

MACHAKOS COUNTY ASSEMBLY**OFFICIAL REPORT****Tuesday, 1st March, 2016**

The House met at 2.40 p.m.

*[The Speaker (Mr. Mung'ata) in the Chair]***PRAYERS****Hon. Speaker:** Good afternoon Hon. Members. Let us proceed, clerk**COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR****FISCAL STRATEGY PAPER**

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Members, we are in receipt of the fiscal strategy paper. Pursuant to Section 117 (1) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2014, the County Treasury shall prepare and submit to the County Executive Committee the County Fiscal Strategy Paper for approval and the County Treasury shall submit the approved Fiscal Strategy Paper to the County Assembly, by the 28th February, of each year.

The Office of the Clerk is in receipt of the Financial Year 2016/2017 Fiscal Strategy Paper from the Machakos County Treasury. The same is consequently committed to the Budget and Appropriation Committee and the committee is expected to table a report within 14 days from the date of receipt of the Strategy Paper from the County Treasury, pursuant to Section 117 (6) of the Public Finance Management Act.

SPEAKER'S KAMUKUNJI

Further, Hon. Members, following a Kamukunji that we held last week allow me to make the following communication:

On the matter of the biometric attendance registration, the system, an initiative of the County Assembly, has been in use for quite a while now. On 10th February, last year, the Speaker made a communication indicating that the various modules in the system which will be beneficial to the Members of the County Assembly and to recap on the same, the benefits of the system include:-

- Reducing the time taken to register attendance.
- Reducing the time needed to calculate and process members' allowances.
- Enhancing security and elimination of mistakes in calculating members' allowances and benefits.

In the Financial year 2014/2015, systems audit report from the Auditor General, an audit query was raised on the inconsistency in the signatures of the attending Members of the County Assembly to various committees. According to the report, which is with the Public Accounts and Investment committee, there was no clear pattern of the signatures by the Members who attended meetings, casting doubts on the genuineness of the payments. I would like to remind you, Hon. Members, that the foolproof biometric registration system, which has been in use until Tuesday last week, is also intended to deal with cases of indiscipline in attendance of meetings, an issue that has also been noted by the Auditor General.

I therefore direct that the biometric system remains in use, both in committees and during plenary, including when holding meetings outside the precincts of the Assembly. Further, Hon. Members, the matter of the biometric registration and following the queries that were raised by the Auditor General is under consideration by the Public Accounts committee and a report is due for presentation in this House tomorrow and members will have an opportunity to contribute further in that report.

On the matter of ward office rent, Hon. Members, following the inception of the Integrated Financial Management and Information System in the counties, the Office of the President directed that all government payments be made only through the IFMIS and that an imprest cannot be used on anything that is procurable. In a meeting of the County Assembly Service Board, it was agreed that rent payable for ward offices would be pegged at between Ksh. 1,000 and Ksh. 10,000.

Members should therefore liaise with the Office of the Clerk and adhere to the laid down Machakos County Assembly Service (Ward Offices) Regulations, 2015, as rent payments will not be made in cash, but will be made directly to the landlords, through the IFMIS. In the same vein, the elected members will convene a meeting with the majority and minority leaders so that they can come up with an agreeable process of payment, particularly on the item of rent and the balances on operations.

Therefore, for the ward operations and maintenance costs, imprests will be issued either directly to the Members or to their designated ward office manager and they will be required to surrender the imprest at the end of the month before another imprest can be raised. I therefore urge all 40 elected Members of the County Assembly to liaise with the Office of the Clerk for further directions.

Hon. Members, as I had earlier stated, I urge you to liaise with the Leaders of Majority and Minority concerning the other issues that were raised in the Kamukunji, including sittings, per diems and salary delays because the nature of concerns are not ripe for public consumption.

While we were seated here in the Kamukunji of last week, that was Tuesday, we tentatively agreed that further Kamukunjis will be called on a regular basis so that the welfare of members can be addressed. Such Kamukunjis will always be called by the Speaker and the process of calling those Kamukunjis is inscribed in the Standing Orders that a member can petition the Office of the Speaker or can pass through the Whips or the Majority and Minority leaders. Thank you and let us proceed.

PAPER LAID
CONTROLLER OF BUDGET REPORT FOR 2014/2015

Hon. Muinde: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. Mr. Speaker I plead for more time; this paper was not ready by today, although we thought as a committee, it will be ready and I will be able to table it tomorrow morning, if allowed. All the papers and motions that are slotted for the Budget and Appropriation committee today will be ready tomorrow, but not today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. The request is granted. Proceed.

NOTICE OF MOTION
MACHAKOS TREE PLANTING DAY

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Edrick Ngunzi.

Hon. Ngunzi: I wish, with the leave of the Speaker, to ask that I be allowed up to tomorrow to have my motion properly prepared. There are additional things I need included and captured in tomorrow's business. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Yes, but Hon. Ngunzi, you could give us the notice and then have debate done tomorrow. Then you can proceed and give the notice.

Hon. Ngunzi: That is in order, Mr. Speaker. I wish, Mr. Speaker, to give notice of the following motion: that this House discusses and approves the motion of Machakos tree planting day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. The notice is issued and debate will be done tomorrow as requested.

STATEMENTS

Hon. Speaker: There is a statement I remember I got this morning. Where is Hon. Kyalo Kyuli?

(Member absent from chamber)

In his absence then the statement is deferred.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker: In the absence of any further business, then the House adjourns until tomorrow, Hon. Members. Enjoy your evening.

The House rose at 2.52 p.m.