

**MACHAKOS COUNTY ASSEMBLY****OFFICIAL REPORT****Tuesday, 15th July, 2014**

The House met at 3.13 p.m.

*[The Deputy Speaker (Mr. Nganga) in the Chair]***PRAYERS****COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR  
DEVELOPMENT OF NEW MACHAKOS CITY**

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Hon Members the office of the speaker has received a communication from the ministry of lands energy environment and natural resources of the county executive. The adoption of the part of development for Machakos new city reference is made to the letter dated 3rd December, 2013 authorizing the executive to plan the new Machakos city and attached part development plan.

This is to bring to your attention that the executive proceeded as per your approval and prepared Part Development Plan (PDP0. I therefore request the Hon. House to give its input and adopt the same. Kindly confirm the same to enable us realize this project. That is the communication from the minister in charge, Hon. Joshua Musili, and therefore the matter is referred to the committee on planning and cooperative development to seek and make recommendations with reference to the Part Development Plan of our new Machakos city. Thank you, proceed.

**PAPERS LAID****EDUCATIONAL TRIP TO SOUTH AFRICA**

**Hon. (Ms.) R. Nduku:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay the following paper on the table of the assembly today Tuesday, 15th July, 2014; report of the budget and appropriation and PIC and PAC committees on education trip to South Africa .Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

*(Hon. (Ms.) R. Nduku laid the Paper on the Table)***BENCHMARKING TOUR TO SINGAPORE**

**Hon. Muinde:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the chairman transport committee, I beg to lay the following paper on the table of the assembly today Tuesday, 15th July, 2014; report of transport, roads, public works and housing committee on benchmarking tour to Singapore thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Proceed.

### NOTICES OF MOTIONS EDUCATIONAL TRIP TO SOUTH AFRICA

**Hon. (Ms.) R. Nduku:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, I wish to give notice of the following motion; that this Hon. House discusses and approves the budget and appropriation and PIC and PAC committees report on the education trip to South Africa. Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

### BENCHMARKING TOUR TO SINGAPORE

**Hon. Muinde:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to give notice of the following motion; that this Hon. House approves the report of transport, roads public works and housing committee on the benchmarking trip to Singapore. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Proceed, Clerk.

### STATEMENTS DESTRUCTION OF MWALA-KITHIMANI ROAD

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Yes Hon. Dominic.

**Hon. Maitha:** Thank you Mr. Speaker and the Hon. Members present. Mr. Speaker, I would like to get a statement clarification from Hon. Muinde who has spoken and read a motion on behalf of the chairman of transport committee. It is unfortunate that the chairman of transport committee is here it would have been in the best interest of the statement I want to enquire from the chairman of transport committee and the minority leader who seems not to be around. Mr. Speaker, I am much perturbed by media reports that some Hon. Members, yesterday, were reported to have gone through the newly-launched Kithimani-Mwala road and did destruction on that road. Mr. Speaker, I think this Hon. House is being taken amiss.

Personally, I was on that trip. We went upto Kithimani and even the Hon. Nduva can attest we met with him although we did not speak with him and it was quite unfortunate because we were here at around 4 p.m. and media reports came that Hon. Members went, dug holes on that road which is totally unsubstantiated, is totally malicious and that Hon. Member ought, if possible, to be taken to court because I was personally on that tour. We saw what we saw.

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We are not mad as Hon. Members to go and dig holes in a road in broad daylight, Mr. Speaker. So what we are demanding a full explanation for the minority leader who gave that media report. We need a full explanation by the CEC in charge of transport because those are allegations which are baseless meant to create animosity and I want to say this; Mr. Speaker, in as much as members want to go to the media, let them control their statements because these kinds of statements are causing a lot of animosity, not even in the assembly but in the entire Machakos County.

These statements were read by Machakos County, Makueni County and Kitui County. What kind of a picture are we telling the electorate there? So, I need a proper substantiated report on that because I was there on broad daylight and if any damage would have been caused by the time we came to this assembly yesterday, at around 4 p.m. we would have been told to go back and be shown what has happened. So, I demand a statement to be explained why some members are taking this assembly for a ride and thinking that they can make unsubstantiated statements which are meant to infringe on the rights of others and cause animosity in Machakos County. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you. The matter, then will be referred to the chairman roads and Hon. Muinde you can undertake to inform him to bring a statement in that regard to the House next week. You can commit yourself?

**Hon. Muinde:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am a member of the transport committee and the chairman is joining us later but on his behalf and the behalf of the committee, we will undertake to respond in good time as you have directed. Thank you.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you. Yes, Hon. Muthuka.

#### SECURITY FOR MEMBERS

**Hon. Muthuka:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir, and the House at large. Mr. Speaker, I do not know where to direct my statement to but it is about security. Mr. Speaker, on our way from the tour to check that road, we encountered three county government security vehicles. I will give the details. We have that KBX/W which on board was the one Charles Matheka alias Nduva. The same person I requested statement on when I received threats in my life before we went for recess. Up to date that statement has never landed in this House.

After that, it is important to note that one Hon. Festus Ndeto was accosted by the same guys at the garage and they were following him until he dodged them before he went home. We have Hon. Wairimu, Hon. Amina and Hon. Carol who on their way to their homes in Nairobi, there was a car which belongs to the county government KBJ/U which also accosted them and tried to block their way. Noting that we had a camera, they took a snap of that vehicle and took the registration number.

Mr. Speaker, we are feeling insecure in this county and we are asking for security and it is a wonder if the same government is trailing the people who are fighting for the needs of the

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people, is as if there is a calculated move to frustrate us and even word is around that I and Hon. Ndawa, we should be careful before the end of this week because our security is in question. So Mr. Speaker, I ask Mr. Speaker, you undertake what is necessary and I am requesting for security. Thank you.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Stephen and the office of the Speaker, notes and takes that matter seriously and I would want to urge the majority leader to investigate that issue and bring a report to the House in the earliest time possible. Hon. Joshua you can give us a commitment on when we can be able to get that report in the House.

**Majority Leader (Hon. Mwonga):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to start by thanking the Chair for directing that I first do my own investigation then I bring that statement in the House. I will exactly do that in two weeks time. Thank you.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you and you better move with speed because security is a matter of life. And the final statement Hon. Ndawa, please.

#### POINT OF ORDER

**Hon. (Ms.) Ndawa:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and the House at large, I would like to enquire if one Hon. Joshua Mwonga is properly dressed, Mr. Speaker, because I have never seen a man put on a tie the way he has it on his neck, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you. I think he takes your advice and will come in looking more decent. Proceed, clerk.

#### MOTIONS

##### EDUCATIONAL TRIP TO SOUTH AFRICA

**Hon. (Ms.) R. Nduku:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Aware that the budget and appropriation and PIC and PAC committee members traveled to South Africa on education trip arranged by KCA University, the committees went along to study program-based budgeting that was to support the 2014/2015 budget process. Mr. Speaker, Sir, aware that the county government has adopted program-based budgeting for 2014/2015 financial year that identifies the development projects to be implemented and the recurrent budget expenditure items, I wish to move the motion that this Hon. House considers and approves the report on the educational trip to Johannesburg, South Africa as presented by the budget and appropriation and PIC and PAC committees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I would like to ask Hon. Ruth Ndumi to second this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. (Ms.) Ndumi:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. I stand here to support the motion of educational trip to South Africa. Thank you.

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**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** The report is open for the assembly to debate the report.

**Hon. Matheka:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am wondering whether it is in order for us, as Hon. Members, to discuss what we do not see and what we have not heard of. Where is the report? We have not seen it. We are just seeing people reading papers. Where is the report? We have not read it and we have not seen it what are we going to discuss Mr. Speaker, Sir.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** I think the report should have been circulated to members. Chairman, you need to respond to that issue. Hon. Rachel.

**Hon. (Ms.) R. Nduku:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sorry, Hon. Member because of the papers. Budget and appropriation and PIC and PAC committees on education trip to South Africa report.

#### ***PREAMBLE***

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Committees for Budget and Appropriation and PIC and PAC attended training on best practices for finance and budget committees in Johannesburg, South Africa on 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2014 facilitated by KCA University. The following members attended the training:-

#### ***MEMBERS OF BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION COMMITTEE***

1. Hon. Isaac Muinde - Chairman
2. Hon. (Ms.) Rachael Nduku - Vice Chairperson
3. Hon. Wilson Kasimu
4. Hon. Sammy Nduva
5. Hon. Renson Muthiani
6. Hon. Charles Mutisya
7. Hon. John Sila
8. Hon. Christine Mutune
9. Hon. (Ms.) Ruth Ndumi

#### ***MEMBERS OF PIC and PAC***

1. Hon. Dominic Maitha - Chairman
2. Hon. Michael Mutuku - Vice Chairman
3. Hon. Joseph Kalunde
4. Hon. (Ms.) Anne Musyoki
5. Hon. (Ms.) Alice Nzioka

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**INVITED MEMBERS**

1. Hon. (Ms.) Bernadette Musyoka
2. Hon. (Ms.) Cecelia Sereka
3. Hon. (Ms.) Magdalene Ndawa
4. Hon. (Ms.) Amina Mutio
5. Hon. Raphael Mutuku

**STAFF MEMBERS**

1. Dominic Musyoka - Senior Clerk Assistant
2. Rebecca Mbithe - Fiscal Analyst
3. Susan Kanini - Internal Auditor
4. Herman Njuguna - Hansard Editor
5. Benson Mutua - Senior Accountant

**TOPICS COVERED**

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following areas were covered:-

- Key Documents and Timelines in relation to Budgeting process
- Introduction to Programme based budgeting
- Analyzing County Budgets; a look at the Case Study: Kakamega County Budget
- Best practices in Programme Based Budgeting; “The South Africa Experience”

**KEY DOCUMENTS AND TIMELINES IN RELATION TO BUDGET PROCESS**

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Budget process spans over a period of 18 months and has four main stages as listed below:-

<b>STAGE</b>	<b>DOCUMENTS</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Formulation	County Fiscal Strategy Paper. Budget Statement Estimates-recurrent and development expenditure and revenue. Budget Highlights- citizen budget	- February 28 - April 30 - April 30
Approval	Appropriation Act	- June 30
Implementation	Quarterly Economic and Budgetary Review	- Quarterly
Audit/ Oversight	Report of the Auditor General on Appropriation accounts	- 6 months after FY end

**PROGRAMME BASED BUDGET (PBB)**


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Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Public Finance Management Act (PFM) Act stipulates that County Governments Budgets for 2014/ 2015 to be Programme-Based Budgets (PBB). The PBB provides a considerable detail on what programs the government spends money on. Programme Based Budgeting provides flexibility to managers during implementation can serve multiple objectives and enables more efficient use of resources.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, PBB provides policy clarity in line with priorities consistent with governments' strategic objectives and improves the value for money in public spending by reducing wastage and increasing impact.

PBB relies on Strategic planning, operational planning, performance accountability and a realistic performance measurement system to build budgets. A programme-based budget should have sufficient narrative on the programs to be undertaken and major programs should be broken into subgroups spread over three years.

### ***ANALYZING COUNTY BUDGETS – CASE STUDY KAKAMEGA COUNTY***

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when budgeting the following key points should be considered:-

- a) Specify clearly which areas or wards where the proposed projects are supposed to be undertaken.
- b) State the revenue the county government expects to raise from its taxes and fees and the amount should be reasonable.
- c) The budgeted items should be within the County Government mandate.
- d) The budget should have an emergency fund in case of any disaster. PFM Act 110 to 114.
- e) The budget should have provision for public participation. PFM Act 137.
- f) The budget should be inclusive enough to cater all the items as outlined in the Fourth Schedule of the constitution and the Transition Authority guidelines

### ***SOUTH AFRICAN EXPERIENCE***

Mr. Speaker, Sir, budgeting in South Africa is done on a three year Medium Term Expenditure Framework. It is based on National priorities announced at the beginning of the year by the President through the State of the National Address and the citizens are involved in throughout budgeting process through public participation.

### ***PUBLIC PARTICIPATION***

Mr. Speaker, Sir, public participation should be undertaken during all stages of budget-making. The public can be involved through public forums, request of proposals from interested stakeholders and also post the budget in the website. The PFM Act creates a County Budget Economic Forum (CBEF) which is tasked with ensuring that public participation goes on. The County Assembly may provide legislation on public participation which is in line with the PFMA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you Hon. Rachel. I want to call upon members to participate in debate of the report so that we can be able dispense it thereof. So, I invite deliberation. Yes, Hon. Muinde

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**Hon. Muinde:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was part of this team that toured South Africa and over and above attending classes on the best practices for finance and budget committees, we had an opportunity to listen to the South African experience and we had a chance to compare what they do in South Africa and what we do here. It came to our notice that our Kenyan PFM Act is a replica of the South African PFM and a lot is in common. Mr. Speaker, this tour took place in 20th to 24th May, 2014 and that was during the budget-making process.

It was the right time for the members of the budget committee together with the PAC and PIC because the experiences and the knowledge we gained during that period went a long way in helping us while we prepared our budget as a County for the year 2014/2015 and all that we learnt was of help and we were able to utilize the knowledge in making our budget and for sure, Mr. Speaker, we prepared our budget in line with the PFM Act and the constitution we followed timelines as guided and we have a budget.

Although, Mr. Speaker, it is important to note even after we pass the budget that we had other addles placed ahead of us by the office of the Controller of Budget and the CRA but in terms of adhering to the timelines, in terms of best practices like public participation we can say much across we were able to have one of the best budgets because of our learning experiences because of our learning that we held in South Africa.

This is a summary of all that we undertook in South Africa and we would wish, even though the world out there is fighting assemblies when they undertake benchmarking tours learning experiences from other countries and counties, I would want to say this was not resources wasted. This was time well-spent and resources well-spent, because, for sure, we do not have many addles while we prepare our budget. So, Mr. Speaker, this is a report that surely highlights all we undertook in South Africa and with that I support. Thank you.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you. Hon Kathinzi.

**Hon. Kathinzi:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to appreciate and congratulate the job well done by the chairman for one reason that point 2.3 (a) is that as this case study which was done from Kakamega County, there is a specific area in those wards or in every ward whereby proposed projects are supposed to be undertaken is clearly taken care of. Mr. Speaker, I believe that this is also going to be adopted and well done in this particular county so that we can be able to know when we are planning for any particular year's budget, those particular projects are going to be undertaken.

So, therefore, I do concur with that and agree that we at least move that way. However, as you can see from that report that is page 4, I was expecting, to see seconding signature from the chair PAC and PIC but he has not signed and I feel this is a report which is already written by the budget. So, I was expecting to get independent report from PAC because this is an independent committee. So, therefore that is a challenge I think we need to analyze failure and agree the way forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Hon Mwonga.



**Majority Leader (Hon. Mwonga):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First and foremost, I would start by thanking the committee for a work well done. Mr. Speaker, this is the first committee to bring its report in this Hon. House after travelling outside this country and, Mr. Speaker, I will not hesitate to congratulate them on that part. Mr. Speaker, I want assure this Hon. House that I totally agree with the report that whatever the Executive is going to do they should adhere to the budget allocation. Mr. Speaker, and I being the link between the executive and this Hon. House I stand here to support the recommendations of this committee and I take it upon myself and advise the executive to adhere to this report of the budget committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Hon. Kamitu.

**Hon. Kamitu:** Thank you very much Mr. Speaker, Sir. My contribution to what the budget team did is that we congratulate them and urge this House, through your office, that you remember we did the committee interrogation and it is on this strength that we are requesting this assembly that during the interrogations, we talked about the quarterly reports in regard to implementation of development within the ward. So my emphasis on this one is to say that our cabinet or our executive officers plus the chief officers they should be accounting in regard or inn relationship to the budget we were given so that implementation of projects would be seen thriving in relationship to what was budgeted for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Hon. Collins.

**Hon. Mbithi:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir, and the House at large. This is the Voice of Lower Kaewa. I want to congratulate the budget team that made their way to South Africa and maybe Mr. Speaker, Sir, as we do the oversight role as the legislative arm of the government, I think the same training should be extended to the executive arm of the government so that by our budget team. Maybe you need to do a very thorough training or rather you direct them to go to South Africa and any other place to do the same because we have great challenges with the implementation as stated in your key document and timelines in relation to the budget process. If only they could do the implementation as you have gone and studied maybe the whole of this county could be far as far as the project implementation is concerned.

Secondly we did the public participation. Our communities gave out what to them would have been done by the county and as of today, 90 percent, 95 percent or 98 of the recommendation of our people, as far as the public participation is concerned, nothing has been done in relation to the budget 2013/2014. Many people were opting for polytechnics, we also set money for the ECDE classes and as of today, nothing has been done. So maybe, Hon. Muinde, with all due respect, what you have learnt, I would wish you extend it to our other arm of the government so that we work with ease as far as implementation is concerned and because I know they also have their own money for such seminars, I would wish they move outside and just go and learn just like our colleagues have done.

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It is an advice to that other side so that we do not have so much conflict as we are having today. Thank you and once again congratulations.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Hon. Kitheka.

**Hon. Kitheka:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, and the House at large. First and foremost, I wish to thank the group which has come up with this detailed document which has very pertinent issues pertaining to the presence of budget in our county. We wish the executive will come up with a good formula of implementing the same. I would also wish to request whether the members in the committee have gone to an extend to know what happens if a county government, like Machakos prepares and makes a budget for projects and the projects are not done in that particular year and the money is not there.

*(Hon. Mbithi withdrew from the Chamber without bowing)*

Did there get a solution for that because that is what is on the ground and we wish to get a solution for that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Hon. Chairman, you can respond.

**Hon. Muinde:** Mr. Speaker, first I want to respond on the sentiments by the Hon. Voice of Lower Kaewa that the executive need also to be capacity build, just like the budget and appropriation committee and our PIC and PAC committee. I want to agree that we are also having challenges on the side of the executive when it comes to the budget-making process and the implementation and I want to say that, even without travelling outside this country, they should find a way because they have money for their own capacity-building, to build the capacity of their own officers to know what to do and how to implement the budget. I want to agree that in the 2013/2014 financial years that some projects were not done yet they had been allocated money.

Mr. Speaker, it is common knowledge that it was our first year in the government and that a budget it is a statement of estimates, the intentions that need to be achieved within the fiscal year and in the medium term. It is not always that a government or any entity achieves all its objectives as outlined in the budget but it is always good as a way of proper planning to find that at least 90 percent is achieved. In our case programs like the ECDE and the polytechnics, we recorded zero from those departments in terms of performance and these were the monies which were changed through a supplementary to cater for other big projects like the Makutano-Kithimani road.

I would wish, as Chairman, Mr. Speaker, that this year, that is the 2014/2015, we do not find government departments unable to absorb their money. If it is actually a case of in ability to manage, that this House can move and take action because we would want to budget for money put specific programs and have the specific programs implemented as they have been given by

this house. So, Mr. Speaker, I want also to say that the budget committee in 2013/2014 did little in terms of monitoring on budget implementation.

I want to commit myself and the committee that this year that is 2014/2015, we are not here to just give a budget but we will ensure that the budget is adhered to, implemented and this we are over emphasizing, it has been mentioned by one Hon. Member through the quarterly reports and these reports will find themselves on the table of this House so that as the year progresses, officers who are not able to implement their programs, this House can take stern measures and perhaps send the word to the executive that we are not just making budgets but we would want the budgets translated to measurable outputs out there.

So Mr. Speaker, we want to give that undertaking and we are beginning, coming this Monday, Mr. Speaker, the budget committee will be meeting all the chief officers, the accountants, the procurement officers and the auditors of all the government departments to talk more about the 2013/2014 budget review and the 2014/2015 implementation, so that as they sign documents, those who carelessly sign documents will be told they are signing their death warrants because we will not sit and give budgets to the executive and even the assembly, we will monitor and table reports to this House. We want to have outputs even the blind can see in Machakos for proper implementation of the budget.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you chairman finally Hon. Ndawa.

**Hon. (Ms.) Ndawa:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, and the House at large. I would like to thank the committee on budget. This is a good paper. I do not think it needs a lot of discussion. It should be adopted by this House but my views are, Mr. Speaker, the budget committee should have tabled this paper long before we passed the budget because we were in South Africa before we went through the budget and he should have distributed the same copies to all the CECs so that even this 2014/2015 budget could be on a program-based approach to every ward, to every sub county. It is a pity that most of the departments did not utilize their money according to the budget we had passed the last financial year, Mr. Speaker.

I also would not wish the same statement of Kithimani-Makutano road which is in a pathetic situation, Mr. Speaker, according to my own views. I was there yesterday and I saw it is not the kind of road which is in good quality. The CEC member should actually account for that amount of money Ksh. 655 million being used on that road, Mr. Speaker, because from what I saw, I believe and I know, soon and very soon, it is going to be a case for this county, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

I also feel a lot of pain when I think and I remember we passed a budget for Matungulu sub-county which was giving the whole sub county at least a total sum of Ksh. 75 million. Each ward Ksh. 15 million which was not done. It is something that we should prioritize. Our budget should be prioritized according to the basic needs of our people. This paper is good. I went to Makutano-Kithimani road and I saw the living standards of the people of Makutano-Kithimani road and I am a 100 per cent sure, it was not a priority because even to see a stone house, Mr. Speaker, it is a story to tell. Protect me, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Can you wind up?

**Hon. (Ms.) Ndawa:** Actually before I wind up, Mr. Speaker, I also want to bring to your attention there is no quorum in the House and I believe maybe this House should adjourn.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Clerk, confirm whether we have quorum in the House. We continue with debate as the Clerk confirms whether we have quorum. So any other member willing to contribute or we put the matter to question. Then there being no other contributor, I want to put the question.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

Proceed.

#### BENCHMARKING TOUR TO SINGAPORE

**Hon. Ngui:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. Aware that the transport roads and public works and housing committee traveled to Singapore on a bench marking trip, the committee went along to learn the transport policy and administration of the sector. Mr. Speaker, Sir, aware that the benefits gained from the trip support the members of the committee in planning, in making informed decisions for the sector in the county, I wish to move the motion that this Hon. House considers and approves the report on the benchmarking trip to Singapore as presented by the transport, roads public works and housing committee. Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. I call upon Hon. Isaac Muinde to second.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Who is to second? You can second then from there we will take your point of information.

**Hon. Muinde:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I stand to support the motion that this House adopts this report with this comments that, Mr. Speaker, this County will need to benchmark with the best countries, in terms of our infrastructure so that development can be spread all along the corners of this county and that the experiences learned in Singapore would be of importance to this Hon. Members as we legislate on infrastructure development in this county. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I support.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you, your point of information and Serjeant-at-Arms, you ring the bell. I am informed we do not have quorum so you ring the bell. Hon. Ndawa.

*(Quorum bell was rung)*

**Hon. (Ms.) Ndawa:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mine is just a reminder that there is no quorum in the House.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you that matter has been noted and the appropriate action has been undertaken. So chairman you can---

**Hon. Ngui:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. This is the report on the benchmarking trip to Singapore that took place on 23rd to 28th April 2014.

### ***PREAMBLE***

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the committee on Transport, Roads and Public Works attended a benchmarking tour to Singapore on 23<sup>rd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2014 and the under listed Members attended.

### ***PRESENT***

1. Hon. Felix Ngui	Chairman
2. Hon. Francis Matheka	Vice Chairman
3. Hon. Geoffrey Munyao	Member
4. Hon. Oliver Munyaka	Member
5. Hon. Timothy Kilonzo	Member
6. Hon. (Ms.) Rachel Nduku	Member
7. Hon. (Ms.) Ruth Ndumi	Member
8. Hon. (Ms.) Brigid Kitili	Member
9. Hon. Alphonse Wambua	Member
10. Hon. Nathaniel Nganga	Member
11. Hon. (Ms.) Magdalene Ndawa	Member
12. Hon. Charles Mutisya	Member
13. Hon. John Sila	Member
14. Hon. (Ms.) Margaret Ndalana	Member
15. Hon. (Ms.) Peninah Kaluki	Member
16. Hon. (Ms.) Christine Mutune	Member
17. Hon. Alex Kamitu	Member
18. Hon. (Ms.) Bibiana Kilonzo	Member
19. Hon. Dominic Maitha	Member
20. Hon. Benson Kasyoka	Invited
21. Hon. Joseph Kalunde	Member
22. Hon. Michael Mutuku	Member
23. Hon. Thomas Kasoa	

Mr. Speaker, as I continue I know there are instructions that members should not be served with water when we are in session but I am so thirsty that I request, through your instructions, that I may be served with water as I read this report.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Continue with the report. Allow chairman to finish.

**Hon. Ngui:** In attendance were Mwikali Mwaniki, Senior Clerk Assistant and Luke Maingi, First Clerk Assistant

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Allow the chairman to finish, Hon. Ndawa

**Hon. Ngui:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your protection.

### **BACKGROUND OF THE VISIT**

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is very evident that whenever people from different countries interact for the purpose of development, three key advantages are tapped;-

- It promotes healthy inter-relations between the Nations that may boost development.
- It creates a platform for exchange of political ideas.
- Promotion of technological expertise that constitute vision for many Nations.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE VISIT**

Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the purpose of conducting a fruitful benchmark tour, the committee members were guided by the following objectives. One---

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Just as you continue, Clerk the bell should be rung for the next 10 minutes continuously so that we may have quorum. Continue chairman. Standing Order 32, Hon Ndawa, be appropriately guided.

#### **Hon. Ngui:**

1. To know how the Government of Singapore administers the Transport sector.
2. To know some of the policies the Government had laid in place for Transport sector.
3. To learn the development history of the sector before and after independence.
4. To see the challenges the transport sector faces.
5. To learn how the Government has solved the problem of housing for its citizens.
6. To know how the Government had improved the standards of living for its citizens through housing.
7. To learn the approach the Government had used to improve its economy through transport and tourism.

***AREAS VISITED***

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Members had the opportunity to tour some of the prominent areas that were key to economic development of Singapore namely;-

- The Housing Development Board Gallery.
- Land Transport Authority.
- New Water Visitor Centre.
- Sentosa Island.

***MAJOR OBSERVATIONS MADE***

Mr. Speaker, Sir, within the five days the Hon. Members interacted with the Singaporeans, they noted some key facts about the country which, if well thought about, Machakos County could easily transform their transport sector. These facts included;-

1. Unlike Many Countries of the world, Singapore has very few natural resources. The country is small by size -750 km<sup>2</sup>, low population of 5.4 million but it had fully utilized its scarce resources.
2. Singapore is a country recognized in the global map for its technological expertise yet just few years ago it was said to have tied with Kenya in terms of economic and technological knowhow.
3. Transport sector is highly developed with very good tarmac roads, railways and pathways for riding. MRT system had been developed for passengers.
4. Singaporeans had taken the initiative to man Transport sector themselves by obeying traffic rules. Surprisingly---

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Serve him with the water he had requested.

**Hon. Ngui:** Yes, I need some water.

*(Laughter)*

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Serve him the water he had requested so that we may be able to continue. Chairman, continue trying.

**Hon. Ngui:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No traffic police officer was sighted along the roads as observed in many countries.

5. Environmental conservation is highly valued. The city is green with trees and flowers planted by the roadsides in addition to the tropical rain forest and botanical gardens. No bare ground was seen within the city premises.
6. With the current status of technology and tourism vision, it was evident that Singapore would be a benchmarking destination for many Nations.
7. Maximum space utilization was a key observation since 99 per cent of buildings were storey.
8. It was evidently clear that a country like Kenya is empowered with good soil, big chunks of land, rain, wild animals, plant and technical expertise and that could transform Machakos County for the welfare of the locals and foreigners who may wish to visit the County.

Having been amazed by the commendable work Singapore Government was doing, the committee of transport roads and public works made some recommendations geared to transforming the transport sector.

### ***LESSONS LEARNT AND BENEFITS GAINED***

There is a wise proverb that says, “If you want your dreams to come true, you must first wake up.” It is from the push of their dream that they organized for a trip to visit Singapore for benchmarking since its one of the countries with the best road networks in the world. From the trip, members learnt that, there are three aspects of travel that commuters valued most.

1. More Connections. Connecting you to more places where you work, live and play.
2. Better Service. Improving reliability, comfort and convenience, no matter which mode of transport you use.
3. Livable and inclusive Community-Building and running our transport system with everyone in mind.

From the lessons learned, members of the committee came up with a resolution that the department needed to be given a big chunk of money so as to implement their dreams of having roads constructed from towns to the villages. In so doing, budget allocation for the department was increased with bigger percentage than other departments which could be termed as a big achievement.

### ***RECOMMENDATIONS***

1. Plan for a transport system that is environmentally friendly.
2. Encourage public transport as it eradicates inconveniences resulting from traffic jams.
3. Create public awareness whereby road users own and obey traffic rules.
4. Marking of streets with different colors for ease track and beauty.

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5. Required the office of the Governor to allow and provide for planting of trees and flowers on the side of the major roads in Machakos County.
6. Water harvesting, recycling and storage be given priority in the County since it is a major problem within the county.
7. Budget allocation for transport sector and water be increased because the two sectors form the basis of economic development in this county.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you chairman.

### ADJOURNMENT

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Under Standing Order 32, the time for the confirmation of quorum has passed and I am advised we do not have quorum. Therefore, at that point, the House stands adjourned until tomorrow morning. Thank you.

The House rose at 4.08 p.m.