REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Thursday, 25th February, 2021

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

[The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Daniel Nyausi) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

STATEMENTS

Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, I would like to pass the information that yesterday as we agreed at the kamukunji, the statements for the last financial year would be ready in my office and they are ready. So you can just go and pick them from Esther in my office so that at least we can get moving on what we agreed yesterday. Thank you.

STATEMENTS

VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRES AND ECDE IN LAIKIPIA COUNTY

Hon. Catherine Kibue: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. On behalf of my able Chair I wish to respond on a statement on Vocational Training Centres and ECDE in Laikipia County. A statement was read on the floor of the House by Hon. Peter Matunge on 11th August, 2020 and committed to the Education and ICT Committee on the same day.

Mr. Speaker, the committee on 23rd September, 2020 responded to the statement in the House whereby the Hon. Member expressed dissatisfaction on Section 3, 4, and 5 of the response. The committee received a response to the above statement on 24th February, 2021 and wishes to respond as follows;

On the preparedness of the county Government for the reopening of schools countywide taking into account all the Ministry of Health guidelines. What precautionary measures have been put in place to this effect?

Mr. Speaker, I wish to respond as follows;

The Department of Education is working with the Ministry of Education (National Government) to ensure that all pre-primary centres are taking up precautionary measures as per guidelines. The ECDE coordinators are working hand in hand with the pre-primary teachers, Board of management and head teachers so that the established hand washing facilities are up and running in all the public pre-primary centres.

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All the proposed and ongoing ECDE classroom projects have a water tank fully installed with gutters and are concrete based. The tanks are playing a dual role in water collection, water harvesting as well as hand washing.

Two of the ECDE coordinators made presentations to the parents and general public in Laikipia on school opening preparedness in Thaayu FM on December, 2020 and Sawanga FM on 23rd December, 2020.

The VTC centres are open with all COVID-19 protocols being observed including wearing of masks and washing points are in place.

On whether the County Government has adequate facilities and teachers to enable resumption of learning for VTC and ECDE Centres across the County, I wish to respond as follows:

That the County does not have adequate facilities. However, in the Financial Year 2019/2020 pre-primary classrooms that were installed with rain water harvesting facilities were constructed as follows:

NO.	PROJECT NAME	STATUS	PROJECT LOCATION/WARD
1	Bungoma	Complete	Thingithu
2	Igwamiti	Complete	Igwamiti
3	Kiriti	Complete	Marmanet
4	Leshugu	Complete	Tigithi
5	Marura	Complete	Salama
6	Milimani	Complete	Umande
7	Mt. Kenya	Complete	Nanyuki
8	Ngobit	Complete	Ngobit
9	Kandutura	Work in progress	Sosian
10	Mukima	Work in progress	Segera
11	Mutaro	Work in progress	Olmoran
12	Ndindika	Work in progress	Githiga
13	Siriat	Work in progress	Rumuruti

The 694 pre-primary teachers are paid a stipend while 107 are paid by the Board of Management of different centres. 39 of the BOM teachers have already been included in the payroll from the month of February, 2021 leaving the County with only 68 BOM teachers. 39 of the BOM teachers have already been included in the payroll from the month of February, 2021 leaving the County with only 68 BOM teachers.

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In the month of December, 2020 the County Government purchased and distributed ECDE teaching and learning materials to all the public pre-primary teachers across the County. The learning materials were worth Kshs.6.5 million. The County is also in the process of distributing 5,000 litres of plastic tanks to 40 pre-primary centres and hand-washing facilities to all the 442 pre-primary centres, worth Kshs. 9,999,950.

VTC have gaps especially trainers but has been supplemented by BOM trainers. On consideration that COVID-19 struck midway in the financial year, what is the status of ECD centres' budget in the 2019/2020 budget as one of the measures to have adequate infrastructure?

The pre-primary infrastructure project set aside for Financial Year 2019/2020 was undertaken. Some projects are already complete while others are currently ongoing. Thank you.

Hon. Peter Matunge: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to thank the Committee on Education for their response. Somehow, I lack words to say on this statement either or not to agree with it, the reason being that most of the things I was asking about have already been overtaken by events.

This statement was raised on August, 2020 when we were in the midst of the pandemic and our schools were closed. We know schools have already resumed so what is being answered, I don't know, because it has already been overtaken by events. The response of statement is also still reporting issues that they are still planning. I just wish to leave this for the Committee to do further oversight on this issue.

On the second last paragraph talking issues about parents having been educated, and communicated; they've done presentation on, I think, two local radio stations. One is Thaayu, I don't know if that is the right word, and the other one is Zawanga. Mr. Speaker, I believe Laikipia is a cosmopolitan County so definitely there is a bigger percentage of parents in Laikipia who did not get that communication of that presentation on the issues of COVID. There were issues of discrimination undertaken by the department.

On the issue of the projects that were supposed to be implemented and that have not been completed, I know we had a very serious discussion yesterday and we agreed as Members to undertake all projects across the County; oversight and report on the progress. These ECDs, because I'm still seeing ECDEs of 2019/2020 that have not been completed, it's an issue that I hope will be addressed during that time that we agreed in that meeting.

Lastly Mr. Speaker, I am raising issues so that we can all look into it and see how we are going to address these issues. On this statement, ECDE teachers and VTC tutors are not taken seriously in this county. We are still talking of ECDE teachers being employed based on stipends. I think other counties are moving ahead by employing their teachers on contract or permanent and pensionable terms so that these people can be able to provide services to the children in their counties.

Mr. Speaker, this shows that this county is not taking seriously the issues of ECDE. There is a big shortage of ECDE teachers across the county. The syllabus guidelines states that every ECDE should have two teachers in PP1 and PP2. I know most if not all of our ECDE are

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operating with just one teacher combining the two classes. This is not the standard and I think this is a serious issue that we need to take up.

Another issue I raised in this department is that they are talking of distributing 442 free primary 5,000 litres of plastic tanks to about 442 centres. The last time I checked the budget is that this department does not have these amounts of money for this work. I do not know where they are getting Kshs.10 million. It needs only Kshs.50 shillings to make a total of 10 million. I do not know where this budget has come from. This is an issue that needs to be taken up. There is no budget like this on the issues of ECDE.

I do not know where this has come from. Mr. Speaker. Most issues here have been taken by events. I wish to leave this to the committees and as Hon. Members we agreed to take up this issue. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Matunge. I do not know what you have concluded because it is either we deal with this the way we agreed as a whole House and this statement will be okay or you are sending it back to the committee for more information.

Hon. Peter Matunge: Mr. Speaker, because we agreed and these were the issues we were raising during that serious meeting this House committed itself to that we do not convert to a Committee of the whole House so that we are able to do a follow up of these projects. It is better I leave these things to be one of the issues that we can pick from the Department of Education rather than giving the Committee on Education to follow the same. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker: The committee is at least relieved from this since all the Hon. Members have other ways of tackling this one. Hon. Matunge proceed with more statements.

Hon. Peter Matunge: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, according to Standing Order Number 45, 2(a) which gives Members of the House Business Committee a responsibility to report to this House about this paper which is published pursuant to Standing Order Number 39(1), Mr. Speaker, I wish to state the following;

On Tuesday, it is notified that this House Business Committee has approved the following tentative business to appear in the Order paper for Tuesday afternoon March 2, 2021.

a) **PETITION-** Petition by Laikipia Bar Owners Association concerning liquor licenses for the year 2020 for all bars and restaurants that remain closed by the Joint Committee on Finance and County Planning Committee and Labour and Social Welfare Committee.

b) **PAPERS-** Report on Public Participation for the Laikipia County Finance Bill, 2020 by the Finance and County Planning Committee.

c) **NOTICES OF MOTION-** Report on Public Participation for the Laikipia County Finance Bill, 2020 by the Finance and County Planning Committee.

d) **RESPONSES TO STATEMENT-** Response Statement No. 019/2020 to the Chairperson Finance and County Planning Committee raised by Hon. Peter Matunge on 3rd December, 2020 pertaining to status of the weighbridge.

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On Wednesday morning 3rd March. It is notified that the House Business Committee has approved the following tentative business to appear in the Order paper for Wednesday morning March 3, 2021.

a) **PAPERS-** Health Services Annual Department report for the financial year 2017-2018 by the Health Services Committee.

b) **NOTICES OF MOTIONS-** Health Services Annual Department report for the financial year 2017- 2018 by the Health Services Committee.

c) **RESPONSES TO STATEMENT-** Response Statement No. 012/2019 to the Chairperson for Trade Tourism and Cooperatives committee (Hon. Stephen Nderitu, MCA) for the member of County Assembly representing Olmoran Ward (Hon. George Karuiru, MCA) raised on 26th November, 2019 pertaining to Status of Sipili Market Stalls, Sipili slaughterhouse and Olmoran livestock market in Olmoran ward.

d) **MOTION**- Report on public Participation for the Laikipia County Finance Bill, 2020 by the Finance and County Planning Committee.

On Wednesday afternoon it is to notify that the House Business Committee has approved the following tentative business to paper in the Order paper for Wednesday afternoon March 3, 2021.

a) **PAPERS-** Report on County Stadia by the Labour, Social Welfare and Community Services Committee.

b) **NOTICES OF MOTION**- Report on County Stadia by the Labour, Social Welfare and Community Services Committee.

c) **MOTION-** Health Services Annual Departmental report for the financial year 2017-2018 by the Health Services Committee

On Thursday March 4, 2021, it is notified that the House Business Committee has approved the following tentative business to appear in the Order paper for Thursday afternoon March 4, 2021.

a) **PAPERS**- Report of the Auditor-General on the financial statements of the financial statements of County Executive of Laikipia for the year ended 30 June, 2016 laid on 7th November, 2018 by the Public Accounts and Investment Committee.

b) **NOTICES OF MOTION**- Report of the Auditor-General on the financial statements of the financial statements of County Executive of Laikipia for the year ended 30 June, 2016 laid on 7th November, 2018 by the Public Accounts and Investment Committee.

c) **MOTION**- Report on county Stadia by the Labour, Social Welfare and Community Service Committee.

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So Mr. Speaker, I hope that all the committees have taken note of the businesses which would be appearing next week so that they can be able to prepare and ensure that the businesses would be ready for that day. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Matunge. For the Members who have got motions and petitions coming up next week, this is just to alert you so that we ensure that the businesses will be ready as scheduled by the HBC.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

RUMURUTI CONFERENCE

Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, I wish to communicate again to you that the Rumuruti conference is ongoing so that probably you would attend or tell your people to attend. So please note that.

ADJOURNMENT

Deputy Speaker: You may rise. The sittings of this House stands adjourned until next week on Tuesday, 2nd March, 2021 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 2.50 p.m.

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