

**MACHAKOS COUNTY ASSEMBLY**  
**OFFICIAL REPORT**

Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2014

The House met 2.30 p.m.

*[The Hon Speaker (Mr. Mung'ata) in the Chair]*

**PRAYERS**

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR**  
**COMMENCEMENT OF WEDNESDAY SITTINGS**

**Hon. Speaker:** Hon. Members, this is a reminder that we have a women's conference that begins early next week and thereafter we shall join up in Mombasa for the joint conference for both men and women elected members so we are not likely to have business the entire next week because of that commitment. The other thing is that as we resolved, assemblies in the morning must begin at 9.00 a.m. Today we delayed because we didn't have power. So this is to put members on notice that we shall be beginning exactly on time and the Clerk will make necessary arrangements that business of the day is prepared a day beforehand so that members don't bring their motions in the morning and expect to have them debated the same day.

**PAPER LAID**

**MACHAKOS COUNTY FISCAL STRATEGY PAPER 2014/15**

**Hon. Muinde:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay the following papers on the table of the House today, Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2014; the Budget and Appropriation Committee report on the consideration of the Machakos County Fiscal Strategy Paper for the 2014/15 financial year.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you, the paper is laid. Proceed.

*(Hon. Muinde laid the Paper on the Table)*

**NOTICE OF MOTION**

**MACHAKOS COUNTY FISCAL STRATEGY PAPER 2014/15**

---

**Disclaimer:** *The electronic version of the Official Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor, Machakos County Assembly.*

**Hon. Muinde:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to give notice of the following motion: that this House approves the Budget and Appropriations Committee report on the consideration of the Machakos County Fiscal Strategy Paper for the 2014/15 financial year laid on the table of the House today, Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2014.

**Hon. Speaker:** Proceed.

### STATEMENT

#### STATUS REPORT ON COUNTY ASSEMBLY CLERK

**Minority Leader (Hon. Kasoa):** I wish to respond to the statement raised on the floor of the House by the Hon. Member for Ndalani, Hon. Stephen Muthuka on 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2014 and I am giving this response as a member of Machakos County Assembly Service Board, at it reads as follows: on 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2014, member for Ndalani Ward, Hon. Stephen Muthuka sought the following statement from the Chairman, County Assembly Service Board, who is the Speaker of this Honourable House.

1. Status on retirement from service on public interest of the Machakos County Assembly Clerk.
2. Position of the audit report for the 6 months ending 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2013 which implicated the Clerk among other things:
  - a. Non-preparation of a bank reconciliation statement.
  - b. Irregular allowances paid to the officer while under interdiction.
3. The interdiction status as evidenced by letters Ref: C/15005/71 of 15<sup>th</sup> March 2013, Ref. No. TA/HRM/13A/17 dated 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2013 and letter Ref. No. C1500/5/91 dated 6<sup>th</sup> November 2013 from the Ministry of Local Government, Transition Authority and the Ministry of Devolution respectively.

Hon. Members, it should be remembered that the matter of the Clerk was dealt with by the House exhaustively as evidenced by the official HANSARD report of 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2013. I would wish to refer you to the provision of Standing Order 46 (1) which is clear that the matter cannot be brought back to the floor of the House until six months are over. It is only four months

since then. Hon. Members, due to the sensitivity of this office of the Clerk, the Speaker is forced to invoke the provisions of Standing Order 1 for the sake of stability in the House and report as follows: Yes, it is true that Mr. Mbiuki got a show cause letter to why he should not be retired from public service on public interest, Ref. No: C1505 (2) dated 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2013 from the Ministry of Devolution. Note that the letter was a show-cause letter and not an interdiction letter. The letter says in part, for the sake of information, ‘However, before the intended cause of action is taken against you, you are hereby given an opportunity to show cause why you should not be retired in public interest as intended.’

Hon. Members, Mr. Mbiuki responded to the allegation leveled against him which was the same as the one he had been charged on in a court of law and acquitted. He cited among other things provisions such as the following:

1. Public Service Commission regulations No. 34
2. Kenya Criminal Procedural Act Sec. 138
3. The Constitution of Kenya, 2010 Art. 50/2.(o)

To date, no further communication has ever been received from either the Ministry of Devolution or Public Service Commission. It should be noted that the same Ministry under letter Ref: C1505 dated 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2013 had cleared him. As pertains the audit report for the period of up to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013, it should be noted that the same report is currently with the Public Accounts committee for interrogation and the committee will bring their findings to this House. Hon. Members, the issue of interdiction was discussed by the County Assembly Service Board at a meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2013 and the Board reinstated the Clerk unconditionally and getting clearance letters from the following departments:

1. Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission.
2. Transition Authority.
3. Ministry of Devolution.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you very much. Proceed. There is an additional statement? Alright.

## LEAVE FOR MORE TIME TO REPLY TO STATEMENTS

**Majority Leader (Hon. Mwonga):** Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of the House that during the last plenary of 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2014, members put forward various questions which were forwarded to the relevant Committee Members from the Executive to respond to. Mr. Speaker, the Executive Members have not submitted their response and have requested for more time to do so. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I do hereby request this Honourable House to grant me more time in order to respond to the Members' queries adequately. Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you, we grant you permission. What is the issue Hon. Muthuka?

**Hon. Muthuka:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I think we have a problem because the more we are dragging our feet, the more we are doing a disservice to our people. Those statements were sought two weeks ago and we expected responses last week on Thursday but we understand the nature of the House has Thursday. Now, this is another week down the lane, next week we have got communication from you on what is going to happen. So, would the majority leader please with due respect, advice this House when will this report be available? Because we cannot give eternity.

**Hon. Speaker:** I agree, the point is made. Hon. Majority Leader can you specify exactly when you will be ready with your papers?

**Majority Leader (Hon. Mwonga):** Mr. Speaker, next week Thursday. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: The assembly will not be available next week Thursday so I direct that you present them at the earliest, the week following. But immediately you have the documents by Thursday, have the answers circulated to Members. I think you are well now, Hon. Muthuka?

*(Hon. Muthuka nodded)*

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you. Proceed

**MOTION**

## COUNTY FISCAL STRATEGY PAPER 2014/15

**Hon. Muinde:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of the following motion: that this House discusses the Machakos County Fiscal Strategy Paper for the year 2014/2015. Mr. Speaker Sir, aware that the 2013/2014 financial year is ending, aware that we are in the process

---

**Disclaimer:** *The electronic version of the Official Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor, Machakos County Assembly.*

of preparing the 2014/2015 financial year budget which will guide all expenditure and income of the County, aware that it is also mandatory for the Executive to prepare and forward to this Hon. House for deliberations and subsequent approval and aware that no expenditure can be without approval of the said document, this House discusses and approves the Machakos County Fiscal Strategy Paper for the 2014/2015 financial year. Mr. Speaker, I call upon Hon. Rachael, the Vice Chair to second the motion for debate in the House. Thank you.

**Hon. (Ms.) R. Nduku:** Mr. Speaker, I stand to second this motion because as we all know, the year is ending and the Fiscal Strategy Paper will help us as a County to specify the broad strategic priorities and policy goals that will guide the Machakos County Government in preparing its budget for the coming financial year and over the medium term. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you very much. The motion is laid. Proceed.

**Hon. Muinde:** Mr. Speaker, I now want to read the report by the Budget Committee on the interrogation of the Fiscal Strategy Paper. This is the report of the Budget Committee after scrutinizing the Fiscal Strategy Paper. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the County Executive Committee Member of Finance did on 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2014 forward to this Assembly the first fiscal Strategy Paper in line with the requirements of the Public Finance Management Act 2012.

The PFM Act 2012 sec. 117 stipulates that:-

- 1) The County Treasury shall prepare and submit to County Executive Committee the County Fiscal Strategy Paper to the County Assembly by 28<sup>th</sup> February, of each year.
- 2) The County Treasury shall align its County Fiscal Strategy Paper with the National objectives in the budget policy statement.
- 3) In preparing the county fiscal Strategy Paper, the County Treasury shall specify the broad strategic priorities and policy goals that will guide the County Government in preparing its budget for the coming financial year and over the medium term.
- 4) The County Treasury shall include in its Fiscal Strategy Paper, the financial outlook with respect to County Government Revenue, Expenditures and Borrowing for the Financial year and over the Medium term.
- 5) In preparing the Fiscal Strategy Paper, the County Treasury shall seek and take into account views of:-
  - a. The Commission on Revenue Allocation.
  - b. The Public.

---

**Disclaimer:** *The electronic version of the Official Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor, Machakos County Assembly.*

- c. Any interested persons or groups.
- d. Any other forum that is established by legislation.
- 6) Not later than fourteen days after submitting the County fiscal Strategy Paper to the County Assembly, the County Assembly shall consider and may adopt it with or without amendments.
- 7) The County Treasury shall consider any recommendations made by the County Assembly in finalizing the budget proposal for the Financial year concerned.
- 8) The County Treasury shall publish and publicize the County Fiscal Strategy Paper within seven days after it has been submitted to the County Assembly.

So Mr. Speaker, we are within the 14 days window. Mr. Speaker, Sir, this year's Fiscal Strategy Paper is premised on "**Achieving Equitable Social and Economic Development in Machakos County**". It is prepared in accordance with the Public Finance Management Act, 2012. The County priorities and goals outlined in the paper are based on the County Integrated Development Plan and the Governor's manifesto with emphasis on investment, in:-

- 1) Agriculture and food security.
- 2) Infrastructure.
- 3) Quality and accessible health care.
- 4) Education.
- 5) Increased investor and business confidence.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Budget Committee held several sittings to interrogate the paper and held public hearings at our eight sub counties to publicize the paper and collect views of the citizens of Machakos before finally tabling this report to this house today Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2014 well within the 14 window given by the PFM Act 2012, Sec. 117 (6).

Mr. Speaker, the Committee expects the house to debate and have the house views considered and included in the Paper before forwarding it to the County Executive Committee Member of Finance.

### **Fiscal Responsibility Principles in the Public Finance Management Law**

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Committee agrees with the County Treasury that the paper is prepared in accordance with the PFM Act, 2012 in as far as the fiscal responsibility principles are concerned that ensures prudence and transparency in the management of public resources.

However, the committee is concerned that the wage bill in the County may soon surpass tolerable limits and that the county Government may soon find herself in a situation where recurrent expenditures exceed the 70 per cent maximum limit. That is a concern by the committee because the law requires us as we prepare the budget, at least 30 per cent of it must go to development and 70 per cent to recurrent, but with the spiraling wage bill, the situation may be different if remedial measures are not taken by the House.

### **Performance of FY 2013/2014 Budget**

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the County Government underperformed in revenue collection in the period 1/7/2013 – 31/1/2014 where cumulative receipts amounted to 2.422 billion against a target of 3.93 billion, that is 62 per cent of the target.

Mr. Speaker, the committee urges the county Treasury to be more proactive in revenue collection by persistently pushing the National Government to release funds to the county in time, and to popularize the Finance Act 2013 to the citizens hence encouraging the public to pay taxes promptly. To expound on that, our main sources of revenue for the County is our share from the National Government and our local sources where we collect taxes. The other source is grants and to date, this County has only zero money from donor communities so we only have two which need to be over-emphasized.

Mr. Speaker, now that the department of revenue collection has acquired revenue vehicles and personnel, it needs to collect more funds from local sources and move quickly to automate its systems to curb leakages and fiscal malfeasances (corruption) in the system.

Mr. Speaker, the County recorded a performance of 62 per cent of the approved expenditures for the period ending January. Recurrent expenditures exceeded the set target by 13 per cent and development expenditures under performed at 45 per cent of the approved budget. This Mr. Speaker is a below par performance. Mr. Speaker, to expound on that, we find that the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> January, the recurrent expenditures were at 113 per cent meaning the Government has been spending more on operational expenditures – salaries, fuel and other consumables - exceeding the target by 13 per cent yet on development, we are only at 45 per cent meaning we are below par by 55 per cent.

The Committee is concerned and has not taken the excuse given by the Minister that the underperformance in development expenditure is due to Procurement bureaucracies but strongly feels that the underperformance is majorly on the laxity of key departments to absorb their development funds. Such departments include:-

- a) Water.
- b) Health,
- c) Energy.
- d) Education.
- e) Agriculture.

We feel that the budget awarded to these ministries, the Ministers and the people concerned have not been able to absorb this money purely due to laxity or inability, to be a little bit kind to them, because we have given them funds and we expect them to perform. The issue of procurement should not be taken as an excuse by those who are not performing their duties.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee urges this house to find ways of ensuring that the above Ministries perform in their mandates.

### **Fiscal Outlook to End June 2014**

#### ***Expenditures:-***

#### **1) Recurrent Expenditures**

Mr. Speaker, the Committee agrees with the Minister that the budget approved by the County Assembly in 2013 did not provide for the wage bill of the devolved functions due to the earlier agreement that the National government would cater for such expenditure. However, that earlier position has changed and the County government is shouldering the burden and by a way of a supplementary budget, the Assembly will approve funds to cater for this expenditure which shall come from a reallocation within the entire 2013-2014 budget.

Mr. Speaker you remember, when passing the budget in this House in June 2013, the agreement between the county governments and the national government was that the devolved function of health will have their employees paid by the national government on behalf of the county government. That changed later when the budget had already been drawn and passed in the House and that cut across all the counties in Kenya and in a meeting where the Governors met the President, the Governors said they were ready to take up all the devolved functions and that has brought pressure on the Finance Ministry to look for funds to pay these employees under the devolved function and that is one reason why in a few days to come, there will be a Supplementary discussed here, partly to look for funds to pay salaries for this devolved function.

#### **2) Development Expenditures**

---

**Disclaimer:** *The electronic version of the Official Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor, Machakos County Assembly.*



Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance has indicated that the County Treasury has received requests for funding of new programs amounting to Kshs. 2 Billion.

These requests include:-

- a) Installation of CCTV cameras.
- b) Infrastructure for the new city expenditure.
- c) Lighting of all major county roads.
- d) County security related expenditures.
- e) Maintenance of county roads.
- f) Purchase of additional chicks.
- g) Construction of a conventional centre.

Mr. Speaker, the above requests may be important expenditure centers but the public is concerned that we are identifying new projects when we are yet to implement meaningful projects at the ward level. The public in all the sub counties felt that while they are necessary expenditures, they are not a priority except for maintenance of county roads and infrastructure for the new city expenditure.

However, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the infrastructure Ministries must move fast and implement projects identified in the 2013-2014 budget.

To state further, Mr. Speaker, one item appeared common in the hearings in the eight sub-counties. Members of the public could not understand why we have to light major roads, for example from Kithimani to Kithioko, from Makutano to Masii; they could not understand why we have to put the CCTV cameras and put them as priorities and one, there is a lot of famine which is about to claim lives in this County, two, there are no floodlights or *mulika mwizis* in our market centres and third, no major water projects have been implemented. The public felt that our priorities could be upside down if we are keen on looking for more funds to implement this. However, with the availability of funds and other priorities having been funded, these other projects can still follow but the issue is that on the priority list, they rank lower.

## **Revenues**

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Committee's opinion on revenues is that the Treasury should enhance revenue collection to meet all the fiscal obligations and bridge the financing deficit of Kshs. 3.9 billion identified, set up efforts on collection to eliminate leakages, popularize the

County Finance Act 2013, cut down on unnecessary expenditures to create savings and reallocate funds from non-absorptive centers to those that are ready to do so.

Our 2013/2014 Budget together with the new demands that the Minister has identified amounting to another Kshs. 2 Billion, create a funding deficit of Kshs. 3.9 Billion and the committee recommends that such an amount is not feasible and we may not have any other donations to bridge that gap come June 2014 and therefore, savings on none-core items/expenditures, elimination of leakages and the popularization of the Finance Act 2013 may save this County and bridge that deficit.

### **Strategic Priorities over the Medium Term**

Mr. Speaker, the Committee on budget agrees on the strategic priorities over the medium term. However, as a framework for the 2014-2015 budget, the Fiscal Strategy Paper needs to list those priorities in the order of necessity in line with the County Integrated Development Plan and the Governor's manifesto where infrastructure ministries are awarded more priority due to the necessary importance they hold in our region. These priorities could read like water, roads and public works, agriculture, health, education etc. just to mention a few.

The members were concerned that items like CCTV cameras appeared to rank higher than other items like water, where we feel as a County that things like water and roads rank higher.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the committee held public hearings on the Fiscal Strategy Paper, what came out loudly from the public was the need to have our priorities right in terms of funding for ministries in the 2014-2015 fiscal year and the need to empower the citizens.

On empowerment, the members of the public feel that we need to empower the businessmen and conduct workshops and seminars to teach them how to conduct businesses, how to keep books of accounts so that they can get loans from financial institutions so that business can prosper in Machakos.

The attached broad issues were discussed. Mr. Speaker, there is an annex. There is a paper which gives a summary report of the sub-county meetings that we held at our eight sub-counties.

Without reading everything, it contains the names of the Members who were present at each sub-county and our officers there helping us, that is the secretariat, and when you look at

page 3 of that document, we have summarized the comments by members of the public and tried to align them according to priorities which the members of public had identified.

I read:-

## **Members of Public Suggestions and Proposals**

### **1. Water, Irrigation and Sanitation.**

Members of public proposed the following water projects which they said should be given priority in the budget across the county: -

- Drilling of bore holes.
- Scooping of earth dams.
- Construction weirs and gabions.
- Irrigation scheme.
- Harvesting of rain water.
- Conserving water catchment areas.
- Construction of sewer and drainage system in major towns.
- Extension of piped water in all sub counties.

### **2. Roads, Transport, Public Works and Housing**

Member of public proposed the following: -

- Repair of roads.
- Construction of bridges across seasonal rivers.
- Putting up Bumps in roads especially in all markets.
- To sensitize ECD Schools to recruit school crossing warden.
- Standard rules to be followed to widen all the narrow roads.
- Proper planning of towns to enhance accessibility especially during emergency.

### **3. Agriculture, Livestock and Cooperative Development**

Member of public proposed the following: -

- Development of irrigation schemes.
- Purchase of chicks from county farmers and market for the grown chicken.
- Construction of fruit processing factories for the county.
- Construction of coffee processing factory.
- Rehabilitation of stalled cooperative societies due to poor management.
- Capacity building for farmers to embrace modern technologies.

---

**Disclaimer:** *The electronic version of the Official Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor, Machakos County Assembly.*

- Subsidized efficient supply of fertilizers and seeds.
- Rehabilitation of cattle dips and building of new ones.
- Provision efficient artificial insemination services.
- To tap irrigation water from existing rivers for farming.

#### **4. Department of Health and Emergency Services**

Members of public proposed the following: -

- Construction of houses for health services staff.
- Employment of more medical staff.
- Construction of more medical facilities and upgrading sub county hospitals to level five.
- Health centers to be repaired.
- Operationalize existing medical health centers that have been constructed and have not been staffed.
- Monitoring of county medical staff and drugs.
- Cancer screening equipment to be availed in all sub county hospitals.
- HIV and AIDS resource centers to be established in all sub county health centers.

#### **5. Education, Youth and Social Welfare**

- Orphans should be considered in the budget.
- Recruitment of ECD teachers.
- Rehabilitation of polytechnics and ECD centers.

#### **6. Land, Environment and Natural Resources**

- Stones quarries to be conserved to benefit the areas.
- Deforestation and encroaching in government forests be addressed.
- Prevention of soil erosion.
- Land border dispute at Mwatati between Matungulu and Mwala be resolved.

#### **7. Decentralized Units, Urban Areas and Municipalities**

- Sub county administrators are not fairly facilitated.
- Markets should be cleaned.

#### **8. Trade, Economic Planning and Industrialization**

Members of public propose the following: -

---

**Disclaimer:** *The electronic version of the Official Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor, Machakos County Assembly.*

- Single business permits should be paid in installments.
- Licensing should be classified according to nature of business.
- County government to come up with establishment industries in sub counties for creation of employment opportunities across the county.
- Capacity building to empower the youth on entrepreneurship before funding.
- Linking traders and farmers with external markets including exports.
- Construction of market stalls.
- Value addition by making sand related products.
- Sand harvesting to be restricted within the county and packaged.
- Rural electrification and erection of flood lights in all markets.

### **9. Tourism, Sports and Culture**

Members of public propose the following: -

- Building of recreational centers.
- Setting up stadiums to promote sports (*athletics, football, volleyball and other*).
- Rehabilitation of dams for recreation where applicable.
- Construction of theatres to tap talents.
- Rehabilitation of caves.
- Rehabilitation of shrines.
- Construction of hotels at areas with tourist attraction features e.g. Thui inselberg at Matungulu, Ngelani and Kola areas with Opposing forces of gravity and other areas.
- Promoting wood carving.

### **10. Finance and Revenue**

- Ol Donyo Sabuk (Kyanzavi) Game Reserve revenue should be collected by Machakos County and not Kiambu County. Mr. Speaker, that is a major area of concern where we discovered that an area where we should be earning income has been taken over by Kiambu and that the revenues that come from that Game Reserve are collected by wardens and taken to the other side of Kiambu. We need the House to resolve and direct that the Minister concerned should move forward and ensure that what is due to Caesar comes to Caesar.
- Monitoring revenue from building plans. Mr. Speaker, currently there is a problem because under the former civic authorities, building plans were approved in the House, transfers were approved in the House where councilors used to sign against transfers and

such. With the coming of the county governments, a lot has stopped because the Ministry of Decentralized Units did not know how to proceed with the matter and people are now being stopped from building before they get the approval. How to get the approval has not been resolved. It is the wish of this House that you make a direction to the Ministry involved so that the building plans can be approved and the revenue accruing to that can come to the county government so that businesses continue to prosper in our county.

- Parastatals occupying land within the county to pay land rates to the county e.g. TARDA.
- Inspection of buildings adjacent to KMC, Athi River and at Sabaki Athi River to ensure that land rates are paid.

Mr. Speaker, that is majorly what the members of public gave to the committee and since it's a requirement by law, the PFM Act; we need to take into consideration the views of the public because they form the government. We are part of the public, we only represent them here and it is stipulated that we must listen to them. With those few remarks, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you very much. The motion is now properly before the House. I thank the Chair for that presentation and open the floor for contribution. Members are welcome to contribute.

**Majority Leader (Hon. Mwonga):** I would like to start by congratulating the Chair of Budget committee and his committee members for work well researched and done, Mr. Speaker. The committee has captured all that was raised by members of the public and if I may say, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank them for capturing in their report all that was raised by members of the public when we had public participation in Masinga sub-county. Mr. Speaker, although I do represent the Executive in this honourable House, I would like to agree with the committee that some ministries are underperforming. Just to name a few, I want to name the Ministry of Water.

During our budget making in the current year, this is the ministry which took the biggest allocation but considering what they have done so far, Mr. Speaker it is my proposal that when we start allocating finances to these ministries in FY 2014/2015, we look back at what these ministries have done and if a ministry has no capacity to absorb what we had given them, come next year, we are not going to give these ministries any other allocation or we consider giving them just enough to run their ministries, that is recurrent expenditure, but we channel the money for development to the other ministries which are performing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you very much. Before you proceed we need to hear Hon. Kitheka

**Hon. Kitheka:** Before I contribute to this motion which is very sensitive to this House, I kindly request an extension that we prolong this House beyond 12:30 p.m. to anytime so that we are able to pass the document without any problems and we make sure we have adhered to the 14 days which are given by law for us to pass this document. So, I kindly request for that consideration before I make my contribution

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you very much. The House was put on notice by the Clerk that we are beyond the morning session and that leave is granted that time be extended. We can now proceed. The member can now contribute.

**Hon. Kitheka:** Thank you very much for that consideration. Mr. Speaker, the issue which is before us is about performance of FY 2013/2014 budget where we come to the issue of exceeding the recurrent expenditure by 13 per cent and a development expenditure which is below the limit by 55 per cent. Mr. Speaker, that is a serious issue because if we go beyond the limit, we are going to be out of law because the government will start seeing us with very different eyes as we request for money from the Central government. Mr. Speaker, on the other issue of the ministries, I heard the sentiments passed by the Leader of Majority. These ministries are the same ministries where we are re-allocating money to go to other ministries. We should deter from this by giving every ministry the money it deserves.

Mr. Speaker, I kindly request this House to summon these ministers who are holding these ministries to tell us what is on the ground before we transfer the money to other ministries because they may be playing tricks with us while they are not doing anything on the ground. Mr. Speaker, there is also the request for Kshs. 2 Billion for projects including CCTV, cameras and others. I'm highly opposed to the issue of CCTVs in other towns except in Machakos. They may not be of any use in those areas. I kindly request these members to consider it fit for only the big towns to have CCTVs rather than taking the CCTVs in rural areas. Instead of those CCTVs, let's allocate the money to maintenance of County roads and hospitals. Thank you very much

**Hon. Speaker:** Let us hear Hon. Ndawa

**Hon. (Ms.) Ndawa:** Mr. Speaker, I want first to disagree with Hon. Kitheka about the issue of the CCTVs. As you all know, I have been screaming all over because of insecurity in my ward, but thanks to our able Governor, when we requested for the lighting and CCTV cameras, my ward is now at least quiet and silent without a single criminal at night. I really thank the ministry doing this and I'll urge all the wards to take this as an example and request for the same.

Mr. Speaker, as I speak here today, I am a very bitter member for Matungulu West, reason being, as people are harvesting, Matungulu West did not harvest. It is a month since we cleaned our shambas, the rains disappeared even before we could harvest. I have been calling the Chief Officer in charge of the tractors to at least release them so that my people can start preparation for the next season. The ministry of agriculture is failing us and it is a pity that the ministry decided to give manna to the people of Machakos.

This ministry should have consulted these Honourable members before they went ahead with the issue of giving free seedlings to farmers because the seedlings yes were given out, but how many farmers planted these seedlings? The serious farmers do not need free seedlings. They should be subsidized instead. If a bag of maize is going for Ksh. 480 in the shops, then they can give it at Ksh. 150. In such a way, Mr. Speaker the serious farmers will buy. This is one issue which has failed the ministry completely because at some point, I met a lady selling the same seedlings in a shop because she could not cultivate all of it in her small farm.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to talk about fertilizers which this ministry went ahead and purchased. The people of Matungulu never saw these fertilizers and I have not heard of any in the sub county and we would like the minister to take note give this House a report on where the fertilizers disappeared to.

Mr. Speaker, I want to come to the issue of the Ministry of Lands. As you know, Machakos County has lots of public land. It's a pity that the ministry is not doing anything to know where these pieces of land are. They only requested MCAs to provide a list. Mr. Speaker, the Ministry itself should send its staff to the ground, meet the people, know where the public land is and make sure it is not grabbed. Mr. Speaker, the ministries have to be very serious. This Sunday, I met a group of old men who came to tell me that land meant for cattle dips was being sold to a private developer.

Mr. Speaker the other issue concerns the Ministry of Health. Since we came into this House, Health was supposed to be a priority. I think we should move faster to make sure our health facilities are well facilitated and equipped for the betterment of our people

**Hon. Speaker:** Before we proceed with debate, we need to understand that this Paper was placed before the people for public debate and all of you were there. As we discuss, we need to keep what was discussed through public hearing vis-à-vis the Strategy Paper so that we can have a perspective of the public. Maybe we can hear from the budget Chair



**Hon. Muinde:** Mr. Speaker, I need to let the members know that all about the Fiscal Strategy Paper is first to give an overview of the 2013/2014 budget, the current status as from 1<sup>st</sup> February to the end of the financial year June and the priorities which the entire Executive wishes to be funded for the 2014/2015 budget. What I felt was coming out loudly in the public hearing is that people might confuse this with a budget proposal like what we are having at the ward level where people are giving what they wish to be funded.

As members debate on this, they should realize that the strategy paper is a broad overview. The aim was just to have a broad overview and if there is need to discuss a particular ministry because of its underperformance that can be created for another day. All members had this document and they all participated in public hearing and since what I have read is not from the budget committee but is from the public and members, I believe it could take a shorter time

**Hon. Speaker:** Just to add to what the budget Chair is saying, the purpose of this debate is to prepare your mind so that we can know how to apportion in budgeting when it is presented. Let's proceed. Let's hear Rachael

**Hon. (Ms.) R. Nduku:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mine is to appreciate the compilation of this report. But just to add a few because I thought it's important. In the third page on Roads, Transport, Public Works and Housing, the members of public in Mavoko sub-county said repair of roads but they were specific. They were specific access roads and feeder roads. On construction of bridges across seasonal rivers, there was also construction of grips and drainages. In the fourth page number four under the department of Health and Emergency Services, they talked about mobile clinics and outreaches in our wards, creation of community units and hiring more health workers.

Page five on Education, Youth and Social Welfare, they talked about considering orphans in the budget but it was specific on orphans, vulnerable children and marginalized groups to be considered in the next budget. There was also construction of ECD centres, not only recruitment of ECD teachers.

**Hon. Speaker:** Let us hear the order.

**Majority Leader (Hon. Mwonga):** Mr. Speaker, you have guided these members on the importance of this paper. The issues being raised by Hon. Rachael who is the vice-chair he Budget committee are the issues which are supposed to be presented by the public in the consultative meetings. I think we should differentiate the Fiscal Strategy Paper's public

participation meetings and the consultative meetings whereby the citizens of a particular ward will raise the issues they want to be done in the next financial year

**Hon. Speaker:** Rachael, what is your position on that?

**Hon. (Ms.) R. Nduku:** I am worried about my fellow Honourable member because he was not the interim-Chair in Mavoko sub-county, I was the interim Chair and I have Hon. Cecilia here who is a witness that people raised these issues. My fear is that if somebody from Mavoko comes across this paper and they raised the issues I am raising here and they don't find them here, we'll be seen to have done a lot of nothing.

**Hon. Speaker:** I agree with you

**Hon. (Ms.) R. Nduku:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. On the issue of Land, Environment and Natural Resources, they also talked about Title Deeds. As you know, in Mavoko sub-county our land has a lot of complications and they asked us what the ministry is doing to issue people with title deeds. On decentralized units, urban areas and municipalities, they raised issues about establishment of town boards which we budgeted for but have not seen them working. They also raised issues about construction of markets, although we told them they have been advertised and so they are waiting to see them constructed. Number eight on Trade, Economic Planning and Industrialization, they talked about public toilets, they talked about new markets. Thank you Mr. Speaker

**Hon. Speaker:** This is preparing us for the budget to come, not the budget that has passed. Let's hear Hon. Kasoa

**Minority Leader (Hon. Kasoa):** Thank you Mr. Speaker. As we are talking about the Fiscal Strategy Paper, we are talking about the government revenue and spending policies in order to achieve sustainable economic growth in our county. I'm requesting the Chairman, Budget because when we met in Mwala sub-county, people were just talking about water so let's put some more pressure on the executive to allocate more funds in two key ministries, the ministry for water and the ministry for roads. I'm urging the Chairman to concentrate more on water. Thank you

**Hon. Muthuka:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I want to congratulate the committee. This is a true reflection of what happened at the public hearings some two days ago. At the same time, there are some issues which are purported that the community upholds as priority. We have the maintenance of county roads and infrastructure of the development

expenditures whereby I quote “the public in all the sub counties felt that while they are necessary expenditures, they are not a priority except for maintenance of county roads and infrastructure of the new city expenditure.”

Mr. Speaker, I totally agree with the maintenance of the county roads but on the infrastructure of the new city, most of the members of the public didn’t understand what it was. Some sub-counties talked about additional chicks because that’s an ongoing project. We are talking about projects to be absorbed and to be funded through the supplementary budget which is about to land on the floor of this House.

Mr. Speaker maybe through the committee you need to interrogate the findings and what was presented from each sub-county and then substantiate the infrastructure of the new city. Was it a priority or purchase of additional chicks was a priority before June 2014? At the same time, it’s important to understand that from the presentation, we are not performing fairly good and by the end of the day, we’ll be judged by our development and not recurrent expenditure.

From the list of non-performing ministries, I’ll also urge the committee to interrogate the Ministry of Decentralized Units. We had not allocated them that much they are spending and we know the kind of employment which is happening. We are trying to stretch the recurrent expenditure by the wage Bill. The National Government has offloaded the health wage bill to the county. At the same time, it’s as if we are mad, employing people while we know we had not allocated money for that. Whatever we are doing is good because we are doing it for our people. Security still is not a devolved function for our people. We cannot forget about that but we need to prioritize. We should check on departments we have overlooked because nobody is shouting for them. Thank you very much.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you very much. We can have the Chair, Justice and Legal Affairs

**Hon. Itumo:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. In this Paper, members of the public put emphasis and gave priority to roads and water. If you go to the ground, you will wonder because you will see the contractors it’s like they were giving samples on roads. You will see murrum that looks like it was carried with wheelbarrows to those roads. In the coming budget of 2014/2015, we want to see a bigger allocation on roads, boreholes and even bigger allocation for the construction of gabions. Mr. Speaker, you know agriculture is the backbone of this nation and we want enough water for irrigation so that farmers may grow crops using such waters. I’d like to urge this house to allocate enough funds to the Ministries of agriculture and Roads in the next financial year

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you very much. Let us hear Hon. Kasimu

**Hon. Kasimu:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. We captured several things which are not appearing here, especially on Trade, Economic Planning and Industrialization. We are seeing very important industry of our youth; we are investing market sheds that affect mainly women. The youth are not in that industry but are in bodaboda industry. We suggested building of bodaboda sheds to protect our youth from the sun and rains.

In Finance and Revenue, we have captured Ol-Donyo Sabuk, we also have Fourteen Falls, another tourist attraction that really fetches a lot of revenue for our neighbouring County, Kiambu, yet it is on the border. In the last regime, the World Bank gave money to Fourteen Falls to construct the entrance gate and other offices that are used at the Fourteen Falls but all this was done on the other side of Kiambu instead of it being in the middle. I still push that 50 per cent of the money being collected in Fourteen Falls comes to Machakos County.

In my final remarks, I'd like to differ with the Hon. Member for Machakos Central Hon. Kitheka who said that CCTV cameras should only be installed at the headquarters. We heard the Hon. Member for Matungulu West say that since the installation of some of these gadgets, security has really improved. We need them everywhere and the culture of investing in the headquarters should come to an end. We all voted for the honourable government that's in power and we need decentralization to be realized in Machakos.

I would like to know from the honourable member, how much is one CCTV camera, how often do we service these CCTV cameras and when did he become an engineer of CCTV cameras that he is advising us not to engage in installation of CCTV cameras in all sub-county headquarters? I've seen this culture in the book 'Animal Farm' that some animals are more equal than others. This should come to an end in our county government and we start investing in all sub-county headquarters and Mr. Speaker, I also advise that some these ministries should also be moved to our sub-county headquarters and we will see the true meaning of devolution and the true meaning of decentralization. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

**Hon. Speaker:** So, the point you are making is that you want CCTV cameras across the board and Hon. Kitheka is saying that we should only have them at the County headquarters? Let Hon. Kitheka clarify

**Hon. Kitheka:** My clarification is simple. I said all major towns

**Hon. Speaker:** Ok, thank you. What will eventually be done is that we'll forward the debate's Hansard report and that will guide the ministry in making the budget.

**Hon. Katela:** I stand here to support today's Fiscal Strategy Paper and say that it has cut across the board. I would like to put to the member of Machakos Central that the CCTV cameras are not just for chasing thieves. We are also monitoring our vehicles; the ambulances and the police cars with the CCTV cameras and I'll at least take about 30 minutes to take him round his ward and show him where they are working and being monitored from because it seems we are only---

**Hon. Speaker:** Point of order

**Hon. Kitheka:** Mr. Speaker, the Honourable member seems to be very acquainted with the issue of CCTV, of which I am more acquainted since I have done some digital electronics. I kindly request the honourable member, because he has talked about a lot of issues of CCTV just to give us what it means by CCTV. It is an abbreviation. Let him give us its meaning

*(Loud consultations)*

**Hon. Speaker:** Order, hon. Members. Hon. Kitheka has refused your invitation. He knows his ward. Proceed on other areas.

**Hon. Katela:** I said when I started I was trying to shed some light on what the cameras are supposed to do.

**Hon. Speaker:** We have not heard Hon. Kalunde for a long time.

**Hon. Kalunde:** The MCAs in their places where they met with the public, they did a good job, the people who have contributed have done a good job and I think it is high time we pass the document as it is

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you. Any burning issues?

**Hon. Kyuli:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. This is an overview of what our budget will be based on, we have all members seeing how ministries are performing and perhaps it's high time this assembly sat and started discussing the Ward Development Fund so that if the ministries are not performing, we just slash their money and put it in the Ward Development Fund so that we oversee the fund that is going to take care of most of these issues.

**Hon. Speaker:** Let us hear you.

---

**Disclaimer:** *The electronic version of the Official Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor, Machakos County Assembly.*

**Hon. Katumo:** This committee has done something that is sober but I have a worry when Hon. Members say we should slash money allocated to key ministries. There is also the worry that some ministries are under-performing. But this report lays a good background for us because we can see those ministries that are not performing. These are very key ministries and if we continue with this trend we may not have enough workforces to employ. So I think it is prudent for us as an honourable House to take our place and interrogate these ministries. If we don't have development in key areas, I think we are not going anywhere. Therefore, I would wish that we don't slash but we interrogate these ministries that are not performing. If it's because of leadership, we can see what to do. There is always room for improvement. Thank you very much

**Hon. Kathinzi:** Much has been said regarding this Paper and mine is to say it's a good report from the Budget committee and we should adopt it and proceed with the other business.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you very much. Now, we need to wind up. Let's hear you for a minute

**Hon. (Ms.) Ndawa:** Mr. Speaker, I wanted to add one issue which had been left out. As you all know, Matungulu sub-county and Kangundo sub-county have been the coffee farmers for the past century and as you all know Kenya has been leading in coffee production. I would urge this government to sensitize farmers on coffee farming and bring back the market which we had before so that our electorate can have something in the pocket. Thank you Mr. Speaker

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you. Let us hear Kamitu

**Hon. Kamitu:** Mine is to support the recommendations and request the secretariat to check on their draft for some things they may have left out. A good example I have noted is that there were some remarks which were made with regard to identifying and construction of cultural centres to improve on our traditional practices, building of recreational centres and social halls in our sub-counties. There is also allocation of money for land and building administrative offices for sub-county headquarters. I ask the secretariat to check on the items that were left out. Thank you.

**Hon. Nduva:** Mr. Speaker, I want to thank our Budget Chair for a well done job and wish to point out that we allocated money for town boards. It will be important for sub-county administrators to be facilitated. For example, when a vehicle comes from Masinga to be fuelled in Machakos town, it means that by the time it gets back, it will be at quarter tank. So Mr. Speaker, when we talk about recurrent expenditure going up by 13 per cent we should also consider how these expenses will be cut down. Could these people be facilitated so that the

vehicles can be fuelled at the sub counties so that we don't have such expenses? Thank you Mr. Speaker

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you. Let us hear the honourable member from Mavoko

**Hon. M. Mutuku:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. On deficits in revenue, Mr. Speaker as you are aware, we cannot do without money in this County. We are asking in Mavoko sub-county, we have building plans which were made on TOL. We are asking such a request like the one on CCTV cameras, that legalization be done on TOL to increase revenue for the county. If only people who pay rates are the people with title deeds but when you have the TOL you don't pay rates. On projects sustainability, the issue of free seeds, free chicks, it seems to be not sustainable and I think this House needs to do something on sustainability of some of these projects.

Mr. Speaker, in this Paper, I have not seen anything on County Relief Emergency fund. Mr. Speaker, we have been lacking relief help from the county. It is important if that can be considered as part of the requests among others. The other thing is recurrent expenditure which is sky-rocketing and I think there may be ghost workers or the County Public Service Board is not giving proper advice as far as employment is concerned because when the wage Bill increases, it eats into money for development.

The other issue I would like to comment on is the issue of non-performing ministries. We cannot cut their budgets, but it's high time this House summoned the ministers concerned to evaluate what challenges they were facing.

On CCTV cameras, we cannot ignore technology. Thank you so much

**Hon. Speaker:** Let us hear Veronica

**Hon. (Ms.) V. Mbithe:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. On the Land, Development and Natural Resources, there is a point which has not been captured that was raised in Mavoko sub-county whereby there is lack of public utilities therefore I would ask the Ministry of Land and Environmental Resources to get more allocation so that they can buy land for public utilities. It was a very important point because most public utilities in Mlolongo and Athi River have been grabbed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** We can now finally hear the Deputy Speaker

**Hon. Nganga:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me start my commenting on the premising this year's Fiscal Strategy Paper where the committee has identified achievement of equitable

socio-economic development in Machakos County. Going through the proposals made, I have come to the realization that they have put a lot of emphasis on the social aspect of the society but have not turned them to creating economic propulsion.

Therefore I urge the committee in development of the budget of the coming financial year to see to it that they will turn round various projects that have been identified to create economic propulsion that will stabilize the economic and living standards of our people. Mr. Speaker, you realize that some of the projects identified will be capital expenditures that will not have returns on investment and I would like to urge MCAs and the committee to find to it that whenever we invest any money to a department, we should be expecting gain from that money at the end of the day.

I applaud the ministry that it has been able to collect 62 per cent of the budget realizing the challenges we have had since the passing of the Finance Act. I would like to further urge the committee and minister to develop a digital database of existing plots and their title deeds so that they can be able to know which plot in each market is not submitting its rates so that they can be able to trace them. We need to invest heavily in ICT so that we can make our programmes efficient and effective. I urge that proceeds of this government be transacted on a common digital platform.

I would like to urge MCAs to demand from their chairpersons of committees that the right thing is done both within the committees and the relevant ministries you are supposed to oversight. We have the ministry of Water which has been undertaking some rehabilitation works but on a very slow pace. My people want one thing. Their major priority is water. Without water, much of the other things may not be making any difference for the lives of these people.

But I have not seen it rated as a priority investment area whereby we shall be aware if we expand the funding of the financial year to the same ministry, that will mean most of the people will have water for their domestic use and possibly for irrigation. If we come up with irrigation schemes within our areas, then we shall have set a good pace in uplifting the living standards of our people.

Mr. Speaker, on the matters of revenues, I would like to ask my colleague in charge of the committee on Planning, Trade, Tourism and cooperatives, we have had problems on this transitional phase with matters to do with issuance of plot numbers. I recently had a chat with one of the ministers who I thought should be in charge of this, but he also happened to tell me that he is not sure whether that lies in his docket. Our new small scale investors are not able to



speedily develop their plots because of being unable to receive their plot numbers and some are being pushed left, right and centre by some corrupt officers.

When we have more investors putting up plots in our markets, that will lead to development of our towns and expansion of our economic basket.

Mr. Speaker, for us to be on the right side of history, I would like to urge our committees to go deep into analysis of these financial programmes so that we don't end up setting ourselves in a deep pit that we can't be able to come out from. I'm sure if we make the adjustments proposed, then we will be good to go. Thank you.

**Hon. Speaker:** Finally, the mover of the motion. Chairman, budget committee.

**Hon. Muinde:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have listened to the debates by members and I want to assure that all points raised by members will be taken into account. They will be annexed to our report to be forwarded to the Minister of Finance, as she finalizes the Fiscal Strategy Paper.

When it comes to the real budget-making, all those points will still be taken into consideration. Mr. Speaker, I urge members that the remedy is not to downscale funding to the ministries if they are unable to absorb. When we look at priorities as per what members of the public say, water ranks as the main ministry to be funded. If a minister or his staff is not performing, we should not deny the members of public what is due to them by not funding water just because somebody is lazy somewhere. We should not throw the baby and retain the dirty water.

We should throw the bath water and retain the baby. We need the water ministry and the roads ministry funded. But as a House, I believe there is a way through the sectoral committee of ensuring they perform; if they don't shape up, they ship out and we cannot compromise on that. Mr. Speaker, I want to remind the members that the wages of all staff was factored in the budget under the Public Service, so the Ministry of Decentralized Units is not overspending on wages. Money for wages is under the Public Service and the 113 per cent performance on recurrent is up to the period ending January 31<sup>st</sup> so the Minister must scale down on spending on recurrent expenditure while absorbing money for development where it is needed.

Mr. Speaker, we have been reminded to factor in Disaster relief. That was a very fair comment. The issue of land for utilities in Mavoko is also very important and will be factored, among others.

To finalize, I want to agree with the Deputy Speaker that funds for social welfare be changed from being grants to revolving funds to ensure sustainability. Whatever you give free may not be of a lot of value. We may not want to create socialism in Machakos. We need people to get funds and make an income from it.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, my committee takes with a lot of humility the congratulatory messages from members of this House, we really feel appreciated. We will strive to do better and better every time. I even feel the level of debate is even higher than that at the national level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you very much. That is work well done. Honourable members, the duty of the House is described in page 1 of the report, paragraph 6 that says “Not later than fourteen days after submitting the County Fiscal Strategy Paper to the County Assembly, the County Assembly shall consider...we have already considered... and then may adopt it with or without amendments.” We have heard a lot of additions that have been made that is why I advised the Chair to annex those additional recommendations that have been made by members.

In the circumstances, then, I put the question that the County Fiscal Strategy Paper be adopted together with the annexures as laid before the House and considered by the assembly.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

Again we say thank you to the committee on Budget.

#### COMMISSION ON REVENUE ALLOCATION (CRA)

**Hon. Muthuka:** I wish to move a motion on adjournment because we do not have quorum in the house.

**Hon. Speaker:** Yes. Clerk can advise on that. The adjournment motion is refused. Proceed.

**Hon. Muinde:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, that aware---

**Hon. Speaker:** You can give the HANSARD officers a minute. I think their system is down. One minute.

**Hon. Muinde:** Mr. Speaker, that aware that the reason for creating counties and devolved government was to bring services to the county level, aware that the county government are the pillar of development in the whole country, aware that without adequate finance, counties cannot perform their duties well and aware that this is the only way there can be regional balance in development in Kenya, that this House discusses the proposed reduction of allocation of revenues to counties by the National Assembly from Ksh. 238 billion to Ksh. 218 billion. Mr. Speaker, I call upon Hon. Rachel to second this motion.

**Hon. (Ms.) R. Nduku:** Thank you Mr. Speaker and my chairman. I second this motion because his motion because this report is very sensitive in as a far as it concerns Machakos county government. Thank you.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you very much. The motion is laid.

**Hon. Muinde:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I just want to briefly let members know that it came to the notice of the Speakers' Forum and the Executive committee chairmen in charge of Finance that the National Assembly, through the Budget committee that the national government plans to scale down the funding to counties from Ksh. 238 billion as proposed by CRA to Ksh. 218 billion. Mr. Speaker, of late, there has been debate between counties and the national government and at times those at the national level feel that they need to punish the administrators at the county level. Once you downscale funding, the pinch is felt by the mwananchi on the ground and not the governors or the county assemblies but the mwananchi who is not able to get the services. Mr. Speaker, the Speakers Forum, through the chairman Abdi Nuh approached CRA headed by Micah Cheserem---

**Hon. Speaker:** Yes. Let us hear the point of order.

**Hon. Muthuka:** Thank you Mr. Speaker and other members. Mr. Speaker, the quorum of the county assembly or a committee shall be a third of its members. Taking into account the members present at this sitting, we are far below the 19 since we are 58. In my simple mathematics, tells me we are below a third. I wish to request for an adjournment of this sitting due to lack of quorum. Thank you.

**Hon. Speaker:** The Clerk again, advise me on the quorum.

*(Physical count of members present conducted)*

## ADJOURNMENT

---

**Disclaimer:** *The electronic version of the Official Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor, Machakos County Assembly.*

**Hon. Speaker:** The motion for adjournment succeeds for lack of quorum. Perhaps before you break for the day, there is a request that has reached my office that we have a special sitting tomorrow in the morning so I would urge members to be available in the morning, there is an item that will be presented by the Budget committee chairman and will be early in time to brief members tomorrow.

I requested him to have a *kamukunji* today, after this sitting but it appears he is committed down at his ward in Ekalakala. So I would urge to be available so that we hear him. For those who will be close to him, can interrogate him on what it is he want to bring to members. Otherwise I would urge you to have a good afternoon and that is the end of today's proceedings. Thank you very much.

The House rose at 4.45 p.m.