mitaa.

Hon. Mitaa: Thank you Madam Speaker for granting me this opportunity to contribute to this report. I am in total agreement with the recommendations and findings of this report. Kangundo Central ward happens to host an institution for the children living with visual disability at Kangundo DEB. I am talking from firsthand experience; there is so much challenge when it comes to disabilities. If you visit that institution, I am very sure you will feel challenged and you will think twice next time before you make a personal budget and think about those people with such challenges in life.

Talking of that institution, you find a desk which a child is to sit on is double the desk which a normal person can use; again the books, they use voluminous books, braille books and they are too costly because I remember last time we had brought some donors and a book was going at Ksh. 12,000.

Madam Speaker, you can imagine if that child has to have like six or seven subjects and each book is going at Ksh. 12,000. Bearing mind these kids happen to come with families with financial disadvantage so that kid needs special care, a kid might need a teacher at any given time so echoing what the Majority Leader has talked about, staffing is a challenge.

Issues to do with food is a challenge because I remember we had to plead with the institution to adopt the kids so that the people within Kangundo area can see how they can chip in through food and clothing and such things. If we can push this issue of PWDs and ensure they enjoy normal life like most of us, I think that is the greatest blessing God can give to us. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Mitaa. Hon. Katumo, I can see you but I notice you are the vice chair of the committee and you also represent the interest that is on the table; it is wise you hear what the other Members have to say then you can say towards the last part when you consider everything so that you can appreciate whether they have taken into account your interests. Hon. Cosmus Masesi.

Hon. Masesi: Thank you Madam Speaker for granting me this opportunity to say a bit on the report. I want to appreciate the committee and the leadership of Hon. Kamulu. The report is surely very much timely and I want to believe we have PWDs in all our 40 wards and the key question we need to ask ourselves is whether we are being felt and whether the county government support is being felt by these persons within Machakos County.

If there is anything which God could have blessed this Assembly with is for us to unite and push for the recognition of these persons within our 40 wards. What we have in our counties is schools for the blind; I want to believe some of the persons are shortchanged because not all are recognized by the entities we have in place.

Again, it is too unfair for the committee to find out that there were no funds which were allocated to the entity while there was a budget for the same. I want to echo the sentiments of our Majority Leader that these are one of the key issues we need to discuss in our meeting with our Governor and make sure that what has been budgeted for these PWDs it is well taken care of.

In my ward I have a group of 24 persons and I have never seen any support from this County Government; they even have issues with bicycles the ones they use are worn out, there is a challenge for a Mheshimiwa to buy because it is a bit costly. Madam Speaker we need to do an audit and see how we can budget a bigger budget for the same.

I support fully and finally it is for us to ask ourselves why each and every year from the CoB report it has been said that we don't have the internal audit committee which has been a thorn in the flesh in Machakos County. We need to push and make sure this audit committee is established soonest to be giving and updating this Assembly on the status of the county. Thank you, Madam Speaker; I seek to rest my case.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Masesi, under Standing Order 1, I will inform you even after you have finished submitting; the Assembly has an external Audit Committee which we put on board when we came in and there wasn't one but we already have one for the Assembly that is up and running. The external audit committee which is not established is for the Executive side.

Hon. Masesi: Yes Madam Speaker. In fact, I meant for the executive---

Hon. Speaker: You need to be explicit.

Hon. Masesi: Sure, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: So that you are not condemning yourself when you already have one.

Hon. Masesi: Yes, Madam Speaker; I meant for the executive side which has been always raised by the CoB.

Hon. Speaker: Alright. Hon. Mulatya.

Hon. Mulatya: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Mine is just few points. Madam Speaker, people living with disabilities they have many challenges and this report is elaborate enough. Madam Speaker, there is nothing that can be done to the people living with disabilities without proper funding. We really need to come and see how these people living with disabilities will be allocated enough funds.

Actually, Madam Speaker, all of us as elected members who are here have witnessed, back home everybody they have several PWDs and then, when they come to us, we don't know how to do. We normally call Hon. Katumo. Hon. Katumo looks like he is the funding. So, Madam Speaker, I think when it comes to allocation to this department, I think it is vital and he was talking about yesterday.

Also, Madam Speaker, all Hon. Members who has spoken before me are in support of this and in a very good and open-heart to this report. I would also urge to this Hon. House and remind them that, in the House we still have PWDs and we should also seek goodwill to our own. We have Hon. Jacinta who lives just behind here and she has had operation. We should see the whole house going there to console with her at least to give us strength because she is one of us and she is living also with a disability. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Mulatya. Hon. Nziva.

Hon. (Ms.) Nziva: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I wish to applaud the committee on Youth, Sports and PWDs for such a noble report and really say, 'Disability is not inability.' As you can witness our Hon. Katumo has done a lot more including the Katumo Project and others. Let me say there are many advantages of taking children to school; our PWDs to school because we have to sensitise our communities down there to avoid the stigma they have been having as we have several advantages like when we go to special schools will get qualified teachers who have done special education.

They also meet the unique learning needs for the PWDs. We have also special resources and services in those schools which are offered in academic and psychological counseling on the tutoring programs. Those children when who go to special schools can really fit in because they are not segregated. They learn and interact with their peers who also have challenges so they don't feel out of place.

So, it is my plea that we support the coming budget we have some budget allocation for the same and make sure that will be implemented so that our people there won't feel out of place. So, Madam Speaker, I support the report so that in our budgetary allocation we may get more wheelchairs and even walking aids for our people living with disabilities. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Hon. King'ori: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would also like to support this report. But I would also recommend something so that we can act on it instead of just talking about it. We need to emphasize on having regulations and special fund to cater for the disabled ones because I have people who live with cerebral palsy in my ward and they require a lot including shelter because they are left behind by their carers sometimes because of lack of capital or money to employ somebody who will look after them.

It is a big challenge and we need to have at least a special school in our county that will help those children or people living with cerebral palsy and with other disabilities. It is very hard for people with cerebral palsy even to work or to move or to do anything so they need special care. This county should be seen as county number one on people with disabilities because we need them as our brothers and our sisters.

Another thing I would also want to share is about this fund; we lack regulations Madam Speaker, and I would urge that when we come to regulations, let us inform the executive to bring regulations to this House so that we can regulate this part of MSWEB. If we had a regulation, we could have been guided by it but now we didn't have any regulation and it is only the Machakos County Persons with Disabilities Act which is not enough to make sure that the funds are appropriated properly. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Hon. (Ms.) Nzioka: Asante, Bi. Spika. Bi. Spika, jua kwamba kuwa mlemavu sio kukosa uwezo. Walemavu wengi wana kazi ambao wanawezafanya. Kwa hivyo kuna umuhimu sisi kama bunge kuwashughulikia. Kumbuka Bi. Spika bunge lililopita, kulikuwa kumetegwa pesa, ni kwa ajili ya wasiojiweza. Alafu kukaja na sheria kwamba, waheshimiwa katika bunge watapewa pesa za maendeleo katika sehemu zao za wodi. Pesa zikatengwa, kutegezwe sheria kwamba hizo pesa ziwe ndani. Bi. Spika hilo halikutendeka.

Pia Bi. Spika kumbuka kwamba, mlemavu ana uwezo wa kufanya kazi nyingi. Mfano, nimseme Mhe. Katumo kwa kazi nzuri anazofanya katika bunge letu na kuwasaidia walemavu. Wengine wana uwezo lakini wa kufanya mambo mazuri lakini hawana mapato. Sisi kama bunge tutapata baraka tukiona kwamba wasiojiweza wameshughulikiwa.

Bi. Spika, tuna mkutano ambao uko mbele yetu kukutana na Gavana wa Machakos, hebu kwa waliochaguliwa na sisi wenzao ambao tuko nao katika bunge, tuweke mkazo sana pesa za maendeleo katika wodi zipatikane. Maana idadi ya hizo pesa zikipatikana, walemavu, elimu, na mambo mengi yatawezekana. Tuna wajibu sisi kama waheshimiwa kuona tumeshughulikia wananchi ambao wako katika kaunti ya Machakos na hasa katika kila wodi ambao mheshimiwa ametoka. Bi. Spika ni wajibu wetu kuona kila mmoja katika sehemu yako ameshughulikiwa lakini utashughulikaje kama huna mapato? Kwa hivyo tuweke mkazo ndio tuone wasiojiweza wameshughulikiwa.

Bi. Spika, kumbuka kwamba, hapa hili bunge pia tulipitisha kwamba kuwe na idadi ihesabiwe wasiojiweza na hilo halikutendeka. Itakuwa kuna umuhimu mkubwa wasiojiweza wakihesabiwa tujue idadi ndio tuone vile ambavyo tunaweza kuwasaidia. Katika bajeti yetu ambayo tunaigojea tuweke pesa ndio tuone walemavu wameshughulikiwa. Sisi unaweza kutembea, unaweza kuona, kwa hivyo hata kama ni kazi utafanya; hebu mwonee huruma mtu asiyejiweza maana wengine wana ulemavu ambao mtu hajiwezi.

Bi. Spika, ukirudi kwenye vijiji, kumekuwa na tabia, na ninahimiza wazazi ambao wana watoto walemavu wasiwafiche; wawatoe. Waheshimiwa tuna jukumu kama ni katika kila kijiji, ukumbuke kwamba uone, utangaze na kusema kama kuna mtoto mlemavu asifichwe maana akitolewa anaweza pata usaidizi. Na hio kazi yote tutafanya kama kuna mapato ama kuna pesa ambazo zimetegwa kusaidia walemavu.

Bi. Spika, ukiangalia sana kama mlemavu amechaguliwa ama amewekwa mahali, anafanya kazi kwa bidii zaidi maana amepata hio jukumu na anataka kufanya kazi. Pia angalia wanasiasa ambao wamechaguliwa katika bunge kuu, uone kuna maseneta pia wameteuliwa, na ukiangalia wanavyofanya siasa au kuendesha mipango yao, utakuta wanaweza. Kwa hivyo tushikane pamoja na tuweke mkazo pesa za maendeleo kila wodi zipatikane na ninajua mambo yote yatandeteka. Asante.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Alice. Hon. Mwanthi.

Hon. Mwanthi: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I would also like to applaud the committee for the work they have done. But on the report I found some challenges when I was studying it. I realized that there is that department and the committee manage to meet the Chief Officer who maybe in the report, like in page 6, you will find that some of the documents that were requested from that Chief Officer, the committee did not get those documents and to me, I think they are critical document that could also give us a lead to whatever we have been discussing here.

Madam Speaker, we have money, we allocate money or the Assembly allocates money for these departments and the only reference that we can see here is for 2015/2016. I thought the Chief Officer could also tell the committee what happened to the funds for 2016/2017, 2017/2018 because in their report what can only be seen here is the Ksh. 43,700,000 that was given to MSWEB.

Honestly, what happened to the MSWEB? What happened to all these monies that are allocated to such departments? You see, if we sympathize and sympathize always with Mhe. Katumo, and the rest of our electorates who are disabled---

Hon. Speaker: Point of information from Hon. Nyanzi. Hon. Stephen Mwanthi, resume your seat.

Hon. Nyanzi: Asante Madam Spika. Mimi nilikuwa katika MSWEB na nataka kumwambia juu ya hio pesa ametaja saa hii, Ksh. 43 million. Mimi, Madam Mwikali, Moffat, na members wengine, wengi walikuwa *mareverend*.

Hon. Speaker: Those you have called Madam Mwikali, Moffat---

Hon. Nyanzi: Mheshimiwa, sorry. Mhe. Mwikali. Tuliitwa na Gavana vile mnaitwa sasa muende kesho uko kutoka sehemu nyingi sana na tukaenda tukakaa chini na wakatuelezea umuhimu wa hii na tukaanza, ikawa na CEO, ikawa ni bodi ilikuwa ya maana sana. Na wakati tulianza kufanya kazi tukapewa Ksh. 160 milioni.

Na wakati tulikuwa tukiendelea kupea watu, *maMCA* walikuwa wanakuja kwa ofisi yetu wanatuonyesha hao watu walemavu, kila kitu na tukawa tunaanza kufanya kazi vizuri sana. Na tulipoendelea kidogo, nataka mjihadhari *maMCAs* hapa; hii mambo ya *kupropose* hizi vitu, uwe ukifikiria sana na *kusecond*. Sababu *MCA* mmoja aliona ile kazi tulikuwa tukiendelea kufanya huko, alileta hio maneno hapa kwa bunge na *akapropose* hii MSWEB hio pesa yake ifungiwe na ikafungiwa. Hio mkono yake ingekatika! Tungekuwa mbali sana na hii pesa---

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Nyanzi, thank you. Hon. Steve Mwanthi, have you been informed?

Hon. Mwanthi: Yes, Madam Speaker. I have been informed---

Hon. Speaker: Yes. Very informed! Thank you, Hon. Nyanzi. Proceed.

Hon. Mwanthi: Yes. I honestly I think I was applauding what MSWEB had done during those years and I have said we only saw the Ksh. 43 million that was given to MSWEB during that period. What happened from there? If we do not have such other program, what are we planning to do because it is needed?

In this report Madam Speaker, I have seen the Chief Officer said that he has an allocation of Ksh. 32 million in his department to do all these five programmes that he undertakes in his department. In the same amount, he managed to spend 23 per cent as recurrent and 45 per cent as in development and that is in the year 2017/2018. Is he able to show us anything that he did with the 45 per cent allocation before maybe we do the supplementary budget as he requested because I can see in paragraph 3, he requested for supplementary budget to be undertaken to hasten achievements?

What has he done with the 45 per cent that he has already received and the 23 per cent in the recurrent because I understand these funds are supposed to be used in the recurrent expenditure. What has this person has he be doing to our people? We got problem ranging from the elderly, the disabled and also the orphans but in our county we are doing nothing yet we have allocations in our budgets.

If you go to that budget of 2015/2016, you will realize Ksh. 190 million was supposed to undertake these programmes but only Ksh. 43 (??) can be shown what it did. Who has that money, or what happened to that money? Why should we be having much as I don't know whether the Chief Officer was approved by the Assembly but why should we be reporting that that person did not bring important documents so that this Assembly can discuss and get a conclusion of such matters?

So, Madam Speaker, as I support what the committee did, I think it is good in such scenarios we being summoning such Chief Officers if they don't furnish us with vital documents to help this House to run because to me, if there are documents that we are not seeing, then it means we are debating on half-baked document, Madam Speaker. So, I do support the report but insisting that, such like people should be called here and tell the Assembly to explain towards these funds are doing because it is the only way we can manage to get that funds.

Even if we go to the Governor's office and request him about these money, I am not seeing much coming from there when we already have a Chief Officer in that office who is there and he has very little to show, ranging from bursaries he has not given bursaries for one year. He is in that office, he has done nothing to all these five programmes he has said and he is just there seated and complaining that we are on anti-them, we are pushing them. What has he shown that committee he has done to all the five or six programmes that are in his docket? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Steve Mwanthi, you are asking hard questions. I believe the House has heard you and expects you to do what is necessary; to bring a business to the House for the purposes of dealing with the issues that you are raising. It was specific when I asked that you speak because you have a better understanding of the finances than most of us here; you chair the finance committee. Thank you. Hon. Katumo.

Hon. Katumo: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I begin to applaud this committee and Hon. Members who have contributed before. That they are sympathizing with the situation is good. When we talk about PWDs, those are the Persons with Disabilities. We have so many categories of them; don't just think about physically challenged like me and Hon. Jacinta. We still have the albinos, we still have the deaf and dumb, we have the blind, we have the VI; those are the vision impaired, we have the MH; that is mental, then we have the physical of course include the wheelchair bound and of course the amputee and physically handcuffed. Therefore in your ward, Hon. Members, don't just think of those people who require wheelchairs or crutches.

As you can see my crutches are not the same. Why? Because as I move in the streets, if I find people challenged I give them. I walk with nothing because it is a very pathetic situation, you know that. I want to applaud this committee and the members herein for the good work they have done. Actually, it has been my desire that devolution should honor us as it were but it has been very difficult.

I think we have a light at the end of the tunnel; something is about to happen. Let me say, I don't want to repeat what has been said but I think having those challenges in the First Assembly, where we allocated money and money could not be utilized. Allocating around Ksh. 1 million per ward for PWDs allocating even Ksh. 4 or Ksh. 3 million per ward and no money was utilized. It is when I came with this Machakos County Disability Act of 2016, now as we go to that Governor's office, it is my wish that we request he implements the same. Why; because this MSWEB thing we are talking about we never understood it because they had many excuses to say that we don't have regulations, we don't have these.

From where we train, even those offices have not been paid and therefore you find we don't understand and therefore in that particular Act of 2016 that I brought in this House and we passed it and it became an Act. We proposed a special autonomous fund like the one in the national government that would solve most of these issues and challenges we find with PWDs.

Therefore, I have been following it; I think the first Statement I brought in this house was to request the House actually from the other side from the executive to know the status of the same and I think it would be a good forum for us to know how far it has gone. Madam Speaker I was looking at the annexure we find here, the payment that is being done is for, you find the department of education, Machakos Social Welfare Empowerment Board and our colleagues are Hon. Members who are present were part of that board. They gave women only, disbursement to women groups and nothing else to show about the other vulnerable groups and therefore there is need to do that.

Madam Speaker, if you go to page 6, in the first paragraph, you find that it talks about this department of education and social welfare; I think that has changed. We need also to change together to make sure that we understand in what docket this should fall and therefore it is important because I think those dockets changed. Then the money that they are talking about I don't think this is the right amount that was given to them because I think we gave them something else in terms of social welfare not the programme itself.

What I am saying and what I believe in, when you look at the programme that they are saying they are going to offer, there are no programmes that are tangible. There is a program about accessibility while most of our members in this constitution will require empowerment. Empowerment in terms of rehabilitation, empowerment in terms of employment, empowerment in terms of bursaries and empowerment by even talking to them.

Madam Speaker, I was a pupil at Machakos School for the Physically Disabled. Actually, I have trying myself in several normal schools, two schools, but it was not possible but when I went there of course because of the climate, because of the environment, because of other physically disabled people, I got healed and I began to integrate myself in the society.

These are very important schools whereby we need the county government to do something. I was there; I took some wheelchairs and computers two weeks ago and when I went there, their bus is grounded. Actually, they are endangered because they neighbor the prisons and you know that passage road was closed. So, they have to go round and negotiate and come back and they don't have a fence. So, because the closed on this other side of the main road, you find that it has become a lovers corner exposing our young girls and boys to such scenarios.

The headmaster was requesting me on what can be done and I think it has become very difficult for the county to do something but it is my prayer things will change. Madam Speaker, I want to say disability is just a condition; as I stand here I think also I am better, isn't? I am not bad in many ways. It is just an opportunity given to me that will prove my worth in society. I can contribute economically, socially and other ways and therefore Madam Speaker, and I don't shy

away from saying it, because I am proud, stand here as an educated person as I am in academia; I am a lecturer, I am a paralympian. You see, and I am a MCA.

(Applause)

Right now as we speak, I am trying very much to motivate others who are like me to come up. Right now I want to talk to Hon. Mulatya. I have sent your boy, that boy from Kangonde, to the embassy; he is going to Norway next month.

(Applause)

To your boy who is our chair, why, because we are trying very much to make sure we also expose them so that we motivate others behind us. I loved and I liked to what Hon. Munguti said. We went to his place and I was touched by the various members I found there. I found one lady going on her fours (hands and legs) and I had to send a wheelchair immediately.

The other thing that I like of him, his PA is a person living with disability; you see, you know him. Let us walk the talk! It is this House where we can make change and change should occur. Therefore, I say we have many opportunities we that have created in Machakos. We have sporting activities, we have rehabilitation activities and members please, let us consult, let us liaise so that we can uplift these members in your society.

The budget that we included earlier, you see, we have physical persons living with disability but we have those who have compound disabilities. Who have severe disabilities. They need caregivers. They cannot do anything, they need to be fed, they have to be clothed, they have to be moved, things like that and therefore, we had a fund to cater for the caregivers. You cannot leave them because they cannot do anything for themselves.

So, I can talk and talk about this particular constituency of mine but I don't like to very emotional but as members, I would request you to support me as we support one another.

(Applause)

So that we can move, and we can receive the blessings of the Lord because you know there is a place in Mathew where it says, 'I was hungry, I had no clothes and so on and you know that. Let us do something in our individual capacity. I do buy these wheelchairs. Sometimes I subsidize myself and tell them the APDK these organizations you said that I am going to give them something, bring me wheelchairs. Let us of course start somewhere.

Madam Speaker, in a budget that is coming, you know, it has been very difficult for me to really convince the budget committee, the finance committee to allocate us money. Now it is high time that you have been ministered to by this particular report. That of course you consider giving more money. Why I say this is another ward, the 41st wards is because you are affected the way I am affected.

Therefore, we should work together to make sure that these people of course get an opportunity. As you walk in Machakos, there are these two particular ladies, when of course this MSWEB thing came and I walked and talked to them. I told them, 'Madam, now you can leave this street begging and you go and then you sit there in your house. Try to see what business you can do.' Then I told another one, they are two of them, and therefore when this money came, you see of course, and we waited and waited there was nothing. Then when I passed there, one of them hit me with a crutch, 'you have eaten our money.' You see, and they think I am eating their money even now. Now they are cursing me.

Now, Madam Speaker, you must understand that why sometimes I am bitter about the Governor on issues like these. I am very bitter about him and his administration. When we allocate

money for people who are suffering then of course you don't give and you don't say where the money is and then you are given stories and excuses, sometimes you don't feel good. Now, Ksh. 160 million, even Ksh. 5 million, not even Ksh. 1 million, Ksh. 500,000, Ksh. 100,000; nothing! Then you tell us we are fighting somebody; we are not. We are asking, we are inquiring for our people who are suffering.

Madam Speaker, I honor you for being our patron in that side and I invite members to walk to these special schools and you see the kind of people who are there; there are people who don't have hands and legs. They go to the toilets. Others serve even families; how they do things you might not know. Others, you know they look funny, but they are human beings. We need to support them.

As I grew up with disability, it was very challenging. Indeed to live with people, they run, you can't run. They climb, you can't climb. You know I had to stay sometime in town, Nairobi, for 14 hours especially during Michuki times because I could not squeeze myself. We must think positively and know that challenges are bound on us.

Therefore Hon. Members as we go forth, please let us think outside the box. The budget chair is not there because I had also requested that even in the Assembly itself, because we have to go to these wards. We might not give them anything but we empower them with our experience, we empower them with good words. This trauma will be no more.

Madam Speaker and Hon. Members, even this House, I wonder we don't have employees who are PWDs. You can imagine why things go wrong in times like this, in a chamber like this; it is because you are coming physically disabled people here. What about a wheelchair person? It is because in the most decision-making organs, we are not involved, even we are not consulted. In the executive, no CO has impairment. No CEC member. Nobody! As they make decisions, you bet sure, they make decisions for upright people.

Even in your committees, the word 'committees' might not have and therefore it might escape you. Therefore, let us be inclusive; let us be holistic and I know things will move forward. Madam Speaker, I want to conclude. You see, these are conditions we cannot escape; we must negotiate through in life.

Now, one thing I love that we must do is that because of the nature of the disorders that most of the PWDs have. We must have facilities especially technical facilities that inculcate skills, that are relevant. Of course, some of these schools have vocational departments and units which of course make sure that even if you cannot learn, even if you cannot progress with the academics, but you have something that you can use in your life.

Therefore we should of course urge the county government to make sure that it comes up with the technical facilities that offer vocational training and skills to make sure most of PWDs get some skills. Now in Machakos County we have primary schools, we have nursery schools; we don't have a secondary school or a college that has that orientation.

In the beginning of the last Assembly, we talked to the executive that we have an open place there, where we can have a secondary school. The only secondary school we have is where we went as a committee in Mombasa, then Joy Town, Thika. We don't have other. So most of these PWD pupils after completing primary school, they are not able to go to any other institution of higher learning to get further education.

Now you can imagine, Madam Speaker the challenges that I have and specialized nature of schooling and training. They cannot fit in the normal schools and therefore we need a secondary school, we need a vocational training school to make sure that they get that. Thank you, Madam Speaker and Hon. Members.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Kamulu, the mover of the motion. Please reply.

Hon. Kamulu: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Allow me to take this opportunity to thank the Hon. Members for their contributions. A lot has been said. A lot has been revealed to us through your contributions and we thank you for same as a committee. I want to appeal to the budget committee and the Hon. Members in general including our chairperson, the Speaker, to ensure that all the contents of this report are implemented for the sake of this marginalized people.

Otherwise, I was moved by Hon. Jeremiah when he said he has done a lot on the same to assist the people living with disabilities in his region. I also appeal to myself and to the Hon. Members to do likewise. I also appeal to you Hon. Members when we are making structures, let them be friendly to this group in all areas.

Let us also go and empower them where we can and in terms of skills. Let us also go and empower them in terms of talents, the way we have heard Hon. Katumo saying. Actually, he is doing it with passion as I thank you because he actually enjoys his status. Hon. Katumo thank you very much, you also do assist us in this region.

Madam Speaker, before I conclude, if there is a committee which is actually difficult to man is this one because it has got no finances. Imagine you being introduced as the chair where women are and they actually have got nothing in terms of groups. The youth are there, they are saying you are the chairman of you and there is nothing. The PWDs there are there and you are being introduced as the chair.

Madam Speaker, I want to tell you and this House, this one is a very difficult committee so I appeal to you that we all press that the committee is funded so that actually this embarrassment is over. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Geoffrey Kamulu.

(Question put and agreed to)

(Applause)

Hon. Members, as we adjourn the sitting just a few things for thought on this particular motion that you have just passed. The first one is to let you know that Machakos County Assembly Service Board (CASB) and I am glad that Hon. Grace is here. Mhe. Caleb is the other one; the board is going to have a meeting this afternoon and foremost will be the issue of the lift in the new office block. There is a lift provision but it has not been installed and that is a matter that the board will take very seriously and actually it is a shame that we have a building, it is already operational and the lift place is blocked by a cardboard. We will take action that is necessary to make sure that it is up the soonest possible.

(Applause)

Meanwhile, we appreciate and apologies for the inconvenience caused particularly to the constituency of Hon. Katumo. That is a public building and it is supposed to be user-friendly to every member of the public who visits the building.

The second one, Hon. Members is about employees. Hon. Katumo made a very valid point. The constitution itself requires that we attain a certain percentage of the employees in every public service for persons living with disabilities. Members will appreciate that this Assembly has not had opportunity to bring on board new staff.

But it is open, there is a possibility, soon we are going to be advertising for very few slots and I have mentioned it will before because I take these matters as matters that must be within the

knowledge of not only the members of this Assembly but the whole public. So that those few slots about 12 or 13 when they come up, Hon. Katumo it's upon you also as we also advertise publicly, let members that you represent know that they are free to apply and remember the issue of merit will be considered but an affirmative action must also be considered.

The other issue is that this matter of persons living with disabilities; we need also to take action on civic education. It should our baby that we let parents know if you find you have a child that is living with disabilities, stop hiding them because they can do a very tremendous job and they have very brilliant ideas; we only need to facilitate them. So, when you are planning Hon. Steve Mwanthi, especially on finances and remind also your counterpart in budget and appropriation committee, we need to put sufficient money for civic education and one of the items should be on persons living with disabilities and also to tell them the opportunities available for them.

The other thing, Hon. Members is that Hon. Katumo challenged us to walk a talk. I saw the passion with which you debated today and he mentioned that I am a patron in one of the sectors of persons living with disabilities, the volleyball team. Now, I am inviting all of you Hon. Members to plan with Mhe. Joseph Mutiso that we visit the APDK school as an Assembly.

(Applause)

Not officially, but just as an Assembly to go see for ourselves and give something small; we are always giving out in *harambees*. That is a place we should go and also witness their needs particularly as we are about to do the budget, then we will them in mind and the whole of persons living with disabilities when we are addressing the budget here.

So, Hon. Mutiso, I picked you because that is an institution in your ward and you will be working, I am giving directions now, you will work with Hon. Christine Koki because there will be arrangements which we need to do. Please don't take it; I needed to do that. Call it the Speaker's visit to the APDK school.

(Applause)

The speaker does not go alone; the Speaker will go with the members of the Assembly. It is an informal visit.

Finally, issue of disability can happen to any of us even when you are born with all your limbs; so there is a saying in Kikamba, Hon. Ndawa you always translate, I will try to translate. You have teeth all of you and you know there is teeth that come on top of another? You know what that is called? In Kikamba, I can allow you.

(Laughter)

Hon. Members: *Nthumi.*

Hon. Speaker: Alright. As long as you have grown up, the only thing that you cannot get is what?

Hon. Members: *Nthumi.*

Hon. Speaker: Anything else you can get. So that means we also can fall into that category. So, the minute we are debating this let us also know that it is also in our interest that everybody who is living with disability is capacitated and given all the opportunity to live in as much as those who have all the abilities are living. Thank you, Hon. Members.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker: At this juncture, the sitting of this House is adjourned. It is going to continue on 20th day of February, 2019 at 2.30 p.m. That is today afternoon. Thank you.

The House rose at 1.04 p.m.