

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

**OFFICIAL REPORT**

**Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2024**

The House met at 11.34 a.m.

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

**PRAYERS**

**PAPERS LAID**

WAIVER OF INTEREST AND PENALTIES ON LAND RATES,  
BUILDING APPROVALS AND OCCUPATION CERTIFICATES

**Hon. Speaker:** May I invite Hon. Nicholas Nzioka, Leader of Majority to come forward and lay the Paper.

**Hon. Nicholas Nzioka** (Machakos Central, WDM-K): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Hon. Speaker, I wish to lay the following Paper on the Table of the Assembly today, Wednesday 13th March, 2024; waiver of interests and penalties on land rates, building approvals and occupation certificates.

**Hon. Speaker:** That Paper is committed to Finance and Revenue Collection Committee. Thank you very much.

**NOTICE OF MOTION**

ESTABLISHMENT OF SPORTS INCUBATION  
CENTERS WITHIN VOCATIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTIONS

**Hon. Speaker:** May I invite Hon. Anastacia Mutevu, Special Elect, to come forward and give a Notice of Motion.

**Hon. Anastacia Mutevu** (Nominated, WDM-K): Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker, that aware that Machakos County has a wealth of untapped sports talents amongst the youth which when fully developed can be a source of income; Aware that Section 8 of the Machakos County Youth Empowerment Act, 2022 provides that the Government shall, in collaboration with other stakeholders promote talent development for the youth through rehabilitation of talent development infrastructures such as incubation centers; Further aware that the same Act in Section 6 has provided that there be youth development initiatives which the relevant department which shall ensure that the youth are equipped with the necessary knowledge, skills, values and attitudes on

socio-economic and political dynamics to enhance their capacity as youths and improve their living standards;

Aware that many young people who could excel in sports have fallen victim to anti-social behaviour like indulging in alcoholism, crime, drugs and substance abuse;

Hon. Speaker Acknowledging that Kenya Table Tennis top-ranked player Brian Ndunda Mutua honed his skills at Mwala Table Tennis club and has continued to play in global tournaments as well as many talented athletes like Cosmas Ndeti and Caleb Mwangangi among others who have emerged from Machakos and scaled high heights internationally;

Appreciating that the County Government has Vocational Training Institutions in all eight sub-counties and they can be used as sports hub centers for indoor and outdoor games to nurture talent of young people in all sporting disciplines so that they can make a living from sports;

Hon. Speaker, I wish to give notice of motion THAT this House discusses and approves the Motion that the relevant Department of the County Executive establishes sports incubation centers within Vocational Training Institutions and implements the youth centers established under Section 9 of the Machakos County Youth Empowerment Act, 2022 to nurture sports in the County.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

#### STATEMENT REPLY

##### SAFETY OF WORKERS AT GOLDEN AFRICA COMPANY LIMITED

**Hon. Speaker:** May I invite Hon. Joshua Mwonga, Chairperson of Labour, Public Service and ICT Committee to come forward and reply to a Statement. Hon. Rosina, you are holding brief for Mheshimiwa Mwonga.

**Hon. Rosina Kanini** (Nominated, WDM-K): Yes.

**Hon. Speaker:** Proceed and take us through.

**Hon. Rosina Kanini** (Nominated, WDM-K): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am holding brief for the Chair of Labour, Public Service and ICT Committee Hon. Joshua Mwonga. Madam Speaker---

**Hon. Speaker:** Before you proceed, Hon. Rosina, I understand this Statement was requested by Hon. Maitha and he is not available and I feel like it is not okay to proceed in his absence. Can we have it deferred?

**Hon. Rosina Kanini** (Nominated, WDM-K): We can defer it to a later date. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you.

**MOTION**  
COUNTY FISCAL STRATEGY PAPER 2024

**Hon. Speaker:** May I invite Hon. Dominic Ndambuki, Chairperson, Budget and Appropriations Committee to take us through that Motion. Hon. Kasanga, you are holding brief? Sorry it is Hon. Justus Mutuku. I am sorry.

**Hon. Justus Mutuku** (Wamunyu, PTP): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Hon. Speaker, the County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP) is a policy document that outlines the County Government's fiscal strategy and priorities for a given Financial Year (FY) and serves as a guide for the County Government budget. The County Fiscal Strategy Paper is an important document as it sets the overall policy framework for resource allocation and informs budgetary allocation.

The County Fiscal Strategy Paper contains elements such as economic analysis, revenue projections, expenditure priorities and ceilings, fiscal risks and constraints, performance targets, alignment with other policy documents and how the County Plans to manage its pending bills over the Medium Term. It also documents and considers the input of different stakeholders---

**Hon. Speaker:** Excuse me, where are we? We start by prosecuting the Motion. That is the report, isn't it? Let us start by prosecuting the motion.

**Hon. Justus Mutuku** (Wamunyu, PTP): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for your guidance.

Hon. Speaker, I wish to move the Motion THAT this House adopts the Report of the Budget and Appropriations Committee on the County Fiscal Strategy Paper, 2024 for the financial year 2024/2025, laid on the Table of the House on Tuesday, 12th March, 2024 and pursuant to the provisions of Section 117 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 and Machakos County Assembly Standing Order 205.

**Hon. Speaker:** You may call a seconder.

**Hon. Justus Mutuku** (Wamunyu, PTP): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I wish to call the Majority Leader to second this Motion.

**Hon. Nicholas Nzioka** (Machakos Central, WDM-K) seconded.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you Majority Leader for seconding.

*(Question proposed)*

Before I invite Members to debate this Motion, I would request the mover to come forward give highlights of the report. Hon. Justus Mutuku.

**Hon. Justus Mutuku** (Wamunyu, PTP): Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Speaker, the County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP) is a policy document that outlines the County Government's fiscal strategy and priorities for a given Financial Year (FY)

and serves as a guide for the County Government's budget. The Fiscal Strategy Paper is an important document as it sets the overall policy framework for resource allocation and informs budgetary allocation.

The Fiscal Strategy Paper contains elements such as economic analysis, revenue projections, expenditure priorities and ceilings, fiscal risks and constraints, performance targets, alignment with other policy documents and how the County Plans to manage its pending bills over the Medium Term. It also documents and considers the input of different stakeholders and the public at large as submitted during public participation fora.

The Fiscal Strategy Paper therefore, provides a strategic framework for the County Government's budget and will guide in decision-making around resource allocation and spending priorities for the Financial Year 2024-2025 and in the Medium Term.

The Machakos CFSP 2024 is the second in the County's Plan period 2023-2027 and was submitted to the County Assembly on 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2024 as required by the law. Standing Order 205(3) states that "upon being laid before the Assembly the CFSP shall be deemed to have been committed to each Sectoral Committee without question put, for each such committee to deliberate upon according to their respective mandate and make recommendations to the Budget and Appropriations Committee."

#### *LEGAL BASIS FOR PREPARATION OF THE CF*

Hon. Speaker, the County Treasury, pursuant to Section 117(1) of the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act, 2012 is mandated to prepare and forward the Fiscal Strategy Paper to the County Executive Committee for approval and subsequently submit the approved CFSP to County Assembly, by 28<sup>th</sup> February of each year. Further, Section 117(6) of the PFM Act, 2012 as read with Standing Order 205(7) of Machakos County Assembly Standing Orders stipulates that the Assembly shall consider and may adopt the CFSP with or without amendments not later than fourteen (14) days after its submission.

Section 117(2) of PFM Act, requires the County Treasury to align the proposed revenue and expenditure plan to the national financial objectives in the Budget Policy Statement (BPS). In line with the PFM Act, 2012 Section 117(5) the County Treasury carried out public participation both at village and sub-County level from 19<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2024.

The County Assembly conducted Sectoral Committees' interrogations on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 and held public participations fora on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 in all the nine (9) sub-counties (*Annex I Public Participation Advert*). The public was also invited to submit written memoranda on or before Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 by 5.00 p.m. The submissions and priorities from these fora have been considered in the preparation of this report and on the recommended budget ceilings.

#### *RATIONALE FOR THE FISCAL STRATEGY PAPER*

Hon. Speaker, the Strategy Paper articulates priorities, socio-economic policies and structural reforms as well as sectoral expenditure programmes to be implemented in the fiscal year 2024/2025 and in the Medium Term.

The CFSP specifically aims to:

- i. Specify the broad strategic priorities and policy goals that will guide the County Government in preparing its budget for the coming financial year and over the Medium Term;
- ii. Provide linkage with the national objectives in the BPS;

- iii. Provide the financial outlook with respect to County Government revenue, expenditure and borrowing over the Medium Term; and;
- iv. Provide a basis for stakeholders' engagement in the formulation and implementation of County priorities and budgeting.

### *Performance Review*

Hon. Speaker, the County's approved budget for FY 2023/2024 was Ksh.14.75 Billion which was revised to Ksh. 16.58 Billion during the reporting period. This was made up of Ksh. 11billion, Ksh. 12.9 Million, Ksh. 1.45 Billion, Ksh. 4 Billion and Ksh. 100 Million as Equitable Share, Equalization Fund, Conditional Grants, Own Source Revenue and Asset Disposal respectively.

As at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2023 or at the end of the first half, the County received Ksh. 5.19 Billion compared to Ksh. 3.86 Billion during the same period in FY 2022/2023. These comprised of Ksh. 4.86 Billion and Ksh. 295 Million from equitable share and own source collections respectively.

The total Expenditure as at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2023 was Ksh. 4.03 Billion consisting of Ksh. 3.68 Billion and Ksh. 0.35 Billion of recurrent and development expenditure respectively.

The overall budget execution declined to 24 per cent in the reporting period compared to 28 per cent over the same period in FY 2022/2023 with the department of Health recording the highest absorption at 37 per cent. This was attributed to delayed disbursement from exchequer and low collection due to low economic activities in the County. Despite this decline, development expenditure increased from 4 per cent last financial year to 6 per cent in FY 2023/2024.

The recurrent expenditure constituted of Compensation of employees at Ksh. 2.54 Billion and Use of Goods at Ksh. 1.14 Billion representing 15.3 per cent and 6.9 per cent of budget execution respectively.

### *The Proposed County Resource Envelope for FY 2024/25 and Over the Medium Term*

Hon. Speaker, the County has not been able to achieve its targets on OSR over the years. There is need for the County to look beyond the regular revenue sources as Equitable Share and this includes options for supplementing its budget like grants, donations, loans, public-private partnerships, bonds, joint ventures among others. The table below presents the revenue expected to finance the County budget in the FY 2024/2025 and over the medium term.

S/No	Description	Printed Revenue FY 2023/2024	Proposed Estimates FY 2024/2025	Projected Estimates FY 2025/2026	Projected Estimates FY 2026/2027
1	Equitable Share	9,547,295,309	9,689,368,198	9,865,000,000	9,865,000,000
2	Equalization Fund	-	12,923,347	12,923,347	12,923,347
	Leasing of Medical Equipment	124,723,404.30	-	-	-
	Roads Maintenance Levy Fund	-	314,847,146	314,847,146	314,847,146
	Aggregated Industrial Parks Programme	100,000,000	-	-	-

S/No	Description	Printed Revenue FY 2023/2024	Proposed Estimates FY 2024/2025	Projected Estimates FY 2025/2026	Projected Estimates FY 2026/2027
	Fertilizer Subsidy Programme	195,350,986	-	-	-
	Court Fines	14,436,324	14,436,324	14,436,324	14,436,324
	Mineral Royalties	99,716.30	99,716	99,716	99,716
	Kenya Devolution Support Program	-	35,000,000	35,000,000	35,000,000
	Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Project (KCSAP)-World Bank	90,000,000	-	-	-
	Universal Healthcare in Devolved Context (PHCDC) - DANIDA	14,148,750	14,148,750	14,148,750	14,148,750
	Agricultural Sector Development Support Programme (ASDP) II – Sweden	3,761,966	-	-	-
	Emergency Locust Response Project (ELRP) -World Bank	105,095,561.15	105,095,561.15	105,095,561.15	105,095,561.15
	Aquaculture Business Development Programme (ABDP) - IFAD	15,401,768	15,401,768	15,401,768	15,401,768
	Locally Led Climate Change Action Programme (FLLoCA) - World Bank	133,000,000	137,500,000	137,500,000	137,500,000
	FLLoCA County Climate Institutional Support - World Bank	11,000,000	11,000,000	11,000,000	11,000,000
	Livestock Value Chain Support Project – Poland	35,809,200	-	-	-
	National Agricultural Value Chain Development Project (NAVCDP)	250,000,000	250,000,000	250,000,000	250,000,000
<b>3</b>	<b>Total Conditional Grants</b>	<b>1,092,827,676</b>	<b>897,529,265</b>	<b>897,529,265</b>	<b>897,529,265</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Own Source Revenue</b>	<b>2,998,879,462</b>	<b>2,694,783,195</b>	<b>2,829,522,355</b>	<b>2,970,998,472</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Hospital Revenue</b>	<b>1,008,000,000</b>	<b>500,000,000</b>	<b>550,000,000</b>	<b>605,000,000</b>

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S/No	Description	Printed Revenue FY 2023/2024	Proposed Estimates FY 2024/2025	Projected Estimates FY 2025/2026	Projected Estimates FY 2026/2027
6	Asset Disposal	100,000,000			
	<b>Total County Budget</b>	<b>14,747,002,447</b>	<b>13,794,604,005</b>	<b>14,154,974,967</b>	<b>14,351,451,085</b>

### *SECTORAL INTEROGATIONS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SUBMISSIONS*

Hon. Speaker, the County Assembly interrogated the Chief Officers from all the county sectors on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 and conducted public participation in nine (9) Sub-Counties on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2023.

### *SUBMISSIONS FROM THE CECM FINANCE*

Hon. Speaker, the Committee was concerned on the low absorption rate on Development budget where most of the projects were at procurement stage. Also, during Sectoral interrogations committees were informed that the departments' requisitions were at the Department of Finance since procurement officers in respective departments have no procuring rights.

The CECM Finance submitted that the procurement process is decentralized, and all procurement officers have rights to facilitate procurement process for their respective departments. Further the committee was informed that the under absorption of funds was also caused by delayed exchequer releases.

On pending bills cutting across all departments the CECM Finance informed the Committee that;

- i. Total pending bills as at 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2023 was Ksh. 3,163,747,597.00
- ii. Amount paid to date Ksh. 76,155,751.00
- iii. Current pending bills balance is Ksh. 3,087,591,846.00
- iv. Current funds requisitioned for pending bills amounts to Ksh. 109,089,841.00
- v. Further bills being processed for payment is Ksh. 341,741,616.00
- vi. This will leave a Pending bills balance of Ksh. 2,636,387,388.00

The CECM Finance informed the Committee that Own Source Revenue (OSR) estimates was based on some of the key revenue streams such as rates, building plan approvals and Single Business Permits on anticipation that the new valuation roll will be in use in the current Financial Year.

However, due to involvement of the National Government on the same, it has taken a longer time but it will be finalized by end of May to take effect the next Financial Year. Revenue collection will improve due to enforcement and individual departments being given revenue collection targets that fall within their jurisdictions.

The Committee was concerned that the proposed Compensation to Employees is at 47 per cent. The CECM Finance informed the Committee that the high wage bill is occasioned by crucial sectors such as the health sector which accounts for 54 per cent of the proposed budget on compensation to employees for Financial Year 2024/2025 (Proposed ceilings for Compensation of employees amounts to Ksh. 6,502,230,319.00 for FY 2024/2025 which includes Ksh. 3,508,357,191.00 for the department of Health).

On the major deviations from the CBROP primary ceilings, the Committee was informed that the outer years in CBROP were based on estimation which is normally confirmed in the subsequent Budget Policy Statement.

On non-receipt of any conditional grants during the first half of the year the Committee was informed that this was due to the absence of County Additional Allocations Act to facilitate release of the funds which was approved by the National Assembly and Senate on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2024 respectively.

#### *SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN MEMORANDUM*

Hon. Speaker, the Assembly received a written memorandum on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 from Wavumilivu Self Help Group in Mavoko Sub-County requesting for enhancement of the budget ceilings for the Departments of Health, Youth and Education to cater for HIV/AIDS prevention and sensitization of the youth on alcohol, drugs and substance abuse. The Committee deliberated on the submission and incorporated the concerns in the setting of the ceilings.

Madam Speaker, if you can allow me I take a bottle of water.

*(Laughter)*

**Hon. Speaker:** You can sip.

**Hon. Nicholas Nzioka** (Machakos Central, WDM-K): Point of order, Madam Speaker.

**Hon. Speaker:** Yes, Majority Leader.

#### **PROCEDURAL MOTION** **EXTENSION OF SITTING TIME**

**Hon. Nicholas Nzioka** (Machakos Central, WDM-K): Madam Speaker, I rise on Standing Order 27 on extension of sitting time.

**Hon. Speaker:** Proceed.

**Hon. Nicholas Nzioka** (Machakos Central, WDM-K):

Hon. Speaker, that aware that Standing Order 27(2) provides that the Speaker shall interrupt business at 12.30 p.m. for the morning sitting:

Aware ware that Standing Order 27(3) provides that the House may resolve to extend its sitting time;

Aware ware that Standing Order 27(4) requires that a Motion to extend sitting time be moved at least 30 minutes before the time appointed for adjournment;

Hon. Speaker, I beg to move the motion that the House resolves to extend its sitting time until the business for the morning sitting is over.

I call upon Mheshimiwa Justus to second.

**Hon. Justus Mutuku** (Wamunyu, PTP) seconded.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you very much.



*(Question proposed)*

*Question put and agreed to)*

**PROPOSED AND RECOMMENDED DEPARTMENTAL CEILINGS**

**Hon. Justus Mutuku** (Wamunyu, PTP): Hon. Speaker, the County Treasury has proposed the following departmental ceilings for FY 2024/25.

**Hon. Speaker:** That one you have to go through because it is very important.

**Hon. Justus Mutuku** (Wamunyu, PTP): Thank you, Madam Speaker. That one I will go through it.

	<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>RECURRENT</b>	<b>DEVELOPMENT</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
1	Office of the Governor	580,874,154.00	59,830,059.00	640,704,213.00
2	Trade, Industry, Tourism and Innovation	174,927,292.00	184,145,112.00	359,072,404.00
3	Finance, Economic Planning and Revenue Management	969,712,272.00	410,636,670.00	1,380,348,942.00
4	Devolution	998,776,935.00	154,910,474.00	1,153,687,409.00
5	Agriculture, Food Security and Co-operative Development	285,086,746.00	518,789,949.00	803,876,695.00
6	Health	4,172,490,010.00	495,335,643.00	4,667,825,653.00
7	Roads, Transport and Public Works	244,405,006.00	869,916,379.00	1,114,321,385.00
8	Education	571,903,754.00	143,410,378.00	715,314,132.00
9	Lands, Urban Development, Housing and Energy	199,613,016.00	272,741,084.00	472,354,100.00
10	Gender, Youth, Sports, and Social Welfare	138,671,815.00	296,358,502.00	435,030,317.00
11	Water, Irrigation, Environment and Climate Change	169,150,496.00	546,350,000.00	715,500,496.00
12	County Public Service Board	38,013,709.00	21,796,951.00	59,810,660.00
13	County Assembly	1,008,995,826.00	174,400,000.00	1,183,395,826.00
14	County Attorney	86,851,773.00	6,510,000.00	93,361,773.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,639,472,804.00</b>	<b>4,155,131,201.00</b>	<b>13,794,604,005.00</b>

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The Committee recommends the following Departmental ceilings in the FY 2024/2025.

**Hon. Speaker:** A departure of the proposed recommendations? Is there a departure?

**Hon. Justus Mutuku** (Wamunyu, PTP): Yes.

**Hon. Speaker:** There is?

**Hon. Justus Mutuku** (Wamunyu, PTP): Yes.

**Hon. Speaker:** Okay. Proceed.

**Hon. Justus Mutuku** (Wamunyu, PTP):

	<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>RECURRENT</b>	<b>DEVELOPMENT</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
1	Office of the Governor	580,874,154.00	59,830,059.00	640,704,213.00
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4	Devolution	998,776,935.00	154,910,474.00	1,153,687,409.00
5	Agriculture, Food Security and Co- operative Development	285,086,746.00	518,789,949.00	803,876,695.00
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7	Roads, Transport and Public Works	244,405,006.00	869,916,379.00	1,114,321,385.00
8	Education	571,903,754.00	143,410,378.00	715,314,132.00
9	Lands, Urban Development, Housing and Energy	199,613,016.00	272,741,084.00	472,354,100.00
10	Gender, Youth, Sports, and Social Welfare	138,671,815.00	296,358,502.00	435,030,317.00
11	Water, Irrigation, Environment and Climate Change	169,150,496.00	546,350,000.00	715,500,496.00
12	County Public Service Board	38,013,709.00	21,796,951.00	59,810,660.00
13	County Assembly	1,008,995,826.00	174,400,000.00	1,183,395,826.00
14	County Attorney	86,851,773.00	6,510,000.00	93,361,773.00

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,639,472,804.00</b>	<b>4,155,131,201.00</b>	<b>13,794,604,005.00</b>
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### *GENERAL COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS*

The Budget and Appropriations Committee made the following observations;

- (i) That the personnel emolument is at 47 per cent of the total revenue against a set limit of 35 per cent.
- (ii) During sectoral interrogations all departments presented a list of pending bills to be considered for budgetary allocation and that all the bills are domiciled at the department of Finance hence they have no control over them.
- (iii) That the 2023/2024 half year absorption rates are too low especially under the development vote.
- (iv) That the own source revenue target for the next FY 2024/25 is Ksh. 3.19 billion.
- (v) That there were major deviations from the CBROP primary ceilings and the CFSP ceilings.
- (vi) That there was no receipt of any conditional grant during the first half of the current financial year.
- (vii) That there were additional projects which were attached in the CFSP document and not captured in the Annual Development Plan FY 2024/2025.

### *GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS*

Hon. Speaker, the 2024 CFSP provides an all-inclusive state of the County enabling the Budget and Appropriations Committee to properly scrutinize the proposed ceilings and draw proper recommendations. Some of the guiding areas include the criteria for resource sharing, half year departmental expenditure absorption rates, trends, views of the CECM Finance, current Financial Year CRA recommendations on ceilings, submission from Sectoral Committees and Public participation, pending bills and county own source revenue.

The Committee recommends as follows:

- 1) The county Treasury should come up with mitigation measures to control the wage bill which now stands at 47 per cent against a set limit of 35 per cent of the total revenue as per Section 107 of the PFM Act, 2012 read together with Regulation 25(1)(b) of the PFM Regulations, 2015.
- 2) That the Pending bills taskforce finalizes its report to enable the county clear the eligible pending bills because some bills may lead to accumulation of penalties on the amounts due causing strain on the budget.
- 3) That the procurement processes under the development budget should be initiated in good time to facilitate timely completion and payment of the projects. This will also aid in addressing the issue of pending bills as projects will be executed and paid for in the FY in which they were initially budgeted for.
- 4) That strategies be put in place to realize the own source revenue target as it has been on a declining trend over the previous years.
- 5) That the County Treasury should consider policy documents such as CBROP while preparing the CFSP ceilings.

- 6) The County should meet the conditions set for donors in order to be able to access conditional grants
- 7) The County Treasury should ensure that all the projects in the CFSP are as captured in the ADP
- 8) Regulation 37(1) of the PFM Regulation, 2015 stipulates that where a County Assembly approves any changes in the Annual Estimates of the Budget under Section 131 of the PFM Act, 2012, any increase or reduction in expenditure of a vote shall not exceed 1 percent of the vote ceilings. Pursuant to this provision, any changes in the forthcoming budget estimates should adhere to this provision.
- 9) The Committee recommends prioritization of the programs which impart directly to wananchi such as water, education, health, roads, agriculture and Energy.
- 10) That the County should keep on increasing the budgetary provisions for development budget estimates as this will lead to more & better services to the people.
- 11) The committee recommends that the projected ceilings should greatly guide the preparation of the FY 2024/25 budget estimates.
- 12) That the County Treasury adheres to the FY 2024-2025 budget calendar.

#### *ACKNOWLEDGEMENT*

Hon. Speaker, the Committee wishes to thank the Office of the Speaker and that of the Clerk for the support extended to the Committee by facilitating it to fulfill its mandate. I wish to acknowledge the Hon. Members of the Committee for their time as well as ideas in the meetings and in preparation of this report. Our sincere gratitude is extended to the County Treasury for being part of this critical process of preparing and reviewing the 2024 CFSP. It is therefore my pleasant undertaking, on behalf of the Budget and Appropriations Committee to table this report and recommend it to the House for adoption. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

*(Applause)*

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you very much, Hon. Justus Mutuku. That is well-done and you fitted very well in the shoes of Hon. Ndambuki who is the Chair of the Committee. Now members, it is the time to debate this Motion. Members, it is your turn. Hon. Ndeti, you can start us off.

**Hon. Helen Ndeti** (Nominated, WDM-K): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I wish to congratulate the Budget Committee for coming up with a well-analyzed report which has given us the highlights of our County ceilings. What I have paid attention to is pending bills; I heard Mheshimiwa Kasanga read that most departments will not be responsible over pending bills and they are throwing this animal to the department of finance.

I think as a House we need to understand why this is so because procurement of services and commodities is done by respective departments; we give budgets to respective departments and I cannot see why this responsibility should be put on the finance department.

Secondly, I wish to say that the low absorption rate is not very good for us as a County because of late I have seen some advertisements for jobs and there is great fear that might end up turning into pending bills if the projects they are advertising for execution in the third quarter are not completed within the normal timeframe. This financial year is ending on 30th of June and if

these projects that are already being advertised for are not completed, now you know the pending bills will escalate again so that needs to be looked into.

The other thing that I have concern over is the wage bill; 47 per cent against the recommended 35 per cent. Every time we hear that departments are understaffed yet our wage bill is not what is recommended. I do not know if the County Executive should sit down and find out the calibre; whether we have staff who are qualified in their areas or we have just employed people and that some departments are lacking technical people.

So the department of labour should find out why we are really having shortage of staff in some departments yet the wage bill is 47 per cent. The recurrent expenditure across board is too high and it needs to be looked into.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you very much, Hon. Member. More contributions, Members? The floor is yours. It seems we are okay with everything. Can I now call the mover to reply?

**Hon. Justus Mutuku** (Wamunyu, PTP): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to thank Hon. Members of this House for adopting these budget proposals. It is a document that will lead the Executive to work for our great people of Machakos County so Hon. Members I am grateful and Madam Speaker, being my first time to stand on the floor of the House, I want to thank you for giving me this opportunity.

*(Applause)*

In the beginning I was shaking but as the vehicle started, I was strong and I thank you so much. Thank you.

*(Applause)*

**Hon. Speaker:** I noticed that and I was very happy. Have you taken your water?

**Hon. Justus Mutuku** (Wamunyu, PTP): Yes.

**Hon. Speaker:** Okay. Thank you very much.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

*(Applause)*

## ADJOURNMENT

**Hon. Speaker:** The House adjourns to Wednesday, 13th March, 2024 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 12.34 p.m.