

MACHAKOS COUNTY ASSEMBLY**OFFICIAL REPORT****Thursday, 30th May, 2013**

The House met at 4.14p.m

*[The Speaker (Mr. Mung'ata) in the Chair]***PRAYERS****NOTICE OF MOTION****WARD DEVELOPMENT FUND****Hon. Speaker:** There is a point of order

Hon. Matheka: Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you and the House at large. I would like to give a notice of motion by the name ward development fund. Mr. Speaker, as you all know the essence of devolution was to bring development to the village through the wards. It is my prayer to you Mr. Speaker, Sir, and the House Business Committee that you give this motion priority so that it can be discussed. Thank You Mr. Speaker, Sir.

MOTION**CONFIRMATION OF CECM FINANCE***(Hon. Muinde on 29. 05.2013)**(Resumption of Debate on the Motion tabled on 29.05.2013)*

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Members, we still continue with the motion of yesterday. Before we proceed I would wish to appreciate that member for the notice of that motion and this house should appreciate that effort because that is an effort in the right direction and members should follow suit. The office of the speaker is going through the notice of motion. It's a very brilliant document and I would urge members to look at the effort of that particular member and if possible get copies of that motion because I want it to be our first act of parliament which is relevant to each of us.

Again honorable members today we are proceeding with yesterday's motion. The office of the Speaker is on the course of advising member that the motion of today is a motion of

paramount importance. It concerns a very key ministry in the county, the ministry of finance. Members it is not forgotten that this particular nominee was in the House and she could answer questions with adequate finale. Members, this is not a nominee that we can stand to lose and remember she said she comes from Treasury where she will relinquish her duties immediately confirmation comes from this side.

The office of the speaker would plead with members to look at reason since the report by Majority Leader was not contested and that we all agreed that this lady is suitable. I think her fate is being arrested by other issues which do not relate to her. If we can look beyond that, we'll have other opportunities to get what we want from the other side. The office of the speaker will promise you we have other means of accessing our rights. With those few remarks, I open the floor and I would be honoured if members would look at reason from the chair. I now open the debate and would ask that my speech not be debated. Let's proceed with the motion.

Hon. Kyuli: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we were here yesterday and we could not proceed with the business of the said motion. Without pouring so much water on this motion, when we were here we tried to interrogate the said officer and I remember one question Mr. Speaker, Sir, that you asked her that 'what will she do when she will be forced to do things that are not constitutional,' for example. When she answered that question, the members that were here were satisfied. After we adjourned yesterday, Mr. Speaker, what we found out is that the person seated in that office of finance is incompetent and I wish we followed the procedures that the current nominee is following when those ministers were nominated.

The current finance minister is incompetent and the problems these members are facing from that office are caused by that said acting minister. Therefore, the way I listened to this finance nominee, that lady is competent and I was personally satisfied by the report that was written by the committee which I went through. I therefore do not want to discuss your speech because what you have just told us that, that you or we have means to get what the House needs and what we deserve. Members, I am standing here to support the motion that we confirm the minister; that is my personal opinion because one, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the competence of that lady is quite good and we could be sitting on her expertise while she could be working for this county.

I am standing here to support the motion so that we do not find ourselves in a mess like we found ourselves in yesterday because of incompetence of the person currently in that office of finance. He could not even answer questions that are very clear. He could not even answer questions on a report that is purported to be from his office and could not even substantiate and does not know things that are very clear to everybody. So therefore, I stand to support that we confirm this minister, thank you Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Kathinzi: As Hon. Kyuli has stated, our business here is to make sure that our county proceeds and it is wise to have the right people in place to make sure that things are done in the correct way. You have just promised us that we have other machinery to make sure that

our Assembly is well-secured and all that that belongs to us goes to the right place but we need the right person to lead us by solving our problems. I do not want to say much, just to support and say that it is good we approve this lady and maybe later bring another motion to say we need to vet other officers that were not vetted officially.

Hon. M. Mutuku: Mr. Speaker, I would like to contribute to the motion relating to the appointment of the cabinet secretary for finance. We all agree that the cabinet secretary has what it takes but what I would like to know is if the documents, before we clear her, for example the document on integrity, the clearance from Higher Education Loans Board (HELB), that is whether those documents were looked into and ascertained. However, if those documents were checked and found to be up-to-date, I stand here to support the nomination of that cabinet secretary. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Member, the report on the appointment was adopted in the house so you cannot challenge it. Yes Hon. Nzoka.

Hon. Nzoka: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. I stand here to support this motion because this House does not have any problem with that lady and we have seen she is competent in the way she answered the questions here and we will still rely on what you have promised us. I agree that the acting minister of finance messed us and it is the duty of this House to put a competent person in that office. Because we cannot have a cabinet secretary here who says 'ask me up to here, beyond that do not ask me.' So I do agree that the lady we have here is the one we interrogated as I am a member of the committee on appointment and I think it is the duty of this House to put the right person in the right place so as to get good argument and get the chance of asking for our rights. So I support this lady to be the secretary for finance, thank you.

Hon. Kalunde: Mr. Speaker, I stand here to support the approval of that lady as the minister to be for finance. Members, if you remember that lady was here and we grilled her for a long time and all the questions which she was asked by members, she answered comfortably. At the same time, when we were in Mombasa, that lady was called upon by the Governor to again explain whether she was competent in holding that office. And she did. She is capable of discharging her duties if what she was telling the house is right. So without much ado, I stand here to support the approval of that lady.

Hon. Kitheka: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I start with a prayer which says; when you hear from a blind man telling you that 'I see,' know that there is much that you missed. I stand here to support the confirmation of this lady simply because we are in a problem and when we are in a problem we cannot go round creating other minor problems so that we can solve all the problems together. I think it would be good enough because Mr. Speaker, you have told us that you will

care for us and look into our rights and we know we have issues with the executive and TA. We are calling upon that because we have very sensitive issues; one on employment, another on embezzlement of funds. We are calling upon you Mr. Speaker to be very keen and to know that we still have another catch - the budget. If our conditions are not going to be met, we are going to mess up with the budget when it comes to this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you very much. Again just one word. When we approve this nominee, the problems that we have, she will become part of the solution. Let us proceed.

Hon. Katela: Thank you, Mr. Speaker sir. Members, our problem is not approving the minister. As I support her approval, our problems are with those using senior officers to advance their interests. How sure are we that if she gets hooked up, she would not be misused? Members, what did we say yesterday? Yes, we can employ the minister but the speaker's one vote cannot change this House. Imagine, and remember that we are 40, if the Speaker also gets hooked up, how will he assist us alone? We trust him, he is one of us, but are you sure we are not being hooked up again. We have pegged our interest on that and many others. How many times have we been cheated? Are we together, am I speaking French? How many times have we been taken for a ride? By someone to advance his or her interests and then after that we become rats today.

Hon. Speaker: That is un-parliamentary.

Hon. Katela: I withdraw.

Hon. Speaker: Very un-parliamentary.

Hon. Katela: I withdraw. As I proceed, as I support---

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Member, you are out of order.

Hon. Katela: Sorry, I withdraw.

Hon. Speaker: Please sit down. Honorable members, I would not want a debate that will spoil the mood of the House. When you talk about rats, I think that is un-parliamentary. Language like 'getting hooked up,' that is not parliamentary. We have the Press here; we need to fine tune on that.

Majority Leader (Hon. Mwonga): Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank other members who have contributed before me and even the member who has just contributed; actually you have ruled the member out of order but he has supported the approval of nominee. Mr. Speaker I

want to agree with the first member who contributed to this agenda of the day. It is true he is the one who moved the adjournment yesterday and the reason was to have members go through the report which I tabled yesterday from the Committee on Appointment.

Mr. Speaker, all the other members who have spoken before me are agreeing that this nominee is competent. Mr. Speaker, I want to remind the members that if we have other issues, we still have machinery and power to deal with those issues. Let's dissociate the issue of the approval of this minister from other problems that we are having. I want to remind members that the whole of next week starting from Monday we are going for a workshop and in the week of 13 to 18, June, as I had proposed in your office Mr. Speaker, I want all the sectoral committees to sit and interrogate the budget which has a constitutional timeline, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I think this nominee is an asset and she will be required by several committees to come and guide them because all of us are not experts on financial matters. So Mr. Speaker, as I can read the mood of this House and I have a 'moodometer,' it's here with me, actually members are for the approval of this nominee, thank you Mr. Speaker.

Minority Leader (Hon. Kasoa): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, before I talk of approval of this nominee, I just want to remind you that yesterday we had the opportunity to meet with the Deputy Governor and we said before we transact any business, these members said they are not going to transact any business until the conditions which they made yesterday and I made....

(Loud points of order)

Protect me Mr. Speaker, I am on the floor. And I was waiting to hear from you on agenda No. 2 'Communication from the chair' for you to tell us the conditions we made to the Deputy Speaker on whether they have agreed to our conditions. So can we hear from you whether the executive have managed to do something to our side. Thank you very much.

Hon. Speaker: Honorable members, I think you remember the way I began this meeting. I said this afternoon let us be guided by reason.

Hon. Nganga: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir, and the house at large. Yesterday, we adjourned the session because we needed to know this lady well and the report that we were given and other line issues that you are very well aware we interrogated. Personally, I attended the committee meeting that interrogated the minister but when I heard her speak when we were in Mombasa, I was convinced she has what it takes to guide this house and guide Machakos County to achieve its financial agenda. What I would like to tell the members is that I personally support the confirmation of this minister maybe with a heavy heart. Not that she is not competent but because we are all for the success of this agenda.

As the Speaker has promised, we have looked at a number of issues and we have not exhausted our machinery, there is still room for tomorrow. Members should find give this minister a chance. When interviewing an applicant, we go beyond the interview even if that person is well qualified to undertake the job that you would want to give them. Maybe they will renege on the job or we may end up losing the employee maybe because of the manner in which we conduct the interview which may not be fine.

I am not saying what the house has done has not been friendly to the minister. It has indeed been but at the end of the day it was in seeking the right answers and procedures that this was being done. At the end of the day, I'm certain the lady will be an asset to this house and if she ends up being like the acting person that members have been able to see, we still have it within our powers to recall them.

Members, it has come on this floor of the house many a times that we are not satisfied with the way we vetted the first lot of ministers. The members should agree that if a good number of the house is not satisfied, we should move from talking to action. The committee that is in charge or the chairman of the relevant committees should act immediately and call these guys, undertake the right action so that this house will be satisfied with the job that is being done on the other end. Otherwise I would like to thank the members, the speaker and the house at large.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you very much for that contribution, but next time call them ministers, not guys.

Hon. Itumo: I stand here to support the approval of the said minister for finance. She comes from my area and apart from coming from my area, she's competent and I know she will be competent. I know this time she's not going to be 'a green grass in the snake.' Yes, some of those we vetted here have been like 'a green grass in the snake' and we cannot continue with such people who are not respecting this house. Mr. Speaker, Sir, we want to give them a good example by sacking one of them so that they may behave. Because if we don't do that, these people will not realize our stand.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Member you are out of order. You cannot threaten---

Hon. Itumo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are going to see the way---

Hon. Speaker: You are out of order, kindly take a seat.

Hon. Itumo: Okay.

Hon. Kamitu: I stand here to support the confirmation of the finance minister. Members if you can remember very well when we were doing the interview, we saw that this is a lady who is ready to give services to this assembly. You remember very well when she said she's ready to leave her job to come here. So it is my humble request to you honourable members to give a chance to this lady so that we don't face the problems we are facing. The lady indicated that she is ready to serve us so I request honourable members to confirm this lady as our finance minister so that this house can move ahead. I stand to support.

Hon. Speaker: Last person

Hon. Ngunzi: Today, we have been guided by the spirit. The house is full, the speaker is asking that we be guided by reason, but we are being guided by the spirit today. We saw the lady and everybody is in support of that lady, but there are things I feel that in future the committee on appointments should be a bit strict when looking at those we might in future be asked to approve so that everybody called for a verbal interview can be very good.

But we want to make sure that all these people in future qualify for integrity and we should make sure that all processes are followed to make sure we don't introduce people blacklisted elsewhere. Just the way we did when we wanted to vie for the positions that we are now owning, we were taken through a gruesome exercise. I think the same should be done to everybody.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Member, you had an opportunity to raise those issues before the process.

Hon. Ngunzi: That is in future, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Speaker: In that case, you are out of the debate.

Hon. Ngunzi: Okay.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Members, is there any other contribution?

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker: Thank you very much and I congratulate the house today for a job well done. We rise up and say good night.

The House rose at 4.50 p.m.