

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MACHAKOS COUNTY ASSEMBLY
OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday, 22nd February, 2017

The House met at 2.34 p.m.

[The Speaker (Hon. Bernard Mung'ata) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

Hon. Speaker: Good afternoon, Hon. Members.

PAPER LAID

REPORT ON PETITION BY YOUTH POLYTECHNIC INSTRUCTORS

Hon. (Ms.) Koki: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay the following paper on the table of the House today Wednesday 22nd February, 2017; report on Youth Polytechnic instructors' petition from the Education and Social Welfare Committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. The paper is laid. Proceed.

NOTICE OF MOTION

REPORT ON PETITION BY YOUTH POLYTECHNIC INSTRUCTORS

Hon. (Ms.) Koki: Mr. Speaker, I wish to give notice of the following motion; that this House discusses and approves the Education and Social Welfare Committee report on the Youth Polytechnic instructors' petition as laid today Wednesday 22nd February, 2017. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, the notice is issued. Proceed.

MOTION

REPORT ON PETITION BY YOUTH POLYTECHNIC INSTRUCTORS

Hon. (Ms.) Koki: Mr. Speaker, Sir.

That aware that the Members of the public can petition the County Assembly to consider any matters within its authority;

Aware that a petition from the Machakos County Youth Polytechnic instructors was received on 3rd August, 2016 and after review by the office of the Clerk to ascertain its admissibility, it was tabled in this Hon. House on 4th September, 2016;

Mr. Speaker, Sir, further aware that pursuant to Standing Order 201 (1), this petition was committed to the committee on Education and Social Welfare;

Acknowledging that Polytechnic education plays a vital role in human resource development of a country by creating skilled manpower, enhancing industrial productivity and improving the quality of life;

Mr. Speaker, Sir, cognizant that matters of vocational education are devolved according to the Fourth Schedule of the constitution of Kenya, 2010;

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to move a motion that this Hon. House discusses and approves the Machakos County Youth Polytechnic instructors' petition report from the Education and Social Welfare Committee.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I now call upon Hon. Alice Nzioka to second this motion.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. (Ms.) Nzioka: Asante Bw. Spika. Nimesimama kuunga mkono mswaada kwamba, malalamiko yaliyoletwa katika bunge letu na wakufunzi wa vyuo vya ufundi wana mambo mengi ambayo wanataka kutoshelezwa. Bw. Spika, naomba bunge tujadiliane tupitische kwamba, yale matakwa ambayo waliulizia watimiziwe maana wanafanya kazi nyingi katika sehemu zetu. Bw. Spika naunga mkono. Asante.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Motion is laid. Proceed.

Hon. (Ms.) Koki: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission now allow me to go through this report. Mr. Speaker, Sir, youth polytechnics were initiated by the National Council of Churches (NCCCK) of Kenya in 1968 with the objective to find solutions to youth unemployment in Kenya.

The youth polytechnics were to adopt a diversified curriculum that would in the end alter the negative attitude of young people towards manual work and rural livelihood. In addition, the curriculum was aimed at matching skills needed in the market with knowledge acquired in classrooms, reduce youth migration to urban areas and hence lead to economic growth of the Country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in 1971, the Government of Kenya started supporting youth polytechnics built by local communities and churches. This support has continued all through with the Government putting various measures to ensure the youth polytechnics did not get into

oblivion. Among such initiatives were adoption of the Kamunge Report in 1988 which recommended provision of basic facilities and equipment, capacity building and improved terms of service for the instructors.

Further, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the government of President Kibaki renewed efforts to revitalize, strengthen and streamline the operations of youth polytechnics through Sessional Paper No. 1 of 2005 entitled “A POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR EDUCATION TRAINING AND RESEARCH”.

This led to the development of the National policy for youth polytechnics and vocational training sector. The government has been supportive of youth polytechnics through the ministry of state for youth affairs and Sports. The ministry allocated each student in public youth polytechnic Kshs. 15,000 through a programme called Subsidized Youth Polytechnic Tuition (SYPT) which was used to purchase training materials and equipment, textbooks, exercise books, co-curricular activities, education trips and repair and maintenance.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Constitution of Kenya 2010 Fourth Schedule part 2 (9) conferred County Governments with powers and functions of running youth polytechnics. The National Government stopped supporting these institutions and the County Governments were supposed to take over.

The National Government through the Chairman of Transition Authority addressed the issue of transfer of youth polytechnics staff to the counties through letters dated 15th December, 2014 and 27th October, 2015 to all County Secretaries. The letters are annexed to this report.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on 3rd August, 2016, a public petition from Machakos County Polytechnics Instructors to the Machakos County Assembly was received in the Office of the Clerk pursuant to Standing Order 194 (1) (a). The petition was scrutinized for admissibility as per Standing Order 194 (3) and tabled in the House on 4th September, 2016. After tabling in the House the petition was committed to the Education and Social Welfare Committee pursuant to Standing Order 201 (1).

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Committee on Education and Social Welfare was established under Standing Order 190 and the second schedule with specific mandate to all matters related to pre – primary education, village polytechnics, home craft centers and childcare, children and social welfare.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the committee has 12 members. Allow the members to go through the names mentioning the Vice-chairperson who is me, Hon. Phoebe Koki after he chairperson was discharged from the committee that is Hon. Kiviu Manyolo.

(Laughter)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Machakos County Youth Polytechnic Instructors' petition was done by 10 petitioners from three youth polytechnics who represented all the other polytechnics and instructors across the County. The petitioners' prayer was as follows:

1. Payment of top-up arrears
2. Absorption by the Public Service Board without conditions.
3. Retirement package terms and conditions to be considered

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the document presented by petitioners was subjected to thorough scrutiny by the Committee as well as interviewing representatives of the petitioners. The Committee had a discussion with the Chief Officer, Education and social welfare, the department on the matter.

The Committee made the following observations;

1. That most of the petitioners were aged, ranging between 45 to 50 years and have served in the youth polytechnics for more than 20 years.
2. There was another petition by youth polytechnic instructors which was tabled in this house on 15th September, 2015. The prayers in this current petition were not handled in the previous petition.
3. That prayer number one was in line with a letter dated 15th December, 2014 addressed to all County Secretaries. A copy was availed to the committee and members were satisfied on matters requested. The petitioners were initially being paid grants by the National Government before devolution. After devolution, the grants were re-named top-ups. The committee observed that the County was acting in defiance of national government instructions by not paying these instructors these top-us hence the accrued arrears. In addition the County was failing in its mandate by not making budgetary provisions to pay the instructors their arrears.
4. Prayer number two, the Committee felt that it was not applicable since recruitment and absorption by every recruiting agency has to be within the set regulations. One of the regulations is to ensure that personnel employment and absorption meet the academic and professional requirements. The instructors petitioning to be absorbed unconditionally may not be possible.
5. On prayer number three, the Committee observed that there was need to have a retirement package for the petitioners as a way of appreciating their service. There was need to come up with a policy on this matter.
6. The Committee acknowledged that the County Government of Machakos had implemented most of the prayers of the youth polytechnic instructors' petition tabled in this House on 15th September, 2015. 28 instructors had been employed on contract and salary arrears had been cleared.
7. The Committee also observed that the existing polytechnics were understaffed.

8. The committee was also aware of the financial constraints that most of the parents were undergoing to take their children to secondary schools. They also noted that most of the polytechnics requested that the students in the institutions to be assisted with bursaries. The committee felt that there was need to have a policy or a bill to guide or support these institutions. The support would also increase enrolment in these institutions while aiming at reducing unemployment.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Committee made the following recommendations:-

1. That, the County Government to employ instructors as per the need of a polytechnic.
2. That a Bill and policy on youth polytechnics to be made and forwarded to the Assembly for approval so as to assist in management of the institutions.
3. That the department of education should budget for the top-up arrears of the instructors for the 2017/2018.
4. That the Machakos County Public Service Board should consider the current top-up for instructors and if the qualify, they should be absorbed.
5. That the County Government makes provisions in the Budget estimates for 2017/18 to cater for physical infrastructure of youth polytechnics as well as for provision of modern workshop and office facilities.
6. That students in youth polytechnics to be considered equally in the award of bursaries by the Ward Bursary Committees in consultation with the area member of County Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Polytechnic education plays a vital role in human resource development of a country by creating skilled manpower, enhancing industrial productivity and improving the quality of life. There is therefore the need to empower the polytechnic instructors as a County.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Committee on Education and Social Welfare is grateful to the Management of County Assembly for facilitating compilation of the report. I wish to express my appreciation to the Hon. Members of this Committee who sacrificed their time to participate in the meetings and in preparation of this report.

Further, the Committee would like to thank the youth polytechnic instructors for the noble work of nurturing the youth and working tirelessly even without pay to ensure knowledge was imparted.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is therefore my privilege, on behalf of Committee on Education and Social Welfare to table the report on Petition by Machakos youth polytechnic instructors in this Hon. House for consideration and adoption. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, very much. Hon. Members, the report is laid and I will ask for observations and comments. It is a similar report like the one we had in the morning so the guidelines of the morning still take the day that this is a petition. And as I said, a petition is almost like a judgment where you hear the petitioners and make conclusions and the obligation of the House is to observe, make comments and we shall proceed and have it adopted. We can begin with Hon. Nzoka.

Hon. Nzoka: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I am a member of the committee of education. As it has been illustrated here and fully explained, we know the youth polytechnics were before with the National Government and due to devolution, they were devolved to the County Government. It is overdue. These tutors, these teachers, they should have been observed as early as possible because it is also tampering with their retirement benefits.

They should have started deducting the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) but they are still staying without it. They should have been observed that and they should also be backdated for them. They do a lot of work and in fact, there are many people who have been produced through the youth polytechnics.

The people who sat and came up with this project, in fact we have to appreciate them a lot because they catered for those who have not gone to school even standard 8, even before they were catering for whoever has not gone to school. So, I support this report and I can see the Members as we are now, they come from the youth polytechnic they know how the war is there and how hot it is if people are not paid. In fact in oneness we have to say 'ayes.' Thank you.

(Laughter)

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Kitheka at the back.

Hon. Kitheka: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and the House at large. Mr. Speaker, the tertiary institutions in Kenya play a major role in the development of this Country. Mr. Speaker, as per the prayers which have been laid and forwarded by the petitioners, it is prudent enough for the consideration to be made in a very amicable way.

Mr. Speaker, considering the second prayer, which is on the issue of them to be absorbed without conditions, Mr. Speaker, I think there is no way you can just employ people without making considerations of the academic qualifications and any other details because if we go ahead and say that such people be recruited without consideration, it may have a bad image to the County and we have a Public Service for the County.

Mr. Speaker, on the issues of the arrears, these people have been paid in terms of grants by the National Government and now, it has been changed to be in terms of top-ups. Mr. Speaker, it would be better for the County to come up with a very good budget touching on these issues which are within the issues which have been put forward by the petitioners.

Mr. Speaker, I think the work which has been done by this committee in terms of this petition is well-articulated and if put in place, in the right way, we are going to achieve entirely what we want from the polytechnics.

Mr. Speaker, the issue of infrastructure in these polytechnics is in a depleted manner. For example I have a polytechnic which is in Mumbuni/Kithayoni area. Mr. Speaker, I think it is part of this House to make policy guidelines touching on the issue of the running of these institutions because in the past when the County Government came into place, we have not passed

any law in regard of the running of the affairs of the polytechnics and that is why we are addressing the issue of bursaries not being considered to the polytechnics and not having their payments factored in the budget.

So, Mr. Speaker, because we have many students who come out from the form four level and they are not absorbed in the public universities and other high tertiary institutions, I think the best we can do for this County is to strengthen very much the youth polytechnics and the issues of the ECDE classes so that at least, because it is part of our core duty, we can as well give the residents of Machakos what is good for them. Mr. Speaker, I think the committee has done a good job which we have to say thanks and recommend that the Vice Chairperson can now can take the full seat and become the Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Maybe, Hon. Kitheka, perhaps before you sit down, you had said that there is no law regulating polytechnics. Maybe can you tell us what steps you have taken? Can you undertake, perhaps, to bring such a law to the House?

Hon. Kitheka: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I can task myself to come up with a policy guideline on the same because as we issue the bursaries from the ward level, the consideration for the youth polytechnics is not taken serious because they assume that the youth polytechnics do not exist. I was on the opinion that, if---

Hon. Speaker: Are the youth polytechnics exempted from bursaries, Hon. Kitheka?

Hon. Kitheka: No. They are not exempted but a consideration is not made. I wish we give them a special consideration because this docket of the issue of the youth polytechnic squarely lies within the County Government.

Hon. Speaker: Okay. Thank you. Let us hear the Chairperson here.

Hon. Nzeki: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am one of the Members of this committee and Mr. Speaker---

Hon. Speaker: I do not know whether you have noticed the presence of Yumbuni Secondary School, Hon. Chairman?

Hon. Nzeki: Mr. Speaker, I welcome the students from Yumbuni Secondary school in Katangi. Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have said, I am a Member of that committee and I fully agree with the recommendations which were put in this document and I congratulate the Vice-Chairperson man, now I understand now she has been confirmed as the Chairperson of education committee.

(Applause)

So, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I just wanted to talk about recommendation number 5; that the County Government makes provisions from the budget estimates for 2017/ 2018 to cater for physical infrastructure of youth polytechnics as well as provisions of modern workshops and office facilities.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, here, I see they are talking of budget for 2017/18 for village polytechnics. And I champion for that, but in Mua ward, there is no single village polytechnic to be catered in this financial year 2017/2018 and there before in 2014/2015, in fact this Assembly set aside some money for every ward to have a village polytechnic constructed. So, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I see here I will be underprivileged when this money will be sent---

Hon. Speaker: I will take the point of order.

Hon. Katela: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I wonder if we were discussing the document or the Hon. Member is supposed to be asking for what he could have asked for his ward's development on another day because we are not discussing Mua ward here but we are discussing the document and the report of petition of the youth polytechnic instructors who are already suffering but we are not discussing development of single wards. I stand to be corrected. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, the point of order is sustained and that Hon. Nzeki id found to be out of order.

(Applause)

For the reason and as I said in the morning, on matters of petition, whenever a petition and I read, again Standing Order 201 (2), 'whenever a petition is committed to a sectoral committee, the committee shall, in not more than sixty calendar days from the time of reading the prayer, respond to the petitioner by way of a report addressed to the petitioner or petitioners and laid on the table of the Assembly' and that is where we are now, 'and no debate on or in relation to the report shall be allowed, but the Speaker may, in exceptional circumstances, allow comments or observations in relation to the petitions for not more than twenty minutes.

Let us hear Hon. Kyalo Kyuli.

Hon. Kyuli: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. You have noted that most of these vice-chairpersons are sat on or cocooned by the chairpersons. You can see the performance of this vice-chairperson.

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker, with all fairness, she has performed very well. So, I congratulate her and the whole committee. Mr. Speaker, therefore, no wonder today she was very smart.

(Laughter)

She knew she was coming to present a---

Hon. Speaker: Proceed Hon. Kyuli.

Hon. Kyuli: Mr. Speaker, therefore, this kind of arrangement, actually in the constitution, and the ECDE education are the only system of education that we have been delegated by the constitution. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, when we come into this House and deliberate on an issue of polytechnics, then we are within our mandate and we should be careful and we should support this kind of arrangement because first and foremost, this is way to decongest most of our towns.

Therefore, when we are having vibrant village polytechnics, Mr. Speaker, we are trying to create employment first in our villages. Therefore, this kind of report as it has been brought, is something that we should support and we actually support it with all might.

Mr. Speaker, therefore, every member here is aware that a student can come from standard eight, go to a youth polytechnic and study up to the university through a youth polytechnic. So, it calls for us as members to strengthen our village polytechnics and by so doing, remunerating the instructors as it is supposed to be. Therefore, the recommendation that we budget for these instructors is actually within our mandate and is within time because we are within the Fiscal Strategy Paper.

I would urge members when we sit for that particular, when we are doing the budget, we must remember to budget for these instructors.

Mr. Speaker, within this document, there is an annex that is here, and if you allow me, I would read this letter that is coming from the Transition Authority and the second page of the same is saying that ‘consequently, it is agreed that the county governments make arrangements to pay the permanent and the pensionable youth polytechnic staff totaling to 590, across the counties, with effect from September, 2014 as per IPPD data forwarded by the MoEST, since the budget for their personal emolument was transferred to the counties as part of the County Allocation of Revenues Act 2013 after verification of their details.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, we have a road map that we were given by the Transition Authority and it is a pity that the instructors had to petition this assembly. Therefore, the recommendations herein are quite okay and in order so that the instructors are taken care of. So, members, I would wish that when we are doing budget, we budget for our instructors and we should have a number so that we know what we are budgeting for.

Mine was to congratulate the committee and the recommendations therein. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Let us hear Hon. Veronica.

Hon. (Ms.) V. Mbithe: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir and the House at large. I am a member of education committee and a stakeholder in education sector. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I stand in support

of this document because after going around as a committee, we noted very many problems with the polytechnics. One being infrastructure and most of the instructors were demotivated because they were working under very poor working conditions.

So, I would urge the house to adopt this report so that these instructors are worked upon because it is a very miserable situation to see people who are working tirelessly to build the nation, yet their pockets are empty and they have no stability in their economic activities rather their families are not well catered for.

I remember we went to one of the polytechnics at Kyemutheke and they didn't even have a toilet, they were using a facility in the primary school next to the polytechnic. So, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support and congratulate the vice chairperson and it is my prayer that she is made the chairperson properly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Kitheka: Point of concern, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: In a petition, there are no points of concern. We only make observations.

Hon. Muli: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Aware that the county government has the powers of running the polytechnic, I would like to applaud the vice chairperson and members of the education committee for good observations and recommendations which they have already done. Because much has already been discussed, I wanted to emphasize more on observation five on petitioners.

The issue of number five, where we need to have a retirement package for the petitioners, Mr. Speaker is paramount because it is in line with number one, where the committee has scrutinized that most of the petitioners are aged and ranging from 40 to 50 years, Mr. Speaker. You find that, most of these instructors are aged and most of them are now going to towards retirement.

I would request Mr. Speaker, the vice chair to fast track the issue of formulating the policy whereby these instructors will be considered and also have their retirement package, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to request recommendation on number three, where we have the budgeting. It will not sound well where we had this assembly while we have not budgeted for the top-up arrears for these instructors.

Therefore, I would like to urge the committee for budget to liaise with the committee of education and implementation to make sure when the budget is being debated, to make sure they consider budgeting for the instructors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Hon Matheka. You can now try to summarize.

Hon. Matheka: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir and the House at large. I salute the young leaders from Katangi and welcome them to the assembly. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think whoever crafted

the constitution was very clever because they devolved two important things; polytechnics and the ECDE.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you and the house will agree with me that its only in the ECDE where we can have a good foundation for our children and it is in the polytechnics where we can have a good bridge and coming back to that and urging Hon. Members to carry with them that, I will straight go to the recommendations, number three where the committee asks the department to budget for top-ups.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, since the youth polytechnics are fully developed, we should forget about the top-ups and ask the department to fully employ the instructors. So, I urge number three to be deleted and we stick to number one where all instructors should be---

Hon. Speaker: Order! I hope you were here in the morning and again in the afternoon; the position of petitions you cannot propose to amend, you can either observe or comment and finish.

Hon. Matheka: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I comment the committee on job well done and my observation is that, recommendations number three for the top ups to be budgeted. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the committee should look into that if they ever sit on it again.

Hon. Speaker: Okay. Thank you.

Hon. Matheka: Again, on recommendation number five, we are saying that we should budget for 2017/2018 and if my memory serves me well, in 2014/2015 we budgeted for infrastructure of all youth polytechnics. Ksh. 1 million per ward that was doing to do infrastructure for one polytechnic. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will never stop wondering, where did that money go?

Ksh. 40 million! This is not Ksh. 40 neither is it Ksh. 400. Where did the money go? The committees of education and budget should be telling us about what was done, where the money went and how many polytechnics had infrastructure done. I am really perturbed by a polytechnic having no toilet and a good toilet will cost only Ksh. 200,000. Mr. Speaker, Sir, and we gave Ksh. 1 million. I am really perturbed.

I commend the committee, they really did a good job but there are still some questions which need answers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. I think it is also important I keep saying, that a petition is one of the ways an assembly has a special function that acts like a court, where you hear petitioners and make a decision. So, a report of this kind is like a judgment and immediately it is adopted, it is enforceable as a judgement. That is why you can see there is a special manner in which it is presented. Let us hear Hon. Dominic at the back and then hear the Deputy Speaker.

Hon. Maitha: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to be very brief because I want to be in the confines of the Standing Orders. The committee has done its part, Mr. Speaker. This House, for

the last four years, has done its part and as I echo what the Hon. Member for Kangundo North has said, Mr. Speaker we are going to adopt this report as it is but the big question that lingers in my mind, Mr. Speaker, apart from the infrastructural funds that we set for developing the infrastructure within the institutions of the polytechnics, I remember very well seated here last year interrogating the Chief Officer in the department of education, youth and social welfare and he said clearly that the government was supposed to make an undertaking to ensure that the instructors are paid and a budget was passed 2015/2016, 2016/2017 where we allocated funds for compensation to those instructors in those youth polytechnics, Mr. Speaker.

The big question that lingers in my mind in this assembly is, we should ask ourselves; where did that money go because we passed a budget for that and notwithstanding that, Mr. Speaker, we need to ask ourselves; since 2013 up to date, the county government of Machakos understood very well and took over all the functions that were devolved from the national government to the county government of Machakos.

The big question that leaves us surprised is; why hasn't the department since then taken over the department of youth polytechnics as any other department that have been taken over in other relevant department?

Why haven't they been bringing budgets for approval in this House? Why haven't they absorbed those instructors like any other staff that were absorbed by other relevant departments, like the department of health, department of education, department of roads and public transport, all those people were absorbed and they were in the payroll. One of the functions that the county government was supposed to undertake is they were with immediate effect, to absorb and take over the assets and liabilities of the various devolved functions.

So, that points out a key failure in the person who has been heading that department Mr. Speaker.

This assembly cannot be blamed, this assembly brought the budget and would approved the budget as it has done. So, I think it is a big challenge to that department and as Hon. Muli has said, the issue of compensation is not negotiable, Mr. Speaker. An instructor who is at the age of 40 to 50 years has about 15 to 20 years to retire and employing new instructors is even creating a worse scenario because these instructors at the age of 50 are more than experienced. They can offer the best training for our youth who don't qualify to go the universities or colleges.

As you remember the director of education the other day said, when they were giving out results for Standard Eight and Form Four, that 'anyone who imagines by getting a D minus, D plain or lesser marks you can proceed to high school, that person is stupid.

Why did he say that? Because he had in mind that a student who has to go to youth polytechnic are the same people who are repairing our cars out there are the same people doing those other good jobs, Mr. Speaker. So, I believe, in as much as this assembly has done its part, the department of education has failed in this side in totality, Mr. Speaker.

Even if we ask the statistics today of how many students have graduated from those polytechnics, probably, Mr. Speaker we might not even get because if the instructors are

demotivated, they are not well-equipped with the materials, then we will all be doing nothing, Mr. Speaker.

Remember some time back in this assembly, I even proposed that because the county government of Machakos through the defunct municipal councils, had taken over so many broken down vehicles, we had proposed that those vehicles be moved to those various polytechnics to enhance training. Across our assembly, less than 100 meters Mr. Speaker, there are cars dumped there, completely dilapidated and they cannot even help those students and a motion was passed in this assembly.

So, as we adopt this report, the committee has done its part and it is the prerogative of this assembly to make sure that the report as passed and adopted is immediately effected. Let the instructors be paid money, we don't want to be held accountable, let the department pay the instructors, and I would even, only that the law does not allow, when the supplementary budget comes, we will would have a supplementary budget to ensure those people have been paid, Mr. Speaker, because since 2014 someone has not been paid his/her salary, how do you expect these people to survive?

So, I support the report in totality, Mr. Speaker, but we need to sit back and the committee and see who has caused this failure. If it is a Chief Officer or CEC Member, that person should be held responsible because if 2013 to date you were given certain functions and to date you have done very little or nothing about them, Mr. Speaker, then you should be held responsible because you look to be incompetent.

I support the report and I wish to see that, apart from other factors that have been mentioned under recommendations, the issue of payment, Mr. Speaker is effected not later than this House proceeds on its dissolution, Mr. Speaker. Because the moment we leave it hanging, we will have left a very punitive situation to those people who have not been paid since 2014/2015.

All their arrears, their absorption by the County Public Service Board and any other benefit due should be paid to these honorable people of Machakos, the poor and the good citizens of Machakos county Mr. Speaker. I support the report in totality and recommend the committee that they should not stop it at this point. They should make sure that the report is fully implemented even by ensuring that a supplementary budget is created in the supplementary budget that we will adopt very soon to ensure that these people get partial payments or their payments. Otherwise, I support this report, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Nganga: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and the House at large. For introduction and benefit of the visitors in the gallery, I am the member representing Ikombe ward. Mr. Speaker, I will go straight to page 5 on the recommendations and I will compare the recommendations given and the urgency with which this must be implemented, Mr. Speaker. As we speak now, in my ward when I was elected to serve, we had two polytechnics together with the community, we agreed to

set up another one and we did not succeed because we lacked support from the county government in setting up Kyasioni dispensary, Mr. Speaker. While on this matter---

Hon. Speaker: Order! I don't know whether you remember the circumstances that befell the chairperson of finance committee?

Hon. Nganga: Mr. Speaker, I beg to align myself with the instructions given and I proceed to say that the essence of having our instructors employed, we have scenarios in some of our polytechnics where we have only one instructor serving. Like in Kalyambeu polytechnic, Mr. Speaker. Only one instructor serving while the institution was taken over by the county government, it had six instructors Mr. Speaker. During the transition, even some equipment have been lost in some of these polytechnics because some of the instructors have no morale in doing their duty and they have even went out of their way in not taking care of the equipment that are supposed to be used for teaching in this institutions.

As we all know, there is no country that can prosper without having technical, skilled persons available for service in the industries. Mr. Speaker, you realize, in our country we need plumbers, masons, need people who can do the woodwork and we have these people in little supply, Mr. Speaker.

In this country, we are very much focused on high level advanced learning and ignored the technical part of it, Mr. Speaker. As a county, this is a duty that has been committed to us and I want to urge the vice chairperson and the now recommended chairperson of the committee, that the committee sits back and goes around in all polytechnics we have and bring a report in this House for the county executive to be informed of the dilapidated situation that we have in our polytechnics, Mr. Speaker.

I will report that even in some instances, students from these polytechnics have stopped attending school, Mr. Speaker, because there is nobody to teach them and even the teachers who come do not have good morale and at the end of the day, they end up losing, failing to be taught. In other instances, Mr. Speaker, some of the managers who have been employed there are even engaging people who are not well-qualified with the various categories of qualification to be training the students, Mr. Speaker.

So, this petition came in handy and I want to urge the chairperson to liaise with the CEC responsible to ensure the implementation of this petition to the latter. I thank you and thank the House too.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Let us hear the mover.

Hon. (Ms.) Koki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir and the House at large. Allow me to thank the members of this House for their recommendations, observations and the discussions and the approval of this petition by the youth polytechnic instructors and promise that, as a vice chairperson of the committee and the members of the education committee, we have heard your

recommendations and observations and we will sit and do the needful where it is necessary. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

(Question put and agreed to)

Hon. Speaker: The report is duly adopted with directions that the Clerk will proceed and act accordingly under Standing Order 201 (3). Let us proceed.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker: There being no other business, the house adjourns

The House rose at 3.30 p.m.