

MACHAKOS COUNTY ASSEMBLY**OFFICIAL REPORT****Thursday, 25th June, 2015**

The House met at 2.54 p.m.

*[The Speaker (Mr. Bernard Mung'ata in the Chair)]***PRAYERS****Hon. Speaker:** Good afternoon Hon. Members.**BILL***(Second Reading)***MACHAKOS APPROPRIATION BILL 2015**

Hon. Isaac Muinde: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to present the Machakos Appropriation Bill 2015 to be read today Thursday, 25th June, 2015 for the second reading and I call upon hon. Rachel to second.

Hon. Rachel: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. I wish to second that the Machakos Appropriation Bill 2015 to read today Thursday, 25th June 2015 for the second reading. Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you.

Hon Muinde: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I did present to this house the Budget appropriation committee report on the Machakos county budget for the fiscal year 2015/16 on Tuesday, 23rd June, 2015 in the afternoon and Mr. Speaker, you did direct that members take time to go and further interrogate the proposed amendments by the committee on budget and also further make other recommendations as they may deem them fit.

Mr. Speaker, I also did indicate that the budget document is a negotiated document. A lot of negotiations took place yesterday, Mr. Speaker, between the assembly members and the Executive. Mr. Speaker, members of the assembly were of the view that the Ward Development Fund be enhanced from Ksh. 605 million to Ksh. 805 million. Mr. Speaker there was consensus after heated negotiations between the two arms of the government and my committee, which is now to further propose to what we had presented to this house on Tuesday, that Ward Development Fund be Ksh. 605 million, we wish to further propose to the house for adoption and approval that the Ward Development Fund be enhanced to Ksh. 805 million.

Mr. Speaker, that will ensure that each ward among the 40 wards of Machakos county get Ksh. 20 million leaving the Ksh. 5 million for administrative purposes. Mr. Speaker, the extra Ksh. 200 million that will be used to fund the Ward Development Fund, the committee on budget proposed that if the department public service, ICT and Labour, there is an amount of Ksh. 270 million meant for the car and mortgage scheme for the members of the Executive that Ksh. 150 million be moved from that vote to the Ward Development Fund and in the department of education, we proposed the figure of Ksh. 156 million meant for employment of ECD, youth polytechnic tutors, that amount be reduced by a figure of Ksh. 50 million and the Ksh. 50 million be moved to enhance the Ward Development Fund. That brings the Ward Development Fund to Ksh. 805 million.

Mr. Speaker, the committee had also proposed reduction of the insurance fund which is in the department of transport, we had proposed to reduce it to a mere Ksh. 20 million but on further negotiations with the Executive, Mr. Speaker, we recommend to the house that the department of health, under salaries and wages, there is a figure of Ksh. 50 million meant for promotions. That money be moved to enhance the insurance for the county fleet as given in the department of transport.

Mr. Speaker, those are the other amendments that are arising from the negotiations that took place yesterday so that we can have harmony between the two arms of the government and it is my hope and belief, members of this house will find it fit to support the budget statement for the year 2015/16. With those few remarks, I thank the house and your office for the support that has been accorded to my committee in trying to ensure we have a well-thought out and agreed document between members and the Executive arm of the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you very much; the floor is open for any contributions on the budget.

Hon. Cornelius Kitheka: Mr. Speaker, as much as we agree on whatever the chairman has said, there is one omission which has been made and it is the negotiations of making a code in the vote for the Ward Development Fund and the naming of the fund which had some controversies yesterday. Can he clarify on the same?

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Chairman.

Hon. Muinde: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Actually, I had just forgotten to mention that because that was one of the contentious issues in yesterday's negotiation, Mr. Speaker, and what has happened is, I did explain to members informally but I want to inform them in this house that the IFMIS programme which is under the treasury is a software and we have no rights to alter it but what the CEC member for inance has done is to ask the Treasury from Nairobi to accord the next code after the CDF code, Mr. Speaker, and that was circulated yesterday.

The document that we are going to issue by the time we debate the appropriation Bill, Mr. Speaker, the code given is 2630235 which is a code next after the CDF fund which is a national government fund because the Ward Development Fund is a new fund. That is what the CEC member has applied and we are factoring in this money- the Kshs 805 mullion not under the Ministry of trade and economic planning but under the ministry of finance and it is written code 2630235 and the wording is Ward Development Fund and amount given is Ksh. 805 million. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. I can see there is silence in the house so I presume that there is consensus.

Hon. Maitha: Thank you Mr. Speaker, let me break the silence. Mr. Speaker, I wish to applaud the budget committee for the efforts and tireless time they have spent in working out this document. A budget is the only way an entity or an organization can deliver to its promises and the expectations of the livelihood of its people. Mr. Speaker, history will repeat itself and I just want to give examples of the personalities in this world who matter a lot and who have direct engagement with the public either positively or directly.

It starts with pastors in church. They teach people on ways and means of how they can become holy and go to heaven. We have doctors who are directly engaged in the lives of people and if they mess up, then those people die and they leave this world. The last part of personality is the politicians. They are directly engaged with making decisions that change the lives of the people economically, directly.

The policies they make, the decisions they make affect the people who elected them directly. They are the people who are vested with the power on earth to make sure they change the livelihood of their people. That is where I am and that is where this hon. house lies. It is the third year running. We sat in the same house, passed budgets for two consecutive periods. I need this to be food for thought for each and every member. We have passed budgets of close to Ksh. 10 to 50 billion, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Every hon. member who is elected here needs to take stock of what is tangibly visible in his or her ward that has changed the lives of the people who elected the people. They are appreciating. Are they partly appreciating or they are not appreciating what we have done? Food for thought.

Come another financial year, 2015/16 where we are making a very big move to pass a budget of about Ksh. 11 billion that is supposed to change the lives of our people. The big question that each and every one of us should ask is; is it in line with the oath of service that we took in this house? Is it going to make a change to the lives of the people who elected us, the millions of people that we represent in Machakos County?

Well it is food for thought for everyone. The chairman has said he proposed a Ward Development Fund of Ksh. 805 million. The issue is not the figure, Mr. Speaker, we can talk of even the entire budget. The biggest question is; what are the chances of the implementation? Once bitten, twice shy. The last financial year Mr. Speaker, we know what happened. No one needs to be told. We need to do a personal stock and assessment of what has been done in our wards. Time is coming, we might think we are going to spend the rest of our lives in this assembly, but this year is going to be the defining moment for any politician who is seated in this house, be it elected or nominated, because I understand even the nominated members have a also right to seek for the same positions that we have either here or somewhere else. It does not exempt anyone, Mr. Speaker.

What I want to challenge the hon. house is we can pass as many budgets as possible, but after five years, stock is going to be taken out of the budget that we have passed. I would urge this house to take the shortest time possible to pass this budget but when they pass it, they should take more time to ensure that it is implemented to the fullest. I went through the voluminous document that we were given and I realized there are so many anomalies in that paper.

In as much as I would say I can table proposed changes in those anomalies, Mr. Speaker, it might good but I am not convinced that if I make those changes they will be effected. I will leave they as they are but this house is got a task, not to pass the budget but to ensure its

implementation is done to the fullest, because we are politicians directly engaged to make policies that will change the lives of the people who elected us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you very much. Other contributions. Hon. Ndeto, yes.

Hon. Festus Ndeto: Thank you, Mr. Speaker for this opportunity. First, I would like to say thank you to my God for the fact that today I am present in this house on the budget day remembering that the other budget I was out after being kicked out for no reason.

Secondly, my concern, which is a serious concern, is about the Ward Development Fund in which the chairman of budget has just given some directions. I tend to believe it is not Machakos county assembly only which is passing the Ward development fund and if for sure as the budget chairman has indicated, the code that has been given following the CDF code, I question this and I suspect something. Reason is there are some other counties which have passed Ward Development Fund and I believe if it was IFMIS, the code should be factored somewhere and we should not be the first to look for a code if it is IFMIS.

I remember some days back, an issue was raised in which the chairman also gave the excuse of IFMIS and an hon. member stood and said Machakos is not all over. It is only in Machakos but it is coded. This raises a very serious question and members, I will be the first person to pass this budget but I suspect later we may face a problem. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Ndeto, that matter has been raised in my office we have consulted with Clerk, consulted the treasury and kindly don't be afraid. Let us proceed.

Hon. Nathaniel Nganga: Mr. Speaker, reading the mood of the house, it seems we have some sort of consensus. I know there has been some serious heated debate and I know deep inside our hearts and in our minds, whether elected or nominated, we have more than unquestionable desire to have the Ward Development Fund implemented.

It is a duty of every elected leader especially within the devolved units to ensure there is furtherance of devolution. Mr. Speaker, when resources and power are released from Nairobi, the center of this country and they come to the county headquarters of every county, it is the prerogative of the leaders within those counties to ensure that we don't have decentralization with centralization at the county headquarters but rather, furthered decentralization of the devolved units, Mr. Speaker.

One of the principles of devolved units as enshrined in the constitution in the objectives and values of devolution are to promote furtherance of devolution as far as possible, Mr.

Speaker. The constitution has gone to the level of the ward and it even seeks that if possible that matter can be enhanced even to the sub location level within our areas of representation, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I have a desire to have the Ward Development Fund which will give a significance of the direct money that shall be going to the people of Ikombe that I represent. That being very clear in my mind it will be good for each and every other leader who represents a certain jurisdiction to make sure that as much as enough size of amount of money that we have from our local collections and the National government share, goes to our areas of representation without also putting the government of the day in a lock down, Mr. Speaker.

As one of the speakers in a different forum said, one of the reasons why we have had ceilings with our expenditures with county assemblies, especially the recurrent in the county assemblies and executives, is because at some point we could over-shoot the certain expectation that we were to charge on the various votes that we have had.

But on this matter then also, Mr. Speaker, there is need for as much as we put enough money for us to be able to influence on the various projects that are going to be implemented, Mr. Speaker, to also let the structure of the government that has been given in the constitution continue to function. As a person together with other leaders in the house and even in the county government, we have also tried to ensure that we get it right in the matter of coding of the Ward Development Fund and the description of the code, Mr. Speaker.

The law that we are using, Public Finance Management, laws gives us room to make corrections to issues that will be of concern in the respect to the matter of any issue that has been approved but has challenges with either Controller of Budget or has challenges with the CRA, Mr. Speaker.

So I want to urge my colleagues not always to fault find or rather to find the glass half empty, but also at some other points to have a reason to find the glass half full. Mr. Speaker, it has been a tough walk. I remember the very many instances that I had an exchange with the chairman budget when he wanted to throw in the towel and say I am tired of this process. I have always been behind to make sure that he doesn't lose the energy, to keep moving because this budget had a lot of strains. Mr. Speaker you realize we are passing a budget against a backdrop of low local revenue collection, Mr. Speaker.

We also have some of part that budget pegged on a promise that has not yet been delivered. That is a government grant that has not yet been delivered. It is our duty that we

ensure as one member has said the budget is implemented. It will be the duty of every member in this house to come up with policies, programmes, motions and other approaches that will find them reasonable. For every one of us that has a household, whether they have a problem with anyone within that household, be it their son or any other person, they may not be as beautiful as you would want them but you always make sure that if something to grease their faces to make them more beautiful, you make it available to them because it is them that you have chosen.

If you end up getting some children and you find that they are not doing good in school Mr. Speaker, you don't lament on their performance, rather you find how best to make sure your students give a good performance in their school Mr. Speaker. It is the duty of us as leaders not to fault find every other leader that we have, whether in government or outside government. But rather work together collectively to achieve a common goal, a goal of the people of Machakos.

When you put a drift within your area of representation, when you give water to a certain school or village that did not have clean drinking water, you are doing it for all of us because this county does not belong to an individual. It belongs to all of us. The duty of making it successful is not vested in one person or one office. Each of us here holds an office and with those offices, the big question is, if I reiterate one former president of America who said, 'what are you doing as a leader to make the lives of the people of Machakos better.'

I remember the one famous utterance that is spread through the social media by one Kenyan resident from Budalangi and there was this mafuriko and then she was appealing to the President kwamba serikali saidia. The President of the day was there responding, 'ni sawa unasema serikali saidia, lakini hata wewe uko na ile jukumu la kufanya. Serikali ikikusaidia na wewe unajisaidia kama binadamu. Sisi kama viongozi, ile kazi---

Hon. Speaker: Order, hon Deputy Speaker, kindly restrain yourself to your language of choice.

Hon. Nganga: Thank you Mr. Speaker. End of quote, Mr. Speaker.

(Laughter)

As leaders, Mr. Speaker, we have a duty to realize that the duty of making Machakos successful is not the duty of the county Speaker alone or the duty of the county Governor or the

ministers. There are the ideas that we have and it is the high time I would want to call leaders to work together in harmony. Al-Shabaab, al-Qaeda have been there fighting the Western alliance. They have even been fighting our own government in Kenya today, Mr. Speaker, but every other time they kill our people, we end up killing them. Extremist approaches towards leadership and development will never carry the day, Mr. Speaker.

I want to appeal to all leaders to always work in moderation and find a reason and a course of working together, find a reason of disagreeing to agree and agreeing to agree, Mr. Speaker. With that kind of approach we shall find no cause of alarm on most of these issues.

So, Mr. Speaker, as I wind up my remarks on this budget, I want to say I believe with the much that we have allocated to the department of water, this year will be the final year as we end this budget, we shall never talk about the people of Machakos having to go to draw water using the *mitungi* in the various streams that we have, Mr. Speaker.

The people of Machakos will not have to have cholera because of lack of clean drinking water. So with those remarks, Mr. Speaker, and with the Ward Development Fund that is coming, I want to urge the county Executive to move with speed to operationalize the Ward Development Fund committees that are supposed to be at the ward level and also at the county level, the various persons who are supposed to be nominated to those positions, from within the government so that this matter hits the ground running.

Mr. Speaker, as pointed out in earlier discussions in one of the committees of this house, we are also going to propose the formation of a committee from amongst our members to ensure that there is a chairperson responsible every day running to look into affairs of the Ward Development Fund so that it functions across the whole county. Mr. Speaker, with those many or few remarks, I beg to support that we adopt the budget of this financial year. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. Benedetta Mueni: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. I stand to thank the chairman of budget for giving the elected members the Ward Development Fund so that they can fail themselves but not complain to the county. Because you had already gone out, I ask you to go to your wards and do your best. We will be watching. Thank you.

(Applause)

Hon. Alice Nzioka: Asante sana Bw. Spika. Nimesimama kuunga mkono mwenyekiti wa kamati ya bajeti na ni kazi nzuri na ngumu ambayo amejaribu kufanya. Pia namshukuru Mungu nilikuwa kwenye maombi kuuliza Mungu alete bunge letu pamoja. Siku ya jana ilikuwa siku ya maajabu sababu waheshimiwa ambao wamechaguliwa, ilikuwa awali, hakuna mtu alikuwa anaongea na mwingine. Mara wewe ni wa mrengo huu, wewe uko huko. Lakini jana ilikuwa ni siku ambayo ilikuwa ya ajabu wote walikaa kama watoto wa mama mmoja wakaongea mpaka sisi wateule pia tukaenda kando tukajenga bunge letu pia.

(Applause)

Bw. Spika, kile ambacho tungeuliza ni pesa za wadi za ujenzi zimetengwa kwa wadi arobaini ambazo tukonazo. Waswahili husema, heri nusu ya shari kuliko shari kamili. Mwanzo kulikuwa hakuna pesa hizo zilikuwa zimetengwa. Wabunge wezangu ambao mmechaguliwa, mungu amepita mahali akawafikia. Hizo pesa ambazo mmepewa mazitumie vizuri. Naunga mkono sababu inawezekana mwaka 2017 naweza kuwa kwa kinyang'anyiro nije kwenye hili bunge pia nizitumie hizo pesa.

Nasema mtu atapata baraka kuwasaidia waliomchagua na pia waswahili husema 'gunia tupu alisimami.' Sasa naona gunia litasimama sababu lina kitu ndani. Wabunge wezangu mwende mfanye kazi ili tupate sisi wote sifa. Wale ambao wamechaguliwa, wale ambao wameteuliwa tushikane pamoja. Lakini nawaomba wenzangu ambao wamechaguliwa, sisi wateule hatuwezi pata hizi pesa za ujenzi maana ni sheria ilipitishwa. Mkienda na sisi, mkisikia kilio chetu tafadhalini mrudi pamoja ili na sisi mtusaidie. Asante sana.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Very nice. Yes Hon. Kyuli

Hon. Kyalo Kyuli: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to start by congratulating the budget committee and the chairman included because I know if the chairman had young kids today, they could be maybe calling him uncle. He was absent and I am a neighbor to him. He was absent even in his own house and I know it is because of this that we have a document before us, that we are saying, like in the movie of the Lion King, must it all end in fighting? Members of this assembly, must it end in fighting?

We are saying no. This one is ending with a handshake, Mr. Speaker, because once bitten, twice shy. We went to a consultative meeting when we were sent yesterday and Mr.

Speaker, I thought we will find the Governor with his guns cocked. To my surprise, he was willing to listen to us.

We were there, Mr. Speaker, and it was a nice discussion that came out of that sitting. People can sit and shake their hands. My appeal, therefore, Mr. Speaker, is that those who are going to be in the committee that is going to be heading this Ward Development Fund, Mr. Speaker, that we will be tough on everything so that we feel that we are working for our own electorates, Mr. Speaker.

When we were elected, we made promises, Mr. Speaker, and we did not know that it is going to be another issue to fulfill the promise but we now have a reason to smile. However, little it maybe, Mr. Speaker, I know it is not little because Ksh. 20 million is not little money. We have a reason to smile that the people that I promised to give some road, there is some light at the end of the tunnel. My appeal therefore is that the operationalization of the same is hastened so that as early we begin doing our projects, Mr. Speaker, so that we also redeem our names down there because everybody is saying the Governor has been doing this. The Governor is doing that, what about the MCA? So now the MCA will be seen to be doing something through this fund.

Mr. Speaker, even the rest of the budget, we have left a lot of money in to every department and we voluntarily did so because there are departments that are going to work in our wards. Mr. Speaker, we want to see a difference of this particular budget in terms of implementation. Mr. Speaker, the committee on implementation, I again want to urge them to be vigilant this time round so that everything that is in this budget that we sat for, burnt the midnight oil, wasted a lot of our resources and funds, we want to see things happening in our wards, not only from the Ward Development Fund but also from the budget that we have passed for every other department. So Mr. Speaker, I am in support of this because it must not end in fighting every time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. Timothy Kilonzo: Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the members for the consensus that we made yesterday. It was a hard decision but finally we came to understand one another. And Mr. Speaker, I want to say we will now have the Ksh. 20 million and there can be also danger if we shall not spend the money properly. We should go and do things that will impress the people and the people will understand that now there is money at the ward level. That is very important.

Mr. Speaker, I want those who call the *watu wa magazeti*, please Mr. Speaker, let them call them all the time. When we have bad and hard discussions, they should be here and when we also have peace discussions, they should also be here. Mr. Speaker, today I cannot find them, even one. Because they know that there is a peaceful discussion. Let us have them throughout. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Felix Ngui: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. I want to appreciate the chairman of budget, the chairpersons of sectoral committees and all other stakeholders who made it successful for budgeting process for the financial year 2015/16. Mr. Speaker, before I continue, because I have heard the Deputy Speaker mention that there will be a committee that will be formed by the house to oversee the operation of the CDF, I wanted to bring to your attention that I am the temporary chairman for the Ward Development Fund and I was appointed yesterday at a Speakers Kamukunji.

So Mr. Speaker, I believe and trust that we have the best budget ever. This is our third budget since we started the county government and I want to believe that we have the best budget ever, having factored in the Ward Development Fund that is going to trickle down for the development within our wards.

Mr. Speaker, I want to believe that the spirit of our constitution that was passed 2010 is going to be realized because it was about devolution and devolving of development to wananchi. With the Ward Development Fund, I want to believe that our people and actually the spirit of devolution is going to be realized the first time within Machakos county.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, is that we have the biggest budget in the ministry of water and you realize that the biggest problem of the people of Machakos is water so we want to believe that we are going to solve this problem of water for our people once and for all.

Then having said that, we have been passing budgets in this assembly and this is a very strong warning to the Executive arm of the government because our budgets have not been followed to the letter, so we want to send a strong warning this time round. It is not going to be business as usual. We are going to play our oversight role to make sure that those moneys that have been budgeted to various departments are used properly and for the right purpose that this house has passed the budget to do.

So Mr. Speaker, I want to say that I am in full support of the budget for the financial year 2015/2016. Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Speaker: Now we want to be brief.

Hon. Magdalene Ndawa: Thank you Mr. Speaker. This thing looks to be longer than me (*pointing to gooseneck microphone*). Mr. Speaker, I must start by congratulating the hon. member Isaac Muinde, chairman of budget and I wish today was his birthday, I will be the first one to give him a birthday present. For my sister hon. Alice, this house has actually for the first time united and say united we stand, divided we fall.

Hon. Members, we have a chance. As the Governor, is Governor No. 1, we became MCAs No.24 for those who are not aware. I hope with the Ward Development Fund now we can grade ourselves and be MCAs No.1.

Mr. Speaker, for two years, 90 per cent of those who are elected have nothing to show in their wards. Now we celebrate we have the Ward Development Fund but still we have a budget ahead of us.

As hon. members, I urge, let us now unite and play our role of oversight. Let us unite and see our people get what they deserve. As the hon. member for Ikombe said, Machakos problem has always been water, water, water. This year's budget we have over Ksh. 2 billion for water. As a house, let us not expect the next financial year to budget such amount of money for water. Let this problem end once and for all, Mr. Speaker.

It is our duty to make sure that the people of Machakos get water. The rest will come after we have water. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I congratulate the house once again. Let us stay united.

Hon. David Manyolo: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir, and the house at large. First, I congratulate the committee for budget for what they have done because it has created a mutual understanding and harmony between the members because yesterday everyone was cool trying to see how we can achieve and in the end we have achieved the Ward Development Fund. In fact Mr. Speaker, we were elected to represent people and what we were elected for is now what we have enacted as the Ward Development kitty because in the wards we have so many things which our people expect from us.

We have the feeder roads, earth dams, stalled boreholes and so many things and also the part of education because we have so many needy kids and with it I understand we will do our best and try to see whether we can improve the image of Machakos county. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the budget committee for what they have done. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Joseph Itumo: Mr. Speaker, I am very much jovial because today I have seen light because I know some of the members do not go home regularly as before but now this Ward Development Fund will make this members be frequent to their areas and will make them famous, Mr. Speaker.

Once we got in this house in 2013, the moment we elected you as the Speaker of this house, that particular night I had a dream and the dream was that, immediately I will lose fame maybe sometimes I will gain fame again and it was through this particular Ward Development Fund, Mr. Speaker.

(Laughter)

Mr. Speaker, today I am going to sleep a very happy man once this budget is passed and I know if the question is put now, you will over 80 per cent actually on eyesight, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is better that we be real and do not play clean cards on the table and the dangerous ones under the table as far as the Ward Development Fund is concerned.

Once the project is implemented, we do not want to see the contractors coming to our offices to say that they have not been paid and malingering up and down, cursing our county because of not being paid. We want, once the project has been implemented, the contractor to be paid their dues.

Mr. Speaker, by that I stand fully to support this budget and I call upon each and every member of this hon. house to come out and orally we support the budget fully. Mr. Speaker, I urge you to put the question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you very much, I am guided.

Hon. Michael Mutuku: Mine is to applaud the chairman of budget, the committee and also applaud the government wing and also the other wing which purports to be in the opposition for really agreeing to have consensus. I would like to say it is actually a milestone for the Machakos County. History has been written because when we talk about Ward Development Fund, we are talking about....actually it is synonymous to development.

As we can recall when Narc came in power 2003 and his Excellency by the President Kibaki introduced the CDF, it is during that time we started realizing some development at the grass root level. Now Machakos has passed Ward Development Fund. Truly speaking we are going to see development happening within the ward level. What I would like to request the hon. members is that it is through the effort of utilizing the fund very well that the government in

power maybe in the next financial year they will see the sense of actually increasing the Ward Development Fund.

Remember hon. members, the song now will start changing to hon. members, because we have been saying the government has not done this, the Governor has not done this, the Executive has not done this. Remember now it will be our turn. The Wanjku or whom we call Mwikali, who stay in rural areas, will start pointing fingers on us and say, hon. members you have the Ward Development Fund, what have you done to the people. So mine is to actually support the budget the way it is and say thank you for that consensus. Let me rest my case there. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Kathinzi.

Hon. Alex Kathinzi: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to start by giving a calculation of Ksh. 20 Million divide by four quarters of the year. I think every quarter every Mheshimiwa should be given a disbursement of Kshs. 5 Million so this is an agenda for Hon. Ngui as he said he is the Interim Chair; I think that should be the first agenda to make sure that committee must be able to push for that money to be in that particular docket in time.

Mr. Speaker, as I continue supporting this particular budget, I would like also to give my personal observation that because this is the first time to get this particular kind of kitty, it is very good for people to handle this particular issue with a lot of keenness because some of us might end up being jailed or being charged in a court of law because of misappropriation of this.

So it is good that we follow the regulation, as an advice Mr. Speaker so that at least next year as we put Ksh. 100 Million in this particular kitty, we can be able to be seen that we can perform this particular line.

As we sat yesterday in our form of Kamukunji for all elected members Mr. Speaker, we said 'enough is enough.' We have seen the fruits we have gained from the division in the House and I would like to guide Mheshimiwa from Athi River that there is no opposition in this House. People are seen to be in opposition because they are not informed.

That is the clear position Mr. Speaker and as you can see from the mood of the House, we are all saying that this is the way to go. Any particular issue which might bring some hiccups in the Assembly Mr. Speaker, let them be communicated the way we did and in this way, we are

going to make it even to higher heights and then the respect and integrity of this House will be respected and upheld forever.

Mr. Speaker, the last item is about the vote which was circulated yesterday and communicated informally. I would like to request the chair and his committee that a proper official communication should be made so that in future, we can be able to say if it is not going to work, then we can say this is the communication as we have the communication from the Department of Treasury which advises that the Ward Development Fund is constitutional.

So I support this particular issue Mr. Speaker and I request this Assembly to stay united and let the elected members respect the nominated and nominated respect the elected. Respect is two-way traffic and if we continue this way, fair communication with a lot of respect, handling issues with integrity, this thing is going to go to higher heights.

Lastly Mr. Speaker, it is like everybody is contributing towards the issue of the Ward Development Fund; I would like also to request the Chairs of various committees, be it agriculture, roads or whatever, I am reminding you that we have also given funds as required by law to those particular departments. Kindly, the work of oversight, representation and legislation is still on our side. Let them do that particular job, ensure the funds you have given to the various ministries is utilized because if we concentrate all efforts in one line of Ward Development Fund, then we lose the focus and the money will be squandered and information is not gotten from the Executive side, Mr. Speaker.

So I rest my case there as I support and I say this is a turning point for us as an Assembly; let's support this government and we'll go far, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Finally let us have Hon. Muli, then Hon. Raphael then Hon. Matheka. It should be remembered that this was his initial idea.

Hon. Joseph Muli: Thank you Mr. Speaker. First I applaud the committee on Budget with the able chairman who did a very wonderful job and Mr. Speaker, much has been spoken; I appreciate the parties which participated to make sure this budget has been scrutinized paper by paper and made sure we pass a budget which we already know about.

Mr. Speaker, from the Executive side and also the legislators here, this budget followed the rationalized budget whereby it factored most priorities which are required in our county. This budget is a very beautiful one and we appreciate it and I support fully. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you very much. Yes, Raphael.

Hon. Raphael Mutuku: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. May I first applaud the chairman, Budget and the entire committee for the work well done. It was a hard time for the committee lobbying for members who were very keen that they want the Ward Development fund.

Mr. Speaker, some years back we witnessed the implementation of the Constituency Development Fund. A lot was done in the constituencies but Mr. Speaker, some of the Members of Parliament during the last regime could not be elected again because of squandering those funds.

I wish to remind our elected members who are the custodians of the wards, as much as we are happy that we will have the Ward Development Fund, it may be the end of some of the Members who will not be keen with the implementation of those funds that are allocated to the wards in the right way.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to remind our members that the committees, those who will be sent there, are not directly answerable to the electorate; it is the Members of this Hon. House who are directly responsible. So I fully support the budget and I am still wondering most of the Members who will benefit from the Ward Development Fund are not in the House this evening.

Some of them were here but they have disappeared, who were supposed to be supporting the adoption of the Machakos Appropriation Bill. If we do not have this Appropriation Bill adopted today, that kind of a fund will not be there. I was expecting to see a full house of Members being here. They are the people who will benefit with those monies directly.

So Mr. Speaker, I would request after the contribution of the Hon. Member who came up with the initial idea of the Ward Development Fund, that the House retreats to a committee of the Whole House and dispense this matter within the shortest time possible. Thank you Mr. Speaker, sir.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. *(To another Member)* Your information has been refused.

Hon. Francis Matheka: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Chair, Budget and the whole house and all the elected members for what they did yesterday. It is a rare occasion for members to sit and have consensus. Things have been forced there before but I thank the Members for what they did and the Chair who called the Kamukunji.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Budget is well done and I'm happy the Ward Development Fund is there and its purpose Mr. Speaker, Sir, was to eradicate poverty at the village level and uplift the living standards of Wayua. She has been there for quite some time and I think this time round, the 'Yua' will get out of her because of this fund.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the fund itself, I've heard people saying that we need to have the regulations but I would like to remind Hon. Members that this is an Act, this is a Bill. It is self-regulatory, if I am not wrong, it has created all the committees only for the Minister for Finance who will give directions on the way forward. I think that is the position, Mr. Speaker.

As the Kamba say, *Ngo ndivenawa maa mayo* (you don't steal from a leopard). You know, I am the initiator of this Bill, so I don't think it's wise enough for the interim chair to do what he wants to do. I should be given the chairmanship so that I can oversee what I started to the latter. Mr. Speaker, sir, the train of the Ward Development Fund has left the station; it will be a pity for whoever will derail it, either from this House or from the Executive, because he will be derailing the uplifting of Wayua.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, like the Bible says, whoever does that, may he or she turn to a pillar of salt. Mr. Speaker, sir, with that, I fully support the budget and ask the Hon. Chair for budget, in future as the Chairman of Chairs has said, we try very much to build consensus on things which we are pulling apart. It is not by will that we pull apart, but it is because we want Wayua to come up.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have said in this House so many times, there comes a time when the issues of Machakos county are bigger than any of us; I saw that yesterday and by all of us coming together, I think we have a deal. Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir, and may we pull in the same direction, Hon. Members if need be, but where we differ, it is by principle but not by choice. Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. I wanted to call the Chair, Budget, but the last opportunity to the Majority Leader.

Majority Leader (Hon. Joshua Mwonga): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to start by appreciating two offices which have not been appreciated by the previous speakers Mr. Speaker, excluding yourself because you have also spoken; that is the Office of the Speaker, the Office of the Clerk and the Office of His Excellency the Governor, for the role they played that these Members now can boast of having the ward Development Fund, Mr. Speaker.

I think I am one of the happiest members representing the 40 wards because Mr. Speaker, my ward is very peculiar in the political arena. I am the only elected Member in this Hon. House who represents two nominated members in this Hon. House, the Deputy Governor Mr. Speaker, the Member for East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) and the 10 residents who are fighting for the constituency seat Mr. Speaker with Hon. Itwiku Mbai.

All of those I have named, Mr. Speaker, we are not reading from the same script on the political arena, Mr. Speaker. It is only the two sisters with whom we have started developing political love and I am very much happy about that Mr. Speaker. I am saying this because I wanted to clear the air that it is as if the Leader of Majority was not for the Ward Development Fund.

Mr. Speaker from 1st July, 2015, I will be walking with my head high in the ward because now I have a walking stick. I am saying that I will be having a walking stick because it is me who will be telling the electorate of Masinga Central I am going to do this with this kitty of Ward Development Fund, Mr. Speaker.

Yesterday was a day that I will never forget in my life, Mr. Speaker, because it will make part of history of this first Assembly, Mr. Speaker. It is only yesterday when all the Members, Mr. Speaker, came together and forgot their differences. Although, it is said that war is one of the themes of history, Mr. Speaker, and war is always won by those who are not cowards, I want to appreciate and congratulate Members who said 'we are not going to have plenary yesterday before we sit and agree on the Ward Development Fund.'

Mr. Speaker, although I am not feeling well and was not feeling well yesterday, I was not aware that Members did not agree to go to the Assembly unless they discuss that. Although I

don't know who were the initiators of that, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank them personally, Mr. Speaker.

I also want to advise our members, I want to advise my colleagues that what we started yesterday, coming together and speaking in one voice, Mr. Speaker, let it be the beginning of a new chapter for this Hon. House Mr. Speaker and Mr. Speaker, it is our own differences which are making us vulnerable to attacks from Members of the public who are not Hon. Members of this House.

Let us read from the same script, forget our differences and start a new chapter. Let it be a new beginning; thank you, I appreciate and I want to propose that the House turns into a committee of the Whole House to dispense with the issue. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Chair, Budget, I will give you an opportunity to talk later at the conclusion so that we can convert to a committee of the Whole House. You can talk now? Ok.

Hon. Muinde: Mr. Speaker, I cannot express how happy I am as the Chairman of the Budget committee. This happiness has not come overnight; it is as a result of a tough war that began way back in February after receiving the Fiscal Strategy Paper and after passing it in this House. Mr. Speaker, on receipt of the budget estimates from the CEC, Finance on 30th April, 2015, we started the long tough journey of budget interrogation that went to the sectoral committees, went to public participation and finally Mr. Speaker, the budget committee met the Chairs of the sectoral committees compiled the reports as given by members of this Assembly and one of the toughest job during this process was the creation of the Ward Development Fund.

Mr. Speaker, there are so many issues that are addressed by the 2015/16 budget but the Ward Development Fund has taken centre stage. Mr. Speaker, it is my appeal as we conclude this matter, that the committee on Planning and the executive moves with speed to ensure that the Ward Development Fund in operationalized to ensure that these funds find their way into the villages to create development at the village level.

Mr. Speaker, I want to challenge this House to be vigilant and ensure quarterly reports on budget implementation are tabled by the ministries to this House. For the last two years, Mr. Speaker, little has been done on monitoring and that is why you can hear members of this Assembly saying that we have passed budgets and our two past budgets have not been followed

to the latter. We need to make a difference in the following year to ensure that reports are brought into this House and not wait until the end of the year to make corrective steps.

Let us put the Chief Officers accountable on all the funds that this House has approved to them. Mr. Speaker, I did mention that one of the challenges to next year's budget is the ballooning wage bill. My committee has proposed to this House to direct the Executive to ensure we do not continuously employ non-specialized staff who are now part of our ballooning wage bill.

Mr. Speaker, though we have allowed the Ministry of Health to employ health personnel and the education department also to employ the ECD teachers, it is our hope that fairness will be done to ensure those who get jobs are coming from Machakos County, that our people benefit from this opportunities and that the positions given are fairly distributed along the 40 wards that we have so that our own people can share in this county cake.

Mr. Speaker, it is also my wish and challenge the Finance committee to ensure that issues of revenue collection are enhanced because this budget is pegged on a Ksh. 2.37 Billion own revenue collection. Mr. Speaker, that is very ambitious; we need to put in mechanisms to ensure that we get these funds. Mr. Speaker, we also want to challenge the health department to ensure that the community hospitals that we have built along the 40 wards are equipped.

Currently there are just houses standing, there are empty halls; we would require them, because they have enough funds, that they are equipped and that the expansion of Matuu Level Four Hospital is done now that we have allocated enough funds and the construction of Mavoko Athi River Hospital is done because we need to give the residents of the larger Mavoko the opportunity to have good healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot fail to mention that this House has taken a tough decision. In the last two years, Mr. Speaker, we have allocated funds under the, Department of Sports and Social Welfare for the elderly, the youth, the women and the disabled. These funds have not found their way to the beneficiaries. It is until two days ago Mr. Speaker, that cash handouts have been given to our people; in fact a quarter of what we had allocated. Ksh. 250,000 to the elderly, which is a quarter of the million that we allocated.

Mr. Speaker, this House, as recommended by the committee on Budget, has decided that those funds all be moved to the Ward Development Fund, because why do we have money being

put into a kitty which is not helping our people? We have information that that vote has been charged and there may be no money to give to the people, so this is one of the highlights of this budget Mr. Speaker that we have not allocated money for MSWEP; that money has been taken to the Ward Development Fund.

Of the existing personnel Mr. Speaker, it is our hope that the government will re-deploy them into other departments so that they can earn their salaries; these are the kind of decisions that this house is keen to take so that taxpayers' money is used in a way that is beneficial to the citizens of Machakos.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate all the Members of the Assembly; they have not made my work easy, it is only today that I can smile. For the last one week Mr. Speaker, I was a very stressed man. Yesterday was one among my worst days in this Assembly, but today I can smile. I believe in the philosophy of a happy ending. At least it is a happy ending; yesterday was not easy but sometimes war can bring peace.

Mr. Speaker, the negotiations that we had yesterday were very tough, sometimes name calling, sometimes false accusations, but at least we can all celebrate and say we have got the Ward Development Fund at a level that is both acceptable to the Executive and the Assembly and that all members of the House can speak in one voice, Mr. Speaker.

However, those challenges have been a lesson to us; we are now smarter, we have learned and next year, if we are in the positions that we are, we'll be able to consult better before tabling our budget to this House.

I thank your office Mr. Speaker and that of the Clerk and everybody who participated in ensuring that the budget committee is given enough time and resources so that we can have these budget estimates presented to this House for approval. With those few remarks Mr. Speaker, I thank everybody and now request that the House turns into a committee of the Whole House to approve the appropriation Bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Members, I will proceed to put the question that those in support of the adoption of the Chairman's report on Budget.

(Question put and agreed to)

Hon. Members then the House now converts to a committee of the Whole House.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

(Order for Committee read)

[Mr. Speaker left the Chair]

IN THE COMMITTEE

[Mr. Chairman (Hon. Nathaniel Nganga) took the Chair]

THE MACHAKOS COUNTY APPROPRIATION BILL, 2015

Hon. Chairman: Chairman, Budget I think you are ready. We will begin with the clauses without amendments.

Chairman, Budget and Appropriation committee (Hon. Isaac Muinde): There are no clauses without amendments.

Hon. Chairman: I agree with you. We need to proceed to clauses with amendments.

Development Expenditure

Hon. Muinde: I propose that Clause D001 be amended from Ksh. 55,507,372 to Ksh. 51,507,372.

(Question of the amendment proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

Hon. Muinde: I propose that Clause D002 be amended from Ksh. 46,015,970 to Ksh. 851,015,970.

(Question of the amendment proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

Hon. Muinde: I propose that Clause D003 be amended from Kshs. 335,448,153 to Ksh. 330,948,153.

(Question of the amendment proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

Hon. Muinde: I propose that Clause D004 be amended from Ksh. 725,528,585 to Ksh. 665,528,585.

(Question of the amendment proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

Hon. Muinde: I propose that Clause D005 be amended from Ksh. 319,706,048 to Ksh. 257,706,048.

(Question of the amendment proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

Hon. Muinde: I propose that Clause D006 be amended from Ksh.2,500,000,000 to Kshs.2,200,000,000.

(Question of the amendment proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

Hon. Muinde: I propose that Clause D007 be amended from Kshs. 201,781,757 to Ksh. 175,781,757.

(Question of the amendment proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

Hon. Muinde: I propose that Clause D009 be amended from Ksh. 156,445,765 to Ksh. 82,200,000

(Question of the amendment proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

Hon. Muinde: I propose that Clause D010 be amended from Ksh. 84,822,117 to Ksh. 54,822,117

(Question of the amendment proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

Hon. Muinde: I propose that Clause D011 be amended from Ksh. 376,963,326 to Ksh. 336,963,326.

(Question of the amendment proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

Hon. Muinde: I propose that Clause D012 be amended from Ksh. 250,000,000 to Ksh. 168,000,000.

(Question of the amendment proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

(Clause D013 agreed to)

Recurrent Expenditure

Hon. Muinde: I propose that Clause R001 be amended from Ksh. 357,888,283 to Ksh. 431,327,580

(Question of the amendment proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

Hon. Muinde: I propose that Clause R002 be amended from Ksh. 371,642,611 to Ksh. 331,942,611

(Question of the amendment proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

Hon. Muinde: I propose that Clause R003 be amended from Ksh. 418,629,514 to Ksh. 254,229,514

(Question of the amendment proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

Hon. Muinde: I propose that Clause R004 be amended from Ksh. 360,671,463 to Ksh. 262,271,463

(Question of the amendment proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

Hon. Muinde: I propose that Clause R005 be amended from Ksh. 2,078,167,064 to Ksh. 1,947,067,064

(Question of the amendment proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

Hon. Muinde:I propose that Clause R006 be amended from Ksh. 119,463,838 to Ksh. 92,463,839

(Question of the amendment proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

Hon. Muinde: I propose that Clause R007 be amended from Ksh. 387,827,525 to Ksh. 341,827,525

(Question of the amendment proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

Hon. Muinde: I propose that Clause R008 be amended from Ksh. 159,631,702 to Ksh. 90,131,702

(Question of the amendment proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

Hon. Muinde: I propose that Clause R009 be amended from Ksh. 624,752,204 to Ksh. 559,952,204

(Question of the amendment proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

Hon. Muinde: I propose that Clause R010 be amended from Ksh. 442,513,063 to Ksh. 186,513,063

(Question of the amendment proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

Hon. Muinde: I propose that Clause R011 be amended from Ksh. 63,576,291 to Ksh. 56,776,291

(Question of the amendment proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

Hon. Muinde: I propose that Clause R012 be amended from Ksh. 630,000,000 to Ksh. 630,232,131

(Question of the amendment proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

Hon. Muinde: I propose that Clause R013 be amended from Ksh. 66,250,292 to Ksh. 65,750,292.

(Question of the amendment proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

(Question that 'the memoranda be deleted' put and agreed to)

(Title agreed to)

(Cover page agreed to)

Hon. Muinde: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that the Committee doth report to the House its consideration of The Machakos County Appropriation Bill, 2015 and its approval thereof with amendments.

(Question proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

(The House resumed)

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

REPORT, CONSIDERATION OF REPORT AND THIRD READING

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Let us proceed.

Chairman, Committee of the Whole House (Hon. Nganga): I wish to report that the committee do report to the House its consideration of the 2015 Appropriation Bill and its approval thereof with amendments.

(Question put and agreed to)

The Chairman, Budget and Appropriations Committee (Hon. Muinde): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that The Machakos Appropriation Bill, 2015 be now read for the Third Time and I ask Hon. Wilson Kasimu to second.

Hon. Wilson Kasimu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I second that the Bill be read for the Third Time

(Question proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

(The Bill was accordingly read the Third Time and passed)

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Members, the CEC, Finance is available in the chambers and in the next few minutes, she is willing to deliver her speech. Members, if we are patient enough, we can give her about 10 minutes. I will urge the Majority Leader to guide her into the House.

Hon. Members, as you notice we now have the CEC in charge of finance madam Elizabeth Nzyoka in the house together with her team. I will take the opportunity to declare that the seats that are held by the.....*(inaudible)*.....momentarily to our public gallery. I take again this opportunity to invite her to proceed and address us on the budget. Welcome.

Mrs. Elizabeth Nzyoka (CECM Finance): Mr. Speaker, Sir, and hon. members, I am, presenting 2015/16 budget speech for the county government of Machakos. Mr. Speaker, Sir, it once again a honour to present to the Hon. Members and the people of Machakos County, the policy highlights of the third Budget to be prepared by the County in the advent of devolution ushered by the Constitution of Kenya, 2010.

Before I proceed, Mr. Speaker, Sir, allow me to express my gratitude to the Hon. Members for the support they have given me and the entire Executive in implementing the

budgets of the last two fiscal years. I also wish thank the budget and appropriation committee, under the chairmanship of Hon. Isaac Muinde and other Departmental Committees of the assembly for steering the review of the 2015/16 estimates.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, despite the social and economic challenges facing our people, we have made gains in promoting economic growth within the County. In the last two years, Mr, Speaker, we have significantly improved road network within the county, rolled out an extensive water programme, improved our health facilities with notable renovations and equipping of our Machakos hospital which is only the modern hospital in the whole country. Mr. Speaker, Sir, we also prioritizing completing community hospitals, markets and toilets and ECD centers .

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the policy measures outlined in this budget are aimed at consolidating the gains achieved so far with the objective of improving livelihoods of people of Machakos. That is why we have continued to allocate resources to areas such as water, infrastructure, health, education, youth and social welfare which in-turn will boost growth and create jobs.

However, Mr. Speaker, Sir, we cannot be ignorant of the fact that despite the various strides we have made, we are still faced with the challenges of high un-employment facing our youth, food insecurity, incidence poverty, and inaccessibility to health services and clean water. Through this budget therefore, Mr. Speaker, we will continue to focus on implementing strategies that are not only addressing these challenges but also improving the livelihoods and creating wealth for our people.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will now highlight the various policies we are going to implement as well as share with Hon. Members the tax measures in the Financial year 2015/16.

Making water accessible to all households

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as Hon. Members may recall, this Government came to power on a strong promise to provide Machakos County people with adequate water for both domestic and agricultural purposes. To address this challenge Mr. Speaker, we have rolled out a

comprehensive water programme, which entails rehabilitation of existing boreholes, dams and water pans, water harvesting, drilling 1,000 boreholes as well as doing distribution of water to various households. As part of this process Mr. Speaker, Sir, the government has put in place a water-harvesting and storage programme to supply 400 water tanks of 10,000 cubic metres capacity to all public institutions in the current budget. To ensure water is available to all household Mr. Speaker, I have set aside Ksh. 2.4 billion towards this comprehensive water programme.

Enhancing Access to Quality Health Care Services for all.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have made tremendous progress in the last two years on health sector, largely provision of ambulances in every location, provision of drugs in our health facilities and the ongoing programme of construction of community hospitals in every ward. Despite these progress we have made in providing health care, more still needs to be done to achieve the WHO standards of a hospital in every 5 kilometers. In this regard therefore, to further support the health sector in the 2015/2016 budget I am proposing:

- A total of Ksh. 175 million to equip the health facilities and specifically of all community hospitals with X-ray equipment, mini theatre, maternity and inpatient admission wards.
- We have also set aside Ksh. 50 million for rehabilitation of level 4 hospitals and a further Ksh. 90 million for construction of additional community hospitals

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in order to ensure improved service delivery, in the Financial Year 2015/16, I have proposed a total of Ksh. 119 Million for recruitment of additional health workers especially for the newly constructed hospitals.

(Applause)

Facilitating Infrastructure Development

Mr. Speaker, Sir, developed infrastructure is a key pre-requisite to sustained economic development due to the linkages it provides to other sectors in the economy. In this regard therefore, Mr. Speaker, this sector requires substantial resources to expand the road network, rehabilitate the existing roads and maintain all the existing infrastructure facilities. This will in turn promote competitiveness, reduce cost of transport, open up the rural areas for ease movement of human capital, agricultural inputs and products and more inclusive growth of our economy for employment creation and poverty reduction.

Mr. Speaker Sir, over the last two years, we have committed substantial resources to this sector to purchase excavators, graders and tippers, rehabilitating of roads, and tarmacking of roads which has led to improved road network within the county. To further enhance development of our infrastructure, I am proposing a total of Ksh. 300 million for construction of major roads and a further Ksh. 200 million for tarmacking of our markets to ensure hygiene of our products especially food products. A further Ksh. 50 million has been provided for maintenance of our existing roads.

Creating conducive Business environment

Mr. Speaker, Sir, investment and trade are key drivers of economic growth given their potential for wealth and employment creation as well as poverty reduction. As such, the Government in the current budget has rolled out a programme of constructing a market shed in every ward and construction of toilets in market centres so as to create an enabling business environment for small scale businesses which will continue in financial year 2015/16.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we will endeavor to ensure a sustainable and vibrant environment for investment through;

- Formulation and implementation of sound economic policies.
- Promotion of fair trade practices through consumer awareness, calibration and verification of weight and measures equipment.
- Promotion of private sector development through enterprise and entrepreneurship development.
- Conducting feasibility studies to determine viability of new industries.
- Construction of Jua Kali sheds and preparation of sectoral and strategic plans promotion.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, to further underscore the importance the Government attaches in creation of conducive business and investment environment, in the financial year 2015/16, I have proposed allocation of Ksh.150 million to the construction of New Machakos City. The Part Development Plan (PDP) for the construction of the new city has been approved and gazetted. It is estimated, Mr. Speaker, that a minimum of 100 factories will be developed, 200 construction sites and over 1,000 new economic activities will be generated which will lead to creation of immense employment opportunities for the County's unemployed youth as well as a significant spillover effect which will translate to income and wealth redistribution in the County .

Further, Mr., Speaker, Sir, I have allocated Ksh. 31 million for planning of the existing towns with population of over 2,000 as per the Urban and Cities Act, 2012. To ensure land is available for investment Mr. Speaker, I have set aside within our budget Ksh. 25 million for acquisition of strategic pieces of land within our county for setting up of factories, market sheds and jua kali sheds.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, security is key to sustained economic growth and development. Although the National Government is charged with the function of security we still have a role to

play to ensure our people are safe. In fulfilling this we will continue funding the comprehensive security programme initiated in financial year 2013/14.

Ensuring Food Security

Mr. Speaker, Sir, agriculture sustains not only our economy but also the livelihood of our people especially in the rural areas. Majority of our people in rural areas are still food insecure and live in absolute poverty. Investing in this sector, Mr. Speaker, Sir, will lead to increased productivity, increased food supply, reduced food related prices, bring down the cost of living as well as create employment and overall rural development.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we will continue to invest in this sector through subsidy system of farm inputs, provision of tractors, provision free certified seeds, subsidized fertilizer and construction of silos. Further Mr. Speaker, Sir, the government will put in place structures to tap on the potential of livestock, dairy and poultry keeping. Mr. Speaker, to fast track the implementation of these projects, I have allocated;

- Ksh. 20 Million for purchase and distribution certified seeds
- Ksh. 15 million for purchase and distribution of chicks.
- Ksh. 10 million for provision of subsidized fertilizers.
- Ksh. 7 million for fueling of tractors.
- Ksh. 11 million for construction of coolers to ensure proper storage of fish.

Investing in accessible and affordable energy supply for all our people.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, one of the major factors underpinning sustainable economic growth is sustainable energy supply. To this effect, Mr. Speaker, Sir, in partnership with the national government we are expanding rural electrification program in all wards, market centers, primary

and secondary schools, boreholes, coffee factories, hospitals and other government institutions in this current budget and over the medium term. To this end a total of Mr. Speaker, Sir, Ksh. 90 million has been allocated to provision of energy to the said institutions

Promoting tourism , sports and culture

Mr. Speaker, the economic effects of tourism extends well beyond the core sectors. The trickledown effect is an instant economic gain for the local people through the spending of the tourists. To ensure competitiveness and attraction of both domestic and international visitors, I am proposing implementation of the following programs in support of the sector;

- A conference facility.
- Construction of recreational facilities.
- Marketing of domestic tourism, tourism product diversification and standardization.
- Mapping county tourism attraction sites.
- Creation of cultural centres in each sub-county.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, development and support of sports remains a key priority of government so as to nurture the talent of our youth. And for this reason Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this budget funds have been set aside for development of existing sport fields in every ward. In addition Ksh. 50 million has been allocated for construction of a film production center.

Promotion of Education and Youth Empowerment

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government aims at providing quality early childhood development education as well as quality skills for our youth through the youth polytechnics and training centers. To achieve this, the following projects will be undertaken in financial year 2015/16:

- Construction, refurbishing and equipping of ECD centers.
- Construction, renovation and equipping village polytechnic and youth centers.
- School-feeding programme for ECD.

Social protection for Vulnerable groups.

Mr. Speaker, as a government that deeply cares for its vulnerable in the society we have set aside a total of Ksh 80 million for the following groups;

- Persons living with disabilities.
- The elderly in the society.
- The youth.
- Women.

Effectiveness and efficiency in public service delivery

Mr. Speaker, Sir, an effective, efficient and accountable public service is essential for sustainable development agenda for our County. In this regard, Mr. Speaker, we are undertaking various reforms in our public service which includes;

- Development of a customer management system.
- Implementation of Human Management system.
- Provision of mortgage and car loans to our staff
- Provision of an integrated Communication system.
- Implementation of pension and gratuity schemes.

Enhancing Development to the Ward Level

Mr. Speaker, Sir, to ensure the services reaches the ‘*Mwananchi*’ at the lower level the Government has allocated Ksh. 805 million to Ward Development Fund translating to Ksh. 20 million per ward

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker, the above measures will be financed from two main sources; the national government allocation to the county government and local county revenue.

Revenue management and enhancement

Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the Government to continue improving the quality of services provided to its citizens, it needs to generate the required revenue. In these tough economic times, strong revenue management is fundamental to the financial sustainability of every County Government. The reality is that we are faced with development backlogs and poverty. The expenditure required to address these challenges will inevitably always exceed available funding hence difficult choices have to be made in relation to our fees and charges and balancing expenditures against realistically anticipated revenues.

We are committed to getting the most we can out of revenue sources that are legally and administratively available. We have put in place wide-ranging series of improvements to our policies, procedures, staffing and organizational structure to maximize on our local revenue.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have developed a revenue enhancement strategy that will be a catalyst for a sustainable revenue base through improved revenue management. Bearing in mind the current inefficiencies, data integrity problems and level of outstanding debt, the strategy is focused on the implementation and improvement in core revenue management functions, thereby improving the short-term, medium-term and long-term sustainability of the County.

We are innovatively exploring all revenue streams with the purpose of improving the sustainability of the County by securing existing revenue, harvesting latent revenue; and broadening the revenue outlook by increasing the revenue potential.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the focus areas of this strategy are to improve and enhance the following:

- i. Data cleansing on the financial information systems.
- ii. Updating of all consumer files.
- iii. Accurate billing.
- iv. Revenue collection that sustains the cash flow position of the County.
- v. Debt recovery of all outstanding amounts.
- vi. An effective credit control policy.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in a bid to ensure effective and efficient revenue collection, we have automated all our revenue collection and now have the Machakos County Revenue Management System operational. This is an integrated Geographical Information System (GIS) and Revenue Mobilization tool that provides realistic information on the revenue potential of our County and automates the revenue mobilization processes.

It also supports a full range of business process on revenue mobilization ranging from billing, license applications and renewals, permits issuance and the tracking of the same and this is expected to ease the way of doing business in the County.

Further, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the system supports payment through multiple electronic payment options such as, mobile money from all major mobile money payment platforms, payment through bank agency/branch network, credit card and debit card payments and e-Wallet. To enhance compliance in payment of fees and charges, the County treasury now has independent revenue inspectorate and enforcement teams. All the revenue collectors, inspectors and enforcement officers are now easily identifiable with their new branded uniforms and

identification

badges.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government will commence the development of the new Machakos City within the Financial Year. In order to fund the development of infrastructure in the new City, we propose to charge a special service fee to the beneficiaries of the land. This fee is proposed to be a percentage of the value of the land allocated to an individual investor as determined by the Government valuer, provided the percentage is not higher than the standard premium.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in charging our rates we shall continue to be guided by the Machakos County Finance Act 2014 until County Finance Act 2015 is enacted. Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have initiated discussions with our stakeholders on amendment to the Finance Act 2014 to ensure we facilitate investment and job creation. Once we get the views from all key stakeholders we shall forward the amendment to the house for consideration and approval.

Budget Estimates for FY 2015/16

Mr. Speaker, Sir, allow me to now turn to the financial projections for financial year 2015/16 budget. Our development agenda is building a foundation for poverty reduction, improved livelihood and wealth creation. The total proposed expenditure estimates for financial year 2015/16 amounts to Ksh. 10.9 billion comprising of Ksh. 5.2 billion recurrent and Ksh. 5.7 billion development. This translates to 48 per cent recurrent and 52 per cent development.

As you may recall, the law requires that we allocate 30 per cent to development and the county has allocated 52 per cent to development and I am sure this will be the first in the country, Kenya. The recurrent budget consists of Ksh 3.7 billion compensation of employees which translates to 35 per cent of the total revenue which is in-line with the Fiscal strategy paper which set a ceiling at 35 per cent of the revenue towards compensation of employees.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we intend to implement our budget of the Ksh. 10.9 billion using our county revenue which is projected at Ksh. 2.3 billion, National Government Transfers of Ksh. 7 billion and Conditional funding towards water programme Ksh. 1.5 billion.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, to achieve our revenue targets the County shall impose property rates, entertainment taxes, as well as other tax and user fees and charges as they shall be approved by the County Assembly under Finance Act 2015 when enacted. These sources of revenue are as follows:

- i. Land rates and Debt Clearance Certificates.
- ii. Single Business Permit.
- iii. Quarry Extraction Fees.
- iv. Sand Gravel.
- v. Market Fees.
- vi. Plot and Stalls Rent.
- vii. Bus Park Fees.
- viii. House rent.
- ix. Refuse Conservancy and Dumping.
- x. Sign Boards and Advertising Fees.
- xi. Fire-Fighting Service.
- xii. Slaughter House Fees/Livestock Fees.
- xiii. Court Fines.
- xiv. Building Plan Approvals.
- xv. Cess.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, these are in line with the provisions of the constitution on what county government can charge property rates and entertainment taxes and user Fees and Charges and shall be approved by the county assembly.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the request we are making is.....attached herewith are the budget estimates which have already been forwarded to the house for discussion which are required for implementation of the above proposal. I am requesting your approval of the above proposals and policies in order to facilitate the finalization of the financial year 2015/16 budget.

We humbly request the Honorable Members of this Hon. County Assembly to interrogate the attached estimates and to pass them so that together, we can embark on our journey to change the livelihoods of our people as we make Machakos County the great County to be.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Government under the leadership of H.E. Dr. Alfred Mutua, has succeeded in putting in place the foundation for faster and more inclusive growth in the years ahead. This is therefore a budget of the people of Machakos County. It is a budget that responds to the concerns of all our citizens. I therefore urge Hon. Members and all the citizens of Machakos County to join us in building the County we want.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I express my utmost appreciation to all the people of Machakos for insightful suggestions on how to move the county forward. I would also want to thank all the Hon. Members for their co-operation and support to the executive. In the same vein Mr. Speaker, my gratitude goes to all County Executive Committee members and their Chief Officers who collectively own this budget and the policies outlined above and the programmes to be implemented in the financial year 2015/16. Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

(Applause)

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker: Thank you very much. Hon. Members we will have an opportunity to discuss the speech on our next sitting and copies shall be supplied. The House adjourns for the day.

The House rose at 5. 26 p.m.