

**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**  
**COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF MACHAKOS**

**OFFICIAL REPORT**

**Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

The House met at 3.07 p.m.

*[The Speaker (Hon. (Mrs.) Mwangangi) in the Chair]*

**PRAYERS**

**Hon. Speaker:** Good afternoon, Hon. Members. We can start our business for this afternoon. Madam Clerk, proceed.

**PAPERS LAID**

**Hon. Speaker:** Hon. Members, under this Order we have businesses by Hon. Fredrick Muthoka, Hon. Kisini and Hon. Kiilu

**REPORT ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE OF MACHAKOS**

**Hon. Speaker:** I can see Hon. Rosina, standing in for which Hon. Member? Hon. Muthoka. Proceed.

**Hon. (Ms.) Kanini:** Hon. Speaker, I beg to lay on the table of the Assembly today, Tuesday, the 7<sup>th</sup> day of December 2021: report of the Committee on Implementation on the Implementation status of the report of the Public Accounts and Investments Committee on the Financial Statements of the County Executive of Machakos for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2016. Thank you Hon. Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** The Paper is signed? The next business, Hon. Members, I indicated is by Hon. Kisini. Hon. Kisini.

**REPORT ON MACHAKOS COUNTY CLIMATE  
CHANGE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2021**

**Hon. Kisini:** Hon. Speaker, I beg to lay on the table of the Assembly today, Tuesday, the 7<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2021: The report of Environment, Lands, Energy and Natural Resources Committee on the Machakos County Climate Change (Amendment) Bill, 2021.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Kisini. The report is signed? Hon. Kisini, I'm just inquiring whether the report is signed. The next business is by Hon. Kiilu. I see Hon. Matei rising. You're standing in for Hon. Kiilu?

**REPORT ON EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION POLICY**

**Hon. Ndeti:** Yes, I'm standing in for the Chair, Hon. Kiilu, who is away on official duty. Hon. Speaker, I beg to lay on the table of the Assembly today, Tuesday, the 7<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2021: the report of Education Committee on the Early Childhood Development Education Policy.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you Hon. Matei. Proceed.

**NOTICES OF MOTIONS**  
REPORT ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE OF MACHAKOS

**Hon. Speaker:** Hon. Members, under this Order we have two businesses by Hon. Fredrick Muthoka and Hon. Kiilu. Hon. Muthoka, possibly Hon. Rozina.

**Hon. (Ms.) Kanini:**

Hon. Speaker, that aware THAT Article 183(3) of the Constitution of Kenya, provides that the County Executive Committee shall provide the County Assembly with full and regular report on all matters relating to the County;

Further, aware that Article 185(3) of the Constitution provides that a County Assembly, while respecting the principle of the separation of powers, may exercise oversight over the County Executive Committee and any other County Executive organs;

Noting THAT Standing Order 188(2) mandates the Committee on Implementation to scrutinize the resolutions of the Assembly (including adopted committee reports), petitions and the undertakings given by the County Executive Committee and examine: whether or not such decisions and undertakings have been implemented and where implemented, the extent to which they have been implemented; and whether such implementation has taken place within the minimum time necessary; and also whether or not legislation passed by the Assembly has been operationalized and where operationalized, the extent to which such operationalization has taken place within the minimum time necessary”;

Further aware THAT Standing Order 188(3) provides that the Committee may propose to the Assembly, sanctions against any member of the County Executive Committee who fails to report to the relevant select Committee on implementation status without justifiable reasons;

Acknowledging THAT in executing its mandate, the Committee requested for information from the Department of Finance and Revenue Collection on the implementation status of the of the Report of the Public Accounts and Investment Committee on the Financial Statements of County Executive of Machakos for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2016;

Hon. Speaker, I wish to give notice of motion THAT this Hon. House discusses and approves the Report of Committee on Implementation on the Implementation Status of the Report of the Public Accounts and Investment Committee on the Financial Statements of the County Executive of Machakos for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2016.

Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Rozina. The next business is by Hon. Kiilu. I presume Hon. Ndeti is still on the floor.

## REPORT ON EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION POLICY

**Hon. Ndeti:**

Hon. Speaker, that aware THAT Early Childhood Development and Education (ECDE) is the bedrock and foundation of all learning and personality development in the life of any child and aware that the Constitution of Kenya 2010 makes education a basic right under the Bill of rights where education is guaranteed for all children;

Noting THAT the County Government of Machakos developed the Machakos County Early Childhood Development and Education policy in line with Article 43(1)(f) of Constitution of Kenya, which makes education and training a right of every Child and the Basic Education Act, 2013 which aims at giving effect to Article 53 of the Constitution;

Further aware THAT the Machakos County pre-primary education policy addresses challenges facing the public early childhood Development and Education Centers;

Hon. Speaker, I wish to give notice of motion THAT this Hon. House discusses and approves the Education Committee report on Early Childhood Development and Education Policy.

Thank you.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you Hon. Ndeti. Madam Clerk, proceed.

**STATEMENT**

BUSINESS FOR THE HOUSE FROM 7<sup>TH</sup> TO 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2021

**Hon. Speaker:** Hon. Members, under this Order, we have one business and it is slated to be prosecuted by Hon. Mark Muendo, Majority Leader, but he is not here. I notice Hon. Maitha is present. Hon. Maitha, as a Member of the House Business Committee.

**Hon. Maitha:** Madam Speaker, I'm not a Member of House Business Committee.

**Hon. Speaker:** Then I have been misled by the Table Office. Hon. Helen Ndeti, you can proceed. *(To Hon. Maitha)* No wonder you were looking like, 'what is this?' even without saying it. Right, Hon. Helen Ndeti.

**Hon. Ndeti:** I'm standing on behalf of on. Mark Muendo, Leader of Majority. I'm a Member of the House Business committee.

Hon. Speaker, the House Business Committee met on Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 to ballot business for the House pursuant to the provisions of the Standing Order 151(5). The Committee balloted business for the House as follows:

Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2021  
*Morning at 10.00 a.m.*

Report of Justice and Legal Affairs Committee on Petition by Former Machakos Cooperative Union Workers

*Afternoon at 2.30 p.m.*

Report of Education Committee on the Early Childhood Development Education Policy

Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2021

*Morning at 10.00 a.m.*

Report of the Committee on Implementation on the Implementation status of the report of the PAIC Committee on the Financial Statements of County Executive of Machakos for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2016

*Afternoon at 2.30 p.m.*

The Machakos County Climate Change (Amendment) Bill, 2021 (Second Reading)

**Hon. Speaker:** Hon. Ndeti, you did not end your address in the manner that you're supposed to do. Hon. Ndeti---

**Hon. Ndeti:** I am sorry---

**Hon. Speaker:** I have just been waiting to note, you read it again.

**Hon. Ndeti:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I think I am through with the statement. Thank you.

### **MOTION**

#### **REPORT ON EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION POLICY**

**Hon. Speaker:** Hon. Members, under this order, we have one business by Hon. Daniel Kiilu and I notice Hon. Helen Ndeti continues to hold his brief. Hon. Ndeti, under Order No. 8.

**Hon. Ndeti:** Hon. Speaker, I am going to read the motion again---

**Hon. Speaker:** No, you had not read it at any one time. You did the notice of motion, now it is the motion, the first time.

**Hon. Ndeti:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker, that aware THAT Early Childhood Development and Education (ECDE) is the bedrock and foundation of all learning and personality development in the life of any child and aware THAT the Constitution of Kenya 2010 makes education a basic right under the Bill of rights where education is guaranteed for all children;

Noting THAT the County Government of Machakos developed the Machakos County Early Childhood Development and Education policy in line with Article 43(1)(f) of the Constitution of Kenya, which makes education and training a right of every Child and the Basic Education Act, 2013 which aims at giving effect to Article 53 of the Constitution;

Further aware THAT the Machakos County pre-primary education policy Early Childhood Development and Education Policy addresses challenges facing the public Early Childhood Development and Education Centers;

Hon. Speaker, I wish to move the motion THAT this Hon. House discusses and approves the Education Committee report on Early Childhood Development and Education Policy.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Ndeti.

**Hon. Ndeti:** I call upon Hon. Nyawira to second the motion.

**Hon. Nyawira:** Madam Speaker, I stand to second the motion.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you Hon. Nyawira. Hon. Ndeti, proceed to read the report.

**Hon. Ndeti:**

#### *Establishment and Mandate of the Committee*

The Sectoral Committee on Education is established under Standing Order 190 of the Machakos County Assembly Standing Orders whose mandates pursuant to the Standing Order 190(5) are as follows:

1. Investigate, inquire into, and report on all matters relating to the mandate, management, activities, administration, operations and estimates of the assigned departments;
2. Study the programme and policy objectives of departments and the effectiveness of their implementation;
3. Study and review all legislation referred to it;
4. study, assess and analyze the relative success of the departments as measured by the results obtained as compared with their stated objectives;
5. Investigate and inquire into all matters relating to the assigned departments as may be deemed necessary, and as may be referred to them by the Assembly;
6. To vet and report on all appointments where the Constitution or any law requires the County Assembly to approve, except those under Standing Order 184 (*Committee on appointments*); and
7. Make reports and recommendations to the House as often as possible, including recommendations of proposed legislation.

In accordance with Second Schedule of the Machakos County Standing Orders, the Committee is further mandated to oversee all matters related to; pre-primary education, village polytechnics, home craft centres and childcare.

#### *Committee Membership*

The membership of the aforementioned committee is as follows:-

1. Hon. Daniel Kiilu -Chairperson
2. Hon. Hellen Ndeti -V/Chair
3. Hon. Jane Nyawira -Members
4. Hon. Phoebe Koki
5. Hon Alice Nzioka
6. Hon. Judas Ndawa
7. Hon. Angela Munyasya
8. Hon. Margaret Ndalana
9. Hon. Francis Kalumu
10. Hon. Joseph Musau
11. Hon. Geoffrey Kamulu
12. Hon. George Kingori
13. Hon. Benedette Mueni

*Committee Secretariat*

The Committee is facilitated by the following secretariat

1. Ms. Sarah Mwanja - *Clerk Assistant*
2. Ms. Stella Kanini - *Clerk Assistant*

*Overview of the Machakos County Early Childhood Development and Education Policy**Background to the Pre-Primary Policy*

Early Childhood Development and Education (ECDE) is the bedrock and foundation of all learning and personality development in the life of any child. With the advent of the implementation of the Constitution of Kenya (2010), one of the 14 functions that were devolved is management of Pre-primary education (ECDE) together with village polytechnics, home craft Centres and childcare facilities.

With respect to Early Childhood Development and Education (ECDE), the County governments are now responsible for the setting up of systems and structures for effective delivery of ECDE services in the Counties.

In view of the above, the County Government of Machakos developed the Machakos County Early Childhood Development and Education policy in line with the Constitution of Kenya (2010) Article 43(1)(f) which make education and training a right of every Child, the Basic Education Act, 2013 which aims at giving effect to Article 53 of the Constitution; provide provisions for registration, establishment of the County Education Board, governance and management of institutions of basic education and the Sessional Paper No.14 of 2012 on Reforming Education and Training Sectors in Kenya.

The policy takes cognizance of Pre-primary education as a crucial foundation for primary education, character formation and lifelong learning. This is in line with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Number 4. Target 2 which obligate States to ensure that all children access quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for formal schooling.

It also addresses challenges facing the public early childhood Centers and aligns pre-primary education provision to the devolved system of government under the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 and Section 26 of the Basic Education Act, 2012 which specifies the roles of the County Government to include provision of funds required for development of necessary infrastructure in institutions of basic education.

In line with the above stated laws, the policy underscores the child's best interest which is paramount in matters concerning children and also recognizes parents as the primary care giver.

*Key Highlights of the Machakos County ECDE Policy**Pre-primary Education performance*

Pre-Primary Education continues to receive a lot of attention in County Government programmes through the Department of Education though, in spite of the tremendous achievements in access to pre-primary education, provisions of quality services in the sector remains a challenge as characterized by shortage of basic infrastructural facilities such as classrooms, furniture, sanitation, outdoor play equipment and high pupil teacher ratio among others.

Since financial support is a key factor for any programme to assume its shape, the policy provides that the County government shall create funding modalities for Early Childhood Development and Education focusing on increased enrolment, enhanced curriculum implementation, improved nutrition of learners and the management of ECDE Centres at large.

To increase enrolment, the policy states that the County Government shall prioritize construction of new ECDE Centres following one standard design to including two classrooms, an office and a store in line with Section 115(1) of the County Governments Act and which shall be prioritized according to the approved budgets and availability of finances.

#### *Health and Nutrition Context*

Early childhood has been identified as a period when the brain develops rapidly and hence appropriate health and nutrition must be provided to ensure a better and healthy future for the child.

To enhance school readiness and child's health, the policy provides that the County Government shall address malnutrition by providing centre-based feeding programme to all public ECDE Centres through the Department of Education in partnership with lead stakeholders like Kenya Dairy Board, Milk Processors and Tetra Pack Limited.

#### *Challenges facing Pre-Primary Education Provision in Machakos County Resources*

According to the Machakos County Early Childhood Development and Education policy, pre-primary education programmes have been inadequately resourced in terms of financial, human capital and physical resources.

On financial limitation, despite the Pre-primary education being a devolved function, there has been lack of proper guideline to guarantee provision of quality education in all public pre-primary institutions. This is largely contributed by low budgetary allocation in the related department thus limiting the realization of Article 43 of the Constitution of Kenya.

To address the stated challenge, the policy provides that the County Government shall ensure adequate recurrent and development budgetary allocation is set aside to finance pre-primary education services

Under the Physical/ Infrastructure facilities, the policy states that most pre-primary schools have inadequate physical facilities as well as play/learning materials and assistive devices for children with special needs; unfriendly environment, inadequate clean safe water, and sanitation facilities. To address the stated challenge, the County Government shall ensure more centers are constructed to areas where they don't exist as well as initiate programmes that shall ensure the following is provided in each public pre-primary institution; the play/learning materials, clean & safe drinking water, and appropriate sanitation facilities.

On Human Resource development, the policy states that Pre-primary education over the years has been faced by inadequate personnel with requisite skills to handle holistic care and support for pre-primary learners (including children with special needs). To address the stated challenge the County Government shall come up with a clear scheme of service which shall provide clear guidelines on career progression for ECD Teachers.

#### *Access*

It has been noted that a significant proportion of children are not accessing pre-primary education in spite of it being critical in laying the foundation for performance in the subsequent levels of education. This situation is mainly attributed to:

- i. Low budgetary allocation
- ii. Low parental and community awareness on the importance of pre-primary education
- iii. Inadequate pre-primary institutions within reach
- iv. Inadequate and inappropriate infrastructure and sanitation facilities

To enhance access to quality relevant pre – primary education services to all children aged 4 to 5 years, the County Government in collaboration with other stakeholders shall adopt the following strategies:

- i. Create awareness on the importance of pre-primary education
- ii. Allocate adequate recurrent and development budgetary support to finance pre-primary education services
- iii. Construct child friendly pre-primary education Centres within reasonable reach of children
- iv. Mobilize adequate resources through public and private mechanisms to support provision of quality pre-primary education

### *Quality and Relevance*

The policy outlines the Challenges affecting quality and relevance of pre-primary education to include:

- i. poor learning environments,
- ii. inappropriate curriculum delivery methods,
- iii. inadequate teaching and learning materials,
- iv. inadequate supervision and monitoring of curriculum delivery;
- v. low teacher motivation and high teacher attrition.
- vi. poverty and poor economic growth hampers the sustainability of pre-primary education

To ensure quality and relevance in pre-primary schools, the following standards shall be adhered to, as provided in the policy:

#### ▪ *Under Infrastructure*

##### ❖ *Classrooms*

- i. The standard size of a pre-primary classroom shall be as specified in the basic education Act,
- ii. Classrooms shall be accessible to children with special needs and disabilities (ramps, rails and lower door handles)
- iii. Classrooms shall be well lit and well ventilated;
- iv. Classrooms shall have proper roofing, windows, doors and floor to protect children from harsh environmental conditions such as rain, heat, wind or dust;
- v. Classrooms and furniture shall be painted with primary colours (red, yellow and blue).

##### ❖ *Learning materials*

- i. Learning materials, indoor materials should include alphabets cards ,bean bags, wall charts, toys
- ii. Outdoor materials should include; swings, climbing frame, merry go round, ropes and tyres etc .The said equipment should be maintained and serviced regularly or as need arises;
- iii. enough curriculum materials including children books, teachers books and writing materials for the children;

##### ❖ *Food Store*

The food store shall:

- i. Be spacious, clean and well ventilated;
- ii. Have raised racks that are not be in contact with the walls;
- iii. Have well maintained stores records.

##### ❖ *Toilets/Latrines*

- i. A pre-primary school shall have separate toilets for boys, girls and teachers



- ii. The distance from classroom to the toilet shall be at least 100 meters;
  - iii. Latrines shall be located opposite the direction of the wind;
  - iv. Latrines shall be adapted for children with special needs
- ❖ *Teacher -Child ratio*
- i. The teacher-child ratio in a regular pre-primary class shall be 1: 25;
  - ii. An assistant teacher shall be required for each pre-primary class;

a) *Standards for Governance and Accountability*

The policy states that the County Government in collaboration with other stakeholder shall establish strong governance and accountability structure of management to support implementation of pre-primary education programmes.

▪ *Role of County Government*

The policy provides that the County Government shall:-

- i. Provide funds for adequate pre-primary school infrastructure;
- ii. Provide funds for purchase of instructional and safe play materials;
- iii. Remunerate Pre-primary teachers
- iv. Provide funds for school milk programme in partnership with key stakeholders.

▪ *Role of Families and Communities*

The policy provides that parents shall;

- i. Ensure children's care, safety, security and protection;
- ii. Work closely with the pre-primary school teachers to ensure smooth running of the pre-primary programmes;
- iii. Follow up the progress and welfare of individual children in pre-primary schools;

▪ *County Education Board*

The policy provides that the County Education Board shall;

- i. Oversee the operations and management of pre-primary education including early childhood care and education programmes in the county;
- ii. Coordinate and monitor education and training in the County on behalf of the county government;
- iii. register and maintain a data bank of all education and training institutions within the county;
- iv. monitor curriculum implementation in basic education in the county;
- v. put measures in place to ensure all children of school going age within the county attend and stay in, to complete basic education;
- vi. Monitor the conduct of examinations and assessments at the basic education in the county in collaboration with all the relevant bodies among others

*Committee Observations and Recommendations*

Upon consideration of the Machakos County ECDE Policy, the committee made the following observations:

THAT

1. The policy seeks to provide a framework for establishment of systems for administration of early childhood education within the County in line with paragraph 9 of part 2 of the fourth schedule to the Constitution which confers the County Government with the mandates of ensuring the implementation of early childhood education within the Counties.
2. It aligns provision of pre-primary education to the demands of Constitution of Kenya (2010) and more specifically, Article 43 (1) (f), 53 (1) (b), 54 and 55(a) which makes education a right to every Kenyan, the aspiration of the Kenya Vision (2030),

the provisions of the Basic Education Act, (2013) and sessional paper No. 14 of (2012) on Reforming Education.

3. It addresses the challenges experienced in early childhood education institutions within the county and aligns pre - primary education provision to devolved system of government under the Constitution of Kenya 2010. In line with the Constitution, the policy underscores the child's best interest as paramount in matters concerning the child and respects parents as the primary care givers.
4. As relates to the right to health and Nutrition, the Policy seeks to introduce affordable school milk programme sponsored by the County Government in partnership with lead stakeholders like Kenya Dairy Board, Milk Processors and Tetra Pack Limited. Provision of school milk programme is aimed at improving the nutritional status of children; alleviating short term hunger thus leading to improved child cognition; enhance completion of basic education; retention of ECDE children in schools and increased attendance.
5. The policy also caters for inclusion of children with disabilities in ECD services by establishing such infrastructure as may be necessary to ensure the access of children with disabilities to Early Childhood Education Centres.
6. The policy provides a standardized frame of reference for the Machakos County Government in dispensing their Constitutional mandate of ensuring access to quality child care and pre-primary education. In essence, effective enforcement of this policy will ensure appropriate quality child care and pre-primary education services to all children.

#### *Committee Recommendations*

The Committee Recommends as follows:

THAT-

1. The House adopts this report of the Sectoral Committee on Education and approves the Machakos County Early Childhood Development Education Policy which provides a framework for the establishment of necessary infrastructure for comprehensive early childhood development and education system within the County.
2. The Department of Education, Skills Training and Social Welfare fast track the implementation of Machakos County Early Childhood Development Education Policy.

#### *Acknowledgement*

The Committee wishes to thank the offices of the Speaker and the Clerk of the County Assembly for the support accorded to Members in fulfilment of the Committee's mandate. Further, I wish to express my appreciation to the Hon. Members of the Committee for their commitment and valuable contribution during the sittings to deliberate on the Machakos County Early Childhood Development Education Policy.

Finally, it is my pleasant duty and privilege on behalf of the Sectoral Committee on Education and pursuant to the Standing Order 190 to table Education Committee Policy report on Machakos County Early Childhood Development and Education. Thank you Hon. Speaker

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Ndeti.

*(Question proposed)*

**Hon. Speaker:** Members, I invite you to debate the motion. Hon. Musyimi.

**Hon. Musyimi:** Madam Speaker, I stand to support the report. I have heard about the policy and I actually congratulate the committee which has done a very good job, but I have a question in one sector, like where the Board was given some duties, there is a duty which I have seen to my side is not fair for the Board to control it, where the Board is given a mandate of looking at the curriculum. I think there is a Department of Education which is held by the CEC, Education and the CO. Madam Speaker, to me, I would say that it should not be given to the Board but the department. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you Hon. Musyimi. Hon. Muthoka.

**Hon. Muthoka:** Madam Speaker, I fully support the report because early childhood is whereby we form the foundation of our children, so I thank the committee for the good report and I fully support. Thank you.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you. Hon. Kisila.

**Hon. Kisila:** Madam Speaker, I think this is a very good report. Unfortunately, Madam Speaker, I would like to draw your attention to page five on challenges facing pre-primary education provision in Machakos County. We seem to be just touching on the surface as a county when it comes to ECDE, and I like what the committee has done to highlight the serious challenges facing pre-primary education. As this Assembly, we have provided budgets to pre-primary education to construct ECDE classes, but unfortunately,

Madam Speaker, we are not seeing that budget being implemented. It is a pity that this being the foundation of children, that these challenges are not being addressed and as a county, if you look at other counties, they are even going further, apart from constructing the classes, they are equipping them; they are providing adequate equipment to the children, ECDE teachers are well paid. Ours still are stagnating without any standard basic remuneration and terms of service. The more painful part is that 90% of our primary schools don't have ECDE classes and it's a pity.

So, as an Assembly, we need to make a call because we provided for these budgets; we've been providing for these budgets. How can we ensure, with the little time remaining, that we can actually ensure ECDE classes are constructed and well equipped? Even once we equip, last time, Madam Speaker, you go round and you find they have not been equipped, although we provided for the budgets.

So, my plea, Madam Speaker, is the Assembly stamps its authority, based on the budget we have provided, and this committee needs to go further and come back to the House and tell us, based on the budget we have been providing, department of Education, especially on the ECDE, what has been done? It's high time, as committees, we start going further, saying this has not been done, and let's start pulling the whip on the CEC and the CO, so that they just don't take us for granted, because over the years we've been taken for granted, *Mheshimiwa* you're promised two classes, a year passes; *Mheshimiwa* you'll been given this equipment for ECD, a year passes. It is a pity that we are getting to that situation, so my plea, Madam Speaker is, this is a very good policy; we need to ensure as an Assembly it is implemented to the latter. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Hon. Kisila, you are quite on point, especially on infrastructure. At the moment, I think Members you will also need to take stock of what's on the ground, because there are some concerns. A number of the structures that were used as ECD classes have collapsed and some parents are so concerned because those children are either in verandas or some very unsuitable areas where they are doing their learning and under the

CBC curriculum, there are two classes of ECDE, pre-primary one and pre-primary two, and question is, do we have two classrooms in each primary school, for them? The matter of ECD is squarely in the hands of the County Government. Hon. Mutiso.

**Hon. P.J. Mutiso:** I really support this report, Madam Speaker. It is a good policy, as I have gone through it, if it will be implemented and I have gone in some areas whereby I have seen that if it will be implemented, it will be good for our children. One, I remember there was a time, during Moi's regime, we were given milk, and that time I think pupils were very happy, and they could do better, because most of the time, our children, if they don't have food, they suffer a lot. Sometimes they need healthcare, whereby, you know, these pupils suffer many diseases and also if, actually it will be implemented, it will get us far.

But my problem is, sometimes we met with the Deputy Governor and we agreed that in our wards, these ECDE classes will be built, but nothing has been done, Madam Speaker, and the other time this House gave a budget to the Executive but they don't do anything; it's only that sometimes they change the budget. For example, right now, it's not guesswork, it's not a rumour; the Governor said that he will not be able to do ECD classes, among other projects because now he is paying pending bills, and one wonders, even the other time we gave a budget, where did it go? That's my question, because we really wonder. It's only that what I have seen are roads which are being constructed and the money is through KRB, so I think our allocation is nowhere.

So, that's the problem, Madam Speaker, so I support the report, but I urge that Members, let's be serious on this. We are the only people who can force this to be implemented and we are here representing the Machakos County, where the population is almost two million and that's a big number, and if we are given this opportunity to represent them, we must do something so that God may in future, may pay us, because we are mandated to do what members of the community cannot do. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Mutiso. Hon. Kisini.

**Hon. Kisini:** Madam Speaker, I also want to congratulate the committee for the good report they have brought to us which has taken care of our young kids. Madam Speaker, as said, not all wards have benefitted, and more especially, my ward, have benefitted from the ECD classes. There are some schools which don't have even an ECD class, and those which are there, are also in very poor condition.

Madam Speaker, the report is talking of developing our young children and I am saying the system of education is also changing from standard to grading and it is the high time our young kids are also graded from that point. So, the grading system is a bit practical whereby we can get to know the talent of a child.

So, I'm requesting that the County Government takes care and align itself to what is expected of the National Government, so that our young kids have good amenities from their start; they have good classes, they have good equipment, they have good materials, they have good and well trained teachers so that when they evolve from the childhood to the grading class, they are acquainted to that system.

Madam Speaker, I want to say thank you very much for the report which if taken into consideration, will take care of our children. Thank you.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Kisini. Hon. Members, perhaps you'll also consider how does the policy raise the morale of the teachers? How are they graded in job? Is it one flat job group, or are they graded as per the academic qualifications? How do you motivate them? Perhaps that's a matter that the Implementation committee may take up on the implementation of the policy. So, I call upon the mover of the motion to reply.

**Hon. Ndeti:** I wish to stand here and appreciate each one of you for your contributions. I've taken note of some of the things you have raised and this being a policy, our prayers are that the County Government implements this policy because it will go a long way in ensuring that our children are properly developed and prepared for Primary education. Thank you Members.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Ndeti.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

### ADJOURNMENT

**Hon. Speaker:** Hon. Members, at this point, the House stands adjourned and the sitting of the Assembly will continue on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of December 2021 at 10:00 a.m. Thank you and good evening.

The House rose at 3.52 p.m.