

MACHAKOS COUNTY ASSEMBLY**OFFICIAL REPORT****Tuesday, 24th June, 2014**

The House met at 4.30 p.m.

*[The Speaker (Mr. Mung'ata) in the Chair]***PRAYERS****COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR****GROSS MISCONDUCT AND NAMING**

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Members, following what happened this morning and following the act of disorder that was brought up by you and pursuant to Standing Order 104 on grossly disorderly conduct, I have named the following members for gross misconduct:-

1. Hon. Dominic Maitha
2. Hon. (Ms.) Magdalene Ndawa
3. Hon. (Ms.) Anne Wairimu Musyoki
4. Hon. Stephen Muthuka
5. Hon. Cornelius Kitheka
6. Hon. Festus Ndeto
7. Hon. Alexander Kathinzi
8. Hon. Francis Matheka
9. Hon. (Ms.) Brigit Kitili
10. Hon. (Ms.) Amina Mutio

In view of the above, I hereby invoke Standing Order 105 and hence the above mentioned members stand suspended for the next three sitting days including today. They are now requested to leave the precincts of the chamber. Proceed.

*(The 10 Members withdraw from the chamber)***PAPERS LAID****RE-APPOINTING MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES**

Majority Leader (Hon. Mwonga): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay the following paper on the table of the Assembly today, Tuesday, 24th June, 2014: Committee on Selection report on consideration of the re-appointing members to various committees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(Hon. Mwonga laid the Paper on the Table)

Hon. Speaker: Proceed.

MACHAKOS COUNTY BUDGET 2014/2015

Hon. Muinde: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay the following paper on the table of the House, today Tuesday, 24th June, 2014: The Budget and Appropriation Committee Report on Consideration of The Machakos County Budget for the 2014 -2015 Financial Year.

(Hon. Muinde laid the Paper on the Table)

AMENDING STANDING ORDER 225

Hon. Nganga: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay the following paper on the table of the County Assembly today, Tuesday, 24th June, 2014: The Procedure and Rules Committee report on consideration of amending Standing Order 225 to allow County Executive Committee members to appear before the Assembly as and when need arises. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(Hon. Nganga laid the Paper on the Table)

NOTICES OF MOTIONS RE-APPOINTING MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES

Majority Leader (Hon. Mwonga): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of the following motion: that this Hon House discusses and approves the report of Committee on Selection as laid in the House today, 24th June, 2014. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Sorry to the mover of that motion ...till further notice. Proceed.

AMENDING STANDING ORDER 225

Hon. Nganga: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of the following motion: That this Hon house discusses and approves the amendment of Standing Order 225, to add a clause that will allow County Executive Committee members to attend house sittings as and when the need arises. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MACHAKOS COUNTY BUDGET 2014/2015

Hon. Muinde: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to give notice of the following motion: that this Hon. House discusses and approves the Budget and Appropriation Committee report on the

consideration of the Machakos County Budget for the 2014/2015 financial year, presented today Tuesday, 24th June 2014.

Hon. Speaker: Proceed.

MOTIONS

MACHAKOS COUNTY BUDGET 2014/2015

Hon. Muinde: Mr. Speaker, Sir, aware that this House received budget estimates of revenue and expenditure for the 2014/2015 financial year as per section 131 of the PFM Act; aware that the budget was committed to various sectoral committees pursuant to section 131(2) of the PFM Act; and further aware that the public participation was undertaken across the county, the Budget and Appropriation Committees has discussed and reviewed the revenue and expenditure taking in to account all recommendations.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, aware that the county has adopted programme budgeting, for the 2014/2015 financial year that identifies the development projects to be implemented, recurrent budgets estimates were equally matched with expenditure items, I wish to move the motion that this honorable house discusses and approves the 2014/2015 financial year budget as presented by the Budget and Appropriation committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I now call upon Hon. Willy Mukewa, member for Matungulu East to second the motion.

Hon. Kasimu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I stand to support and second the Budget and Appropriation Bill, 2014/2015 financial year as presented by the Budget Chairman and the Budget Committee. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. The Motion will be reserved for debate; we can now hear the report.

Hon. Muinde: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hereby now read the report by the Budget and Appropriation Committee on the 2014/2015 budget estimates and request the office of the clerk to distribute this report to the members, together with all the annexures.

(Copies of the Report distributed to Members)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Constitution and Acts relating to Devolution have placed significant responsibilities on the County Assemblies over the management of public resources. The legislatures have in particular received enhanced responsibility with regard to resource mobilization, allocation, management and control of resources.

Article 185 (3) of the Constitution and the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 contemplates the powers of the County Assembly to oversight the budget process among other areas. In this regard, Standing Order 187 establishes the Budget and Appropriations Committee with specific mandate among which is to investigate, inquire into and report on all matters

related to coordination, control and monitoring of the county budget as well as discuss and review the estimates and make recommendations to the County Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, in line with the provisions of the Constitution, I hereby present to the House the Committee's report on the 2014/2015 Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the County Executive and the County Assembly laid in the Assembly on 30th April, 2014.

As required by the Constitution and related Acts, the Budget and Appropriations Committee is required to discuss and review the estimates and make recommendations to the County Assembly for consideration. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Budget and Appropriations Committee as currently constituted comprises of the following Honorable Members:-

Hon. Isaac Muinde	- Chairperson
Hon. (Ms.) Rachael Nduku	- Vice Chairperson
Hon. Sammy Nduva	
Ho. Wilson Kasimu	
Hon. John Sila	
Hon. Renson Muthiani	
Hon. Charles Mutisya	
Hon. (Ms.) Ruth Ndumi	
Hon. (Ms.) Christine Mwendu	

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in preparation of the 2014/2015 budget, the Budget and Appropriations Committee has been extensively involved in the various stages of the budget process from review of sectoral priorities to evaluation of the goals of the County Government. With this enhanced involvement, the County Assembly envisages prudence, transparency and accountability in the use of public resources.

Mr. Speaker, in reviewing the 2014/2015 Budget Estimates, the Committee held several Sittings. In line with the Constitution, the Committee also invited the participation of the public in the budget process by holding public hearings on the estimates in the eight sub counties namely Machakos Central, Matungulu, Kangundo, Mavoko, Kathiani, Mwala, Yatta and Masinga.

These hearings were conducted to receive views and recommendations from wananchi on the proposed budget estimates in 14 main thematic areas namely: the County Executive, the County Assembly, the Department of Public Service, ICT and Labour, the Department of Economic Planning, Trade and Industrialization, the County Treasury, the Department of Decentralized Units, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Health and Emergency Services, the Department of Roads, Transport, Public Works and Housing, the Department of Education, Youth and Social Services, the Department of Water and Sanitation, the Department of Lands, Energy, Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of Tourism and Culture and the County Public Service Board and whose report I do hereby lay.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, allow me to sincerely thank members of the public who took time to participate in the consultations and whose views we have taken into account in this report. In addition to this and, as required by the Standing Orders, the Committee held fruitful discussions with all the Departmental Committees regarding the budget proposals of the various Ministries.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Budget and Appropriations Committee is also grateful to the various Sectoral Committees, all the Members of the County Assembly and staff who participated in the process for their hard work and dedication in making sure that the Assembly plays its rightful role in scrutinizing the budget.

Hon. Members, through the Speaker, I would like to emphasize that the budget oversight is a continuous process which should not come to an end with the adoption of this report. I therefore urge Members to take this role very seriously and to continue demanding reports on quarterly performance from the various departments you oversee.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker Sir, the Committee is grateful to the Office of the Speaker and the Office of the Clerk of the County Assembly for the continuous and relentless support received as it discharged its mandate. It is therefore my pleasant undertaking, on behalf of the Budget and Appropriations Committee, to table this Report and recommend it to the House for adoption.

i. Linking The 2014/15 Budget To The County Integrated Development Plan And The Public Finance Management Act, 2012

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Section 12 (1) of the Second Schedule of the PFM Act, 2012 requires implementation of program budgets to commence in 2014/2015 for County Governments. This Committee commends the County Executive and the County Assembly for providing a detailed 2014/2015 Programme Based Budget (PBB). This framework focuses on tying decisions on allocation of resources to expected outputs.

Past budgets have always shown how much money is going to various departments and accounts without providing specific and measurable outputs. However starting this year, the focus is more on the actual programs that shall be supported by the resources we shall receive from the national government as well as the revenues to be collected at the county level.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, changing the way budgets are developed and presented is a key part of reforming our government – making it more open, more accountable and more focused on the results that matter to the people it serves.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if Machakos County is to fully enjoy the benefits of PBB, such as increased efficiency of expenditure as well as its effectiveness, all County departments must review outputs and targets in their Programme Based Budgets (PBBs) and ensure reporting on the achievements of the various targets is carried out on a quarterly basis.

ii. Highlights of the 2014/15 Budget

Total Budget Highlights

Mr. Speaker Sir, the total proposed expenditure estimates for 2014/15 by the committee is Ksh.8.9 Billion which comprises the following:

a) Recurrent Expenditure	- Kshs. 4,911,146,836.83
b) Development Expenditure	- Kshs. 3,988,032,155.01
Total Expenditure	- Kshs. 8,899,178,991.84

Of this, the recurrent expenditure stands at **55** per cent while the capital expenditure is **45** per cent.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the initial budget proposals presented by the County Executive was amounting to Ksh. 9.5 billion of which about Ksh. 4.9 billion was relating to development expenditures, translating to 51.8 per cent of the total budget while Ksh. 4.6 billion was relating to recurrent expenditures translating to 48.2 per cent of the total budget. However, after interrogation by the various sectoral committees and the public as well as the factoring of the fiscal strategy paper estimates, the feeling was that the budget was over ambitious and unrealistic.

The public felt that the projected estimates of Ksh. 9.5 billion of which Ksh. 5.8 billion was the projected allocation of the equitable share from the National Government and Ksh. 3.7 billion was the projected revenue from domestic sources would be strenuous to them as it would mean increased taxation to meet the projected local revenue collections. Therefore, the budget committee revised the Budget estimates downwards from Ksh. 9.5 billion to Ksh. 8.9 billion in line with the proposal set out in the County Fiscal Strategy Paper estimates for the year 2014/2015.

The resource envelope will consist of Ksh. 6.2 billion equitable share from national government and Ksh. 2.7 billion from local revenues collected making a total of Kshs. 8.9 billion. To this end, the shortfall of Ksh. 600 million was reduced proportionately from all departments taking into consideration priority projects as well as the absorption capacity of every department.

Key Priority Areas for 2014/2015 Budget

1. Food Security

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Committee observed that members of the public expressed concern with the perennially lethargic performance of the agriculture sector leading to drought and subsequent food shortage. The Committee notes that the bulk of the functions for this sector happen to be devolved and progress should therefore be largely focused on putting in place a comprehensive food security program by enhancing irrigation using water harnessed from the major rivers within the County.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the public was concerned that the free distribution of agricultural inputs as was being done in the last financial year was ineffective as the same was being misused by recipients since they had nothing to lose. The Committee recommends that the resources

appropriated for the Ministry for this year be geared towards provision of quality seeds at a subsidized rate and in a timely manner.

Moreover, Mr. Speaker, Sir, aware that the technology attached to greenhouses is advanced, the Committee felt that the public needs first to be trained on the use of greenhouses before distribution can be done.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, arising from the public hearings, there is need for the construction of silos and government intervention in supporting farmers. In this regard, the Committee recommends that the government purchases farm produce at a fair price during the bumper harvest seasons for storage and eventual reselling to farmers at the time of need.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, a school feeding program initiated by the national government has been in place for over 10 years. However, it has always targeted pupils in primary schools. Following the devolution of the ECD centres, which have not been receiving support in terms of school feeding programs, it was the feeling of the Committee that the County Government supports the school feeding program which is already in place for ECD pupils by scaling down to a cost of Ksh. 40 million per year.

2. Social Programs

Mr. Speaker, Sir, poverty is a key concern in our County, and the only way the County will deal with this problem is by providing opportunities to the vulnerable members in our society. To this end members proposed that a revolving fund to cater for the needs of the women, youth and persons with disabilities be set aside and an interest rate of 5 per cent be charged for loans given to these members of the community.

Mr. Speaker, the committee recommends retention of the Ksh. 40 million set aside for the elderly, an amount that will be in form of non-refundable grants. Mr. Speaker, Sir, in order to nurture the talents of our youth, the Committee has allocated funds for talent management in this budget. These activities will keep the youth busy and minimize crime, drugs and substance abuse.

3. Infrastructure Development

Mr. Speaker, Sir, improvement of the road network has routinely been cited as a priority area for the government to invest since it is essential in facilitating economic growth. However, the poor road network in some parts of the county remains a matter of grave concern.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, drawing from the interactions with the Members of the public and the relevant Departmental Committees, significant resources to address infrastructural concerns particularly for grading of several high-use roads in deplorable state as well as providing resources for the upgrade of key economically viable roads linking Machakos to other counties has been factored. Therefore the allocation for this department was revised upward to cater for the construction of roads, repair and maintenance of other infrastructure.

4. Provision Of Water

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are all aware that water is a scarce resource in our county. For this reason, the committee recommended that the budgetary allocation for the department of water and sanitation be increased to cater for drilling of more bore holes, scooping of dams and purchase of more tanks to harness rain water.

It was noted that sand harvesting was impacting negatively on our rivers. The public felt that there was need for construction of weirs, drifts and gabions to counter this, a matter that the Committee echoed.

5. Health Services

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Committee is well aware that a healthy nation guarantees economic growth. The Committee is further aware of the constitutional requirement for Kenyans to access health services.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, although health services have been devolved, it is disconcerting that the County continues to grapple with the lack of adequate infrastructure in our hospitals. Lack of the necessary equipment and drugs and dilapidated morgue facilities has been the order of the day. In this regard, the Committee recommends that more funding be directed towards the construction and equipping of a diagnostic centre at the County Headquarters, specifically at the Machakos Level Five Hospital. For this, the committee recommends that Ksh. 30 million be set aside.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, the Committee recommends the completion and equipping of the ICU and renal unit at Machakos Level Five hospital at a cost of Ksh. 42 million and the payment for contracted community hospitals based at the 40 wards at a cost of Ksh. 480 million.

Furthermore, the committee resolved that ambulances be retained in the Department of Health and Emergency Services for efficiency in provision of ambulance services.

6. County Emergency Fund

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Section 110 (1) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012, allows the County Executive Committee Member for Finance, with the approval of the County Assembly, to establish an emergency fund for the county government. Pursuant to sub-section 2 of the same, the purpose of an Emergency Fund is to enable payments to be made in respect of a county where an urgent and unforeseen need for expenditure for which there is no specific legislative authority arises. To this end, the committee recommends an allocation of Ksh. 50 million to cater for the fund.

7. Employee Compensation

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was noted that the County has quite a large number of employees who are unproductive due to lack of required skills to perform their duties. Consequently, the Executive advised that money needs to be allocated to compensate for voluntary retirement in

order to enhance efficiency. A budget of Ksh. 100 million has been set aside to cater for that exercise in the coming financial year.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker Sir, the County Government inherited some debts in form of salary arrears for employees of the defunct local authorities. In this budget, the Committee recommends setting aside of Ksh. 50 million for the same. In addition, the committee recommends that Ksh. 5.2 million be set aside as service gratuity for former councilors who had served for two consecutive terms between 2002 and 2012.

8. Education

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the education sector is very important within the county government. This is due to the importance attached to increasing the human capital and having sufficiently trained personnel to spur the economic growth in our county. For this reason, bursaries have been set aside to assist needy children in Machakos. However, as opposed to the last budget, where the bursary funds had been budgeted as a capital expenditure, the funds have been transferred to the recurrent expenditure to allow payment through the cheque system thus enhancing efficient disbursement to the beneficiaries.

Other Committee Recommendations

Department of Roads, Transport, Public Works and Housing

- Mr. Speaker, Sir, The Committee recommends the establishment of a strong and well-funded engineering department to manage the fleet of vehicles and machinery with the headquarters set in Machakos Town to manage the fleets stationed within Mavoko, Machakos, Kathiani, Kangundo, Matungulu and lower Mwala sub counties and a satellite office in Kithimani for management of the fleet in Masinga, Yatta and upper Mwala sub-counties.
- Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, the committee recommends the construction of ward headquarters in every ward at a cost of Ksh. 3 million per ward to house elected Members of the County Assembly, ward administrators, revenue collectors, agricultural officers and other ward officers, giving a total cost of Ksh. 120 million under the Department of Roads, Transport, Public Works and Housing.

The County Treasury

Mr. Speaker, during interaction with ministries, the Committee noted a low absorption rate of funds due to lengthy and bureaucratic procurement procedures. In this regard, the committee felt that devolution needs to be entrenched further by further devolving the department of Finance by ensuring that every department has its own finance, budget and procurement personnel. This will increase efficiency and effectiveness in the ministries'

performance whereby decisions relating to finance and procurement can be made faster, thus enhancing service delivery.

County Employment

Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the course of the public hearings, members of the public expressed concern with the management of this programme in terms of its transparency and its efficacy since the formation of the County Public Service Board. To address this challenge, and to entrench oversight over and facilitate good governance in the county, the Budget and Appropriations Committee recommends that the Board undertakes an audit of all County Government staff and report back to this House in two months' time. The committee further recommends a freeze in employment of staff serving in non-core functions for the next one year and recommends that if need be, the Executive only engages key personnel not currently available. This is in a bid to arrest the bulging wage Bill in the County.

The County Assembly Budget

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Executive had set aside an initial budget of about Ksh. 643 million for the County Assembly which, you will agree with me, is not sufficient. The Committee made a concerted effort to ensure that the same is adjusted upwards and after intense deliberations on the same, the budget was adjusted to Ksh. 930 million. Of this, the recurrent expenditure stands at Ksh. 833.5 million while the capital expenditure is Ksh. 96.5 million.

Under the development expenditure, notable projects include:-

1. Construction of offices for all Members and staff – Ksh. 20 million
2. Purchase of new administrative vehicles – Ksh. 20 million
3. Renovation of chambers – Kshs. 6 million Purchase of iPads for members – Ksh. 3.6 million
4. Installation and upgrading of the Hansard system – Ksh. 8.5 million
5. Renovation and equipping of the cafeteria – Ksh. 4.1 million
6. Construction of a modern car park – Ksh. 2 million
7. Drilling of a borehole – Ksh. 3.3 million
8. Installation of an automatic Generator – Ksh. 2.5 million

Under the recurrent expenditure, key projects include:-

1. General insurance, GPA and Medical cover for Members and staff at a cost of Ksh. 22 million
2. Salaries for ward employees as well as ward operating expenses – Ksh. 47.04 million
3. Gratuity services for Members of the County Assembly – Ksh. 12 million
4. Mortgages for Members of the County Assembly – Ksh. 180 million

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Budget Committee would like to commend the County Assembly Service Board for pledging a vote under Committee Services, whereby each committee will have its own

budget for the financial year 2014/2015. I therefore urge all Chairpersons of committees to convene committee meetings as soon as possible to discuss their respective budgets.

Policy Prescriptions

Mr. Speaker, Sir, having considered the above matters, and to support the realization of the economic and social goals espoused in the Vision 2030 pillars for development, the Committee recommends the following:

- i) To ensure that the Budget Statement remains the policy anchor of the budget, no new programmes and projects shall be accepted after the House has passed its resolutions on the Budget Statement unless there is sufficient justification provided in a memorandum submitted to the Assembly.
- ii) To mainstream Programme-Based Budgeting as per the Public Finance Management Act 2012, the County Assembly be informed on targets on quarterly basis as set out in the programme budget estimates. In this regard, the report submitted by the County Controller of Budget to this House on a quarterly basis must contain information on the progress in achievement of targets of the various departments.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the Committee therefore requests this House to resolve as follows: -

- a) That the House adopts this report;
- b) That the proposed amendments to the proposed 2014/15 budget as contained in this report be adopted; and
- c) That the schedules attached to this report becomes the basis for the appropriations for 2014/15 budget.

Mr. Speaker, I think we have attached schedule 1 which is a summary of key issues arising from public hearings which we have requested those views to be part of this report and Mr. Speaker, since every member has a copy of this and this is a summary of the hearings from the public, we beg that it be part of the report.

Mr. Speaker, attached next to that report is another 5-page document and I believe members have it and it's part of this report. I will not go word for word because members have it. The report that I have just tabled summarizes what is in this budget but I can just read the totals and rest my case.

You have the County Executive on page 1: the first column shows what was allocated or proposed allocation by the Executive committee on Finance but the last column, written as revised budget estimates is what the Committee on Budget recommends to this house.

We have already explained that the reason behind the reduction is we down-scaled the overall budget from Kshs. 9.5 million to Kshs. 8.9 million- meaning most of the proposed allocation by the executive committee member on finance had to come down while others went up.

The County Executive

We have a grand total of Ksh. 365 million, that includes both recurrent and development.

Ministry of Public Service, ICT and Labor

We have a total budget of Ksh. 272, 720, 200, that has been summarized on line items as given.

Department Of Finance and Revenue Collection

We down-scaled the total budget from Kshs. 310 million to Ksh. 290 million and the reasons are given in the report.

Department of Roads, Transport, Public Works and Housing

The proposed budget was Ksh. 1.2 million but we realized Mr. Speaker, that there was understatement on employee compensation and on use of goods and services.

This department has purchased graders and bulldozers and we realized that we require a lot of fuel to manage those bulldozers and the staff also involved. The budget was revised upwards from Kshs. 1.2 billion to Kshs. 1.69 billion.

Department of Health and Emergency services

Mr. Speaker, this is the department that took the lion share of the 2014/2015 budget. It was revised from Ksh. 1.7 billion to Ksh. 1.8 billion and the reason was, that we have to pay for the community hospitals that are already being implemented at the ward level , the construction of the ICU and the Renal unit at level 5 and the construction of a diagnostics center at our Level 5 hospital.

Department Of Water and Irrigation

Mr. Speaker, the total budget was Ksh. 774.5 million. It was slightly reduced to Ksh. 742.5 million, to cater for the changes in the overall allocation.

So we did not touch a lot on water, noting that it is a key Ministry and we need more water. The funding for recurrent expenditure went up because we will need more fuel to run our drilling rigs and the bulldozers that are being used for dam construction.

Department of Agriculture and Cooperative development

Mr. Speaker, the overall budget was Ksh. 800 million but was scaled down to Ksh. 640 million.

Department of Tourism, Sports and Culture

The minister allocated Ksh. 280 million; the committee down scaled that department to Kshs. 149 million.

Department of Decentralized Units, Urban areas and Municipalities

Mr. Speaker, this is where members of the public talked loud about them and during the sectoral hearings, members of the committees were of the view that the grand total of Kshs. 1.1 billion be scaled down to Ksh. 595.5 million, providing funds to run other key priority ministries.

Department of Education, Youth and Social Services

Mr. Speaker, the total budget by the minister was Ksh. 700 million. It was down-scaled to Ksh. 570 million, but Mr. Speaker, this budget has a higher recurrent expenditure than was provided by the minister reason being that we moved bursaries from development vote to recurrent vote, to enable members be able to issue cheques to schools other than wiring money as was the previous budget because it had lots of hitches during implementation.

Within the same, Ksh. 40 million has been budgeted for feeding programme and in the development expenditure in this ministry, Ksh. 100 million is set aside for ECD centers, Ksh. 110 million for construction and equipping of polytechnics - this is money that is shared equally, not equitably but equally, among the 40 wards - and within that budget Mr. Speaker, there is a recurrent budget of Kshs. 190 million which is a transfer to the MSWEB board, Ksh. 40 million of it being grants to the elderly, Kshs. million 120 being a revolving fund at an interest rate of 5 per cent for the youth, women and people with disabilities, and Kshs. 30 million to run the board for their salary, allowances, together with the committees at the ward level, so that they can also be getting their own allowances, giving a total transfer of Kshs. 190 million.

Department of Lands, Energy, Environment and Natural resources

Mr. Speaker, on column one you can see the minister allocated Ksh. 523.5 million; this was down-scaled to Kshs. 340 million. Within that budget in development, we have allocated Kshs. 20 million for lighting our markets, at least three flood lights per ward, Ksh. 200 million for lighting our villages, meaning Ksh. 5 million per ward to spread electricity to our residents at the ward level.

And we have Ksh. 30 million for construction of wares and gabions and Kshs. 10 million for afforestation.

Department of Trade, Economic planning and Industrialization

We down-scaled the budget from Ksh. 563 million to Ksh. 425 million but within that budget Mr. Speaker, there are allocations for the jua kali market sheds at Ksh. 80 million, meaning Ksh. 2 million per ward, Market sheds at Ksh. 200 million, that is Ksh. 5 million per ward, Ksh. 40 million set aside for construction and completion of a department office or ministry headquarters in Athi River among other expenditures.

The County Assembly

Mr. Speaker, I had explained in detail in my report, the grant total move from Ksh. 643 million to Ksh. 930 million because many other items like mortgages had not been factored, that is the reason why the funding went up and other capital or development programmes within the Assembly.

County Service Public Board

Mr. Speaker, the minister had allocated Ksh. 93 million. We down scaled it to Ksh. 83.6 million. Notably we have Ksh. 20 million for the construction of their offices; we would want to have our public service board move from where they are being housed in a hotel to have their own office so that they can keep their documents with a lot of confidentiality.

Mr. Speaker, this budget summary indicates that we moved from Ksh 9.5 billion to Ksh 8.8 billion. Initially recurrent expenditure by the minister was 48 per cent; we have reallocated to show a 55 per cent increase and development moved from 52 per cent to 48 per cent. Mr. Speaker, I need to explain that we are within the requirement of the law; the law states that at least 30 per cent of the county budget must be for development and we are well above the 30 per cent threshold-we are at 45.

One of the reasons why the ratios or percentages changed is the movement of bursaries from development to recurrent and the factoring of more fuel for our graders and bulldozers in the Ministry of Roads and Ministry of Water because we expect those ministries, other than construction of new roads, they are not buying new equipment but we are funding to ensure that there is enough fuel to run the county.

Mr. Speaker, thank you and to the house, we would wish that they adopt this report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you very much Chairman Budget, the motion is open for debate.

Hon. Manyolo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, and the house at large. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do congratulate the budget committee, for a job well done. Having read between the lines, I have understood that they have quoted everything that appertains to wards and county development. But I may also have an amendment to 7, employees' compensation. Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you know we are the pioneers, we have to be included in that course, because of the hard work we have done to make sure the county government has a hard working assembly. So, I agree and support the budget, but with that amendment of us being included with the employees' compensation. Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Member, do I really understand? Please make yourself clear, particularly on the amendment.

Hon. Manyolo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the amendment touches the Councilors who had served for two terms to be compensated at Ksh. 5.2 million. I also seek from your office and from the chair for us to be also considered as the pioneers and be given something after retirement.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Member, if you were not a Councilor, I think I refuse that proposal. Proceed.

Majority Leader (Hon. Mwonga): Hon. Speaker, first and foremost, I would like to start by thanking the chairperson and his committee for work well done, Mr. Speaker. And Mr. Speaker, I am also rising on the same issue, which had been raised by Hon. Member for Matuu ward, Hon. David Manyolo. Mr. Speaker, the chairman and his committee gave a time limit on service gratuity for former Councilors who had served for two consecutive terms.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge these hon. members, let us borrow a leaf from the National Assembly and amend the recommendation to read that all elected members, regardless of whether they were Councilors or Members of the County Assembly, who will have served for two terms, they be given gratuity at the end of their service Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I was a former Councilor in the defunct council and now I am also an elected leader. Mr. Speaker, if we give a time bracket that is 2002 to 2012, you will see that I and many members who are seated in this assembly will be left out, Mr. Speaker.

So Mr. Speaker, I think state officers are also state officers. Mr. Speaker, those who were serving as Councilors were state officers; those who have continued being Members of the County Assembly are also state officers. And Mr. Speaker another recommendation is that, we being the pioneers of the County Assembly Mr. Speaker, I want to support the sentiment of Hon David Manyolo that we be given a service gratuity at the end of the term, for those who will not be lucky to be elected back to this Hon house Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: I want some clarity from the chair budget, because I am very confused.

Hon. Muinde: Thank you. I will need to give some light. We realized that we have some budget constraints and we tried to limit from 2002 to 2013, capturing the period of the last two councils and this is for members who served consecutively: those who did not lose in 2007 or even after losing they were nominated, they became members. For the MCAs, we already have a gratuity at the end of our term from the Sarah Serem commission.

Mr. Speaker, I feel the amendment proposed by the majority leader, although members of this house, who were Councilors are also benefiting from the service gratuity as MCAs, there is a period between 2007 and 2012 that may disappear if that amendment is not allowed. Mr. Speaker, I will urge members to accept that amendment to include members of the assembly who also served in 2007 to 2013, that that gratuity be part of their sendoff at the end of their term in 2017.

Hon. Speaker: Let me hear more contributions on that amendment.

Hon. Nganga: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, and the house at large. First of all, I would like applaud the Budget Committee for a job well done and on that item, there is a service gratuity that has been set aside by the Sarah Serem Commission and it sets a percentage of our

personal pay that we receive every month. And as the chairman has put it, the only place there will be a problem is whereby he is recommending for an amendment.

I understand that for the members to be able to benefit, we need to pass a motion as a House recommending that members of this House at the expiry of their term, if they are re-elected and serve for two consecutive terms be able to earn a sendoff package, or be earning some monies from the institution, but when it comes to the two regimes, the former council and the new system of government where we have devolved units, then I think the same law that we are supposed to enact should also be able to address the same challenge. Otherwise it may be a huge task to be able to be addressed in a budget setting where we are appropriating first. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: I think I agree with those sentiments that that subject can be brought up substantively in a distinct motion other than in this budget. Proceed. Any further contributions?

Hon. Ngui: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I want to congratulate the chairman budget and his members for a job well done and I must say that the budget has been considered well to meet the basic need of the people of Machakos County and following the tabulation on how the budget has been done, on the programme-based budget, I sincerely believe that it is going to be of help to our people of Machakos County. So Mr. Speaker, Sir, I stand here to support that we approve this report. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Any further contribution?

Minority Leader (Hon. Kasoa): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me start by thanking the chairman for budget and his committee and maybe I propose, because of their good work Mr. Speaker, we may do something, they take a retreat for one week, so that they can rest their minds. My point, Mr. Speaker, goes to department of water and irrigation, because I have seen the budget committee reduced the budget from Ksh 775 million to Ksh 742 million.

Mr. Speaker I'm just urging the budget committee if we can stick to the earlier amount which was given before as you are aware water is scarce in our county and we had promised our people on the ground that we drilling 1000 boreholes in this financial year and we also need to do piping of water. So if we can, let's retain the earlier amount of Ksh. 774 million instead of reducing to Ksh 742 million Mr Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Let me hear the budget Chair's answer on that issue raised.

Hon. Muinde: Mr. Speaker, I want to draw the attention of the members to the department of water, irrigation and sanitation. When you look at the proposed budget by the minister, start with the recurrent, the total recurrent -and you know the recurrent budget is the blood of the ministry because it calls the running expenses, we retained the recurrent expenditure at Ksh 242.5 million, nothing was changed, then when you look at the totals for development Mr. Speaker, acquisition of non-financial assets, nothing was changed.

On capital transfer to government agencies, Kshs. 47 million, nothing changed. Mr. Speaker, that is the amount that is incurred in transfers to the water boards and other related government agencies within the ministry of water, nothing was changed. Mr. Speaker, you can also see other developments, Ksh 147 million by the minister and the committee recommends Kshs. 115; that is the only place we changed Mr. Speaker, and these other developments are other developments at the headquarter level - purchase of computers, construction and equipping of the offices at the headquarters.

So this does not at any moment reduce the funding to the farmers out there or the activities at the ward level. We only down-scaled the expenditure of the ministry at the ministry headquarters Mr. Speaker. So that was the only difference. Whatever was to go to the farmers or to happen at the ward level Mr. Speaker, it was maintained.

However, Mr. Speaker, I want to say that this committee spent a whole weekend agonizing over this document; we had to do a lot of balancing act because every department in this county is a priority department. But hard decisions had to be made, sometimes we had to close our eyes and say please chuck off, because at the end we had to balance this budget.

I want to urge the hon member who has asked, please to accept and retain that budget as it is, because if we have to increase any ministry's vote, it means that we have to reduce another ministry, and we have costed almost to the cent. Mr. Speaker, we will actually be going back to level zero when we touch any ministry, because an increase in one department must have a corresponding reduction in another. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Hon Kasoa, I think that is okay? Let us take the point of order.

Hon. Nganga: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I am notified that we are past the seating hours and I would like to propose that we extend the sitting hours so that we can be able to expedite the business of the day. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Do you have somebody to support your motion?

Majority Leader (Hon. Mwonga): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I stand to second that proposal that we extend the sitting hours. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Time extended. Proceed, Hon Kasoa.

Minority Leader (Hon. Kasoa): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now that the Chairman, Budget has assured me nothing will be touched on the ward level. I just concur with him that I support as it is.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you very much. Hon Cecilia. From there we go to Hon. Veronica, Hon. Mutuku and Hon. Kamitu, in that order.

Hon. (Ms.) Sereka: Thank you Mr Speaker Sir, and the house at large. Mine is to congratulate the able chairman for budget and his committee, for a work well done. Mr. Speaker, Sir, this committee has the heart or our people in them. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say, in this budget, I can see my people coming from where they were ten years ago, because Mr. Speaker, Sir, the women and the youth will be empowered, they will have money to boost their businesses and Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to assure you in the coming three years, if the budget goes on with the same chairman, Mr. Speaker, Sir, Kinanie people will just return me back to the seat. Thank you. Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Hon Veronica?

Hon. (Ms.) V. Mbithe: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I would like to start by congratulating the budget committee with its chairman. My concern is on the department of Education, Youth and Social Welfare; the allocation given to the bursary is Kshs. 80 million that reflects to Kshs. 2 million per ward and I remember we approved on bursary allocation committee. I cannot see any allocation to run the committees at the ward level. So, I am wondering how the committees will run without any facilitation. Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Speaker: Let us take a moment for the chair to clarify that. Chair, did you get the point, that there is no provision for committees.

Hon. Muinde: Mr. Speaker, unless there was a day I was not in the house and unless there was information that should have flowed to the budget committee and escaped the keen eyes and ears of the budget committee, I was never informed that we have bursary committees at ward level but I am aware that we have committees that run under the MSWEB board for identification of beneficiaries for the youth, women, elderly and disabled and that committee is well taken care of under the transfers within this ministry to the MSWEB board of Ksh. 190 million, because Kshs. 160 million is directly going to the recipients and Kshs. 30 million are the salaries and allowances of the board and the committees at the ward level.

I am not aware; particularly I come from Ekalakala, I represent the community there, I only assemble the principals and other leaders to distribute the bursaries but I have never seen an allocation where they should earn allowances. Mr. Speaker, Sir, remember one of the key areas of this committee, we have recommended cutting down on the wage bill. The wage bill includes wages and salaries; creation of any other avenue where another committee has to earn payment for sitting allowances will further push the budget of the county government of Machakos to intolerable limits Mr. Speaker.

Unless advised otherwise, Mr. Speaker, we have not factored any money for bursary committees; remember we have so many activities going on at the ward level and if every

decision has to involve another smaller committee down there, then there will be a lot of work and a lot of boards and committees that will take a lot of money in our recurrent budget Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you very much. You want to add something on that? Okay, you are a member of the committee.

Hon. Kasimu: Yes, thank you Mr. Speaker. Unless the chairman on Budget did not receive the communication from the minister of Education, all the elected members have received letters and we have been told to form bursary committees, and there is a procedure for forming that bursary committee, so we wish to communicate this to the chairman of budget that we do an amendment such that the committees we are going to form will be getting allowances after their meetings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Now on this particular item only?

Hon. Nduva: Thank you Mr. Speaker. To add on that Mr. Speaker, I think this communication was not in our committee when we were deliberating about the budget, but a communication was made from the ministry of education that committees should be formed for allocating these bursaries and a procedure has also been directed. So I think we have no choice unless then it is changed from the ministry of education for us now to make an amendment to the kit on bursaries. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. It looks like chair your eye was not exactly keen.

Hon. Nganga:Mr. Speaker, I would like to move a proposal for that committee so that we may be able to take care of the interests of members and to have these committees to be able to run.I would like to propose that we reallocate Kshs. 8 million from under the recurrent expenditure of that department.Under the compensation of employees, we re-allocated Ksh 8 million from the Kshs 163 million and set it under the welfare of the bursary committees at the ward level.You realize that, on quick math, we can be able to spend Kshs. 100,000 per ward, for the 40 wards.

It will be Ksh. 4 million and in two phases that we issue the budget, Kshs. 8 million will be sufficient for that exercise. Therefore, if we do reallocation of Kshs. 8 million, then you realize that because of the challenges that we go through while we are allocating these funds, we would want the committee that has been tasked with that responsibility to be able to do it with utmost comfort.Thank you Mr. Speaker and I would like to call on Hon Cecilia to support my proposal.

Hon. Speaker: Let us hear the support.

Hon. (Ms.) Sereka: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. As we were seated here, we thought it could be good for the Hon Members to give something to the board on bursaries and we calculated, so I stand here to second that we get Ksh 8 million and add for the bursary board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Chair Budget, it looks like those figures are scientific.

Hon. Muinde: Mr. Speaker, you are right. The Ksh. 30 million allocated as compensation of employees includes salaries and allowances for the ministry staff, starting right from the minister to the chief officers, to the last person in that Ministry if the tea girl is the last person. And you can see, we moved from Kshs. 163.4 million to Kshs. 30 million. Mr. Speaker, I actually took my calculator, called the minister and inquired how many of her staff are in that ministry, and got even their salaries and this is Kshs. 30 million for the entire year.

We cannot even touch a cent Mr. Speaker of the Ksh 30 million. I am not opposed to the Committees on bursaries getting an allowance. I sit as a patron in that committee, so if they are getting, I am also getting. But Mr. Speaker, within that ministry's vote, we cannot even get a cent, unless it is hived from any other vote including the Assembly to give it to that ministry. Mr. Speaker, already everything there is cost and Mr. Speaker, what is the danger from the Kshs. 80 million set for the bursary, we still can get the Kshs. 8 million out of that and still allocate. It is within the bursary so if with Kshs 80 million Mr. Speaker....

Hon. Speaker: Order Hon members, order.

Hon. Muinde: Mr. Speaker, Ksh. 80 million translates to Kshs. 2 million per ward, so what is the danger, Mr. Speaker, if within the Kshs. 2 million---

Hon. Speaker: Order, Hon Deputy Majority Leader. I urge you to get off the chamber for the next 30 minutes. Proceed.

(Member withdrew from the chamber)

Hon. Muinde: Mr. Speaker, this way things are stream lined. I am saying if we are getting only Ksh. 8 million from Ksh. 80 million, it will translate to a very small percentage. Why don't we hive it from there because for sure honestly, there will be a spiral effect if we touch any other ministry to allocate money? Mr. Speaker, the committee sat over this the entire weekend and if there was any cent that could be moved from one ministry to another, I would be the first one to touch. But I find it proper to hive it from the Ksh. 80 million so that we do not destabilize the budget.

Hon. Speaker: Maybe Hon chair perhaps before you take your rest, I was just wondering, have these bursary committees been formed and is it in order to appropriate for an institution that is not in existence.

Hon. Muinde: Mr. Speaker, you actually remind me of the proper procedures, since I said I am not aware of those committees and members are saying they got a circular from the minister in charge of education but when it comes to matters of finance, circulars must come from the minister of finance. The correspondence should have been from the minister education to the minister of finance creating that and since they are not in existence, I also wonder whether we can allocate money to non-existing entities.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you on that. On the existence of the committees, let us hear the chair, Labour.

Hon. Itumo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. It is unheard off for the Chairman of Budget to say that he is unaware of this sensitive committee. I would like first to say that the budget has been well stipulated but I would like to ask this House to support this budget. But I also want to ask this Hon house to have this committee in place, because this is a very sensitive committee that will make us to come back and also to streamline the bursaries. So it is also important to get some money from ICT, that is Kshs. 8 million and put in place this committee.

So Mr. Speaker, I urge this house to see to it that this money has been allocated, at least Kshs. 8 million, for this sensitive committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you very much. Any other contribution? Hon Nziva.

Hon. (Ms.) Nziva: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and the House at large. Let me first congratulate the budget committee for the work well done. And on education, I am a member of the Education Committee and I remember very well, we passed a bill in the assembly sometimes back regarding the bursary committee. There was a committee set aside, I think I am very much right and we said the money which is supposed to be paid to those members will be proposed by the committee.

I am a member of the bursary committee in our constituency and the fund which is released by the ministry which is like Kshs. 1 million, that committee sets aside allowances for the members. So I think out of this Kshs. 2 million, we can set aside some funds for the committee since it sits only once per year. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Order members. I want to hear who is asking for clarification. Then you are out of order, leave the chamber. The mode of communication is only by sign; you cannot talk at the seat, kindly leave the chamber. Let us hear the chair; I think the point is made, the bursary committees are there. Now tell us whether you were exactly keen.

Hon. Muinde: Mr. Speaker, personally I would not want the debate on the bursary committee allowances to become a big issue. Actually, I recollected myself and remembered that I was in the chamber that day and I remember it was written as salary and we said it should be changed to reflect allowances and since then, the committee on education did not sit down to

make a specific allocation, but the committee exists as we passed in the house; in fact Hon Nziva has made me remember.

Mr. Speaker I want to say the allowances of the committees of bursaries for the national level that sit at the constituency level is at Kshs. 25,000 for one allocation which only comes in a year. Mr. Speaker, since we will be distributing this money twice in a year because it is one million in every disbursement, that means if we were to go by the traditions set by the national government, we will require Kshs. 50,000 for the committee meaning Kshs. 25,000 in one sitting and another Kshs. 25,000. Mr. Speaker, Kshs. 50,000 times forty is Kshs. 2 million Mr. Speaker and that is not a lot Mr. Speaker from the ministry of finance when you look at their vote.

Because the minister finance is the source of money, on the first page members, we cannot touch on compensation for employees, but we can touch on other development. There is funding for the ministry in terms of acquisition of computersoftware. We can either move it from the Kshs. 19 million where we can chop off to Kshs. 2 million or from the acquisition of non-financial assets Kshs. 41 million, we can chop off Kshs. 2 million. This Mr. Speaker, the Kshs. 41 million is for the construction of a new block of office for the ministry and the Kshs. 19 million is for the construction of barrier sheds.

You see our revenue collectors are housed under mabatis and it's not very safe, they don't even have toilets, they go to the bushes Mr. Speaker, and the minister wants to have at least a toilet, because these are our workers and they should live decently.

We can roll the programme, and if it is not enough, we can continue funding in the next year. So I believe we can chop off Ksh. 2 million, if my proposal of Kshs. 50,000 is adopted. If members feel we should go up to Ksh. 100,000 that will translate to Kshs. 4 million. Mr. Speaker, if allowed we can still have Kshs. 8 Million to be on the higher side. We can chop off from the Kshs. 41.4 million so that this debate can rest.

Hon. Speaker: Hon members, do we say there is consensus on that point?

Hon. (Ms.) R. Nduku: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also congratulate our chairman but there is something that maybe passed my ears, though I am in the committee. When I was sitting here, I was thinking about the disabled people who cannot hear, people who cannot see and maybe people who are walking with crutches. And in social programmes, we as the committee of budget, we proposed that the revolving fund to cater for the needs of the women, youth and persons with disabilities be set aside and an interest rate of 5 per cent to be charged for loans given to these members of the community. I just wanted to remind my chairman that it could be wise if we waive the 5 per cent to the people who are disabled and we give it to the women and the youth so that the people who have disabilities can be able to cater for their needs. Thank you, chairman.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, I think I agree. That is not a difficult request.

Hon. Muinde: Mr. Speaker, I did not really get the request by the vice chair.

Hon. Speaker: Interest to be waived for the disabled.

Hon. Muinde: Mr. Speaker, the 5 per cent interest is just an administrative cost. It is not going to make any gain at all. It is purely administrative: paper work, fuel for running up and down. I don't think it actually means a lot in terms of the ability. Mr. Speaker I even wanted to give the disabled free money just like the elderly, but the challenge which occurred at the sectoral committee hearing is that establishing a mechanism where you can identify and say that this person is totally disabled to an extent that he/she cannot pay became a challenge for this county because the disabled are disabled in various degrees.

If we allow any window Mr. Speaker, our fear was that the facility may be misused. People who really need help may be enlisted just to get the money to give the very able, who may misuse the facility. But Mr. Speaker, if members of this house feel that 5 per cent is material and remember, we are not giving much, if a member a member of the community is getting Kshs. 5000, when you calculate 5 per cent of Ksh. 5000, for sure it is too little to warrant a heavy discussion by this house, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you very much. Hon Kamitu?

Hon. Kamitu: Thank you very much hon Speaker. My congratulation first goes to our able chairman with his committee, but I've got some observations that I have made in regard to the Department of roads, transport, public works and housing, where our Hon chairman, has noted in page 9 of his statement under the Department of roads, transport, public works and housing where it states, "Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, the committee recommends the construction of ward headquarters in every ward at a cost of Kshs. 3 million. My observation, Mr. Speaker, Sir, is that I don't know whether he took into consideration that there are some wards that have no land, so when you talk about Kshs. 3 million per ward to house elected Members of the County Assembly, ward administrators, revenue collectors, agricultural officers and other ward officers, I think this is too little money if we are going to make these offices to look presentable and to be able to accommodate all those workers you have mentioned. That is my observation. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you very much. Yes Hon Mutuku

Hon. M. Mutuku: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for granting me the opportunity. First let me congratulate the able Chairman and his committee. My observation goes to the ministry of trade, because I recall in the 2013/2014 budget, we had allocated some money for the market sheds, but I can also see it is captured in the 2014 budget.

So I would like the chairman, maybe when the Chief Officer for trade was presenting his case, maybe I was not there, I can see still market sheds captured in this budget so I need clarification. I thought the money was committed then it was carried forward for the contractors to be paid in this financial year. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Maybe for a minute, we can get the clarification then after that, we will hear the Hon. Member for Muthesya.

Hon. Muinde: Mr. Speaker, first I want to respond on the question by the Hon member from Tala, the Hon Minority Whip on the adequacy of the Ksh. 3 million for construction of ward offices. Mr. Speaker, that item was not factored by the minister of finance in her budget proposal. It was therefore a big burden for the committee on Budget, to hive off other votes to create that Ksh. 120 million for the construction of these offices.

Mr. Speaker if allowed, because of the way the budget is so thin, I urge that we go by the Kshs.3 million per ward, but those special cases like his case for example, that case can be handled on its own. Part of that money can be used to acquire the piece of land and in between the year, through a supplementary budget, looking at the performance of the government in terms of absorption by various departments, we can now provide for further funding for those exceptional cases because as a budget process, we were not able to go through ward by ward, identifying resources they have and those that they don't have.

But as way forward, those special cases, we can handle through a supplementary and on behalf of the budget committee if allowed, I can commit the budget to say that special cases be handled later within the year because obviously, there will be savings in many departments. You see where we have acquisition of non-financial assets, if we say a market shed is to cost Kshs. 5 million, supposing a contractor quotes Kshs. 4.5 million, that means there will be small savings in various departments and such monies can be channeled to cater for those exceptional cases through a supplementary.

On Hon. Member for Athi River, Mutuku Mutua, Mr. Speaker, he did mention that we allocated money in the 2013/2014 for market sheds. The minister and the PS appeared in the sectoral committees; they said the money was not adequate and they had only factored nine wards out of 40 wards. Tenders were given but now we are saying we are allocating to ensure that it is uniform; the other 31 wards to just be enjoined so that they can enjoy the same, not just the nine and I also want to remind him that this is just a budget. Work may have been committed, but payment for the same has never been done.

In this budget we are now allocating money and that is why in other governments, you see programmes stalling. We have white elephants because in one year, money was allocated to a rolling programme and then in the subsequent year, more funding was not allocated meaning such programmes stalled. I also want to remind him that all that was not done by the government in 2013/2014 will have to be done in 2014/2015. When you look keenly on this budget, many of the commitments by the government in 2013/2014 that were not done will be corrected in the 2014/2015.

An example being the community hospitals at Ksh. 480 million committed last year, nothing has been paid, they will be paid within this budget. So, much as we allocated, nothing has been done, nothing was paid; we are allocating money here. You remember we did a supplementary; we tried to re-allocate money to a big programme that never existed like the Makutano-Kithimani road; some of those monies were the ones that were swept to cater for that programme.

I also want to remind the Hon member that the government collected close to Kshs 1.5 billion through local sources and the same government got from the National government Kshs. 4.9 billion meaning this government was able to receive and spend Kshs. 6.4 billion, against a

projected budget of Kshs. 8 billion meaning there was a short fall in funding, but the government committed the balance of Kshs 1.6 billion to programmes that were not paid. This is about finance and accounting, it is now that short fall, part of which are the sheds you are talking about that will be financed by the 2014/2015 budget. Thank you Mr. Speaker and I hope I am clear on that.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you very much.

Hon. Nzioki: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for seeing my hand, I was almost giving up. I would like to get some clarification from the chairman. On our last budget, 2012/2013, we were unable to collect the local revenues and we were unable to collect halfway and that translated to some projects not being done. Have they considered the Kshs. 2.7 billion that they are proposing that we collect? Otherwise, Mr. Speaker, I urge members that we adopt and pass this budget as it is. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you very much. Members I will have a very short break, my Deputy will be in charge. I will be back.

[Mr. Speaker left the Chair]

(The Deputy Speaker (Mr. Nathaniel Nganga) took the Chair)

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you members. Chairman you can respond to that matter that has been raised by the member for Muthesya.

Hon. Muinde: Mr. Speaker, the minister of finance in her proposals to the house, proposed to collect Kshs. 3.7 billion locally, of which it was in the wisdom of the budget committee to down scale it from Ksh 3.7 to Ksh. 2.7 billion and that is captured in page 4 of my report on the total budget highlights after the preface. Mr. Speaker, this is an area that we questioned the minister and we expect to collect Ksh. 1.5 billion in the year ending 30th June 2014. The minister has explained that she is now going digital; many areas where there were leakages, where we were losing money, those loopholes have been sealed. She already has auditors and accountants in her ministry now.

She has the reinforcement officers and vehicles to ensure that we collect. Although we will be making the Finance Bill sometimes later by September 2014 Mr. Speaker, we intend not to increase taxes for the county. But well collected, this government can collect Ksh. 2.7 and the systems are in place and even when you look our parking attendants, they are using machines and we are still continuing to install proper gadgets and control measures to ensure that we collect.

And Mr. Speaker, if we also set low targets for the ministries, there will be low performance. In fact the minister said she expects to collect more, and if she collects more than

the Kshs. 2.7 billion, by way of a supplementary, those other shortfalls in finance will be taken care of.

So I want to assure the member, by word of the minister, through the chairman, that this government will be able to collect. And Mr. Speaker, part of the reason that we did not collect enough, was that there were demonstrations, misunderstandings, mass actions after we passed the Finance Bill because members of public were misled to believe that we will be taxing funeral processions, wedding processions, we are increasing taxes, we are charging to bury your dogs and all that.

And there was bad blood between the Assembly, the Executive and the public that we serve. We believe there is good will from our members, for they have seen the truth that we are not overcharging our members. They were told they will even be charged to bury their own people; that never happened. So riding on the good will, we will be able to collect this money.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you chairman. Hon. Saul Kavuu.

Hon. Kavuu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have talked a lot and as I went through this budget, actually it is a very good budget. And once more I want to congratulate the chairman budget. Mr. Speaker, in this house there are a lot of mosquitoes, and I would request the members, please, because you have exhausted everything, please to adopt this budget and then we pass it. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Muli

Hon. Muli: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First I would sincerely appreciate and thank the participants who participated in this wonderful Machakos Budget. I also appreciate the committee of budget under the able chairman, whom I know has great knowledge in finance and as I contribute on my side, this budget relates to programme based budget focusing on results on matters relating to the people we serve. It also relates to prioritizing the projects which are considered very much where we represent.

On my side, I would like to support totally this budget, as it considered health services. Machakos County needs a very healthy community which can focus and bring prosperity within our county. We would also like to congratulate the committee which considered the elderly people because they are the ones who need to be very much supported. I would sincerely request the hon members of this house to adopt this budget and we pass it. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Hon Munyaka.

Hon. Nzeki: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I can see this is a Mwananchi budget and I stand here to propose that we pass the budget estimates. Thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. I am informed that the room will be fumigated tomorrow by the ministry of health so Hon. Kavuu, next sitting you will be safe from mosquitoes. Hon. Majority Leader please.

Majority Leader (Hon. Mwonga): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to concur with the members who have contributed on this important document Mr. Speaker and I hereby stand to second that the house adopts the budget as it is, with the few amendments that have been contributed by the members. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Let me call the mover of the motion to make the final submissions before I put the question.

Hon. Muinde: Mr. Speaker Thank you Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the budget committee, I want to congratulate the members of this House for soberly debating the 2014/2015 budget estimates and the proposals that have been proposed and named will be captured in the Appropriation Bill that will follow later tomorrow and we want to say that we have received a lot of support from the members, a lot of good will from members and I wish that we remain as ambassadors of this county out there. The house is very calm; I wish we are always like this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. And now going by the mood of the House, there being no other contributions, I therefore put the question that the report of the Budget and Appropriation Committee on the estimates of revenues and expenditure for 2014/2015 be adopted with amendments, as proposed and adopted by members.

(Question put and agreed to)

The matter is therefore dispensed of.

(The Speaker resumed to the Chair)

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Let us proceed to the next agenda.

AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDER 225

Hon. Nganga: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr Speaker, I rise on the earlier motion that I would wish to move the following motion. That aware the National Assembly has amended Standing Order 223 to allow executive members to attend plenary and respond to members' questions; and further aware that these hon members have the mandate to represent and oversight on behalf of the public on issues of service delivery that whatever questions are raised in the house, the majority leader and chairpersons of various committees have to take time to get responses from the executive members; that the executive committee members are better placed to respond on issues raised in the House concerning the departments; and further aware that the County Executive Committee members are the implementers in the County Government; aware that the County Executive Committee members are equipped with information on County Government programme implementation and other issues of concern to the members; further

aware that if these Executive Committee Members are allowed to attend the house sittings, they would be able to give immediate responses on areas of concern, this Hon house discusses and approves the County Executive Committee members to be allowed to attend the plenary sessionsto respond to members. Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. I would like to call Hon Felix to support the motion. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Hon. Ngui: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. Aware that these Hon members have been elected to represent various wards in Machakos County, and that there are pertinent issues of importance that the chairpersons of committees are not able to answer members, I therefore stand here to support that the County Executive Committee members be allowed to come and attend plenaries to answer questions and give statements to members. Therefore Mr. Speaker Sir, I support that we amend Standing Order 225 to allow the Executive to be coming to plenary to answer questions. Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir.

Hon. Speaker: Can I hear points in support? Yes Hon Manyolo.

Hon. Manyolo: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir and thank you for the discipline of the house. I will be disciplined now and I will adhere to the Standing Orders of the house. Mr. Speaker Sir, I stand to support that amendment, knowing that most of the committee chairpersons are not participating well. They are giving us irrelevant answers pertaining to what we are discussing so it could be better if we have those officers being with us, to give us clear information on what is going on and what is expected. Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir, I stand to support.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Any other in support? A person we have not heard today? Okay let us hear the Majority.

Majority Leader (Hon. Mwonga): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am 100 per cent in support of the amendment of Standing Order 225 for one good reason Mr. Speaker: that it will ease the work of the office of the Majority Leader. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Yes, Hon, Oliver Munyaka.

Hon. Nzeki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I support that we amend Standing Order 225 because most of the committee chairpersons are not professionals. We need professionals from the ministry. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Yes Hon. Ndumi.

Hon. (Ms.) Ndumi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I stand to support chapter 225 because when we joined the house, we found that you had already selected the chairpersons but Mr. Speaker, some chairpersons are not active and there are better, active nominated members though we came late. So Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Speaker: Okay, you support. Yes, I have been looking for you.

Hon. Muli: Thank you very much Mr. Speaker for seeing my hand. I totally support the amendment of that Standing Order 225 for we need comprehensive information from the specialists who are relevant with those ministries. Also Mr. Speaker, most of the chairpersons are not competent and are not professional for the departments which they hold and they don't give Hon members comprehensive information. Therefore, I totally support the amendment. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Minority Leader (Hon. Kasoa): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand here to support in totality this motion, bearing in mind the ministers are the implementers of the budget and are also the accounting officers. So I support in full. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Hon. Nduva: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr Speaker, I totally support the amendment of the Standing Order 225 because it will ease the movement. We have being going around looking for the ministers to answer these questions and Mr. Speaker I believe this issue is exhausted. I request, Mr. Speaker, through your Chair, that you put the question so that we can end this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. I think there is general consensus on this matter. May I have anybody in opposition of this motion?

(Silence)

In the absence of that, I put the question that for those in support of the motion, as read by the Deputy Speaker, in relation to Standing Order 225.

(Question put and agreed to)

Yes?

RE-APPOINTING MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES

Majority Leader (Hon. Mwonga): Thank you Mr. Speaker. When I gave a notice of motion to table the report of committee of selection, Mr. Speaker, you directed that, that report be tabled before this House on Thursday evening, Mr. Speaker, but due to the urgency of the matter, Mr. Speaker, I am putting a request that I table the same report tomorrow in the morning session. Bearing in mind that the calendar of the house business committee has slotted for the vetting of chief officers as from 1st to 3rd July, and Mr. Speaker, the committees will have to sit and come up with new chairs of those particular committees Mr. Speaker---

Hon. Speaker: Can you be a little bit clear? What is the exact urgency?

Majority Leader (Hon. Mwonga): Mr. Speaker, the urgency is that the Committee on Selection sat and re-appointed members in different committees. Although I am not pre-empting the report of that committee Mr. Speaker, I know there are particular committees now, which have no Chairs and they cannot transact any business, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Is anybody in support of that proposition? From today on, we shall be speaking through the chair. Anybody in support of that? Yes Veronica.

Hon. (Ms.) V. Mbithe: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. I stand here in support of that suggestion that the motion should be tabled tomorrow, because of the urgency. Mr. Speaker, this house has to continue with its business and due to so many delays, we need to move faster so that we can be productive as a house, Mr. Speaker. So I support that this motion be tabled tomorrow. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Is there any voice in opposition to that proposition? Yes? You are opposing the suggestion that has been put that we pull this motion closer to tomorrow?

Hon. Nzioki: Yes. I would request that the Majority Leader, if it were possible, tables the motion now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(Loud consultations)

Hon. Speaker: Order! order! Hon. Members. The request is granted but not now. We will handle the matter tomorrow morning. Proceed.

BILLS

First Reading

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET BILL, 2013/2014

Hon. Muinde: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to introduce the following Bill to be read for the first reading today, Tuesday 24th June 2014: Budget and Appropriation Supplementary Budget Bill for 2013/2014.

(Order for First Reading read - Read the First Time and ordered to be referred to the Budget and Appropriation Committee)

Hon. Speaker: The Machakos County Appropriation Bill, 2014 which was gazetted through Machakos County Gazette Supplement Number 8, is hereby read for the first time.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker: Hon Members thank you very much. That is the end of today's business. Have a good evening.

The House rose at 6.40 p.m.