REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Thursday, 12th October, 2023.

The House met at the Assembly Chambers at 2.30 p.m.

[The Speaker (Hon. Lantano Nabaala) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

QUORUM CALL

Speaker: Clerk, confirm if we do have quorum.

(Lack of quorum confirmed)

Speaker: Without quorum I direct that the bell be rang for ten minutes.

(Quorum bell rung for four minutes)

Speaker: What is it Hon. Stephen?

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I think that now we have got quorum.

Speaker: Clerk, confirm if we do have quorum.

(Clerk confirmed achievement of Quorum)

Speaker: With sufficient quorum, order of the day.

PAPER LAID

CBROP

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. On behalf of the Majority Leader, I want to lay a paper on the Laikipia County Budget Review and Outlook Paper (CBROP) 2023.

(Hon. Stephen Ndiritu laid the Paper on the table).

Speaker: Thank you very much. I commit the Paper to the Budget Committee.

MOTION

REHABILITATION OF STREET CHILDREN

Hon. Antony Theuri through Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. On behalf of Hon. Anthony Theuri, the Deputy Speaker, I am standing here on his behalf and that is why I am even seated on his seat because in power, there is no vacuum and for now, I am speaking as the Deputy Speaker. I beg to move the following motion;

THAT AWARE THAT Pre-primary education, village polytechnics, homecraft centres and childcare facilities is a function of the County Government as stipulated in Part 2 of the fourth schedule of the Constitution of Kenya 2010;

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NOTING THAT Article 53(1) provides that every child has the right to free and compulsory basic education, to basic nutrition, shelter and healthcare, to be protected from abuse, neglect, harmful practices, all forms of violence, inhuman treatment and punishment, and hazardous or exploitative labour;

CONCERNED THAT in spite of the commitments enshrined in the legal documents, the child's right to protection and care especially in the streets are abused, neglected, exposed to criminal and gang activities, suffer poor health due to their lifestyles and exposure to harsh environment, drug and substance abuse, and exposure to HIV/AIDS infection;

This House URGES the County Government to remove all street children from all major towns and urban areas within the County and place them in rehabilitation centres and later reconcile them with their families.

Bwana Spika, huu ni mswada ambao kwa kweli unaguzia mambo ya kurekebisha watoto wa wanaoishi mitaaani. Kama unavyojua, ni ya kwamba katika miji yetu ya Nanyuki, Rumuruti, Nyahururu, Doldol na Sipili tuko na hawa watoto wa mitaani. Hawa watoto wako na haki. Katika katiba yetu ya Kenya, inapea kila mtoto haki ya kuishi, kupata afya njema, ulinzi na pia chakula. Bwana Spika, leo ukiingia katika mji wa Nanyuki na kusimama kidogo katika duka Fulani, utaona hawa watoto wakija kugonga gonga kioo cha gari na kukuambia ya kwamba wanataka chai.

Hawa ndio wale watoto ambao tunazungumzia. Hii ndiyo ile jamii ambayo tunazungumzia katika hili Bunge. Sisi kama waakilishi tuko na jukumu la kuhakikisha ya kwamba hata wale ambao hawajiwezi tunawasaidia hadi wajiweze. Hata ikizimwa, bado tutatetea wengine. Hawa watoto ambao huranda randa wako na haki na ndiposa tunauliza kupitia huu mswada ya kwamba hawa watoto tuhakikishe ya kwamba wamechukuliwa na kupelekwa mahali panapostahili halafu baaadaye waweze kuunganishwa na wazazi wao.

Bwana Spika, pia hawa watoto wanaporanda randa hapa mjini, huenda wakaadhirika na wakiadhirika jamii imeadhirika. Mtoto ni wa mzazi na nchi pia. Kwa hivyo, pia sisi kama wazazi tuko na jukumu kuhusu wale watoto ya kuhakikisha ya kwamba wamelindwa. Sheria yetu ya Kenya ambayo tulipitisha wakati wa Rais marehemu Mwai Kibaki, inazungumzia kinagaubaga ya kwamba kila mtoto yuko na haki ya kuenda shule, kupata chakula kizuri, kupata nyumba na haki ya kulindwa asije akapatwa na mambo mbaya zinazofanyika.

Bwana Spika, utapata hawa watoto huwa na chupa ambazo wanaweka karibu na mapua. Kile kitu ambacho huwa wakivuta ni *glue* ambayo hutengeneza viatu. Huwa na kemikali ambapo inapoingia kwa mwili, inafanya huyo mtoto kulewa. Unapata mtoto anaanza kulewa akiwa wa miaka tatu. Ukifuatilia, hata yule mzazi wake alikuwa pengine anavuta hiyo pia. Mwishowe, tutakuwa na jamii ambayo haieleweki na hiyo italeta changamoto kwa Kaunti yetu ya Laikipia kwa maana hao watoto watakuwa watu wazima. Watakapokuwa watu wazima wataenda wapi Bwana Spika?

Hao watoto ndio watakuwa wakizunguka hapa wakiwa vikundi za kuibia watu na itakuwa ni aibu kwa sababu, mtu kama mimi napenda kuingia mashinani kuangalia watu wangu kama Majengo baraka na kwingineko. Itakuwa ni aibu sana nikipitia huko na kupigwa *ngeta*. Nikiangalia huyo mtu ambaye amenipiga *ngeta* nije kushtukia ya kwamba ni wale ambao watoto ambao tumeachilia. Hata mimi mwenyewe ninafaa kujilaumu kwa sababu huyo mtoto hakupata malezi bora.

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Serikali iko na jukumu ya kuhakikisha ya kwamba imechukua hao watoto na kuwapeleka shule na kurekebishwa. Serikali inafaa pia kuhakikisha ya kwamba wamepata masomo na kama huyo mtoto ako na mzazi, serikali ihakikishe ya kwamba huyo mtoto amepelekwa kwa mzazi. Kaunti ikishindwa, tuko na Serikali Kuu, chifu na pia nyumba kumi ambao wataweza kujua huyo mtoto ametoka wapi. Mimi nitaungana na Mheshimiwa ambaye ametoka Githunguri, Mheshimiwa Gathoni wa Muchomba ambaye alisema ya kwamba watoto wengi ambao wanazurura huku ni wale ambao pengine mama zao hawajaolewa.

Sisi katika jamii yetu ya Wakikuyu, ukioa bibi mwingine inakuwa ni shida kwa sababu vita huanza kwa boma. Tungetaka wanaume waache uwoga. Kama mtu ameenda na kupata mtoto na huko, inafaa aende amchukue. Kama mtu amepata mtoto akaja hapa mjini kuranda Randa, tufanyie hao watoto DNA na kuangalia hadi masikio. Mtoto akiweza kufanyiwa DNA na kutambulika ni wa nani, anaweza kuunganishwa na babake.

Gathoni wa Muchomba alisema ya kwamba watoto wengi ambao hawana wazazi, inachangiwa na wanaume Wakikuyu hasa kwa sababu ya wanawake Wakikuyu kuzuia bwana zao kuoa bibi wengi. Kama hawa wanawake tungegawana, kila mwanamke angekuwa na bwana na wale watoto ambao wako huko wangeshughulikiwa na kupata baba zao.

Kwa hivyo Bwana Spika, ninapozungumzia hili swala, ninajua ya kwamba kuna vile tunaweza kujipanga. Bwana Spika, ni asante kwa sababu Naibu wa Spika ameweza kuingia. Kama vile nilivyokuwa nimesema *that there is no vacuum in power,* sasa nimeondoka ili ukuu urudi pande hiyo ingine. Kwa hivyo ninaunga jamii zingine kama za Wasomali ambao hukubali mwanaume kuoa mabibi hata zaidi ya sita.

Bora tu mkubaliane na kwa sababu wako hapa, ni mashahidi. Hata wale watoto ambao huranda randa hapa wako na baba zao na huenda ukapata ya kwamba babake ako na mali au ni kiongozi fulani kama mwenyekiti wa mnada. Inafaa achunguzwe na kuhakikisha ya kwamba hao watoto wameunganishwa na wazazi wao na kupata elimu na malezi bora.

Bwana Spika, katika miji ya Nanyuki na Nyahururu, utapata pia kuna wasichana wadogo wa umri wa miaka kumi na tatu wakiwa na watoto kwa mitaa. Juzi nilipokuwa Nyahururu, nikipita nikakutana na msichana ambaye alikuwa ameng'ara lakini nikimwangalia nikaona ya kwamba ako na kachupa na mtoto, nikashangaa ni nini kilichokuwa kikiendelea.

Nikaja kugutuka ya kwamba ni wale ambao ni wa familia za mitaani ambapo mtoto alizaliwa, hajui kwao na huishi katika mitaani halafu anapatana na wale ambao hujua kutengeneza haya maneno na kupata mtoto. Kwa hivyo huenda hata huyo mtoto akawa mwadhiriwa wa janga la ukimwi maana wanaume wengine wamekosa hata nidhamu mpaka mtu haangalii miaka, bora tu asaidike na gari yake itengenezwe vizuri.

Kwa hivyo Bwana Spika, kama yeye ni mgonjwa na yule mtoto hana maarifa ya kuweza kujua ya kwamba kwanza mtu hupimwa au kutumia mipira, huyo mtoto anajikuta ya kwamba ameadhirika. Kuna wakati ambapo kulikuwa kunasemekana ya kwamba wale watu ambao wameadhirika na virusi za ukimwi, eti akilala na mtoto hizo virusi zinaisha. Hayo ni mambo ambayo ni ya upotovu. Ni vizuri jamii ielezwe ya kwamba hakuna kitu kama hicho. Kama uko mgonjwa uko mgonjwa lakini sio kusema ya kwamba utakufa. Kuna wengi ambao wameishi miaka mingi na bado wako. Wengine ambao walikuwa hawana lakini wamekufa na wameacha hao. Kwa hivyo, mtu akiwa mgonjwa sio kumaanisha ya kwamba amekufa.

Kwa hivyo, ni vizuri watu waweze kuelewa na waweze kujua ya kwamba wale watoto wanafaa kutunzwa. Bwana Spika, kwa kweli huu mswada uko na uzito na tukiupitisha tutaufuatilia na kuhakikisha ya kwamba wale watoto wote wanaoranda randa hapa

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wamepelekwa mahali panapostahili. Tuko na timu ya kuweka usalama na kazi moja yao ni kama hiyo ya kuchukua hao watoto wakisaidiana na vikundi za NGO.

Kuna wakati ambapo walikuwa wameokotwa wote na kulikuwa sawa. Walikuwa wamepelekwa shule ingine ambapo watoto hupelekwa unaoitwa CEDEC na kukaa hapo, wakapata malezi bora na pia chakula. Baadaye sijui kama ni serikali ambayo ilikosa pesa kwa sababu hao watoto tena walirudi.

Kwa hivyo, tunataka kuambia serikali ya utekelezaji kuwa sisi pia ni serikali na ni vizuri Wajumbe waelewe kuwa sisi pia ni sehemu ya serikali. Sisi ni serikali na tulichaguliwa ili tuingie kwenye serikali. Tukisimama hapa kusema serikali ya Laikipia, tujue sisi pia tuko ndani. Walio na serikali wasiseme ni hao tu wana serikali, pia sisi tupo, kwa hivyo ni kugawana. Ni vile tu kuna Serikali ya Utekelezaji na Bunge, kwa hivyo mambo yakija tunagawana sote.

Huu ni mswada ulio na uzito na unaofaa kuangaliwa kuhakikisha ya kwamba tunafanya hayo yote. Nikimalizia, kama watashindwa kuokota hawa watoto wakiwa na timu yao ya utekelezaji, waje hapa tuwape masajini walio tayari kufanya kazi na ambao wanafanya kazi pasipo kuchoka. Tutawapa hiyo sare waende hapo na baada ya siku moja hawatakuwa. Mimi najua kuwa wale tulio nao wanaweza hiyo kazi. Kabla tufike hapo itabidi tusukume Serikali ya Utekelezaji hadi tuhakikishe kuwa hao watoto wamechukuliwa, wamepata malezi bora na kutunzwa.

Nitafika hapo na kuomba Wajumbe waingie kwa undani katika huu mswada waone vile unashughulikia watoto na wajue ya kwamba watoto ndio taifa la kesho. Hao ndio tunaangalia wawe viongozi wa kesho. Kama ninamwangalia mtoto wangu vizuri, nastahili kumwangalia pia yule ambaye ameachwa bila baba au mama, na nitafanya hio kwa kutumia kikapu cha serikali.

Nitafikisha hapo na kumwita mdhamini wa hii hoja ambaye ni Mheshimiwa Anthony Theuri, Naibu wa Spika, kijana mkakamavu anayeelewa kazi yake. Yeye anataka kuhakikisha ya kwamba watoto wote wanaorandaranda katika mji wa Nanyuki ambao anawakilisha pamoja na kule Likii, wapate malezi bora. Hata kama ni chakula basi wapelekewe nyumbani, na anawajali sana. Kwa hayo, namwita aunge mkono huu mswada. Asante.

Hon. Anthony Theuri: Asante sana, Bwana Spika. Kwanza namshukuru rafiki yangu na mwenzangu, Mheshimiwa Stephen Ndiritu, maarufu Kagondu, kwa kusimama nami siku ya leo kwa sababu nimechelewa. Kuna msemo usemao, jua halimngoji mfalme. Nimempigia simu kumwambia anishikilie kuweza kuleta hii hoja ambayo ni muhimu kwenye Bunge letu na itakayosaidia Laikipia. Kwa kweli, amefanya kazi nzuri kabisa. Amewakilisha hiyo hoja vizuri hata kuliko vile ningeiwakilisha.

Sisi tumechaguliwa kuwakilisha watu. Ukweli ni kuwa hakuna mwanadamu atakayeishi; hata yule aliyeishi zaidi hapa duniani ambaye anaitwa Methusela aliondoka kabla ya miaka elfu moja kuisha. Tusipowaangalia watoto wetu basi hatuna nchi, jamii wala kanisa. Hapo najiuliza swali; mtoto ni nani? Mtoto ni mtoto. Awe amezaliwa katika kasri au mtaro, ni mtoto. Bora tu ni binadamu. Watu kama sisi tulio na majina ya mama zao – Anthony Theuri Wambui, na najivunia, mimi simjui babangu. Naona wakati mwingine kama unaweza kuwa babangu nikiangalia weupe wako, huwezi ukajua.

Sisi kama wanaume tunaaibika sana kwa sababu hakuna mwanamke anayeweza kujizalisha. Hata kama siku hizi kuna teknolojia, bado haijafika Afrika. Sisi kama wanaume tumekuwa na tabia mbaya sana, nikiwaongoza, lakini mimi ni mzuri kwa vile nafuata nyayo

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zangu vizuri. Sisi ndio tumeharibu nchi yetu. Ukienda katika jela, ni aibu. Mimi nimezaliwa hapa Likii kwa hivyo huwa siendi mbali nyumbani.

Kwa hivyo mama akienda kwao sikukuu na ninabaki hapo, ninaenda kutembea kwenye kituo cha polisi ama gerezani. Ni aibu. Ukiitisha hio orodha utalia na kuhuzunika. Utapata kuwa wote ni watoto wa akina mama. Utapata majina yote ya mwisho ni kama vile Wanjiru, Wambui na Atieno. Sisi tumeharibu uchumi wetu.

Unavyomlea mtoto na kulea mtoto si pesa. Unapoenda nyumbani anaangalia unavyosoma gazeti na unavyomsaidia mama yake, unasaidia taifa. Hili taifa limejaa wezi na sisi ndio wezi kwa sababu sisi ndio tunalea wezi. Hata mtu asipoiba kwa kutumia bunduki, tukija hapa Bungeni tunaiba msaada wa karo, ila sisi ni Bunge nzuri na hatuibi. Watoto hawafanyi kazi vizuri. Tukipewa kazi huko, ile pesa kidogo tunayopata isiyo na baraka tunaenda kula nyama kama ambavyo Mheshimiwa Kagondu amesema na kujaza watoto wa kurandaranda mitaani. Aibu ni kuwa sisi kama Bunge tunasema tunapenda taifa letu.

Ningempa changamoto Mheshimiwa kutoka Tigithi kwa vile yeye ndiye Mwenyekiti wa Kamati ya Bajeti, ukiangalia pesa ambayo tumetenga kwa ajili ya watoto, utaaibika. Pesa tumeweka kwenye barabara, na ni vizuri. Kama hatuna familia na hatulei watoto basi zitatumiwa na nani? Tumeweka pesa nyingi sana kwenye hospitali. Hiyo inamaanisha kuwa sisi tunazingatia kutibu au kuponya bali si kuzuia. Wewe ni msomi wa Sabato na hawa wengine pia ni wasomi. Unajua Biblia inasema vizuri katika Kitabu cha Luka kwamba pahali roho yako iko, utajiri wako uko hapo pia. Katika hii bajeti hatujawaangalia watoto.

Juzi Mheshimiwa kutoka Umande ndiye ameleta tangazo hapa, iwapo akili yangu inanielekeza vizuri. Aliweka tangazo na serikali ikakimbia mbio, tunaongea ukweli. Gavana ni rafiki yangu na nilimfanyia kampeni bila kujificha, lakini sisi tumekuwa serikali ya kusukumana. Usipoleta tangazo hapa kazi haiwezi kufanywa. Tangazo lililetwa hapa juzi na ukaona wakikimbia na haya magari kupeleka unga gunia moja kwenye shule. Kwa sababu watoto hawashibi nyumbani, wanatoroka na kuja kurandaranda hapa.

Angalia hii bajeti yetu. Ukiona msaada wa karo basi utajua mwelekeo wa Kaunti yetu. Juzi tuliweka milioni sabini na tano, hongera kwa hilo. Nakosoa serikali kuu, nashindwa tunatengeneza nchi gani. Hatujawekeza katika watoto wetu. Sisi wote hapa tukifungua simu zetu utaona tumewekwa katika vikundi vya vyuo vikuu. Sasa hivi serikali ya Rais William Ruto imefanya masomo kuwa magumu zaidi. Sasa nashindwa ikiwa hatuwekezi katika watoto wetu, basi tunaelekea wapi?

Mimi ni Mheshimiwa na huwa nasema siendi nyumbani. Mungu akinisaidia nitapata kiti kingine kikubwa. Nitaweza kuwaangalia watoto wangu vizuri, na nina watoto wengi au wachache. Sikuzaa peke yangu, nilipoenda kwenye chumba cha uzazi nilipata akina mama wengine pia wamejifungua, wote wana watoto. Ikiwa tunajipenda Bwana Spika, watoto wetu hawawezi kula vizuri ilhali wengine hawana kitu cha kula. Wakikosa wataendea hizo. Lazima tusaidie watoto wetu.

Lazima tuangalie bajeti na tufanye iwe jukumu. Mimi kama Mheshimiwa Antony Theuri Wambui niwachukue watoto watano. Kagondu, kwa sababu ametafuta pesa kwa miaka mingi, anachukua kumi. Leila, kwa sababu yeye ni tajiri tangu kitambo anachukua ishirini na watano. Mheshimiwa Mugambi, kwa sababu tumetoka naye Majengo anachukua wale wengine ili tuweze kubadilisha nchi yetu.

Tutajenga misingi mizuri, barabara na hospitali bali itakuwa bure tusipowasaidia watoto wetu, kuangalia elimu yetu, kupigana na ufisadi na kulea watoto wetu katika Uungu wa

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kweli. Naomba serikali pamoja na hii Nyumba yetu, kama mnapenda nchi hii, Mungu na familia zenu; kama mnapenda mkumbukwe kwa njia nzuri tuupitishe huu mjadala. Sio kuupitisha tu bali pia kuufuata na kugeuza akili zetu ili tuweze kubadilisha nchi yetu. Ni kweli tutafanya mambo mengi, lakini tusipowekeza katika watoto wetu na familia zetu, mimi nitasema kama Suleimani kuwa yote yatakuwa bure.

Naomba Wabunge wenzangu, nikijua mnapenda nchi yetu na watu wenu, tupitishe huu mjadala. Walio kwenye Kamati ya Utekelezaji na kamati za pesa zinazoongozwa na Mheshimiwa kagondu na wengine waangalie hili jambo kabisa. Watakaobahatika kuajiriwa katika hizo nyumba za serikali za kuwalea watoto wasio na pa kwenda, wapende hao watoto na wafanye kazi kwa kujitolea. Nina imani na kutumai ya kwamba mswada huu utapita. Asante sana.

(Question proposed)

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Members. Having proposed the question, I open the floor for debate.

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Thank you, Hon. Speaker for giving me this chance to make my contribution in support of the motion brought by the Deputy Speaker with Hon. Kagondu having done it on his behalf. This is one of the most sensitive issues that we as a House need to discuss. As a House, the good thing is that today we are lucky that the biggest percentage of Members who are in the House are men. As Hon. Theuri has just said, there is no kid who says that they do not have a mother, they only say they do not have a father. So, the most affected people here are men.

By virtue of the House having a bigger percentage of men, this is the high time we discussed this and make sure that we get the best for our people and our children, and get a bright future for our own selves. Today we are young and, in this House, but some years to come I will be the old man in the village expecting to be taken care of by the young kids of today. Today I am here in the House as a Hon. Member but some years to come I will be watching others leading us from this House and I will feel good that when I was in the House, I made a decision that helped generations.

Hon. Speaker, if you look at most of the towns in Laikipia, and as I take everyone to some years back, that is, 2003/04, we had a Minister for Local Government by the name of Hon. Karisa Maitha. When he was the Minister for Local Government, he managed to get all those street children across the country and bring them to rehabilitation centres. Today some of those kids who stayed in those rehabilitation centres are very good and orderly people who can help other kids.

Hon. Speaker, from the year 2003 to now, 20 years down the line, today we are able to mention that Minister whom we lost. Today we are mentioning him not because he was living but because of what he did those years. Hon. Speaker, we would like to be counted as the Leadership of Laikipia County that in many years to come, some people will sit down and say that twenty years ago, when the elderly people we see around this town were in the House like Hon. Anthony Theuri and Hon. Stephen Ndiritu they made a decision that made this town clean.

They shall be counted to make the children of Laikipia County be to the position they are in today. Those are many years to come and we shall be celebrated when we are in our houses and when we are buried. In a hundred years to come we will be remembered. Examples will be given and because of whatever we say in this House is archived, Hon. Ndiritu will be

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remembered. The Somali men will be remembered while referring to Hon. Leila. Mr. Speaker, it will be remembered that the motion that was in the House was a serious one and important to the entire Laikipia County.

Hon. Speaker, today if I give an example of how we invest in children as the Deputy Speaker has just said today, we do not invest in children and when we invest in children, we invest with a lot of fear. We are never concerned about it. Two or three years ago when we were discussing about bursaries in this House, some people felt that bursaries should be scrapped. In this House, it was scrapped from Kshs.50 million to Kshs.25 million.

Hon. Speaker, if you look at the budget today as the Deputy Speaker has said, go check the budget and you will see the budget in the Department of Education is the least. The Department of Education has the lowest budget in this county not only today but even in the previous years it has been that way. The budget in the Department of Education is less than Kshs.120 million including the bursaries of Kshs.75 million.

There is nothing much the Department of Education can do in this county. They can only give bursaries, construct 15 classes county wide and nothing else. Hon. Speaker, that is the much we get as a department and that is how we invest in our children. Today, Mr. Speaker, if you go up here, this House needs a day to go and visit the young kids who are at CEDEC. Some of them when they went there when it was called Mfariji.

There are kids who schooled in Mfariji many years ago and some of them are so important in this country. They grew up and became very senior people in this country in those years. Today if you go to CEDEC, the investment we make there is very minimal. If you go to CEDEC, they are moving around looking for food for those kids. The budget we give for CEDEC yet it is the one that carries the street children in Laikipia County, is Kshs.5 million.

This is not only this year but last year and last year but one, that is the much we do with a lot of engagement. They are asking why we are giving Kshs.5 million and why it is not reduced. It has been a tug of war in making decisions to give Kshs.5 million. Hon. Speaker, it is time we should wake up and invest in our young children. It will not be necessary to be going around this town asking the father of a certain person and thinking of them.

Some of us were brought up without fathers because we had an opportunity to grow. That is why Anthony Theuri Wambui is an Honourable Member. Probably he defeated others who had surnames. So, Hon. Speaker, sometimes we need to wake up and go above what we normally think. This town has many young kids. If you walk around this town, you will see some of them do not get little cash to cut their hair yet you can see the way Hon. Moile is smart today with short hair. She was never assisted by the Government of Laikipia. She made herself smart.

Hon. Speaker, if you walk around this town, you will be shocked. Some of these kids are very young. One told us he is in class two yet he walks around this town. Another said that he dropped out in class one. Imagine a class one drop-out. What do you expect from that kid? This kid has grown up the hard way. That kid becomes so rough and radical then Mr. Speaker, you walk in a suit around this town. You will get the unexpected. Hon. Speaker, they will hang you with that tie.

When we are investing in them, it is investing on ourselves. So, Hon. Speaker, this is a timely motion. I don't know why the Chairperson for the Budget Committee has walked out when we need a lot of money to invest in children. When he is a man and a Chairperson for Budget, serious businesses should be taken seriously. Hon. Speaker, this is the high time we

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should ask ourselves what we need to make our towns to get those kids and put them in rehabilitation centres and in a few years to come, we shall see the results.

Hon. Speaker, some of those kids you see walking around here, will tell you they need nothing else including money but you pay lunch in a certain hotel. That kid tells you that he or she is honest. Today, if you move around Nanyuki Town, you will find some of them who are now between fifteen to twenty-two years getting kids. They are becoming parents. Somebody who is hopeless becoming a mother yet you expect him or her to get that kid with hope. A hopeless mother automatically will get a hopeless kid.

In future, we are destroying the whole town for something we could have done better as a House. Hon. Speaker, we need to play our part as a House, we set a budget for that then from there as the Deputy Speaker has said, we start following the Executive Arm of Government to implement. As he has said, nowadays he is about making proper follow-up and push and pull. If you don't push, you get nothing. Hon. Speaker, we should set a budget and from there we wake up as a House and start pushing.

For us to move in that direction, it's Members of this House to realize their responsibility which is to represent people including those young kids, to oversight the Executive and not dining with the Executive. It is not walking around here singing lullaby songs. It is for us to rise up and start doing our responsibility as it is in the Constitution of Kenya. Hon. Speaker, our independence now needs to be seen by everybody in this County and in this country. Let us be seen as an independent House.

Today if we wake up and decide we are setting Kshs.10 million for a certain project, it is our responsibility to set that. When those kids are suffering out there, it is we who have failed. We have not set a budget and when we set a budget now, we start asking ourselves, because we set aside a certain amount of money, has it been implemented? If no, why? Hon. Speaker, that is how we are going to get our independence as a House. Today the motion is about those street children but at the same time, we find ourselves in a fix that we set a budget today for agriculture yet tomorrow we hear that that budget is not going to be implemented.

You wonder because we are seated smiling as if we do not know our responsibility. Our responsibility is very clear that we need to set budgets then we wake up and wait for implementation. If it is not implemented, we are given powers by the Constitution of Kenya. As the Deputy Speaker has said, we should wake up and push as a House. Hon. Speaker, do not forget you are the spokesman of this House. Whenever we stand up and speak to the Government, we expect you to be in the front line leading us and speak on behalf of this House.

When the House fails, the leadership of the House has failed. When the Leadership of the House has failed, it is the Speaker who has failed. That is the interpretation. Anytime we wake up as a House and say that we want a certain project to be implemented, we are supposed to be solely behind you old and young, nominated or elected. We are supposed to stand behind you so that any voice that you echo, it is not you, it is we. You are speaking on our behalf. You are just our microphone and we are there.

So, Hon. Speaker, it is high time for the County Government of Laikipia. We ask ourselves now that we have moved to Rumuruti, Rumuruti will become a town. Now that we have the street children around there, the others are in Nanyuki, Nyahururu, Doldol and in our villages. You will find them in Marmanet and Njefi telling you to buy just lunch. If you go to shopping centres like Baraka in Mung'etho, you will find those kids.

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Hon. Speaker, you wonder how we are going to nurture our young ones. What will happen to our future because tomorrow we shall not be energetic as we are. Those kids will be the energetic ones and if those kids grow to an older age and we are old and weak, what do you expect form them? Where shall we walk in this town? You were given the powers and the responsibility by the Constitution but you did nothing as a Member.

Hon. Speaker, this motion is very important to us. As I have just said, I am happy that male Honourable Members in this House are the majority. They are the ones who are speaking loud about this issue. If you see this issue being raised by male Hon. Members, then know that we have already made up our mind and we will be able to overcome all this. Hon. Speaker, I support and expect that if we approve this motion, the business will not be as usual. Let us now make a follow-up of implementation. Thank you.

Hon. Benson Kuria: Mheshimiwa Spika, nashukuru kwa kunikabidhi hii nafasi jioni njema ya leo. Nashukuru kwa sababu ya yule ambaye amesoma mswada wa siku ya leo, Mheshimiwa Ndiritu kutoka Thingithu. Huu mjadala ulikuwa umeandaliwa na Mheshimiwa, Naibu wa Spika wa Bunge hili, Anthony Wambui Theuri. Mheshimiwa Spika, huu muswada unaguzia Watoto ambao wanarandaranda mitaani, naunga mkono kwa sababu umeweza kuniguza fikira na mawazo yangu.

Mjeledi Mkuu alipokuwa akielezea kuna undani ambao ameweza kuguzia sana. Nami nikiongezea Mheshimiwa Spika, wewe ndiye baba wa Bunge hili la Jimbo la Laikipia. Kabla sijaingia kwenye muswada, ninajua kwamba sisi zote ni watoto wako. Mheshimiwa Spika, ningetaka unipate hapo kwa sababu niko na ujumbe. Kwa sababu ameguzia muswada wa watoto na sisi ni watoto wako, kwa mawazo na fikira zangu ningependa Waheshimiwa ambao wako katika Bunge hili wakiongozwa na wafanyikazi waweze kualikwa na Spika.

Mheshimiwa Spika, mwaka huu ukiisha, utuite ili tuweze kuonyeshana umaarufu na kazi ambayo inatendwa na Waheshimiwa na wafanyikazi ukiwa baba yetu. Mheshimiwa Spika, naunga muswada huu mkono kwa sababu unaumiza mioyo ya wengi. Mimi nitaguzia kwetu ambapo kuna majambazi. Wakifika miaka kumi na nane, fikira na mawazo yao hayako mahali pengine. Hawatumii dawa za kulevya, hawatumii pombe lakini kwa sababu ya kutokuwa na elimu, wanajiingiza katika maisha ya ugaidi.

Mheshimiwa Spika, najua kwamba Waheshimiwa walio mahali hapa ni kama vile Musa aliambiwa apande Mlima Sinai akaleta amri kwa hawa watu. Alipotazama akaona vile ilivyo, nasi wananchi wa Jimbo la Laikipia wametutuma hapa na ndipo Sinai ili tuweze kuwaletea sheria na mambo mazuri ambayo wataweza kupokea kama haya ambayo yameletwa na Naibu Spika wa Bunge la Laikipia.

Ninaghadhabika na naudhika sana kuona Waheshimiwa wenzangu wakitoka moja kwa moja kukiwa muswada kama huu ulio na haja. Wewe bado umeketi kwa kiti chako na utatoka baada ya shughuli zote kuisha. Pole sana kwa sababu mimi mwenyewe niko na watoto nilianza kuchukua mwezi wa kumi na moja wa mwaka uliopita. Nilianza na watoto watatu. Niliongea na wazee wa Pokot kwa sababu hawajui umuhimu wa masomo. Saa hii tunapoongea, nimejenga madarasa mawili na pesa ya mfuko wangu ili nihakikishe majambazi wameisha.

Saa hii, watoto ambao wako pale ni mia tatu sitini na nne (364). Mheshimiwa Spika, miaka inayokuja, hao watoto watakuwa sawa. Nanyuki, Nyahururu, Kinamba, Sipili, Ol Moran na miji mikuu yote ya Laikipia unapata ya kwamba kazi yangu ni kupeana mbegu lakini siwezi nikafikiria hiyo mbegu imeingia kwa nani. Wakati ninapanda mbegu, ni vyema tuweze kupalilia kwa sababu ukipanda na ukose kupalilia, kwekwe itafanya mmea ukatae.

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Ndiposa unapata muswada huu umefika siku ya leo kwa sababu watoto ambao wanarandaranda mitaani hawana la kufanya. Huu muswada unafaa kufuatiliwa kwa undani ili watoto ambao wanarandaranda na watoto wa wafugaji ambao kazi yao ni kufuga waweze kufanya kitu na baada ya miaka ijayo, maisha ya Jimbo la Laikipia itakuwa Kanani. Naunga mkono na nashukuru sana Mheshimiwa Anthony Theuri Wambui, Mheshimiwa wa Wadi ya Nanyuki na Naibu wa Spika katika Bunge la Laikipia. Nashukuru sana, Mheshimiwa Spika.

Hon. Joseph Gitahi: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I am delighted for getting this opportunity. I am sorry I got in late. Hon. Speaker, you realize that Members of the County Assembly do not have drivers. Some of us are not used to cars. Hon. Speaker, I have taken a lot of time on the road. Nevertheless, I have tried to quickly catch up with today's motion and I rise in support of the motion that has been presented here by our Deputy Speaker, Hon. Anthony Theuri.

Hon. Speaker, children are very important. If I can reminisce back then, in form one third term, we were taught about the traditional African society. Children are very important because they carry the future of all the societies across all civilisation. Having said that, the manner in which we treat the present-day children determine the quality of our future. Laikipia County is among other counties in developing countries that has the obligation to take care of our children.

Hon. Speaker, in our studies we have noted that with the creeping in of modernity, there is collapse of social institutions. As these social institutions continue to collapse, one of the most vulnerable victims are children because they are not able to feed themselves and even to have the basic needs which are clothing, shelter and food. It is upon that observation that I strongly support this motion. Hon. Speaker, then there is our responsibility.

As Hon. Benson has said, this responsibility falls squarely under the County Government to take care of those that are pre-primary and to take care of those in vocational centres as we also take care of youth in different aspects. Street children are a responsibility of the County Government. It is not only the County Government but the people who make the County Government. We leaders are responsible and we should be in the forefront in promoting modern day street children.

Hon. Speaker, recently I was listening to a statement made by Khalid Hussein, the CEO for HAKI Africa. He was saying that the strength of a society is judged by how it treats the weak and the vulnerable. The strength of Laikipia County Government will not be judged by the beautiful logo that it has or the diversity that we boast of but by how we protect those that are vulnerable starting with our street children.

Hon. Speaker, we have had stories without number that people who did not have a bright future, people who started from very poor backgrounds, today they are people of substance. Let us give these children good facilities, good conditions so that they can ship and mould their future. Hon. Speaker, those that have taken time to study the story of the current majority whip of the National Assembly Silvanus Osoro, they were street children.

Were it not for the effort of a few for those who will take the interest of understanding where they came from, were it not the effort of a few, these people would still be languishing in poverty and in poor conditions. It is on that note that I support the motion. I also urge other Hon. Members, as we get to the most critical areas of budget making, we make sure that we fund the issue of rehabilitation of children and we fully commit to it. Thank you, Hon. Speaker for the opportunity.

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Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I support this motion by Hon. Anthony Theuri Wambui. I am against the mover moving on his behalf because he clearly stated that these children are fathered here and anywhere else. The way he framed it, he claimed that most of those street children are from single mothers. The person who drafted the motion is from a single mother yet he is a good leader who is here.

Mr. Speaker, some of the kids who are in the streets have their parents but they just decide to relocate to town. Mr. Speaker, I am sure the mover ought to have done good research because even when some are taken to those rehabilitation centres, they are not comfortable. They like going back to the streets because they are making this their culture. Mr. Speaker, the idea Hon. Anthony has, we have many who have been able to change their mode of thinking. They get back on their feet and move together and at the end of the day, they become prominent people.

The argument the mover was making is as though men around leave the kids in the streets. There is no single child that can be made by man alone. They are even made by women. Mr. Speaker, if it is negligence, it can even happen at home and even those who are in marriage. Mr. Speaker, the idea by the Hon. Member is a good one and I wholly support. We should find a way to streamline their rehabilitation.

Mr. Speaker, I do not reside in town but in my village, there was a time we had three boys who decided not to stay at their home. They felt whenever they are in town to beg, they are given mandazi that are sweet. They decided rather than being at home they stay in town. Any time a visitor passes there, they will be thinking that those people have been neglected. Their home is well-up, their parents are capable of bringing them up but they decide like their mind has an issue, I really support that motion of rehabilitation.

We have many that can be rehabilitated and start living a normal life like other children. Mr. Speaker, I am sure we have heard instances whereby some young people in school run away from school and went to town to start street life. Some think that that life is comfortable. When we feel that these people need assistance, some feel they are in the right status. Mr. Speaker, I wish the Assembly will draft a policy that will guide how we shall be working for these children.

We can be able to assist them in a way that will be continuous and not just for the ones that are in the streets. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I support the motion.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Kanyutu. I now call upon the mover of the motion to reply.

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Asante, Mheshimiwa Spika. Nashukuru wale ambao wameweza kuchangia huu muswada. Wamechangia wakielewa kwamba ni muswada ambao uko na uzito. Nafurahia vile Mheshimiwa kutoka Umande amesema kwamba huu ni muswada ambao umeongozwa na wanaume na jinsia nyingine ingekuwa tayari kuunga mkono na kuhakikisha kwamba umepita. Bwana Spika, najua kuwa utaweza kupita.

Nikisema hayo, napongeza Mheshimiwa kutoka Marmanet kwa kutoa mchango wake na maoni yake ambayo yanafaa kutiliwa maanani. Kama vile wamesema, wale ambao walizaa watoto ambao wako katika miji yetu, hawakuwaza kwa kunywa kikombe cha chai. Ni lazima kuwe na mchezo ambao ulichezwa. Kwa sababu hao Watoto wanazaliwa kwa miji, ni kwa nini sana sana ni kwa miji. Kwa nini hawako mashambani.

Najua jambo moja ni kwamba wale ambao wanatoka mbali na kuja mijini wanatafuta mahali pa kuweka korti. Wakitafuta hapo, haya mambo yanafanyika. Huo ndio ukweli Mheshimiwa Spika. Kwa nini ni Nanyuki, Nyahururu na Nairobi ambazo ni miji mikubwa.

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Hata saa hii nimeanza kuona hatari kwa wale ambao wanatoka mbali na kuja kukaa hapa bila kujua mtu analala wapi. Bwana Spika, huenda tukapata tunaongezea jamii ya wale ambao wanarandaranda kwenye miji.

Ningetaka kujua wale ambao wanatoka wadi mbalimbali wanakuja hapa, wanaruhusiwa kuja na familia zao na wapatiwe nyumba. Wasipofanyiwa hivyo, watazurura na watapatana na dada zetu. Wakipatana, kile ambacho kitatokea hapo ni mtoto ambaye hana baba na pengine mama hana uwezo. Huyo mtoto atakuja hapa kutusumbua. Ningetaka sisi zote tuungane mikono na Mheshimiwa Kanyutu akubali ili yaishe kwa sababu sijui analala wapi na sijui anakaa na nani. Akiwa Marmanet, najua yuko salama. Hapa siwezi nikamtetea.

Mheshimiwa Spika, mkono ambao hulalii usiwahi kutetea. Huenda ndio maana anasema ni wanaume ambao wako na shida na anaweza kuwa katika hicho kikapu. Bwana Spika, naomba tuunge huu muswada mkono tuupitishe ili tuweze kuokoa jamii na Watoto ambao wanarandaranda mijini. Asante.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: The sittings of this House now stand adjourned until Tuesday, 17th October, 2023 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 3.32 p.m.

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