

MACHAKOS COUNTY ASSEMBLY**OFFICIAL REPORT****Wednesday 18th March, 2015**

The House met at 10.10 a.m.

*[The Speaker (Mr. Mung'ata) in the Chair]***PRAYERS****Hon. Speaker:** Good morning hon. members**MOTIONS****MACHAKOS CULTURAL DAY****Hon. Speaker:** We can now take your point of order, hon. Katela.**Hon. Leonard Katela:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. I want to draw to your attention that I don't think there is quorum to allow the house to continue with its business. Thank you.**Hon. Speaker:** Hon. Katela, you only don't think so you have not made an application and so it is dismissed. The house proceeds.**Hon. Katela:** Thank you.**Hon Veronica Mbithe:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. Mr. Speaker, aware that in November last year, UNESCO celebrated its 50 years in Kenya with the theme 'being together for peace and sustainable development,' aware that promotion of peace community, integration and cohesion are good virtues that continually need to be campaigned for in the county, aware that sustainable tourism development stimulates employment creation, further aware that rolling out programmes that will tap and develop talents, in creative arts to create jobs and mentor artists is one goal for the ministry of gender youth sports culture and tourism.

Mr. Speaker, considering that communities display their cultural preservation through foods, drinks, dressing, music, dance, poetry, artifacts, architecture, herbal medicine, oral tradition and history. Aware that those can only be displayed via a culture day, noting that other counties like Trans-Nzoia celebrated their cultural festival from 27th to 29th November, 2014, Mr. Speaker, I wish to move the motion that this hon house discusses and approves establishment of Machakos County Cultural day.

Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. I call upon hon. Bendetta Mueni to second the motion.

Hon. Bernardetta Mueni: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. I wish to second the motion that there be a cultural day in Machakos county. This will promote the Kamba culture and tradition to bring more money to the county. Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, the motion is on the floor. Debate is open.

Hon. Jacqueline Nziva: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. I wish to applaud the mover of the motion and say it is a motion which has come in the right time. You realize the cultural events will promote a lot of employment in our county and also it will retain our culture. You realize there is a Senator, in yesterday's news who was talking about how people are supposed to retain their culture, so if we promote the cultural events, our culture will be retained. And also it will promote cohesion and integration in our county. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to support the motion.

Hon. Cornelius Kitheka: Thank you Mr. Speaker, and the house at large. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the motion in hand is in the right place at the right time. Mr. Speaker, I wish to 100 per cent support the motion simply because in Machakos and the entire county, we have somehow neglected our culture to an extent that even the people who come within Machakos, don't realize that we have our own culture which we can promote and protect.

So Mr. Speaker, to give credit to the mover of the motion, I wish to point out some issues. Mr. Speaker, the Kamba culture is somehow diminishing simply because of the 'don't care attitude' of the people of the Kamba community.

Mr. Speaker, this comes at a time when every culture within the county needs to be identified by its own traditions and practices so that at the end of the day in the national forum, it can be counted as a culture which can stand on its own.

Mr. Speaker, pointing out on some of the issues which we have deliberated on this hon. house, we know very clearly that we have a ministry for culture. This ministry, if you have watched the trends of the budgetary process of this ministry, it has been moving its own money to other ministries because they cannot use the money which we have budgeted for them. We have evidence of our estimation supplementary budgets where they were moving some money to other ministries.

Mr. Speaker, by bringing up such a motion, it will deter the minister and the CO of that ministry from moving its own funds to other ministries and it will utilize its own funds by promoting the culture of the people of Machakos and the county at large.

So, Mr. Speaker, I see it worthwhile for us to support this motion and to applaud the mover because it is well thought on how we are going to promote the people of Machakos. Mr. Speaker, knowing clearly that, even to point a few issues of unity in Kenya, can you now visualize how united is the Maasai Community? It is more united than any other community within Kenya because of standing firm on their own culture.

So Mr. Speaker, if the people within the county and entirely in the Ukambani region stand for their culture, I know very well, we are going to stand tall and we are going to be counted when the other communities are being counted in the country.

So Mr. Speaker, not even pointing out, the issue of culture will attract a lot of tourism in this county because we will go back to the traditional foods and attire which will attract a lot of people to come to the county. Not pointing out that the Maasai themselves attract people to come to Kenya. Why not even Kamba people who can attract by putting on their own attires to attract people to come to Kenya and particularly our county. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you very much.

Hon. Isaac Muinde: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I wish to contribute to this motion first by congratulating the mover of the motion and saying that this is a well thought out motion that we as people from Machakos which is the headquarters of Ukambani, need to lead by protecting our own culture.

Mr. Speaker, the Kamba Community is fast losing its culture because of the influence of the white colonialists who came in and the missionaries who came and started the Christian religion and our traditions were deemed to be satanic. The traditional dances, the *Kilumi* and the rest were said to be dances for the devil. But Mr. Speaker, I want to say, there was a time I was a

religious student and we used to have celebrations of masses in the Catholic Church based on our tradition. But the Kamba people who formed the group had nothing to show. While we could celebrate masses in Maasai, wearing attires and the priests wearing the attires from the elders in Maasai, we had nothing to dress the priests as Kamba elders, because the priests are deemed to be leaders.

Mr. Speaker, there is a saying which is in Kiswahili and I quote; *mwacha mila ni mtumwa'* (disowning your culture is slavery).

We are on the verge of being slaves for we have let our culture go. Our children that we are bearing nowadays, some of them cannot even speak our language, but a day like our Kamba cultural day will be an opportunity for us, as young parents also to bring along our children, our young brothers and sisters, so that they can have a touch with the past, where they will be able to sample our traditional foods. They will be able to have a jig with our traditional dances and by that means they will be able to have a walk in the past.

We, as an assembly, Mr. Speaker, for we speak for the people and we connect the people that we represent with the government, we will be able to lead from the front by preserving our own culture. So Mr. Speaker, I stand to support the motion and say that there should also be some consultations with the minister concerned so that this date can be set at a time when most of our people are not so busy, like during school holidays or the other festivities, so that people can be released from other duties so that that day can attract as many people as possible and we as an assembly can also set a good budget so that this day is a big day for our people.

Other than preserving this culture, Mr. Speaker, it is also a way of attracting foreigners and tourists, both local and international, to be part of us. As they come to enjoy with us, they will bring along funds and this county will grow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you very much.

Hon. Peninah Kaluki: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. I stand to support this motion in totality and congratulate the hon. member, the mover for bringing such a motion at this crucial time. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you will agree with me that by doing such a thing of creating a cultural day, we will be promoting our culture.

Most of our children, the young generation do not know much about our roots as the Kamba people. We have forgotten so many things by adopting or getting westernized and our culture is slowly being eroded away.

Secondly Mr. Speaker, Sir, by creating such a day, we will be promoting our local community to create income in that, during such an event, our local people can come out and showcase their traditional curios. We have the traditional Kamba *kiondos*, our own Wamunyu carvings, and in so doing, we will be creating income for them. So Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say that this is a well intended motion and it will help our people in enhancing their culture. Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Sammy Nduva: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. While thanking the mover of the motion, I support this motion fully and Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that this hon. house will do the same. Mr. Speaker, having a cultural day, will be of importance to our county because Mr. Speaker, this is a day that all people across the county will come together while realizing their culture. Mr. Speaker, this day is of importance because every member of this assembly wishes that the county of Machakos should move very fast against the other counties to implement areas that will make the county to be number one.

Mr. Speaker, the mover of this motion must have had a good feeling because Mr. Speaker, it is true that our people in this county and Kenya at large have forgotten their culture. So Mr. Speaker, I support this motion fully and I would like the hon. house not to waste time and pass the motion so that we can move very fast and realize our culture. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Festus Ndeto: Thank you Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity to contribute to this motion. Let me begin by thanking the mover of the motion who has never given up even after several trials to bring this motion to the house and due to quorum, failed to pass, but today she has managed to bring it and here we are debating. So I fully support this motion, Mr. Speaker, and as one learned man said, culture is people's way of life and this means if we fail to embrace the same, we lose our way of life.

Bringing or establishing a cultural day in Machakos, will enable our people to preserve our culture, it will also be educative and also a source of income for the people of Machakos. There are so many things that go together with a cultural day and as we formulate this motion with all that goes with it, I also propose that we come up with cultural centers within Machakos County, in which we will be able to bring together all the things that go together with the Kamba culture. Things like *Kisukuu* (traditional hut) when you go to Bomas of Kenya, you will find all the traditional houses for all the tribes situated somewhere within the Bomas.

If we can bring those down to us, build a *Kisukuu* and have the thing that used to be in the *kisukuu* like the calabash, the *kavila ka atumia-muumbo* (traditional stool). Then there are

other very important things which somehow are being lost like *mbaalya*, *kilumi*, *mukanda* (types of traditional dances) - all those things. When we have the cultural day and the cultural centers, all these will be brought and our people will be able to know where we have come from and where we are.

Two days ago, I attended a weatherman seminar, which was communicated to us as the agriculture committee and we were discussing actually what are the traditional methods of forecasting weather and these are other things which will bring this cultural day so that people may have a focus and may know which way things used to be done and which are the other useful things.

My brother there, Hon. Muinde said that one day he used to be a Bible student somewhere, and he talked of how the Kamba culture was not embraced. When you go back to the missionaries who brought education, the Bible and all these things, in a way they wanted to tell us what Mkamba used to do are sinful or dark things.

But they failed to sustain some of the important things, and even today there are some of the things we embrace which have brainwashed our minds, like in most cases, I don't wear suits. And this is a problem to me because, when I was in Bible school, it was a problem and I struggled. When I came to know it is the white man who brought these things and he wanted us to completely forget about our culture and from then up to date, you will find many people asking 'pastor, why are you not in suit?' and you find that we need to embrace our culture.

I would wish that one day we would come here wearing the *mukanda*, debate while we are on the traditional attires and we forget some of these English things. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. Alice Nzioka: Asante sana kwa Bwana Spika. Nimesimama ili kuunga huu mswada mkono kwamba sisi kama bunge la Machakos tupitishie kwamba tuwe na siku ya utamaduni katika kaunti ya machakos. Bw. Spika, sisi tumeacha utamaduni kabisa. Na kuna msembo ambao mheshimiwa Muinde amesema, kwamba 'aachaye mila ni mtumwa'.

Sisi tumeacha mila na tumekuwa watumwa wa mzungu. Watoto ambao tunao katika enzi hii ya leo, utakuta watoto wengi sana, vyakula ambavyo wanaweza kula wanavyojua ni kama viazi. Utakuta mtoto chakula cha utamaduni kama malenge hawajui. Kuna mfano kwamba Kaunti ya Kitui imetenga siku ya utamaduni. Na hasa sisi kama bunge siku moja twende tutembe katika kaunti ya Kitui tuone utamaduni ambao wanafanya.

Mwingi utakuta wakulima wanakuza vyalula kama mawele, wimbi, mtama na ukiingia sehemu za ndani utakuta kuna wazee wamefikisha umri wa miaka mia moja na hata zaidi. Sababu wanatumia vyakula vya utamaduni. Sisi kama Kaunti ya Machakos, tumeacha utamaduni kabisa. Ingekuwa vizuri tupitisha huu mswada na tukiupitisha, tutapata raslimali hasa kutoka kwa wale waekezaji ambao wanataka kuja kuona utamaduni wetu.

Kwa mfano ukiangalia kaunti kama ya Narok, sababu Wamaasai wameweka utamaduni kabisa, wanapata raslimali zaidi kutoka nchi za ng'ambo juu ya mavazi ya utamaduni ambayo wanavaa na vitu nyingi za utamaduni wanazofanya. Utakuta wametengeneza vitu kama vibuyu wamevirembesha, kuna vitu kama *nzele (calabash)* wamepasua na kurembesha, mzungu akija kuona hizo vitu, anafikiria sana na anaona ni vitu vya maana.

Maana mzungu alittoa kwa utamaduni tukawa watumwa wake. Kwa hivyo nasema aliyeleta huu mswada, ni mzuri kwa kaunti yetu utatusaidia sana kujua juu ya utamaduni na pia sisi kama kaunti kupata raslimali na waekezaji tutapata wengi.

Kwa hivyo nawasihi wabunge wenzangu, tuupitisha huu mswada na baada ya kupitisha, kamati tekelezi ione kwamba hii siku imetengwa, na ikiwezekana, kama kaunti tuwe na sehemu moja ambayo ni hapa Machako, mahali ambapo hiyo siku ikitengwa, tutakuwa tukisherekea na pia mashinani ili kufunza watu juu ya utamaduni. Asante sana.

Hon. Speaker: Asante. Lakini samahani, umesema kaunti ya Mwingi, labda utuelezee zaidi hatuelewi kama kuna kaunti ya Mwingi.

Hon. Alice: Samahani, kaunti ya Kitui na mwanzo ilitengenezwa kabla ya Kitui kuwa kaunti. Kwa hivyo ilikuwa ni sehemu ya Mwingi walikuwa wameanza kutengeneza. Kwa hivyo ni Kaunti ya Kitui. Pole.

Hon. Speaker: Wacha tusikize pande ile. Then we can hear Hon. Kathinzi.

Hon. Joseph Itumo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for catching your eye. I stand here to support this important motion not because it emanates from one of the active members in my committee but because it is a very important motion. Mr. Speaker, our youngsters do not know about our culture. And this cultural day will be of great importance to many of us. Come to think of those who have been married recently from other tribes and do not even know our culture.

Our young people, because of industrialization, have been brought up in urban centers and these people know less about our culture, Mr. Speaker. It is of great importance to have this cultural day, Mr. Speaker. Alongside with it, we can also be having Machakos County Kamba

nights where we will enjoy drinks like *karubu*, food like *mukimwa*, *kyondokotho*, *nduma*, *malenges* and all that, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, you realize, nowadays for those who suffer from diabetes they are referred to such foods because one of the members has said that, those old men used to live long because of taking these foods with no cholesterol.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here to support this motion and with no doubt, if the question was put now by Mr. Speaker, I think this motion can sail with no negativity, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not have much to say because the motion seems to sail through. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Alexander Kathinzi: Thank you Mr. Speaker and the house at large. Mr. Speaker, I would like to start by congratulating the mover of the motion by putting in a clear picture that, Kamba community has been derailed in terms of cultural practices and this is why the hon. Festus Ndeto has given has a good history about when he was in college. That the African culture is being fought down and we might lose the grounds in future for our generations to come, Mr. Speaker.

Therefore my support is that I support this motion with amendment that it should be cultural week. Let us have a whole week to celebrate our culture. I also support that the last week of every financial year, let it be treated as a week to celebrate our culture because when you put one day, Mr. Speaker, you might be abroad that day and then you come after two days and you find your people celebrating.

Lets practice this and I would personally like to request that I support with amendment and I request the house to support my plea that one day is very little for us to practice. So for it to be entrenched into our people, kindly I request I support with that particular amendment if it is applicable and allowed.

This one I have seen in some of the colleges. When you go to Kenyatta University, they have a one week for the students to enjoy their cultural week and even there is an opening ceremony and a closing ceremony whereby our Governor or the President, we can invite him to crown that particular occasion. Therefore Mr. Speaker, those are my submissions and i request Mheshimiwa Kitheka probably to support my amendment, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Hon. Kitheka: Mr. Speaker, hoping that you have allowed me, I can as well-----
(*laughter*) ----- because it is just a baton which has been passed to me. I think Mr. Speaker, by embracing what----- (*interruption*)

Hon. Speaker: Maybe before you proceed. It is a matter that we have been getting wrong all the time. If you can take your seat. Ordinarily if a member wants to move an amendment to a motion, there is a procedure that is stated in Standing Order 51. I think now we are old enough to follow some of these procedures.

As you go through Standing Order 51, hon. Kathinzi, you will correct yourself but my view was that, the matter that you are raising that there be a culture week that can be left to the committee that will come up with a report and I think that will properly guide the house. Then we can just proceed with the contributions. Let us hear hon. Mueni.

Hon. Mueni: Mine is to support the motion, by saying that this will teach our children even not to be getting married to a brother because even sometimes they do not know their cousins and their sisters. They are marrying one another without knowing. So they will be taught by the old men that you cannot marry your sister because when you marry your sister, if you are all stupid, you will get a child who is also stupid. Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir

(*Laughter*)

Hon. Speaker: Ok. And before we hear the mover, maybe it is important we hear the chairman of culture committee. Is the hon. chairman is in the house? Let us hear the Deputy Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker (Hon. Nganga): Thank you Mr. Speaker for the opportunity granted. Mr. Speaker, I stand to support the motion. I also want to support the proposed amendments so that the committee that will be looking into the motion would consider having it not just a culture day but a culture week.

Mr. Speaker, as you understand the African culture is under threat of extinction, if you look at the set of national values and the cultural values of our society have been abolished by the reason of embracing the foreign that has been heavily transmitted in to our nation.

Mr. Speaker, bearing in mind the proximity of Machakos county to Nairobi and the coming of the early visitors to our country where some of them used to reside in Machakos, Mr.

Speaker. They had the early influence and the reason to cause the abandonment of some of the cultural values of our people, Mr. Speaker.

Going forward, if we don't intervene, as an assembly, you may find that *mukamba* will have no other culture to be associated with other than just *muthokoi* and the *mukanda* that is used to play the Kamba traditional dance Mr. Speaker. Saying that means that we have so many other cultural values and presentations that we can always be proud of, Mr. Speaker. Recently, we were with you in the county competitions for East Africa in Rwanda and you remember that it is only the best traditional dances that were presented that carried the day, Mr. Speaker.

We looked at what people from Rwanda were to present, the people from Uganda, and we saw that culture in those countries have been well retained. As you look into the society of today in Kenya, we cannot claim to have clearly retained cultural values of our nation. We only have contemporary set of values that have been inherited from foreign cultures, but if we go the way the motion will lead us in setting up a culture week, we shall be able to reinvigorate the values of the Kamba people back to our children and they will now start to understand their roots, Mr. Speaker.

In a writing, of one of the scholars of the African languages, the literature writer from Kenya Ngugi wa Thiong'o, wrote somewhere and said that 'he who forgets his culture, forgets his roots and therefore losing a social grounding. If you go to Nairobi, you will find some of our children whose fathers have a rooting in Machakos, but you will find them saying, 'us we are not Kambas we are Nairobians, we don't belong to that society or community.' Because, the values that are associated with that society have been abandoned and people end up adopting other cultural values.

So Mr. Speaker, I kindly support this motion and also, know that if we also involve our secondary schools, primary, colleges and universities while celebrating that cultural day, it will also be another way of uniting our county and strengthening the bond of relationship between our people. So Mr. Speaker, as the house approves the matter to proceed to the relevant committee, I would want to appeal that the take into consideration some of those observations, and also from the other members, in regard to having a cultural day or week within Machakos County. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. I was imagining you will tell us something about the serious contribution by hon. Mueni. That is actually why I allowed you to talk because you had concluded.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you Mr. Speaker. The matter of intermarriage between people of the same family line has not caught a lot of national attention within our county and even in our country. Mr. Speaker, this is a matter that has religious and social backgrounds. If you go to Muslims, you will find that in Islam, they are allowed to marry cousins and close family lineage so that they may protect their wealth and the same is done within the Hindu community. Mr. Speaker, as I have said, the way Kenya is moving, we are moving in having a set of contemporary social values.

We do not have definite cultural values that we inherited from our parents because time and again, we have abandoned our culture and started copying the culture of the foreigners who have been able to come to our country and rule over us for the many years our country was under colonialism Mr. Speaker.

So I cannot say that I have heard or come across very pronounced case of intermarriage between families. However, Mr. Speaker, that notwithstanding, as I have said, most of our children, because of the urbanization that is happening in our country and the rural urban-migration that we are experiencing, our people are moving from rural and settling in Nairobi. Recently we had a family gathering and Mr. Speaker, I was shocked to know some of my cousins that I have never known for long period because some of the cultural events that used to be there before have been stopped.

With this, our children can accidentally end up marrying while not knowing whether there is a blood relationship Mr. Speaker. Biologically, whatever the member was saying is relevant, because people of close genetic make-up, when they procreate, Mr. Speaker, then the offspring of that couple, biologically it has been found that, due to the inherent characters, then it weakens the values. For instance you find if somebody had inherited a disease of eyesight and they intermarry, the offspring, more chances are that, the disease will be pronounced.

So Mr. Speaker, biologically, it has an effect but we don't really have very pronounced cases as of now. But Mr. Speaker, if there comes a time this house should make a law relating to those matters, just like before the new millennium. We did not have the sexual offences Bill, Mr. Speaker, not because sexual offences were never there but when it became more pronounced. Mr. Speaker, a law had to be made to curb that prevalence.

So Mr. Speaker, bearing in mind that the matter has not yet become a social concern then we have a number of laws that are able to contain that from the National Assembly and if going forward the matter will be of much concern to the public Mr. Speaker, I know this house is responsive enough to be able to come with a law to address the same issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you very much. We can hear the mover of the motion.

Hon. Mbithe: Thank you Mr. Speaker and the house at large. At least, I am happy that it was not in vain that I brought this motion on the floor of the house. Just to shed some light on what actually it entails rather what the proposal, my proposal, is about the Machakos Cultural day.

It is a day when all cultural groups and organizations come together to showcase and market their cultural and artistic wares to the audience and the county at large. Mr. Speaker, it also helps to promote peace, community integration and cohesion. It helps to strengthen collaboration and partnership with stakeholders, promote local and international tourism, stimulates job creation, promotion and conservation of natural environment.

The activities involved are: display of culture through dressing, traditional food exhibitions, cultural songs, dances, traditional regalia exhibition, poetry, and storytelling, to share our diverse culture, exhibition of traditional arts and war tools and narratives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, I think that brings us to the conclusion of this debate on that particular motion and I will proceed to put the question.

(Question put and agreed to)

The matter will be presented to the relevant committee and appropriate report made to the house within sixty days as per the standing orders.

FISCAL STRATEGY PAPER 2015/16

Hon. Muinde: Mr. Speaker, yesterday the 17th March, 2015, I did lay in the floor of the house the fiscal strategy paper 2015/16 and Mr. Speaker, while tabling it, areas of concern from the floor were that, members of the budget committee had not signed the document. Although Mr. Speaker, while invoking the relevant Standing Order, it was clear that the signature of the chairman was enough to table a report of the committee because it became part of the main concern by members because they wanted authenticity of the report.

Mr. Speaker, through your direction, the committee retreated to a meeting immediately and those present signed the document as proof that they owned the document and Mr. Speaker, on page 7, out of the nine members of the budget committee, eight of them have signed the report. Only one member did not sign not because she does not agree with the content, but she is out of the country on private business and by the time we were making the report, she was present and agrees with us in everything that we did, only that by signing the final report, it happened that she is out of the country.

But eight members out of nine have signed the document. The other contents of the report from page 1 up to the last page, has not changed only that we inserted that last page so that members can append their signatures. Mr. Speaker, therefore, I state that pursuant to Public Finance Management Act section 117 as read together with Standing Orders 205, I wish to table the Machakos county Fiscal strategy paper 2015/16 to this hon. house for deliberations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon Speaker: Thank you very much. Hon. members, you remember yesterday, debate was ensuing on this particular report and what has been stated by the chairman is that, it was lacking in majority statement in the report. It is not mandatory that the report is signed by the members because the signature of the chair is enough but in the way that the report was drawn, it was necessary that evidence of majority support could only be exhibited by signatures.

And that is done and the report is properly before us for further deliberations. And I said yesterday, basically the county fiscal strategy paper is a document that is required by statute. It is part of the budgetary cycle and that is why is the matter yesterday could not be dismissed because it is a statutory function. So let us proceed for further deliberations. Then I would take it that the document be passed. Silence is approval.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Speaker, while noting your concern for the lack of participation, yesterday I was not present in the house, I was busy with some official duties. Mr. Speaker, I don't know why members feel that maybe they have not been able to go through the document. I don't know whether they are ready. If they are not contributing it appears that...

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Deputy Speaker, you are out of order. This matter was before the house yesterday and we had a lot of discussions on it, so if you don't have any contributions, kindly-----

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will make my observations in due course. I would first of all go through the document and before the close of the debate Mr. Speaker, I will be able to raise my concerns.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. Nduva: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. The retreat that we had in scrutinizing the document, Mr. Speaker, I am standing to support and request the hon. house to approve the document because, when I look at the document, the areas that were in question have been put the way we suggested. So Mr. Speaker, I agree that this document is just setting the way forward while approaching the budget. So I support the document and request this hon. house to approve the same. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. Francis Matheka: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir and the house at large. Mr. Speaker, it is good that the corrections were made as per your instructions, and today I stand here to support the report and give thumbs up to the committee and the chairman because in the report they have clearly shown that they can show the Executive the way forward to.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I say so by referring to some sections of the report. Like in page 3, item No. 3, they have said, on page 8 numbers 12, part one and two on strategic objectives, the proposed free housing and free transport were mega projects. The committee observed that the listed programmes could not be given priority as they were not realistic in the proposed financial year, 2015/16.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, that and the next one which is No. 4, they are saying that proposed transport and infrastructure development projects, that would involve construction and tarmacking of 17 major county roads were unrealistic. In relation to this, members noted that only one major road was done in the year 2013/14 and none was done during the financial year 2014/15.

Therefore, members noted that, the proposals underlined here for the 2015/2016 and over the midterm would not be achieved. Also on the side of the energy, they pointed out that, the street lighting which were put in Kithimani-Makutano ma Mwala road and Machakos-Makutano road, were unrealistic and *mulika mwizi* (floodlights) should be installed on market places.

That is a positive gesture from the report giving the Executive, exactly what should happen but not giving the Executive a thumbs up for a poorly done job. So the committee did the right job and I fully support the report and ask the other members and chairpersons of committees to emulate what this committee did and point out any anomaly coming from the

executive and give them a direction because it is only the hon. members who live with the people and near the people and know their problems but not the Executive who live in the offices and imagine what is affecting the electorates.

So, Mr. Speaker, Sir, all those three things that I have highlighted and together with many more, give a clear picture of how the house is coming to maturity and how we can assist our people in many ways. There is also Mr. Speaker, Sir; there is one more thing I would like to point out, though the committee report had reported otherwise. On page 3 bullet number 2, the committee was saying that the Executive did not reflect Machakos Social Welfare Empowerment Programme (MSWEP) as a means of eradicating poverty.

I totally agree with the Executive there. MSWEP is a handout or incentive but not a way of reducing poverty. You cannot reduce poverty by giving somebody Ksh 1000 or Ksh 2000. There is a saying 'if you want to give somebody fish, don't give the fish, but give him the hook and show him/her the river.

I believe Mr. Speaker, Sir the committee should have recommended that agriculture to be enhanced, input on agriculture to be subsidized and new technologies of agriculture should be introduced and more improvement of agriculture and technology be put in place. Because our county is agricultural-based and it is only on agriculture where we can reduce and eradicate poverty, if it can be eradicated.

So Mr. Speaker, Sir, I believe as an agricultural county, rooting our reduction to poverty to that, we can drastically reduce poverty, putting more money on greenhouses, on new technology on agriculture can enhance poverty reduction but not adult MSWEP. With that Mr. Speaker, I fully support the report. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. I saw the hand of Hon. Cecilia then we come to Hon. Muli.

Hon. Cecilia Sereka: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir and the house at large. I want to congratulate the committee for the work well done. Mr. Speaker, if you go to page 6, paragraph 4, where the committee recommends that construction of roads be indicated in kilometers and not in number of roads to be done. Mr. Speaker, of late, you can be told in your ward that they will make four to five roads but when you go there only one road is being made and even you don't know how many kilometers and how much money was spent.

So Mr. Speaker, I think if they measure the roads in kilometers, we will know and we will understand more and that will benefit our people and us as hon. members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Yes Ndugu Muli.

Hon. Joseph Muli: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Let me first applaud the chairman and the budget committee for exhaustively having deliberated the sentiments that were required to be gotten in this paper. Mr. Speaker, also it is good work they have done because much of the correction has been done and they proved the capabilities of which they can employ to work well.

Being the chairman of agriculture committee, I was touched on recommendations where the committee cited that agriculture is the basic source of livelihood for our people and on page 5, the agriculture projects do not seem to benefit from the funds listed on page 24.

Mr. Speaker, you find that within our county, agriculture is the backbone of our income and resources. You find that if we have piped water we get health quality improved and the issue of agriculture is not considered to uplift the living standards of our people and mitigate the problems within our county.

The issue of agriculture has been neglected. They are not projects of agriculture which is the mainstay within our county and it is not being given priority and you find that things are not in good move. As the committee has done a wonderful job, much of things have been recommended and I stand to support the document.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. The hon. member at the back.

Hon. Geoffrey Munyao: I first take this opportunity to congratulate the chairman and the committee on budget and appropriation for the work although as of yesterday, we tried to show the seriousness of this house because of some few errors that had done in the document. As the committee of budget has done a good job, I think implementation part of these items in the documents is the main challenge.

I think in our assembly we have the implementation committee and we have done a lot in this assembly but in the implementation, there is a big challenge. I am requesting the chairman of implementation committee to pursue or look at the documentation because whatever we have touched on this document, that committee should look at the Executive and look at the issues that we have passed in this house. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Let us hear the Hon. Deputy Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (Hon. Nganga): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Within the short time I have been here, I have been able to look at the documents and before we move ahead and approve the document, I would like the chairman to expound on some issue that I have found to be of concern in the document and in the report that the committee has brought before he house.

If I go to the Strategy paper on page 20, No. 56, at the top it talks of the county having received Ksh. 3.4 billion comprising of Ksh. 2.8 billion from the national government and Ksh. 0.6 billion from the county's own revenue which translated to 90 percent and 46 per cent of the first half revenue projections from both sources.

Down to No. 58, it says 'the above decisions by the national government and in addition to under performance of the county revenue created a financing gap of Ksh. 1.2 billion. This gap translated to pending bills since the same has been budgeted and implementations of the projects was underway when the decisions were communicated. The effect of these was accumulation of arrears in the financial 2014/15 amounting to Ksh. 2.3 billion.

On that observation, that explains that in this financial year, in our budget of this financial year 2014/15, we are using monies that were budgetted to do projects this year to finance a gap of Ksh. 2.3 billion.

Then you to No. 62, that says 'performance of the first half of the financial year indicates an under performance of Ksh. 600 million. All efforts will be applied to recover his short fall to ensure the project revenue for the remainder of the year is achieved.

Doing quick arithmetic, in 56 we have seen that for t he first half we were able to raise Ksh. 0.6 billion and for the other half, we can only realistically raid he the same amount which will translate to Ksh. 1.2 billion.

In the same document, it had been projected that the local revenue would be Ksh. 2.7 billion. Projected collections, Mr. Speaker. While looking at this, we can only realistically raise Ksh.1.2 billion. Therefore, that tells you that we are going to have a shortfall of Ksh. 1.7 billion.

We are going to have a shortfall in local revenue of Ksh. 1.7 billion. If Ksh. 2.3 billion was used in this budget, we would be funded with the budget we are running and Ksh. 1.7 billion is the anticipated budgeted shortfall. Then how are we going to sustain the county programmes because if you add the shortfall of Ksh. 1.7 billion to Ksh. 2.3 billion, that will give a financing hole of Ksh. 4 billion, Mr. Speaker.

I want to ask the chairman. In requesting this house to approve this strategy paper, how are we..... if you go No. 68, in the strategy paper that has been presented to the house on the revenues. The financial year 2015/16, the county's own revenues is projected at Ksh. 2.3 billion and an equitable share from the national government of Ksh. 6.5 billion providing a total resources amounting to Ksh. 8.8 billion.

At that point, we are also projecting Ksh. 2.3 billion when for two successive years, we have not been able to raise upto Ksh. 1.5 billion, Mr. Speaker. That will in itself provide us with a financing loophole.

I would want to seek clarification because in the observations of the chairman. Observation No.1 in the report of the committee. Page 3. It says 'the document did not provide a debt management strategy paper. Then in seeking this house to approve a budget of Ksh. 8.8 billion, when we have had a financing gap of Ksh. 2.3 billion and we are anticipating another gap of ksh. 1.7 billion. How are we going to manage this anticipated gap Mr. Speaker? Because for those who have done proper mathematics, we do what we call time series. It is unit in advanced mathematics. You can do extrapolation and project what will happen in the future.

Mr. Speaker, with this, are we making a budget that will put our county in a situation where we will not be able to manage most of our affairs? We will have people crying all over for payments and we will have project budgeted for one financial year having to be deferred to the next financial year while members of this house, every other time we budget projects, we go out to the public and inform them that as a county we are going to do project Z yet the way we are appropriating funds for them is not consistent with the reality on the ground.

So Mr. Speaker, I find it important that the chairman clarifies that issue to the house before we can put the matter on vote so that members can make an informed decision. I remember in one of our sittings, when we were doing training, the biggest mistake and sin that all legislators do is that they approve documents that they do not know what they mean. It will be too wrong for us to go ahead and prove some technically and professionally crafted documents that would still come later to haunt our decision when we don't check on the matters that have been approved, Mr. Speaker.

If the chairman would propose to reduce that budget of Ksh. 8.8 billion because it has been realistic that he county local revenue has been able to go beyond Ksh. 1.2 billion to some realistic amount where we can have reasonable budget margin. If we are raising Ksh. 1.2 billion, if he is talking of having an estimated improvement of like Ksh. 300 million, I think it would be more realistic.

So I would urge through your indulgence that the chairman will respond on that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: We can now hear the chairman. I think there are some pertinent issues that have been raised. We begin on the issue that was raised by Hon. Kitheka. Is it hon. Matheka of Kangundo North. Page 3; issue No. 2 on the matter for MSWEP. And try to cover the ground on the debt management strategy paper. Proceed.

Hon. Muinde: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, I congratulate members who have contributed for they seem to be very keen on reading these documents. It doesn't look like it used to be before where the members would put the documents in the boot of their cars and only come to pass them in the house. The way they are interrogating this document, they have read and there those who have just come in and read very fast.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to start with the issue raised by Hon. Matheka on MSWEP Mr. Speaker, the matter before us is the Fiscal Strategy paper and is offered by Machakos Treasury and we restrict ourselves to the contents. I did say that the aim objective of the Strategy paper is like a precursor to the actual budget estimate for the coming financial year. Basically, it gives a broad perspective of what to expect in the budget. Where we will get money and how the money that we get will be spent. What will be the priority areas.

By the committee indicating that the county treasury did not sound loud on the MSWEP funds as a way of reducing poverty and improving livelihoods. Mr. Speaker, I believe the various sense of setting MSWEP, it is a board we cannot ignore because it is being allocated a lot of money, Ksh. 160 million, is not little money. It is worth noting. If it does not translate to increased livelihood, then it is not worth allocating money to it. It is not just about poverty reduction by improved livelihood.

I want to believe that even Ksh. 2000 or Ksh. 1000 given to the elderly would go a long way to improving their livelihood. It may not necessarily reduce poverty but I want to say that these funds are not just grants to the elderly and the women. The money given to the youths, some of them apply the little that they get to their small businesses. Even the disabled. It is not just money to buy groceries for the home.

So, little as it may be when divided to the individuals, I want to believe it has an impact only that as a matter of concern by the committee and by the house, the issue of granting free goodies to our people has never been known to improve their standards of living. I am a student

of history and I have read enough on world history on issues of capitalism and socialism. This world can only improve and develop through private enterprise.

What do I mean Mr. Speaker? Socialism in the world has failed. Even in communist China, they now have what we call the Chinese communism which they deem to be special. I visited China. They are actually capitalist in nature. Individuals are self-seeking and want to develop individually and by developing and persons individually, collectively individuals develop and by extension the whole nation grows.

Mr. Speaker, Ujamaa network failed in Tanzania. As I say these, I would urge the whole house, as we look at the issue of granting free money to the youth and by that I agree to some extent with Hon. Matheka. Giving free monies may not achieve much unless we are playing politics but giving frère money to the elderly, I would not expect the old to be able to pay back money. But within the document, the author of the document, CEC member for finance has talked about establishing a county bank to be known as Makima which is Machakos, Kitui and Makeni, it is contained somewhere in the fiscal strategy paper.

I want to believe that if it is a joint strategy by our governments in Ukambani, that will be able to give grants or loans to our people at a cheap interest rate, then such will go a long way in assisting our farmers who would be able to get loans or entrepreneurs within our county to grow.

So in one way, I agree with the hon. member but on the other I say MSWEP funds are not a failure in totality. The little that will be going to the elderly is allowed but those going to the youth may end up buying miraa and essentially, I mean generally, the county may be losing because it is said teach a youth how to fish but don't give the youth the fish itself. Tomorrow you may to be there to give the youth the fish again.

Mr. Speaker, on agriculture as Mheshimiwa Muli contributed, within his docket in the house, we said although the CEC finance has talked about food security, when you go to page 24. 23 or 24 on increased development funding, agriculture is totally missing. If she reduces recurrent expenditure so that we can put more money on development it would have been better and these are the findings of the budget committee that we would want to see more funds going to agriculture programmes because earlier attempts by this government in the last two years to improve agriculture has not borne enough fruits.

The chicks and the greenhouses may not have done much but if more efforts can be put, especially on animal husbandry, that may not require a lot of water like in crop husbandry, then that will improve agriculture in our wards.

Mr. Speaker, I would want to react to the Deputy Speaker's contribution, his quick read concentrated a lot on performance of the budget on 203/14. While this fiscal strategy paper is forward looking at the 2015/16 and the projections of 2016/17 and 2017/18. It is true that the county under performed in the 2013/14. We had a budget of Ksh. 8 billion of which Ksh. 4.9 billion was expected to come from the national coffers and the rest was to come from local revenue.

Mr. Speaker, from other records, it shows that the county government was only able to collect Ksh. 1.2 billion against a budget of Ksh. 3.1 billion. That being the first budget, people were used to figures and a billion seemed to be very little as we were looking at the digit 1 instead of the letter 'b.' That is why the budget was ambitious and even in identifying the programs to be funded everybody was ambitious but time has taught us, both us and the Executive and we are smarter over time.

The following year's budget, 2014/15 budget, little has been done in terms of funding new programs because by the time we were approving this budget in the house, we did not have information about the debt levels of this county only to discover as members of this assembly that the programs of 2013/14 were so ambitious and they were all started at the same time, meaning that the county, as we entered 2014/15, was totally in debt.

In 2013/14 budget where we anticipated receiving Ksh. 4.9 billion from the national government, remember by the time we read he budget here, the ministry of health had not been fully devolved. In fact we did not budget for the ministry of health but five or six months later, it was decided that health was a devolved function.

In Machakos County, the wages for the health workers is close to a billion in a year. And that was not budgeted .the national government had handled some payments on behalf of the county running to Ksh. 500 million. Out of the Kshs. 4.9 billion that the national government was to give us, Ksh. 500 million was not received by this county. It meant a gap in our financing.

Then out of the Kshs. 3.1 billion that we were to collect, we collected Kshs. 1.2 billion meaning the rest was to be a financing gap although we thought we would have a balanced budget. The difference meant that programs that had been supposed to be funded through those funds were now debts in the following year.

Also out of the Kshs. 4.9 billion from the national government, we had factored Kshs. 400 million to come as conditional grants from development partners through the national government; we received zero out of that money. So a total of Kshs. 900 million from national

government was not received and that meant that programs like community hospitals and some roads could not be made and if they were made we were not able to pay.

Basically that is why from the explanations from the CEC finance, that 2014/15 budget basically has been going on in financing development programs which had already been identified in 2013/14. Mr. Speaker, we would not want to repeat those mistakes in the 2015/2016 year and that is why this House, Mr. Speaker, is very keen. We would rather approve programs that we are able to fund because as of now we are not yet allowed by the National Government to have external borrowing and we also were not very keen to be the first Assembly to allow the County Government to incur huge debts that will be repaid by our sons and daughters in the years to come.

It is in this regard, Mr. Speaker that the CEC, Finance has projected the budget for 2015/2016 to be Kshs. 8.8 Billion, lower than this year's budget which is at Kshs. 8.9 Billion despite an increase on funding from the national Government because we anticipate Ksh. 6.5 Billion although these are figures from the CRA. We are yet to get the final figures as will be passed by the National Assembly through the Allocation of Revenue Bill but realistically we anticipate to get Kshs. 6.5 Billion and the CEC Finance has downgraded what we expect to collect to Kshs. 2.3 Billion, down from Kshs. 2.7 Billion this year.

I asked the Minister why she has not been able to come down to one point something but she said with improved collection systems – she says the department has gone digital – and increased efforts to curb leakages-some money is seeping through the fingers – she says she has enough mechanisms to ensure that the money that is being lost through the revenue collectors will be sealed, and one way she says is that the revenue collectors who have been on casual terms are now being given contracts and that will make them a little bit more responsible and the department on Revenue and Enforcement is now taken from the Decentralized Units and will be totally under her docket, that is enforcement, the military wing of the Government.

She says that way she'll be able to collect more, but Mr. Speaker, although Ksh. 2.3 Billion may still be on the higher side considering we got Ksh. 1.2 Billion in two consecutive years, but for matters of budgeting Mr. Speaker, it's important to aim at the sun so that at least we can get to the moon. If we also set lower targets-----

Hon. Majority Leader (Hon. Mwonga): Order, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Muinde: Mr. Speaker, I would wish that my thoughts are not interrupted.

Hon. Speaker: I don't know whether... I think I overrule that. Just proceed. We are not going to disrupt that good flow of thought.

Hon. Muinde: Sure, you know when one is dancing and the rhythm is disturbed, then the music may not be as sweet. Mr. Speaker, by receiving Kshs. 1.2 Billion in two consecutive years and the minister now targeting Kshs. 2.3 Billion, an improvement or a difference of Kshs. 1.1 Billion, I think it is realistic Mr. Speaker so that a higher target can be set for our revenue collectors for if we set a lower target, what will happen if they know that they have hit the target?

They will think that they have performed and they may misappropriate or they may find 'better' pockets, for the excess funds that they may collect. So that they can be pushed to perform, Mr. Speaker, I want to believe that a higher target of Kshs. 1.1 Billion more than what they have been collecting is realistic enough. Therefore Mr. Speaker, in this year's budget as we may come to discuss, I would wish that this House targets programs that we are able to fund realistically so that we do not have more debts coming, and Mr. Speaker, the Debt Management Strategy Paper is separate from the Fiscal Strategy Paper and failure by the Executive to submit that paper may not be reason not to pass this document.

Immediately after this Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Office of the Clerk to demand that this House be given the Debt Management Strategy Paper because it is a requirement by law that on 28th February, each year as the CEC Finance gives us the Fiscal Strategy Paper, she should also forward to this House the Debt Management Strategy Paper. This Paper will be able to show us how much we are indebted as at the time of authoring the paper and we will be able to project our debt levels by the end of the financial year so that as we budget for the coming year Mr. Speaker, we would be able to allocate enough funds to pay off the debts that fall due and see how much will be left for us to fund programs.

Mr. Speaker as I wind up, I want to urge this House to help the Executive. If the Executive does not want to be helped, I would urge this House to direct the Executive to make measurable steps to reduce our wage bill. The law only allows us to spend at most 35 per cent of our total revenue on personnel emoluments. We are already above that; the excuse from the executive is that the people who are now working under the Executive are people who have been brought on board by members of this Assembly and when they sack them they accuse us as the people who are making more noise to retain them.

We have no choice Mr. Speaker if we have to follow the law and reduce our wage bill to at least 35 per cent of our total revenues, enough money must be allocated for voluntary early retirement and non-core staff be laid off so that we can have a realistic expenditure on wages so

that we can free money for development. Otherwise we will be collecting money, paying debts and paying salaries and have that poor publicity out there that Machakos does not pay creditors and Machakos does not pay its workers so we need tangible steps.

I remember early in the year, we directed the Public Service Board to do staff audit and we gave them two months but Mr. Speaker, to date, no report has been brought to this House. So as we approach the 2015/16 budget, Mr. Speaker, I would urge through our own committees and each member individually and collectively, to ensure that we put the Executive on toes so that they can follow the law, manage the recurrent expenditure so that we can have real development going to the ward level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you to all the members for their positive contribution.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Let us hear the Majority Leader.

Hon. Majority Leader (Hon. Mwonga): Mr. Speaker, you overruled me. I just wanted to raise a point of order whether the distinguished chairman is in order to purport that this government of His Excellency the Governor Mutua has a military wing, Mr. Speaker?

Hon. Speaker: That appears serious, I also heard that. What is a military wing, Mr. Chairman?

Hon. Muinde: *(Laughs)* Mr. Speaker, every government, including with wherewithal have its Men in Black for protection purposes. Mr. Speaker, even when I go around to my ward, I'm also surrounded by men of muscles to ensure that I am also safe. As a government Mr. Speaker, there is also a department law and order, a department that also enforces payment of dues and payment of taxes, Mr. Speaker has never been easy, even during Biblical times.

People have always questioned whether it is right to pay taxes and those unwilling to pay taxes without some force being applied, then a military wing, in quotes, is used. Mr. Speaker, when I said a military wing, I did not mean men with guns but these are men with muscles who will clamp vehicles, who will force you to pay your rates, if you park somewhere they will tow your vehicle, and that is what I meant by military department. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: The Chair is persuaded, he only meant the enforcement unit. Yes?

(Laughter)

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I don't oppose this document or its passage Mr. Speaker, but I'm only requesting the Chair as he agrees with me on the realities on

the ground that I'm sure he represents a ward within Machakos County and he would want that each and every project that we earmark to be implemented in this county is implemented in that actual financial year.

Mr. Speaker we might be setting a system where if we appropriate for projects this financial year, they will only be implemented in the coming financial year. This will only happen if we have cyclic and consistent budget financing gaps, Mr. Speaker. I want to cite the Constitution, Article 176. Sub section one states that "there shall be a county government for each county, consisting of a county assembly and a county executive." Mr. Speaker, the intention of the drafters of the Constitution was to indicate where the supreme authority of a county lies.

As the chairman is saying, we need to give guidance to assist the executive achieve the will of the people of Machakos county, Mr. Speaker. So far, using the figures provided by this document, I have been able to derive a series of the financing gaps that we have had in the preceding years for the 2013/2014 financial year, we were able to have a financing gap of Ksh 2.3 billion Mr. Speaker, as validated by this document in number 58.

This financial year, article Number 62 on page 21 has indicated to us that, we have only been able to raise Ksh 0.6 billion that is the first half of the year. In simple arithmetic, it means we will have a plus of Ksh 1.2 billion at the end of the financial year. Plus or minus a small marginal error of like Ksh 100 or 200 million, Mr. Speaker.

So taking Ksh 1.2 billion as the base for that evaluation, Mr. Speaker, then that would indicate to us against a financing budget of local revenue of Ksh 2.7 billion, then we will be able to realize a financing gap of 1.5 billion, Mr. Speaker.

Going forward, the coming financial year, based on the information provided by this document, Mr. Speaker, it is indicating, for the budget we are going to make, we shall have a target of Ksh 2.3 billion and using Ksh 1.2 billion as our base rate Mr. Speaker, even with the strategies the improvement might not be double the amount that we have been able to collect in the two subsequent years Mr. Speaker, unless we increase the taxes to our people. So that indicates, if we approve this local revenue collection at Ksh 2.3 billion we are going to realize another financing gap of Ksh 1.1 billion Mr. Speaker.

Since we approved the budget of this financial year Mr. Speaker, the project of this financial year, quite many of them have not taken off, because the monies that are available are being used to pay for the Ksh 2.3 billion for last financial year, Mr. Speaker. If we continue

setting a precedence of debts, Mr. Speaker, it would mean that by the time the term is over, we would be now midway implementing the projects that we have apportioned, Mr. Speaker. As part of assisting the county of Machakos to manage properly its debts, I think it is only proper and it is a principal of financial prudence to only appropriate for what you have, Mr. Speaker.

Even if we are going to be ambitious, we should be within the margins of error, Mr. Speaker. It would be my proposal that the margin of error, bearing in mind in mind the amount we have been able to raise, would be plus or minus Ksh 500 million, Mr. Speaker, using the new measures of increasing the revenue collection that the chair is proposing Mr. Speaker. So I would want to hear whether the chairman would find it important to amend number 68 and reduce, for the sake of proper financial prudence, Mr. Speaker, the local revenue projection from Ksh 2.3 billion to a more realistic value of possibly Ksh 1.7 billion, Mr. Speaker.

Because if we have been able, for the two financial years, to raise Ksh 1.2 billion, Mr. Speaker, the more realistic achievement would be raising a local revenue of Ksh. 1.7 billion which will be an increase of Ksh 500 million, Mr. Speaker.

And, an increase of Ksh 500 million is not a small job, Mr. Speaker, because there have been problems within Machakos County for the last several months, with our contractors complaining not having been paid, with our doctors complaining monies not having been remitted for the statutory deductions because of the financing gaps that we have had.

As a measure to show the county Executive and the people of Machakos that this house is ready to take its position and demand prudence in financial management, Mr. Speaker. It is always good and if you allow me, I will quote one Kikamba saying that says, *Mbia yaaie mwithe ni kukua isakwa nene.* (The rat lost its tail because of carrying big maize cobs). Mr. Speaker, it says the mice does not have a big tail because of every other time it wants to run away with the biggest maize cob to go and hide so that it can use during dry spells.

It is good we chew what we can swallow, Mr. Speaker, for the sake of financial prudence, I want to urge the hon. chair to agree with me that Ksh 2.3 billion for local revenue is too ambitious and to be realistic and the county to be moving in tandem so that if we say we are going to do Katangi- Matuu road, the monies appropriated are available and the contractors go to site right away because by doing so, the public will find us not to appear to be liars and to be implementing the projects as they are in, Mr. Speaker.

As one of the principles adopted by the National government, in the recent years, contracts are only issued to monies that are available, Mr. Speaker. If we go and appropriate Ksh 8.8 billion, we will be making a budget that is unrealistic, Mr. Speaker. It is like for me, to imagine that, tomorrow with my small salary, I can go and buy a chopper to be flying around, Mr. Speaker which will be very unrealistic. So I want to urge the chairman to find it important to revise this local revenue to a more realistic amount.

It is better that we tighten our belts for the coming financial year, so that after that financial year, this county can now move forward without being worried by the debts that we are going to incur against the poor performance of our local revenue, Mr. Speaker. So I want to request, through your advice, that the chairman responds on the need to have the local revenue projections reduced to a more realistic amount, because Ksh 2.3 billion for me is a higher projection and we have not been able to come anywhere close to that going by the series that has been able to develop. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: I think hon. members, we need to understand the exercise we are undergoing here. We are discussing the fiscal strategy paper which is a step towards the actual budget which is somewhere around the corner.

And the exercise we are doing here is somewhat public participation so the contributions that we are having will inform the notes that will accompany our report that will be done by the committee on budget to the minister. So let us hear from the chairman. I think that should be the position. So you don't need to endeavor on amending the report because that is not our assignment.

Hon. Muinde: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In fact you have just said it and Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of the Deputy Speaker, that the last two years, weather conditions in Machakos have not been favorable and it has affected revenue collection in Machakos and by extension, the economic situation in our county and we leave on hope and our hope is that our next financial year, the agriculture production in our county will improve with favorable rains and that will mean better collection.

And Mr. Speaker, I also want to put it that, a budget statement is actually a statement of intention when it comes to money matters. And setting lower targets, Mr. Speaker, has its own dangers as I had said earlier.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, the problem on the debts is not on the entire global figures for the budget. Failure by accounting officers in the Executive to award tenders when money has been allocated to them is the main cause of why we have debts.

We can have a budget but unless an accounting officer is told, please you cannot issue LPOs against zero monies, Mr. Speaker, we have evidence where in the first year, either because of lack of knowledge or exposure to public sector finance by our chief officers, you find that when a vote has no money, an officer issues an LPO. That is where the rain started beating us Mr. Speaker.

So we still can have a budget and money is not availed, which means no debts would accrue. We can also have a big budget and still have debts if the management of the votes is not well done, Mr. Speaker. What we intend to do in the coming year 2015/16, is to ensure we give directions to the chief officers not to issue tenders when actual money is in their own account. That is the problem with the 2013/14 and it is the one now being corrected by this year and I can assure you the problem will not be fully corrected.

It will not be at zero level in terms of debts by June of this year, but at least the debts will be at a manageable level. And Mr. Speaker, a government, like an individual, will always have debts. We will still have some un-cleared creditors at the end of the financial year, only that we are saying the level must be able to be managed.

So Mr. Speaker, I still fill Ksh 2.3 billion local revenues is still not ambitious considering we are coming from Ksh 3.1 billion to Ksh 2.7 billion to Ksh 2.3 billion. If we go down to Ksh 2 billion, for example Mr. Speaker, what message are we sending to the revenue collectors out there?

And we all believe that it is not that this county cannot collect the money. We know the problem is not the source of money. The problem is the collection and the management of the money. We believe not all the cents that are collected eventually goes to the bank account and when you look at page 16, all the way to 17 of the fiscal strategy paper, the CEC finance has talked about the economic status of the county and the way she intends to ensure that there is stability in Machakos economy and how she will be able to collect.

So I would urge the Deputy Speaker to-----I know the problem is that he has just walked in, and looked on the page where there are figures, and ignored the page where there are narratives, if he reads that keenly, some of these questions he is raising will be answered.

And Mr. Speaker, this is just a beginning of the budget-making since immediately after this we will have the debt management paper and all the way to June we will be handling the budget estimates. Some of these concerns can be handled at the select committee level and entirely in the plenary when all the reports are here.

So Mr. Speaker, I believe I am speaking on behalf of the budget committee. We will still stand by a figure of Ksh 2.3 billion local collection as given by the CEC finance. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you very much. I think, the Deputy Speaker, you still have an opportunity to fight on your point but for the chairman it is also important as you return to CEC and tell her that ‘these are concerns’ that ‘with this target is not being made it should come a little bit down.’ And I think we rather conclude.

Hon. Oliver Munyaka: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. I can see page 2 on the report, the last two sentences- the county treasury shall seek and take into account the views of the Commission on Revenue Allocation, the public, any interested person or groups and any other forum that is established by the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have never seen these people in my area. I have never heard them in Machakos Sub County so I am still waiting to hear from them. On issue of wage bill, I support the chairman for budget. It is too high. What I propose is that Mr. Speaker, Sir, all those who were employed by the chief officers, most of the employees are from chief officers, they got letters and now I have a letter from chief officer which is not even stamped and it says that you have been employed by the county government of Machakos.

So I propose that all those who were employed when this government came in, be set aside or be given their dues and those who were employed by the county councils, municipal councils and town councils be left. The Governor and the relevant body are mandated to employ.

Hon. Speaker: Hon Chairman, you may not have been in when that point was properly addressed by the report or you have not gone through the report.

Hon. Munyaka: I was just supporting what the Chairman of budget was saying. I was adding weight on the wage bill.

Hon. Speaker: Ok. Add weight.

Hon. Munyaka: On debt payment, I don't see why we should have other tenders, purchases, LPOs being given the next financial year, 2015/16 because these people are putting the government of our Excellency down. They are talking bad of our government.

And on page 21 on the fiscal strategy paper Mr. Speaker, Sir, number 60, I think this figure was in a revenue collection 2013/14. It was unspecified. I don't see why now it is coming into this fiscal strategy paper and it was disbursed for funding to health sector and in 2013/14. It was unspecified and it came in December, 2014. And 2013/14 it is was not-----

Hon. Speaker: Chairman, I think you are getting out of order. There is no wrong in two figures relating. If you saw 109 on your paper, you would never want to see it again?

Hon. Munyaka: But it came in 2013/14 and in 2014/ 15 it is still there?

Hon. Speaker: Yes, finance chairman, the figure is 109. The figure 109 is a figure used for the county fiscal strategy paper. So if there is another 109 in a matter that you are handling, then keep it.

Hon. Munyaka: And it was by the end of 2014 December, Mr. Speaker, Sir-----

Hon. Speaker: I don't know whether we are together. Do you have material to say that the same figure that you are talking about is the same figure that is being talked about here?

Hon. Munyaka: I think it is the one.

Hon. Speaker: You only think. Just conclude anyway.

Hon. Munyaka: So Mr. Speaker, Sir, I say that I support the document and i congratulate our budget chairman for the fiscal strategy paper which they discussed and passed it to the assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon Speaker: I think hon. members, we rather conclude, there is a matter you want to raise. Please be brief.

Hon. Alex Kamitu: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. I have gone through this paper as it was presented by our committee for budget. They have done a good job. However, as you said, my humble request is that, because our chairman for finance is around, and our chairman for budget is around, they are taking into consideration the expectation that the county has.

My humble request is that they should also advice or on this matter we were supposed to be getting a report of what measures they are putting on the ground in regard to promoting the revenue collection. Because as our Deputy Speaker was talking about the realization of about Ksh 2.3 billion, my contribution Mr. Speaker, Sir, is they should also have come up with measures of how we can improve the revenue collection because we are talking about money and in regard to development, recurrent expenditures.

So my request to these two committees would have the best way of advising the executive where we are supposed to curb money going into individual pockets. Where some exercises were observed, maybe there are some areas and a good example, Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is an exercise which was carried out by the government on water mapping. So the committee for finance should also go out and make some curbing in regard to what should be realized by this committee so as to promote the revenue and it will give us a fiscal framework of our expectation in the coming years.

That is my contribution, otherwise it was a well done job by the budget committee and we should go on. Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Speaker: Finally, you want to say something.

Hon. Muinde: Yes Mr. Speaker. The concerns by the chairman finance on public participation. I want to tell him that, even before this paper came to the floor of this house, even before it was forwarded to the Clerk of the assembly, this paper was already on the website of the Executive and I happened to go to one of the meetings organized by the civil society and as I walked in, they had a copy downloaded from the website of the Executive and I had not even seen it and I was a little bit challenged.

When I asked the minister, he said, and this is rightly so, Mr. Speaker, as a lawyer you will advise that the scope of public participation is never defined in law but any means that is employed to ensure that as many people as possible get to know about what is happening in the Executive or even in the Assembly will constitute public participation.

The views of the members of this country and county in the diaspora has reached the office of the CEC finance because they have been able to see this document and in Mombasa a

week ago, the county budget and economic forum was assembled and they were also interrogating this document and as we had read that, it said any other forum that is established by the legislation and that is one forum, they also participate and this members of the budget forum represents mwananchi. The same way members of the assembly who sit in this house represent mwananchi.

So there is no doubt, views of members of the public have been received and public participation does not only mean organized barazas. memorandum have been sent to the CEC finance and even for the assembly Mr. Speaker, now that the budget process is now underway, I would expect the office of the Clerk to have this document in the assembly website and that organized groups and individuals out there should be able to send us memorandums of petitions and we will be able to react on them.

Mr. Speaker, the finance committee chairman talked about the employees, which I have said we have no choice but to take hard decisions and have some staff go home either through voluntary retiring or laying off redundancy and harmonization of wages. Mr. Speaker, it has come to the notice, and I challenge the labor committee, there are diploma holders and certificate holders in this county government with a salary of five figures while degree holders and Master's holders have lesser.

So we demanded a report from the service board, two months after laying off the budget of the 2014/15. To date, my committee has never gotten any response and I want to believe also the labor committee may not have. So perhaps the office of the Clerk may revisit that position and as we look at the debt management papers to be presented to us, we will be need to make decisive steps in terms of staffing levels in this county.

Former county and municipal council employees in this county are idle. They have been sidelined. They have not been given duties. New employees who are coming in are getting the assignments. We do not need to continue employing when we still have idle labor in our county government.

Perhaps the public service board, when established, was told their work is to employ and for sure they have gone into frenzy in employing without even looking at the staffing levels and it is an area of concern but this house can step and do something.

Mr. Speaker, I would also, as a committee on budget, we would also want guidance from your office on the position of the ward development fund because as we now begin to discuss the budget, we would want to settle some small development projects at the ward level. If we can for

sure put some little money under the ward development fund, Mr. Speaker, we would be able to do something. But the position of the ward development fund is critical to this house, especially at the level that we have got in by the time we were setting the budget and we are also considering the fate of the CDF at the national level.

We would want to stand guided as a budget committee so that we would be able to know whether to allocate money for wards. At least, some percentage in form of the ward development fund, so that small discrepancies in resource allocation, at the ward level, can be taken into consideration.

Thank you Mr. Speaker, I thank all for the positive contribution and I also want to undertake that my committee will communicate with the CEC finance and have the views of the members registered so that as we look at the main budget, in the coming months, these concerns are well taken care of. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you very much. Hon. members, I think that will mark the conclusion of the debate. The finance chairman, you are now content with the response from the chairman.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker: With the result that the chairman perhaps you forward the minutes of today's debate because that will inform the office of the CEC member, County Treasury on the various issues and concerns that members have raised towards the conclusion of the fiscal paper. In the absence of further business for the day, then the house adjourns until the afternoon. Thank you.

House rose at 12.15 p.m.

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