

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MACHAKOS COUNTY ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Tuesday, 6th June, 2017

The House met at 10.04 a.m.

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

PRAYERS

MOTION

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE COUNTY FOR 2015/2016

(Hon. Nzeki on 24.05.2017)

(Resumption of Debate on the Motion tabled on 24.05.2017)

Hon. Speaker: The Hon. Oliver Nzeki.

Hon. Nzeki: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have the report of finance that is, report on a financial year 2015/2016 and I remember Hon. Speaker that on 24th May, I brought the report to this Hon. House, I read it and now I am just bringing some few hints on the report. So, Mr. Speaker, I am not going to read the whole report but a few items which I will highlight.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the report of finance and revenue collection on income and expenditure report for the financial year 2015/2016 was tabled in this assembly on 24th May, 2017 and Hon. Members requested to be given time to go through the report. Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is my hope that, members have been able to read the report and I wish to highlight some of the issues contained in the report as follows;

- Local revenue

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the county has continued to miss its revenue targets year in year out. In the year 2015/2016 the county had targeted to collect Ksh. 2.5 billion but it collected Ksh. 1.1 billion. In fact, this collection was less compared to 2014/2015 when the county collected Ksh. 1.3 billion. The department explained, mostly it was because of court injunctions after traders went to court to contest the Finance Act of 2015. The committee has recommended that for extensive public participation during the making of the finance acts where all the stakeholders are consulted.

The committee also recommends automation of revenue to seal loopholes of revenue pilferage and partnering with agencies such as KRA and exploring how platforms like e-Citizen can assist in collection of more revenue. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the department explained that revenue targets were missed as a result of some traders refusing to pay, citing lack of basic facilities like

toilets. The committee recommends that the department of finance should liaise with other departments to ensure services to *mwananchi* are provided so that in return, they could pay their dues on time. Market cited that, they refuse to pay market fees which include Kaewa market and Athi River Township.

The department, Mr. Speaker, Sir, also cited political interference whereby, some of the members incited the public not to pay revenue. The committee calls on all members to assist the department in revenue collection as failure to meet targets leads to poor service delivery. The committee also recommends that, the department maps out all revenue sources and implements the Machakos County Revenue Administration Act of 2015.

- Expenditure.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the committee observed that recurrent expenditure was very high at about 70 per cent of the total budget. The committee observed that, development suffered the most especially, when revenue targets were missed. The committee also noted that, expenditure on operations and maintenance had increased by almost 50 per cent compared to 2014/2015 financial year.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the department explained that, operations and maintenance increased due to increase in workforce and machinery. The committee recommends that, the department should advice the county government to lease or hire machinery instead of purchasing to reduce recurrent expenditure and free more funds for development. The department should also encourage voluntary retirement.

- Transfer of funds

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the committee observed that the county was making several transfers of funds to the Central Bank of Kenya on the same day where some involved very small amounts. The committee calls on the department to come up with a policy for approval by the House on transfer of funds to CBK. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I call upon members to support the report and approve it.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you very much, chairman. I invite contributions.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Members that appears to be the business of this morning. The House will adjourn.

The House rose at 10.13 a.m.