

MACHAKOS COUNTY ASSEMBLY**OFFICIAL REPORT****Wednesday, 16th September, 2015**

The House met at 2.41 p.m.

*[The Deputy Speaker (Mr. Nathaniel Nganga) in the Chair]***PRAYERS****COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR****BIOMETRIC REGISTRATION**

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, there is a communication with regard to the biometric register. I am issuing this communication again in regard to registration of attendance by members of this Hon. House for business.

I request members who have not registered with the IT department to do so within the next two days after which the manual register will be withdrawn. The outdated form of registration is to be phased out and replaced with the biometric system effective from 22nd September 2015. Thank you. Proceed.

NOTICE OF MOTION**ESTABLISHMENT OF E-DOCUMENTATION SYSTEM**

Hon. David Manyolo: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir and the House at large. Mr. Speaker, Sir I wish to give notice of the following motion: that this Hon. House discusses and approves that the Machakos County Government department adopts the e-documentation policy to ensure safety, transparency and ease of information (flow). Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

MOTION**ESTABLISHMENT OF E-DOCUMENTATION SYSTEM**

Hon. Manyolo: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. Aware that the world is undergoing a digital and automation revolution whereby documents and files are created and stored electronically for ease of access, efficiency, protection and responsibility; aware that it is critical that the county keeps up with the revolution; aware that the present system of documentation in various departments of the county government have valuable files dated as early as 1960s heaped in lockers, prone to destruction and loss of prime information; aware that the files are exposed to destruction and

mutilation without back up data; Mr. Speaker, Sir, aware that the digital era has revolutionized documentation to paperless files and folders in a computerized system; aware that these files are easy to access with a backup storage, making it efficient, effective, transparent and secure; further aware that the National Ministry of Lands led by Hon. Charity Ngilu successfully converted their documentation ranging over 100 years back to e-documentation, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to move the motion that this Hon. House discusses and approves that the county government departments adopt the e-documentation policy to ensure safety, transparency and ease access of information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I call upon Hon Francis Matheka to second the motion.

Hon. Francis Matheka: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. I stand here to second the motion that the county government of Machakos computerizes its records to become an e-government. Mr. Speaker, Sir, aware that there before, and I want to quote National Examination Council, when you did your exams and maybe you were schooling in Kisumu, when the results were out, you had to travel all the way to Kisumu to know your results but nowadays, you can access your results in your sitting room even if you were schooling in Mandera.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, even the National government is moving to e-government, like the CBK and you are aware that as from next month it will be a cashless government, only for a few cents. All the financial matters will be transacted through the Integrated Financial Management and Information System which is a computer-based system.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in your communication, you said that whoever will not be biometric compliant by the next two days will not be deemed to have attended any session of the Assembly; that is all being e-compliant.

Also Mr. Speaker, Sir, aware that backups in a computerized system are very simple, one flash disk can take up to ten terabytes and comparing that with heaping files or manual files, those manuals of maybe ten terabytes can take a whole room. So Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am supporting the motion fully that the county government of Machakos becomes an e-government. Mr. Speaker, Sir, it will also curb a lot of corruption and ease access of many records which take days to assess. I fully support the motion Mr. Speaker, Sir. Thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. The motion is properly before the house and now I invite contributions.

Hon. Dominic Maitha: Mr. Speaker, thank you. I am in a position where I am confused and I will request the mover of this motion to give us further details of what the e-documentation policy is about because I may understand what e-documentation policy is but other Hon. Members might not understand reason being, according to the seconder of the motion Mr. Speaker, to date, it is a policy of the National government that every government adopts electronic documentation policy. It is not even an issue of the county government; it is a direction of the National government.

To date when you go to any office within Machakos county government, there is no office without a computer; there is no office without a backup system. I would request the mover of the motion to give us further details of which documents he is talking about because today it is a click of the button then you are able to access all the information that is subject to public scrutiny that you can get. Because you go to the website of Machakos county government, you can get everything; you go to the website of the Machakos County Assembly, you will be able to get all the Bills, you will be able to get all the HANSARD reports; you will be able to get all the information that is required.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we might pass a motion which does not have a basis; a motion which will not move beyond this House. I remember we have passed so many motions here giving an example, like the motion we passed to form a local radio station; where is it? A government printer; what has been done? Mr. Speaker, let us not pass a motion for the sake of it. Can the mover of this motion put this House on proper information?

When he is talking about e-documentation, what does he mean? Which documents does he think the county government is not displaying out for public access? We cannot say for example, in financial matters, details of the bank can be accessed by everybody, but normal documentations Mr. Speaker, as far as I am concerned, they are almost readily available everywhere in the county government website.

If you go to the Ministry of Lands, being a devolved function, the major functions which have not been devolved are under the National government. That is why our registry in the lands Ministry was closed like any other department of the ministry, under the directive of the CS, Lands and everything has been automated. So can he bring this House in a mood whereby we can debate and discuss by telling us which documentation he is talking about? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Member you can substantiate the matters raised.

Hon. Manyolo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Thank you Hon. Maitha for saying that you are conversant with the policy and I understand also the other members are conversant with it; they comply. Mr. Speaker when we are talking about e-documentation, there are some departments which have not complied with e-documentation. For example when devolution came, there is some information which were left pending and filed in stores and we want those ones to be e-documented.

A time when Hon. Kalunde was the director of Lonrho Motors, if he wanted to steal from the company, he could have just at one night caused arson on the office and you hear fire came from nowhere because he wanted to hide some information and that is why we need...protect me Mr. Speaker, Sir---

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Yes, let us hear the point of order.

POINT OF ORDER

Hon. Maitha: Mr. Speaker, is it in order for a Hon. Member to put into record an allegation that a Hon. Member who is a senior member and top most old respected member of this House, tried to steal in Lonrho Motors? Does he have any evidence? I think he owes this old Hon. Member an apology. Can he substantiate that information?

Hon. Manyolo: Sorry, I apologize to Hon. Kalunde but---

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Manyolo, you need also to withdraw.

Hon. Manyolo: I have withdrawn. Mr. Speaker, Sir, we need proper documentation of our county. We need information of all departments and that is why I have come with this motion, that we adapt and discuss how we are going to apply this in our county because there is some information you cannot get for now; there are some departments where you can't get proper information. That is why I had brought this motion for us to discuss on how to store documents in our county. Thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: What is the point of information member for Ndithini?

POINT OF INFORMATION

Hon. Joseph Muli: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. I want to inform the Member that we are not fully convinced what this e-documentation systems means. It is as if Hon. Maitha was reading my mind and I had even called the Hon. Member before starting the session to ask him what he meant by e-documentation system. Does he mean in Machakos county the departments are still analogue? Sure enough, in the current era we are digital and I believe every system and access to documents right now is done digitally. Therefore, I am not fully convinced what e-documentation system means.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon Manyolo, members appear not to be convinced with what you mean. Before you respond, let us hear the member for Athi River and you can prepare your answers.

Hon. Michael Mutuku: Thank you Hon. Chair. I would like to assist or to give the point of information in line with the Hon. Member who has brought the motion. It is true we have been having e-documentation. However it has not been a policy. Now as a county government of Machakos, we are saying, let us discuss the motion and make it a policy for all documents because when you go to pay for a licence, a receipt is just handwritten instead of being generated electronically.

We are saying, let us convert all documents we get in hard copies like files to soft copy; actually that is the entire meaning of e-documentation. Yes we have been doing it, but it has not

been a policy. We have some other departments who are not doing it so we want to make it a policy whereby everything within the departments, within the procurement, is done electronically. In line with that, I wish to support the motion so that all the departments can comply with e-documentation. As you are aware, it has so many merits; the Hon. Member has said it saves time to access the information, is cost effective and it also has a lot of efficiency and effectiveness. Hon. Members I think it is a good motion and we need to embrace it. Thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Yes, Hon. Kalunde.

Hon. Joseph Kalunde: I am also not convinced that we need this kind of documentation because all our ministries and departments have got computers and every ministry can access information from the other one electronically. Unless the mover tells us that he wants a place like the archives where all the information will be kept, still we do have information kept well in our computers in all our departments. Therefore Mr. Speaker, I do not see the reason why we should have this motion continue. So perhaps he might get convinced and withdraw the motion. Thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Matheka.

Hon. Matheka: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir and the House at large. I just want to go back a bit and in this House I will never stop to wonder, I am still wondering very loudly. Yes we can have computers everywhere, but the computers are useless. Yes, even our phones are computers and to some extent, accessing some information they are useless. Mr. Speaker, Sir, here we are not talking of computers; we are talking of a management information system.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you will agree with me together with the Hon. Members in this House, today as we speak, nobody knows how many employees are in Machakos county government including the Minister for Labour and the County Public Service Board. Nobody can give you an exact figure. Mr. Speaker, Sir, if we had a good management information system, not computers, at a click of a button, we could get such information.

The other day when we were doing the budget, the County Public Service Board was defending their budget but they came up with funny figures. They were claiming that they have 35 employees, but the minister for Labour came with 45 employees in that department. So I was wondering who knows what? Is it the minister who knows the number of employees in the Public Service Board or it is the County Public Service Board?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am saying if we had a good management information system, we could have ascertained how many employees we have in the county government by the click of a button. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I urge these members, we are not talking of computers here; we are talking of a good management information system (MIS).

The IFMIS is an Integrated Financial Management Information System. That is a good system of managing finances and that is why the National government is going for that because it knows it will manage its finances in a prudent way. If in the county government we can have an MIS which can manage all our data including all the employees, Mr. Speaker, we can sit in this House fully convinced that there is no corruption in the salaries department but as we talk now, the county is going down because of the burden of salaries.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are talking of a system; if you go to the Ministry of Agriculture and you want to know what does well where, it is by a click of a button. That is a good management information system. We are talking of a system where if you go to the veterinary department and you want to know where you can get good breeds in Machakos County, it is by a click of a button. But as we talk now, go there, they will go looking for files and maybe you spend a day looking for files.

Go to the lands department, you want a search; it will take two days, but if we have a good management information system, it takes seconds, they generate from the computer, it is stamped and you are given your search. Mr. Speaker, Sir, here we are not talking of computers, we are talking of a good management information system. Thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Before you give the point of information, I think the mover of the motion has several issues to respond to; the matter that has been raised by Hon. Muli and Hon. Kalunde. And further, the member who seconded your motion is talking about a Management Information System. How does that relate to the e-documentation you are talking about? Maybe you can clear the air over those issues.

Hon. Manyolo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, e- documentation is a system of filing information like the seconder has said. Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the Assembly we can also have. We can't have all the time to print the order papers; let us talk of paperless, because all the time we have so many papers. If we talk of paperless you can also access your order paper immediately. Mr. Speaker, Sir, most of the members are talking of computers and what have you; we are talking of that system that can store our information.

I have given an example of what Hon. Charity Kaluki Ngilu did in the Ministry of Lands. That is the system we want to be applied in Machakos so that we can access information. We have so much information that is pending which we cannot access, that is why I had that intention, to have all those documents easily accessed. Thank you.

POINT OF INFORMATION

Hon. Maitha: Mr. Speaker, I think if this House will sit down every other moment and just pass such kind of motions, we might end up nowhere. Mr. Speaker, I am not objecting to this motion but I need to be furnished with proper information. This county can only move forward

subjective to facts. The Hon. Member who has moved this motion should be telling this House, 'I have gone to the ministry of Health and I cannot access this information.'

For example I need to inform him right now, if his mobile phone is digital, he can access this Order Paper and the clerks are here. This Order Paper is in the website of the County Assembly because we passed through the House Business Committee, the business was balloted and immediately it was entered into the system. It is only him maybe who doesn't know that you can access it in the system.

The discussions of yesterday and last week before this House can be accessed in the HANSARD through the system, so we need to be guided. And then Mr. Speaker, this Assembly is on record for having given the Ministry of IT millions of shillings for the last two and half years and all that was being talked of is: 'we want to integrate our system; we want to have a management system.' Can we first be given information? All that money that we gave Mr. Speaker, what has it done in terms of giving us information?

For example when the Hon. Member is talking about staff management records, we need to ask ourselves Mr. Speaker; the same people who are saying that they cannot tell us the number of staff we have in every department, are the same people who are going to be the administrators of the same system. So how are they going to fix themselves? It is quite difficult.

Unless we have a central point where the documentation will be controlled, then it will become difficult because the same people who cannot give you the exact information about the employed staff are the same people who are going to operate and run the system. So how are they going to be able to give you the right information?

So Mr. Speaker, I think with all due respect to the Hon. Member, it is good he does his own research about this so that when we pass this motion and say the policy be adopted, there are proper mechanisms of how it is going to be administered and after all as I have said, we have given the Ministry IT and Labour a lot of millions of shillings. We don't have to have dead projects like the camera projects. Hon. Members can prove me right, most of the cameras which were installed almost everywhere are not working, Mr. Speaker.

A practical example, you go to Kangundo road, quite a number of cameras installed with solar panels have been stolen completely in broad daylight, but the cameras at the main control server cannot be able to establish who has stolen those solar panels and the batteries, so that is a dead investment, Mr. Speaker.

Let us not pass a motion for the sake of passing yet we do not have information. This Hon. Member ought to be telling this House: 'I went to the Ministry of Health, I sought to get this information but I did not; I went to the Ministry of Agriculture, I wanted to get this kind of information but I can't get.' I think the National government has directed and actually Mr. Speaker, the Integrated Financial Management Information System is going to sum up

everything; all staff will be paid through the system. We will be able to access information of how many people have been paid their salaries through the system.

The electronic system of procurement is all over; it is even being embraced in this Assembly. Which other documentation does he want us to pass? Which policy? Can he give us further information or tell this House he can seek to defer the motion and maybe go and gather further information, bring in this House and then we can pass it and have a motion that is of much importance and based on facts, not assumptions. Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon Manyolo, you need to respond to the Member.

Hon. Manyolo: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. As I read, the mood of the House is that they are not for the motion because it has no items touching all departments, so Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek for deferral of the motion and then I come up again with proper papers of it. Mr. Speaker, Sir, most members are for it but for now they need just to rest. Allow me to come up with a proper motion with every department on items which are affecting us. Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon Member, in other words you are requesting to withdraw the motion or what is your take? You want deferral of the debate or withdrawal of the motion?

Hon. Manyolo: Deferral of the debate.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: While you are seeking to defer the debate and still claiming that you will file further documents, you appear to contradict yourself.

Hon. Manyolo: To defer, not for 48 hours; I need to gather much information.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Therefore Hon. Manyolo, when do will you be able to file the other documents to support your motion before the House?

Hon. Manyolo: Next week on Wednesday afternoon.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Then going by the mood of the House, I feel we defer the motion to next week Wednesday and you come up with proper and detailed documentation in regard to that.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Deputy Speaker: There being no other business, then the House adjourns until tomorrow same time.

The House rose at 3.14 p.m.

