

**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**  
**MACHAKOS COUNTY ASSEMBLY**  
**OFFICIAL REPORT**

**Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2017**

The House met at 10.10 a.m.

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

PRAYERS

**PAPER LAID**

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017/18

**Hon. Nduva:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay the following paper on the table of the Assembly today, 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017: the Budget and Appropriation committee report on consideration of Budget Estimates for the fiscal year 2017/2018. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

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

**NOTICE OF MOTION**

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017/18

**Hon. Nduva:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to give notice of the following motion: that this House approves the Budget And Appropriation committee report on budget estimates for the fiscal year 2017/2018 laid on the table of the Assembly today Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2017. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you. The notice is issued. Proceed.

**MOTION**

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017/18

**Hon. Nduva:** Mr. Speaker, Sir,

THAT aware THAT this House received the budget estimates for the 2017/2018, fiscal year as per section 130 of the PFM Act that states that the County Executive Committee member of Finance shall submit to the County Assembly a budget summary that includes a summary of budget policies including revenue,

expenditure, debts, deficit financing and an explanation of how budget relates to the fiscal responsibility principles and financial objectives;

Mr. Speaker, Sir, aware THAT the county has adopted program budgeting in previous years that identifies the development projects to be implemented and the inclusion of the Ward Development Fund;

The 2017/2018 budget estimate were equally matched with expenditure items, I wish to move the motion that this Hon. House discusses and approves the financial year 2017/2018 budget as presented by the Budget and Appropriation committee.

I call upon Hon. Christine Mutune to second the motion.

**Hon. (Ms.) Mutune:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to support the approval of this report and adoption too simply because as members of the Budget committee, we considered the key issues that affect our county up to and including the Ward Fund and also we factored in the budget for members' package, that is the eight months that the members will not be in office, so I find it fit for the House to discuss the report and adopt it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

**Hon. Speaker:** The motion is properly laid. Proceed and give the report.

**Hon. Nduva:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have the honour to table the financial year 2017/2018 budget which is the last budget for the first County Assembly of Machakos. This budget is presented at a time when we are approaching election campaigns and need to rededicate our efforts towards the values and objectives of devolution. Mr. Speaker, Sir, this financial year 2017/2018 budget proceeds to match with the County Fiscal Strategy Paper for the financial year 2017/2018 through aligning expenditure clause to revenue and thus reduce growth in public debt by gradual reduction in the budget deficit.

This year's budget stimulates growth and further supports services delivered by moderating some of the deep spending programs while simultaneously re-aligning public expenditure to key development priorities. Mr. Speaker, during the budget preparation, the committee considered prioritizing programs that must be met to ensure that the budget fits the government expenditure and priorities.

The committee further considered the most cost effective program that would increase operational efficiency and offer the citizens of Machakos the best that they deserve. Further, the budget formulation for the financial year 2017/2018 allocates resources in conformity with the programs and fiscal strategy targets for the financial year 2017/2018.

Mr. Speaker, the Budget and Appropriation committee derives its mandate from the House Standing Order 186(3)(a) that states that "there shall be a select committee to be known as the County Budget and Appropriation committee which is mandated to investigate, inquire into and report on all matters related to coordination, control and monitoring of county budget; discuss and review the estimates and make recommendations to the Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, the members of the committee as constituted by this honorable House are:-

- 1) Hon. Wilson Kasimu Chairman

- |                                |        |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| 2) Hon. John Sila              | Member |
| 3) Hon. Charles Mutisya        | ”      |
| 4) Hon. Sammy Nduva            | ”      |
| 5) Hon. (Ms.) Jacqueline Nziva | ”      |
| 6) Hon. Renson Muthiani        | ”      |
| 7) Hon. (Ms.) Ruth Ndumi       | ”      |

Mr. Speaker, the Public Finance Management Act, 2012, section 131(1) states that “the County Assembly shall consider and account for government budget estimates with a view of approving them with or without amendments in time for the relevant appropriation law and any other law required to implement the budget to be passed by June in each year.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the budget making process takes place throughout a fiscal year and starts with the CEC, Finance issuing a budget circular to the user departments that dictates the guidelines to be followed in making the following year’s budget estimates, that is by June 30<sup>th</sup> each year. Mr. Speaker, this year’s budget making process was guided to be completed early and not as indicated in the Public Finance Management Act because of the political campaigns and General Elections expected in the month of August this year.

Mr. Speaker, we have also balanced our expenditure in line with the local revenue estimates thereby putting public funds on a more sustainable path. The budget reflects this and establishes the new norm of closely aligning expenditure to revenue. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the Public Management Act, 2012 Section 129(2)(a), the CEC, Finance of the County Government is required to prepare the budget estimate for each fiscal year after approval by the cabinet before submitting the estimates to the County Assembly by 30<sup>th</sup> April, of each year.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Article 220 of the Constitution of Kenya states that “the budget of the County Government shall contain estimates of revenues and expenditure differentiating clearly between recurrent and developmental expenditures. The budget estimates were submitted to the County Assembly on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2017 pursuant to Section 129(2)(a) of the Public Finance Management Act which requires the County Executive Committee Member for Finance to submit to the County Assembly budget estimates, supporting documents and other Bills required to implement the budget.

Mr. Speaker, the Budget and Appropriations committee subjected the budget estimate to the assembly’s sectoral committee for independent interrogation of the departmental budget estimates. The committees invited the concerned CECs and chief officers and interrogated each department’s budget with a view of prioritizing the needs and total resources allocated to the departments which were less than the required.

The views and the recommendations of the committee have been considered in the financial year 2017/2018 budget. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the PFM Act Section 131(2) requires that before the Budget Estimates are approved with or without amendments by this Hon. House, the Budget and Appropriation committee should take into consideration the views of the CEC, Finance and the public.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the merging of departments disrupts continuity in comparing the previous year's performance of particular departments and compliance with the County Fiscal Strategy Paper.

The committee for the purpose of the comparing with the Fiscal Strategy Paper's ceilings with the budget agreed to merge the respective allowed allocated expenditure accordingly. The funding of the water and irrigation sector is reported as merged with both departments of Decentralized Units in the recurrent expenditure and also in the department of Agriculture both in the recurrent and development expenditure. This issue has been raised and resolved in the County Fiscal Strategy Paper 2017/2018. The recurring is also welcomed (??)

The department of Sanitation and Solid Waste Management has been merged with the department of Decentralized Units. The Land, Urban Development, Energy and Natural Resources has also been established as an independent department from the department of Agriculture and Livestock.

The committee further conducted public participation forums in all the eight sub-counties on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 and collected views of the public in regard to the budget estimates as presented by the CEC, Finance and according to the Constitution of Kenya. Mr. Speaker, the views of the people of Machakos County were well-considered by the CEC while drafting the budget estimates for 2017/2018. This was reflected by the fact that the people who attended the forums supported most of the proposed programs in the budget. The public also questioned on the continued budgeting of some projects year after year without implementation or completion.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, members of public complained that the county departments had failed to complete their initial projects despite the constant funding in the budget for the last four financial years, and further requested that the funds set for the projects like market sheds, ECD classes, roads, bursaries, dams and weirs be frozen.

The public were also concerned by the missing Ward Development Fund vote and requested it to be created to complete all the stalled projects in the 40 wards. In addition, members of the public recommended for more funding in the department of health to ensure that the drugs are easily available in the hospitals. However, the following remarks featured in the public participation

- a) Implementation of the Ward Development Fund which had been a great expectation by both the public and members of this Hon. House.
- b) Investment in sewerage and drainage system in urban centres.
- c) Allocation of budget for public participation. The public have been demanding for sitting allowances; this is breeding hostility against both honorable members and staff
- d) The County Government should discontinue investing on CCTV cameras since the public have not benefited through the use of the gadgets.
- e) More resources be directed in equipping the existing health facilities with drugs to improve public confidence on our health facilities and the devolved government.
- f) Construction of ECD classes and polytechnics should be given full advantage in the development budget under the department of education.

- g) Equipping and construction of youth centres.
- h) Bursary funding should be availed in time to support poor students.
- i) Completion of all stalled county projects and management of debts (pending bills should be paid).
- j) Land should be purchased for dumpsites and the clearing of uncollected garbage across the county urban centres.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the revenue share from the national government is Kshs. 8.223 Billion. This includes equitable share of Kshs 7.42 Billion, Level 5 hospitals Kshs. 383 Million, hospital compensation for user fees forgone Kshs. 24 Million, free maternal health care Kshs. 72 Million, road maintenance levy fund, Kshs. 195 Million, leasing of medical equipment Kshs. 96 Million, and loans and grants Kshs. 35 Million.

Mr. Speaker, the committee observed that the CEC member had proposed local revenue collection at Kshs. 2.3 Billion. The committee requested the Chief Officer to provide details on sourcing areas of the proposed local revenue collection. However, the same was not availed to support the proposed local collection of Kshs. 2.3 Billion for the financial year 2017/18.

The County Fiscal Strategy Paper 2017/18 had approved Kshs. 1.7 Billion as local revenue collection. Since the county has never collected Kshs. 1.3 Billion in the last 4 years, the possibility of collecting Kshs. 2.3 Billion after learning from the past is not realistic. Local revenue collection has always been below Kshs. 1.3 Billion and to estimate the same at Kshs. 2.3 Billion would mean the county to perform far above normal which will not be viable.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, deviations from the ceilings drawn in the County Fiscal Strategy Paper 2017 were witnessed in the departments of Public Service and ICT, Finance Department, department of Decentralized Units and Environment, Sanitation and Solid Waste department, a new department merged after County Fiscal Strategy Paper 2017, the department of Agriculture, which after approval of the County Fiscal Strategy Paper 2017, was merged with the Water and Irrigation department, Health department, Roads and Transport, Education Youth and Social services, Tourism, Sports And Culture, and the County Public Service Board. The deviations in the budget estimates 2017/18, from the County Fiscal Strategy Paper 2017 were not acceptable to the committee.

Mr. Speaker, the committee allocated funds to the specific departments in line with the stated views by the public, taking into consideration the size of the resource envelope.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the budget estimates for the fiscal year 2017/2018 was prepared in line with the County Fiscal Strategy Paper 2017/18. The Public Finance Management Act, Section 117(3) states that “in preparing the county fiscal strategy paper, the County treasury shall specify the broad strategic priorities and policy goals that will guide the county government in preparing its budget for the coming financial year.”

Mr. Speaker, one of the major milestones of the 2017/2018 budget is the funding of the health ministry, which is allocated 38% of the total budget. This too, is a drawback to the County budget resource envelope, taking into consideration the expected funds.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on corruption, or better the fight against corruption, requires our full attention, whether it is the misuse of office, soliciting and receiving bribes, inflating tender prices or whatever improper conduct of persons who further their personal gain to the detriment of the common good must be dealt with. It is well known that the poor suffer most from the impact of corruption. Let us make sure that all parties to these illicit activities are brought to book. The Government has to play its role in the fight against corruption.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the budget making process, the committee ensured that the provisions of all the applicable procedures were observed. These include the County Fiscal Strategy Paper 2017/18, the views from public participations, interrogations of the Executive Committee Members and Chief Officers of the departments and views of the Executive Committee Member of finance as enshrined in Section 131 of the Public Finance Management Act.

#### *Committee Recommendations - The 2017/2018 Budget Financing*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the budgeting process must balance legitimate needs and interests, the budget must be fair, objective, realistic and affordable. In the past four years, the estimates on local revenue collections have been theoretical and non-achievable. In the 2016/17 budget, local revenue was estimated at Kshs. 2.833 Billion yet the county has been unsuccessful to collect Kshs. 1.1 Billion to date. As such, the committee resolved that, in the financial year 2017/18, the local revenue estimates must be based on chronological achievements in the past years and as per the approved Machakos County Fiscal Strategy Paper 2017. The committee recommends Kshs. Kshs. 1.7 Billion as the local revenue for the fiscal year 2017/2018.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the County Government should control recurrent expenditure in order to maximize on effective utilization of revenues collected from the tax payers. There is need to address the objectives of public expenditure management in fiscal discipline, strategic resource allocation, and operational efficiency that is emphasized in this financial year 2017/18 budget.

Mr. Speaker, the budget for the year has a grand total of Kshs 9.923 Billion comprising of equitable share and grants of Kshs. 8.223 Billion and the local revenue estimate of Kshs. 1.7 Billion. The recurrent expenditure is Kshs. 6.935 Billion (70 per cent) and the development vote of Kshs. 2.99 Billion (30 per cent) of the County Government budget and in line with PFM Act Section 107 (1).

#### *Ward Development Fund*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the other highlight of the Machakos County budget 2017/2018 is the allocation of the Ward Development Fund vote. The proposed financial year 2017/18 budget estimates had not allocated funds for the Ward Development Fund. The committee recommends that an amount of Kshs. 805 Million be allocated for the fund to be shared equally among the 40 wards and Kshs. 5 Million be set aside as administration expenses.

The Budget and Appropriation committee found it necessary to ensure that the Ward Development Fund is budgeted for and allocated funds to carry out ward projects. Hon. Members would ensure the flow of funds to the budgeted activities to create development and guarantee that the fruits of devolution are felt by all in the society.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ward Development Fund budget should be expensed on the budgeted activities or programs at ward level. The operationalization of the fund is crucial to ease and spend the allocated budget for the fund on Ward development projects. The committee felt that the following programs should be exclusively programmed under the Ward Development Fund:-

- a) Access roads.
- b) Youth polytechnics.
- c) Market Sheds.
- d) ECDE classes.
- e) Bursaries.
- f) Flood lights.

The said programs should be undertaken by the department of Trade, Planning and Industrialization to avoid duplication of activities by other departments, beside the issuance of bursaries which will be undertaken by the department of Education.

#### *Department of Public Service and ICT*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the committee recommends that the recurrent expenditure of the department of Public Service, Labour and ICT be reduced from Kshs. 474,304,059 to Kshs. 440,504,059 and the development expenditure be reduced from Kshs. 27,900,000 to Kshs. 20,700,000. The department should bring to reason the ballooning wage bill and freeze further recruitment of staff.

Mr. Speaker, the County of Machakos has 8200 staff with a population of 1.2 million people, giving a ratio of 1:165. This means that each County staff is to serve 165 people. The County of Nairobi has a workforce of 11000 staff with a population of 4.5 Million people with a ratio of 1:425 meaning that each employee is to serve 425 people. Our wage bill stands at 53 per cent far above the 35 per cent stated in the PFM Act.

#### *Department of Trade and Planning*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the committee recommends that the recurrent expenditure of the department of Trade and Planning be increased from Kshs. 75,634,198 to Kshs. 112,884,198 and the development expenditure be increased from Kshs. 153,691,491 to Kshs. 729,215,785. The department is to undertake the Ward Development Fund projects and guard against duplication of activities by the departments as the Ward Development Fund programs. The department has therefore been allocated Kshs. 725 Million under the Ward Development Fund.

#### *Department of Finance and Revenue Collection*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the committee recommends that the recurrent expenditure of the department of Finance and Revenue Collection be reduced from Kshs. 523,641,946 to Kshs. 352,141,946 since the department's salaries were overstated.

#### *Department of Decentralized Units*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the committee recommends that the recurrent expenditure of the department of Decentralized Units be reduced from Kshs. 751,876,974 to Kshs. 482,274,006 and the development vote be reduced from Kshs. 116,499,999 to Kshs. 39,708,931. The department of Water and Irrigation was moved from this department and merged with the department of Agriculture. The department of Sanitation and Solid Waste Management was merged with this department.

#### *Department of Agriculture*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the committee recommends that the recurrent expenditure of the department of Agriculture be reduced from Kshs. 472,975,484 to Kshs. 454,388,393 and the development vote be reduced from Kshs. 552,774,995 to Kshs. 227,188,894. It is important to note that part of the allocation of funds for the development expenditure was a recurrent expenditure and was therefore corrected. The department was merged with Water and Irrigation sector.

#### *Department of Transport, Roads and Housing*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the committee recommends that the recurrent expenditure of the department of Transport, Roads and Housing be reduced from Kshs. 262,763,625 to Kshs. 218,263,625 and the development expenditure be reduced from Kshs. 1,011,430,062 to Kshs. 819,406,530

#### *Department Education Youth and Social Welfare*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the committee recommends that the recurrent expenditure of the department of Education, Youth and Social Welfare be reduced from Kshs. 300,188,612 to Kshs. 185,688,612 which includes Kshs. 80 Million to be disbursed equally as bursary under the Ward Development Fund. The salaries under the department had been over stated.

Further, the development expenditure be reduced from Kshs. 36 Million to Kshs. 18,970,000 since the ECDE and the youth polytechnics would be undertaken through the Ward Development Fund under the department of Trade and Planning.

#### *Department of Land, Energy and Natural Resources*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the committee recommends that the development expenditure of the department of Land, Energy and Natural Resources be reduced from Kshs. 437,165,412 to Kshs. 206,061,879 since the department of Sanitation and Solid Waste Management was merged with the department of Decentralized Units.

#### *Department Tourism, Culture, Sports and Cooperatives*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the committee recommends that the recurrent expenditure of the department of Tourism, Culture, Sports and Cooperatives be reduced from Kshs. 106,327,868 to Kshs. 76,327,869 since the department's salaries were overstated. The development expenditure be reduced from Kshs. 51,069,630 to Kshs. 25,389,630



*County Assembly*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the committee recommends that the recurrent expenditure of the County Assembly be increased from Kshs. 760,670,184 to Kshs. 974,670,184 which includes operation and maintenance Kshs. 300,305,281, employee compensation Kshs. 400,564,903, severance pay for the Members of the County Assembly for the remaining 8 months in the 5 year contract period Kshs. 150,000,000, the severance pay for Ward staff Ksh. 9,000,000, salary arrears for staff Kshs. 10,000,000 and other current transfers Ksh. 95,000,000. The development expenditure vote be increased from Kshs. 110 Million to Kshs. 241 Million for completion, equipping of the new building and construction of the proposed new Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the County Fiscal Strategy Paper, 2017 allocated funds for the eight months' reverence period for the members' five year term. The committee therefore recommends the allocation of Kshs. 150 Million to that effect.

Mr. Speaker sir, the committees worked hard to allocate every department a fair share of funds, to enable them undertake core priority programs. In this regard, the committee did away with motor vehicle purchases which have increased the cost of fuel, repairs, maintenance and recruitment.

Mr. Speaker, during the public participation, the residents of Machakos County expressed the need for construction of ECDE classes and youth polytechnics. The committee allocated funds for the same and recommends that the exercise be undertaken through the Ward Development Fund.

Mr. Speaker, various challenges however will continue to undermine the execution of the 2017/18 budget which will highly depend on the following factors:

1. The management of the wage bill which will consume 53 per cent of the total county revenue, contrary to PFM regulation No. 25(b) which states that the limit shall not exceed 35% of the total county revenue.
2. Management of collected local revenue, which has been unfulfilled in the past years.
3. Management of the county debt which is rapidly growing and not proportional to the resource envelope. The county debt by way of pending bills amounting to more than Kshs. 1.92 Billion, threatens the effectiveness of the 2017/18 County Budget. Section 107(2)(e) and (2)(f) of the Public Finance Management Act, states that the county debt shall be maintained at a sustainable level as approved by the County Assembly and that the fiscal risk shall be managed prudently, and (3) states that short term borrowing shall be restricted to management of cash flows and shall not exceed 5 per cent of the most recent audited County Government revenue.
4. The challenge on garbage collection, after the newly created Department of Environment, Sanitation and Solid Waste is now well funded to procure land, equipment and accessories to manage garbage collection and dumpsites which has been a drawback in managing the environment.
5. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the committee recommends that an amicable solution be put in place to address the hostility in public participations. Members of the public are increasingly demanding sitting allowance for attending these activities. This is a serious challenge

facing both members and the staff and should be addressed through the media to inform the public that participating in the activity would not earn sitting allowance. These challenges must be overcome to improve our performance above average.

Mr. Speaker, the committee recommends that an amount of Kshs. 150 Million be allocated for members of the County Assembly for 8 months difference in the five year tenure that was not reflected in the 2017/18 budget.

#### *Acknowledgement*

Mr. Speaker, there is, therefore, more to this budget than the tightening of the monetary spending. The budget gives scope to maintain the provision of essential services. It calls for greater resource prioritization and quality of spending so that we can make impact where it matters most. Amidst the challenging economic and financial environment, we have managed to realign the budgetary framework to the new reality and propose a realistic and credible budget.

Mr. Speaker, I finish my 2017 budget statement with a quote from Monica Crowley, the American political commentator, "True equality means holding everyone accountable in the same way, regardless of race, gender, faith, ethnicity or political ideology." We will need all of these attributes in the years ahead if we are to make Machakos the county we all desire to see.

Mr. Speaker, the committee is grateful to the office of the Speaker and that of Clerk to the County Assembly for the support accorded during the committee sittings. I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the chairpersons of sectoral committees for finding time to make the views of their committees heard by the budget committee. I too express my sincere appreciation to the honorable members of the assembly and the citizens of Machakos for all their input to the 2017/2018 budget making process.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend the honorable members of the Budget and Appropriation committee who sacrificed their time to participate in all the activities of the committee and in the preparation of the financial year 2017/18 budget. It is now my distinguished honor to submit for favorable consideration and approval the financial year 2017/2018 Machakos County Budget to this Hon. Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

**Hon. Speaker:** Hon. Members, the report is presented. Now I await your comments. Yes Hon. Nzioki.

**Hon. Nzioki:** Mr. Speaker, aware that the term of the current assembly is ending Mr. Speaker, it would be wise and prudent for smooth transition of the next assembly and the next government, to approve this budget without any hitch so that we may see what we desire to see for Machakos County. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Majority Leader (Hon. Mwonga):** Mr. Speaker, first and foremost, I want to applaud the chairman, budget committee and his members, the chairpersons of different sectoral committees

and Mr. Speaker, the chairman of Trade, Planning and Industrialization, Hon. Sammy Nduva for presenting this report on behalf of the chairman, Budget committee.

*(Applause)*

I also Mr. Speaker, want to echo what Hon. Christine said when she was seconding this motion. Mr. Speaker, she said that the committee had gone through the document, public participation had been done and all consultations had been done, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, since morning when members were having their breakfast there in the canteen, we talked about this budget Mr. Speaker, and Members are of the opinion that let budget passage and approval take a record shortest time possible Mr. Speaker, because members are ready to approve it.

So, Mr. Speaker, it is my proposal that without much ado, you just put the question because the mood of the Members is we pass this document, take the shortest time possible and they are also proposing that we also deal with the Appropriation Bill in this morning session not the afternoon session so that they can break and visit their electorate, Mr. Speaker, because it is campaigning time. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Let me hear Pastor Hon. Ndeto.

**Hon. Ndeto:** Page number 7 (1) the first sentence, Mr. Speaker, Sir, on corruption or the fight against requires our full attention. Just that part; I do not get the logic behind it. I think there must be something missing there. Apart from that, Mr. Speaker, as he stands to clarify that the Hon Majority Leader has requested that you put the question, I am not opposed to the budget; we need to pass it the soonest possible but we need time to study this document because the budget is not always an item that you should just propose, second, and call it a day.

This is a matter that affects over a million people from Machakos County for a full year so I propose that we be given time to go study the document then we come and pass it.

**Hon. Speaker:** Hon. Ndeto, are you telling this House that you were never invited to any of the Budget committee meetings?

**Hon. Ndeto:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have attended quite a number of them---

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you. Let us hear Hon. Mueni.

**Hon. (Ms.) Mueni:** Mr. Speaker, I think it will be a waste of time to say that we be given time to pass this report because time is not on our side and the people want to go and see their places because they are very hot and those who are saying that they do not understand, they will never understand the budget anytime. So Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think you can put the question, they will come back to understand the budget better in 2018. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

**Hon. Speaker:** Let me hear Hon. Katela.

**Hon. Katela:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I applaud the budget committee, I swim in the same stream with Hon. Mueni that whoever has not understood at this point, will never understand because with all due respect, Hon. Ndeto has been attending all the committees and he has signed the books for payment. What was he signing for? Because I think he attended all the committees and he has signed---

**Hon. Speaker:** Hon. Katela that point has been clarified---

**Hon. Katela:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So I am supporting whoever is saying that put the question Mr. Speaker, and see the mood of the House; if Mr. Ndeto says 'no' in a louder voice, fine we will take his 'no' but Mr. Speaker, I think the mood of the House is that we waste no further time. Thank you.

**Hon. Speaker:** Let us hear the mover.

**Hon. Nduva:** Mr. Speaker, I want to respond on page seven where Hon. Ndeto has said needs clarification. Mr. Speaker, maybe it is a word that was missed here. Mr. Speaker, the committee felt the necessity to mention corruption in the report and the better word Mr. Speaker, would be that we need to fight against corruption, that is everywhere in this country because corruption takes back or makes our development to be slow. So Mr. Speaker, I think it is a better word that should be inserted here because all of us know the position of corruption in this country, not even in Machakos Government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

**Hon. Speaker:** You can give your concluding remarks on the report as the mover.

**Hon. Nduva:** Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all Hon. Members of this Hon House during this exercise of preparing this document and Mr. Speaker, I also thank the office of the Speaker, and that of the Clerk and I will not forget to thank our County Assembly budget office who have done a great job because Mr. Speaker, this committee has taken a lot of time to realign this document which had a lot to be done.

Mr. Speaker, I want to mention what we have done like the revenue collection which was put to Kshs. 2.3 Billion. Mr. Speaker, I will not forget about the Ward Fund which was not included in this budget. Mr. Speaker, to come up with these votes was not an easy job so Mr. Speaker, I want to thank each and every one who participated to enable this committee to come up with this noble document. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you, I proceed to put the question.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

**Hon. Speaker:** Hon. Members, there was a proposal that we recall the afternoon session. I want us to resolve. If you would want it recalled, then we could break and come back in another thirty minutes so that the office of the Clerk prepares.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

Then we shall revert in another thirty minutes.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Hon. Speaker:** The House adjourns.

The House rose at 11.14 a.m.