REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Thursday, 27th October, 2022

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

[The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Antony Theuri) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

VISITING PUPILS FROM MUTIRITHIA PRIMARY. SCHOOL

Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, I wish to recognize the presence of 26 pupils from Mutirithia Primary School in Segera Ward, accompanied by their teachers; Mrs. Amina Ishmael the Head Teacher and Mr. Samuel Mutahi, Deputy Head Teacher. Feel welcomed as you learn pertaining matters of legislature. Thank you.

NOTICE OF MOTION

SCHOOL FEEDING POLICY FOR PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I beg to give notice of the following motion;

THAT AWARE that pre-primary education, village polytechnics, home craft centres and child care facilities is a function of the County Government as stipulated in Part 2 of the 4th Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010.

FURTHER AWARE that Article 43 (1) (b) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 stipulates that every person has the right to be free from hunger and to have adequate food of acceptable quality;

NOTING THAT school meals are an important safety net for vulnerable children from food insecure households and communities in Kenya;

APPRECIATING THAT school meals have multiple benefits such as increased school enrolments, attendance as well as a significance and positive contribution to reducing hunger and improving nutritional intake;

COGNIZANT of the current drought situation in some parts of the county and that primary school's compression rate have been found to be higher in schools with meals provided thus school meals remains a core development intervention to support the country's achievement in the education sector.

This House URGES the County Government to develop a school feeding policy to cover pre-primary education pupils and sustain the programme in order to ensure that children are maintained in school for effective learning and to improve their well-being.

STATEMENT

NOTICE PAPER

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Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. It is notified that the House Business Committee has approved the following tentative business to appear in the order paper for Tuesday, 8th November, 2022.

A. **PAPERS**- Report of The Committee on Appointments on the vetting of Mr. Albert Wagurah Taiti, The County Executive Committee Member Nominee for Health Department.

B. **PAPERS**- Report of The Committee on Appointments on the vetting of Ms. Leah Njeri, The County Executive Committee Member Nominee for Water, Environment and Natural Resources Department.

C. **PAPERS**- Report of The Committee on Appointments on the vetting of Mr. Samuel Wachira Gachigi, The County Executive Committee Member Nominee for Finance, County Planning and Development Department.

D. **PAPERS**- Report of The Committee on Appointments on the vetting of Hon. Sylvia Museiya Kihoro, The County Executive Committee Member Nominee for Education, Sports, Youth and Social Services Department.

E. **NOTICES OF MOTIONS**- Report of The Committee on Appointments on the vetting of Mr. Albert Wagurah Taiti, The County Executive Committee Member Nominee for Health Department

F. **NOTICES OF MOTIONS**- Report of The Committee on Appointments on the vetting of Ms. Leah Njeri, The County Executive Committee Member Nominee for Water, Environment and Natural Resources Department.

G. **NOTICES OF MOTIONS**- Report of The Committee on Appointments on the vetting of Mr. Samuel Wachira Gachigi, The County Executive Committee Member Nominee for Finance, County Planning and Development Department.

H. **NOTICES OF MOTIONS**- Report of The Committee on Appointments on the vetting of Hon. Sylvia Museiya Kihoro, The County Executive Committee Member Nominee for Education, Sports, Youth and Social Services Department.

I. **MOTION**- Report of The Committee on Appointments on the vetting of Mr. Albert Wagurah Taiti, The County Executive Committee Member Nominee for Health Department.

J. **MOTION**- Report of The Committee on Appointments on the vetting of Ms. Leah Njeri, The County Executive Committee Member Nominee for Water, Environment and Natural Resources Department.

It is notified that the House Business Committee has approved the following tentative business to appear in the order paper for Wednesday, 9th November, 2022 a.m.

A. **PAPERS**- Report of The Committee on Appointments on the vetting of Mr. Edwin Kasoo, The County Executive Committee Member Nominee for Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries Department.

B. **PAPERS**- Report of The Committee on Appointments on the vetting of Mr. Stephen Biwott Kisorio, The County Executive Committee Member Nominee for Trade, Tourism, Cooperative and Enterprise Department.

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C. PAPERS- Report of The Committee on Appointments on the vetting of Mr. Ekwam Martin Nabos, The County Executive Committee Member Nominee for Infrastructure, Lands, Public Works and Urban Development Department.

D. NOTICES OF MOTIONS- Report of The Committee on Appointments on the vetting of Mr. Edwin Kasoo, The County Executive Committee Member Nominee for Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries Department.

E. NOTICES OF MOTIONS- Report of The Committee on Appointments on the vetting of Mr. Stephen Biwott Kisorio, The County Executive Committee Member Nominee for Trade, Tourism, Cooperative and Enterprise Department.

F. NOTICES OF MOTIONS- Report of The Committee on Appointments on the vetting of Mr. Ekwam Martin Nabos, The County Executive Committee Member Nominee for Infrastructure, Lands, Public Works and Urban Development Department.

G. MOTION- Report of The Committee on Appointments on the vetting of Mr. Samuel Wachira Gachigi, The County Executive Committee Member Nominee for Finance, County Planning and Development Department.

H. MOTION- Report of The Committee on Appointments on the vetting of Hon. Sylvia Museiya Kihoro, The County Executive Committee Member Nominee for Education, Sports, Youth and Social Services Department.

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A. MOTION- Report of The Committee on Appointments on the vetting of Mr. Edwin Kasoo, The County Executive Committee Member Nominee for Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries Department.

B. MOTION- Report of The Committee on Appointments on the vetting of Mr. Stephen Biwott Kisorio, The County Executive Committee Member Nominee for Trade, Tourism, Cooperative and Enterprise Department.

It is notified that the House Business Committee has approved the following tentative business to appear in the Order paper for Thursday, 10th November, 2022

A. MOTION- Report of The Committee on Appointments on the vetting of Mr. Ekwam Martin Nabos, The County Executive Committee Member Nominee for Infrastructure, Lands, Public Works and Urban Development Department.

Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

MOTION

SCHOOL FEEDING POLICY FOR PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I beg to move the following motion;

THAT AWARE that pre-primary education, village polytechnics, home craft centres and child care facilities is a function of the County Government as stipulated in Part 2 of the 4th Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010.

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FURTHER AWARE that Article 43 (1) (b) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 stipulates that every person has the right to be free from hunger and to have adequate food of acceptable quality;

NOTING THAT school meals are an important safety net for vulnerable children from food insecure households and communities in Kenya;

APPRECIATING THAT school meals have multiple benefits such as increased school enrolments, attendance as well as a significance and positive contribution to reducing hunger and improving nutritional intake;

COGNIZANT of the current drought situation in some parts of the county and that primary schools compression rate have been found to be higher in schools with meals provided thus school meals remains a core development intervention to support the country's achievement in the education sector.

This House URGES the County Government to develop a school feeding policy to cover pre-primary education pupils and sustain the programme in order to ensure that children are maintained in school for effective learning and to improve their well-being.

Hon. Speaker, the motion we are having today is timely and has come at the right time when the whole country is facing drought. Almost every corner of this country is facing the same challenge. Aware that the pre-primary schools are under our jurisdiction, the County Government is supposed to maintain and do everything for the pre-primary education, home craft centres and children facilities, which squarely lies under the County Government.

Mr. Speaker, it is very unfortunate to have such a function being under the County Government and then fail to provide what is necessary. That is why we came with this motion so that our pre-primary children may benefit from this government. Having said so, before I continue making my contribution, I wish to recognize the presence of the pupils of Mutirithia Primary, which is in Segera Ward. The Hon. Member for Segera Ward is in this House and has been very instrumental on issues to do with education and he happens to be a Member of the Education Committee, that is, Hon. Salim Edung, who represents them in this House.

It is important for the school to make time and the teachers taking the initiative to bring them to this House to understand the matters that we deliberate on in this House. It is important to also understand and see whether the Hon. Salim, who they sent to this House does what he was sent to do. So, I recognize the children of Mutirithia Primary which also happens to be neighbouring my ward because I represent the people of Umande and Segera is a neighbour. It is a great day for them and they will learn more especially today when we are having a motion that relates to education, this touches them in one way or the other.

Hon. Speaker, I was saying that it being a function of the County Government, and every person including myself and everybody in this country, the Constitution is very clear that we have a right to be free from hunger. Everybody in this country has a right to have adequate food, and not just food but quality food. It being a function of the County Government, I feel that it would be prudent for us as the Third Assembly to urge the County Government of Laikipia led by H.E the Governor who also campaigned vigorously on the same platform. When he was campaigning, he used to say that if he becomes the Governor, children in pre-primary will have adequate and quality food. He said that he will solve that problem once and for all.

We as Hon. Members, as we were campaigning we also campaigned on the same platform because we have a right to help the Governor to fulfil his agenda and meet his

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promises. As we speak, this is the time that we are moving from the politics of promising to the politics of fulfilling the promises that we made to our people. It being one of the promises and a function of the County Government, we as an Assembly having a Committee of Education and being representatives of every ward in this county, we feel that this function ought to be done in the best way possible.

The importance of having a feeding programme has been seen in all areas. In the schools that have a feeding programme, there is increased enrolment. We enrol so many children maybe not because they want to go to school to learn but they go there because there is food. In the process of going for food, they find a teacher there who helps them to learn and understand.

It also helps in good attendance because we can enrol so many students but perhaps in a week, most of them attend only one or two days or even fail to attend for a whole week. So when there is a feeding programme there is no kid who will imagine missing to go to school remembering that there is food in school while at home there is probably nothing.

Hon. Speaker, it has been looked at and found that schools which have feeding programmes always have good attendance. There is also a high rate of compression. In schools that have a feeding programme, we have fewer dropouts while in schools without a feeding programme there are so many dropouts. So as a County Government, we need to develop a policy that will bring this programme to Laikipia County, that every ECD pupil will get food from school. We should also be able to sustain the programme because we can start it today then drop it after three months. We want to develop a policy whereby we shall sustain the programme to the end.

I call upon Hon. Members to support this motion. It is for the good of our wards, our pupils and our county, thus let us support this motion. I call upon Hon. Catherine Nyokabi, the representative of the people of Ngobit to second the motion. Thank you.

(Hon. Catherine Nyokabi seconded)

(Question proposed)

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to support the motion by the Hon. Member representing the people of Umande. Before I contribute, I wish to congratulate the pupils of Mutirithia who are with us today to observe how we progress and debate in the Assembly. They are the future leaders and maybe sometime in future some of them will join this Assembly. By then, I am sure the Hon. Member for Segera will be an old man and they will be welcoming him here. So, I am very happy with that gesture of bringing them to this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, this motion is one of the best because pre-primary education is entirely a county matter. It is an issue that we need to make a follow-up on. The hunger that is touching our people outside is really high. Other than the food distribution being done by parents and each and every parent going home, maybe with a single can of maize or a single litre of cooking oil, it is better to see how that food can be utilized in our pupils at pre-primary first. If it is enough, it is better that they first feed the pre-primary pupils.

If we work together with the National Government, it is a policy that would really assist our people. I wholly support and I am sure that if we get this policy it will be in order, so that we have food even when we do not have hunger. I am sure there are areas that are a bit fertile where food production is high, but I am sure that in other regions, even sustaining a single meal per day is not possible. I wholly support the idea and the policy for us to see to it that our pupils get the feeding programme. Thank you, I wholly support.

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Hon. Leila Hussein: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Towards Hon. Mugweru, I commend you on this motion. Right now, we are facing a drought crisis in Laikipia County. Food is scarce everywhere and if children now get food in schools, it will motivate them to leave home and study hard. They are the future leaders of this county. I wholly support Hon. Mugweru.

Hon. Salim Edung: Nashukuru sana kwa huu mswada ambao uko kwenye Bunge siku ya leo. Nawashukuru pia walimu wa Shule ya Msingi ya Mutirithia. Siku ya leo ni siku kubwa ambapo wanafunzi wa Mutirithia wamefika kwenye Bunge na tangu tufungue Bunge, ni shule ambayo imefika hapa kwa nafasi ya kwanza na ni mapenzi ya Mwenyezi Mungu. Tukiangalia mambo ya elimu katika eneo hili letu la Laikipia sisi katika Laikipia Kaskazini tumeathirika hususan katika mambo ya shule, hasa masomo.

Ikiwa mwanafunzi hajala chochote nyumbani na akija shuleni anakosa chakula, inapunguza idadi ya wanafunzi katika shule. Mimi nikiwa Mbunge katika Kaunti ya Laikipia nikiwakilisha watu wa Segera, ningeomba Wabunge wenzangu waunge mswada huu mkono.

Katika maongeo ya Gavana tulipokuwa tunatafuta kura mashinani, ni jambo kuu Gavana aliongea kwamba atakuwa akiwasaidia wanafunzi wa shule ya chekechea na chakula cha mchana. Pia ninaunga mkono huu mswada kwa sababu wanafunzi walio hapa, tangu watoke huko hadi sasa hawajala chochote. Tungeomba tuangalie masomo sana katika hii Kaunti yetu ya Laikipia kwa sababu tunasema kwamba hawa ndio viongozi wa kesho.

Wakiwa viongozi wa kesho ni lazima tutafute njia mwafaka ambayo wanafunzi watakuwa wakisoma, kupata chakula na yote wanayohitaji katika shule. Ni vizuri tuangalie kwa makini sana. Sio Laikipia Kaskazini pekee ambayo imeathirika na janga bali shule zote zilizo katika Laikipia. Kama Mjumbe wa Umande alivyoongea hapo awali, aligusia mambo ambayo sisi Wajumbe katika Bunge la Kaunti ya Laikipia tunastahili kuunga mkono.

Wanafunzi wakiwa darasani hawawezi kuelewa chochote mwalimu akisomesha kwa sababu mwanafunzi akiingia darasani bila chochote tumboni, hatasikia kile ambacho mwalimu anafunza. Ninaomba Wajumbe kwenye kitengo cha elimu kwamba bajeti ya ziada ikiwasilishwa, ni vizuri watenge pesa itakayosaidia kwa upande wa elimu.

Ninaunga mkono kwa sababu wanafunzi wetu kutoka Mutirithia wamekuja ili waelewe ya kwamba tukiwa kwenye Bunge tunakazana kutetea hao. Mbeleni nilisimama kwenye Bunge kusema ya kwamba hakuna hata barabara ya kupeleka hiyo chakula huko Mutirithia. Kunastahili kuwe na barabara ili chakula kikipatikana kipelekwe hadi shuleni. Kwa hayo machache ninaunga mswada mkono.

Hon. George Karuiru: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would want to congratulate you, being the first prolonged time for you to sit in that Hon. Chair. You are equal to the task and congratulations again. I also want to congratulate the students of Mutirithia.

I believe this is one of the languages of some of our localities because Mutirithia means the walking stick. I want to congratulate the pupils and the staff for availing time to come and learn what transpires in the Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I would also want to congratulate the Committee on Education being a Member of this committee. With devolution being on the 3rd round, I know that there have been governments that have initiated this method of school feeding programme. As a County Government, we must recognize and embrace the feeding programme.

Mr. Speaker, when the CBC programme was initiated in schools, wherever it started because I am a little bit elderly and actually cannot tell whether it is from nursery school, I

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remember concerning my last born. There was a programme where even if the kid was in their 2nd or 3rd year, the programme was introduced either in CBC or pre-primary starting over.

I am embracing the CBC as well as its public participation to whatever level it will be. Why I am embracing the Education Committee in Laikipia County led by the abled Chair, Daniel Mugweru, is because as far as the Laikipia County is concerned and it has a basket full projects pertaining food project in this country. I think that it is very much aware, our kids are actually undergoing so many struggles. As a County Government, it is important to note that the ECDE is mandated for the County Government.

Mr. Speaker, I know that everyone of us including the Mutirithia School, started somewhere from the ECD. I want to appreciate that currently we have absorbed the ECD teachers, especially those of us who were advantaged to be in the last government. Mr. Speaker, it would have been in order to introduce not even a full lunch but actually a relief during the breaks of these young turks who will be brought up.

We saw the former President of U.S who hailed from the Luo land and has been brought up from the ECD from wherever he schooled. There is a saying in my home land which goes, 'a tree is straightened when it is still young'. If we get to task our young children from ECD level, as they grow up they will always be the best and this country is going to transform. It will be having the best engineers, pilots, teachers and the best administrators because they have been turned out from wherever they were.

Mr. Speaker, if we would go oversighting the ECDE situations, there are still kids who are learning under trees in this country under this regime. It would be unfortunate if we do not transform these lives. I beg the whole Assembly to join hands and urge the County Government and through your ability Mr. Speaker, I know that you are going to follow this to the latter.

Even if we will not have the spoonful food, at least we will have some porridge which will be able to sustain these kids. Some of us who were born earlier, we were being promised that even if we missed lunch or good breakfast, in the evening stones were being put in *sufuria's* just for us to sleep. You sleep knowing that there is something being cooked for you and in the morning you would be given a cupful of porridge and times would be good.

Therefore Mr. Speaker, very many counties have initiated this programme and therefore we are not too late. I commend the committee and I know that if we do this, we are going to have a transformed county with good people and good ECDEs as mandated by devolution that the County Government is supposed to be responsible for ECDE Centres. Thank you and I pray that we do this together.

Hon. Irene Wachuka: Asante, Bwana Spika, jioni ya leo nashukuru kwa hii nafasi. Nashukuru Mwenyezi Mungu kwa kuona ya kwamba umekalia hicho kiti na ninataka ukikalie vizuri kama Naibu wa Spika. Nashukuru Mheshimiwa Mugweru ambaye ameleta mjadala wa maana sana wakati kama huu kiangazi na njaa imejaa Kenya nzima. Nashukuru kamati yake ambao waliketi chini na kufikiria mambo ya watoto. Pia nashukuru wanafunzi ambao wametoka Mutirithia pamoja na walimu wao na ninawakaribisha katika hili Bunge letu la Laikipia.

Nashukuru pia Mheshimiwa kutoka Segera ambaye ameleta wanafunzi kwa sababu hili ni jambo nzuri sana. Kila mtu anajua vile nchi imekaa kwa sababu hakuna chakula na hadi watu na pia mifugo inakufaa. Kama vile Mheshimiwa Karuiru kutoka Olmoran amesema, zamani kulikuwa na chakula shuleni ambacho kilikuwa kinaitwa *soup law* na wengine wanapikiwa uji na hilo ni jambo la umuhimu sana.

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Wakati huu hata kama njaa itaisha kwa sababu Mungu atatupatia mvua, ningeuliza Serikali ya Kaunti ambayo inashughulika ECDE wawe wakiandika walimu wa kupikia hao watoto wa chekechea uji. Hata shule za misingi tunaweza kutafuta pesa na mambo mengine yaweze kusimamishwa. Kama yule mtoto hataweza kupata chakula nyumbani, akila chakula cha mchana shuleni, hata jioni akipata uji pekee nyumbani basi ataweza kuchukua kitabu na kusoma. Kwa Kikuyu kuna msemo ambao husema ya kwamba "joto hutokana na tumboni". Mheshimiwa Kanyutu wacha kunichekelea.

Hata wewe wakati uko na njaa hauwezi hisi joto lakini ukishiba unaanza kuhisi joto. Hao wanafunzi hakuna joto wanaweza hisi kama wako na baridi tumboni. Tumbo ikiwa haina kitu hata wewe ufike wakati wa chakula cha mchana, unaanza kuhisi kula chakula. Kwa hivyo mimi ningeuliza sisi wote Waheshimiwa ishirini na moja tuunge Mwenyekiti wa Kamati ya Elimu hadi tuone ya kwamba Gavana imetegea kila wadi pesa ya kutengenezea hao watoto chakula. Hata kama mtoto atapata chakula cha mchana naye mama aenda kutafuta kibarua, akija na kitu kidogo jioni wakule, tumbo ya yule mtoto itakuwa na joto.

Hata ukimnunulia vitabu na hana joto, anachukua kitabu na kuanza kuhisi usingizi. Hata huwa haendi kulala kwa kitanda lakini hulala tu mahali popote kwa sababu hana hata nguvu ya kusimama. Nashukuru sana Mheshimiwa Mugweru na Waheshimiwa. Wacha tushikane bega kwa bega mpaka tuone ya kwamba watoto wetu wameshiba. Hata afadhali tusimamishe kazi zingine kama barabara ili tuone ya kwamba shule zetu zimepata chakula. Mungu awabariki.

Hon. Samuel Mugambi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker for giving me this chance to contribute towards this good motion brought by Hon. Mugweru representing the people of Umande. I also congratulate you, Mr. Speaker because I think you are having a good time acting as the Speaker now. I also wish to welcome the pupils of Mutirithia Primary School and their head teacher, feel warm. This is the Laikipia County Assembly and these are the guys who make policies which will affect what you are doing in your school.

I will start by saying this is a very good motion and it is timely because we all know that as a country we are facing some food insecurity. I want to congratulate the Education Committee and also advise them because we are doing up education policy in the pre-school since that is where the County Government is entitled to be doing their own job. First, I would like to say that food is a basic need in every human being. When I was I school I was taught about a theory called AH mass law. This is a scholar who proved a theory whereby he said that in every human being, the first need that you have to satisfy is food before you can go other needs like social security and social actualization.

So we are talking about basic needs. Today we have an opportunity because we have the teachers here and the pupils. If you get to do some research in some schools which have feeding programmes verses those which don't have the same programme, you will find a lot of difference. One of the differences which I would like to site here is the attendance. Those schools which have got feeding programmes, their pupils will come to school more days than other schools which don't have feeding programmes. So as a House of Hon. Members, representing Laikipia County, we need to come up with a good feeding programme policy.

Mr. Speaker, let me also add that when we are talking about policies, to my understanding we should look at short-term and long-term policies. That is because in Africa, our main problem is curing the problem when it is already there but we do not have long term plans. I remember when I was in school some years ago, we had some good policies which were catering for food programmes in school. We even had some clubs for example, the 4K Clubs and so many other initiatives that we lack nowadays.

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Therefore as we are debating on this policy, I would like the Education Committee to take this motion seriously and come up with a very good policy. We are not talking about the Governor making it but we, the people seated here like me representing the people of Salama. Let me remind you of one thing I said here yesterday, if you are not part of the solution, then you are part of the problem. As a Member of Salama Ward, I want to be counted as part of the solution. In Kikuyu, there is a saying that goes "if you give a child to an adult and the adult keeping the child starts crying, then the child will start crying also". So we are the policy makers.

The Hon. Members seated here, it is not about the Governor of Laikipia County but the bar stops with us representing our wards. I have got a very good number of schools like North Tetu Primary School in Thome. This is a very populated school with more than a thousand pupils and around hundred pupils in the ECD.

I visited that school one day during the lunch hour and I was surprised that some pupils do not eat. They skip lunch and we are talking about someone who is three years old. So, this is a very serious motion Mr. Speaker and I would urge all Members here that we should have good policies, both short and long term because if we supply relief food for let us say 1 year and not supply in the other 4 years, still the problem will recur. I would like to ask our able committee led by the able chair Hon. Daniel Mugweru, to look at short-term remedies and also arrange for long-term remedies.

Mr. Speaker, it would be very wrong for us to talk about the ECD feeding programme and not mention the employment of ECD teachers. I am informed that the last regime just registered the ECD teachers when their term was ending. It is our responsibility now to follow up and make sure that the policy is implemented to the letter. We should ensure the Governor of Laikipia County implements and pays those teachers well because this is where the foundation of every individual starts. If you want to become a doctor, you start from the ECD. The ECD teacher is the first teacher you encounter. I remember when I was in ECD back in the 1990's, that is where I had big dreams because I was saying that I would like to become a doctor, then a pilot and continued dropping those dreams as I went higher. Therefore, these are the people we should take care of. Thank you, may God bless you.

Speaker: Hon. Catherine Nyokabi.

Hon. Catherine Nyokabi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker for giving me this opportunity. I would like to thank my able chair, Hon. David Mugweru for coming up with this noble policy that will help our pupils in ECD's. Also, I would like to welcome pupils from Mutirithia Primary school and their teachers.

On my side, I want to promise and assure Hon. Mugambi Gatati from Salama Ward that being in that committee we will be at the forefront to make sure that this policy will be implemented. I would also like to urge the Implementation Committee to work hand in hand with us to make sure these policies are implemented and our kids in ECD schools will get these feeding programs in time to make sure we assist their parents there at home.

Being elected as a woman leader in this House, I do understand the challenges that parents outside there are facing. As the committee on Education, we promise you that we will be there to make sure that these policies will be implemented by the Executive Committee. With those few remarks, I whole heartedly support this policy. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Kamara then Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki.

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Hon. Benson Kuria: Asante sana, Bwana Spika kwa hii nafasi umeweza kunipatia. Nataka kushuku mungu kwa nafasi hii. Ningependa kumuunga mkono Mheshimiwa David Mugweru kwa wazo hili zuri. Nimeona ya kwamba amewaza wazo nzuri zaidi kwa sababu tunaongelelea mambo ya *bottom up,* ni lazima tuanze pale chini tukiinua jamii.

Mambo ya chekechea ni mambo ya kushangaza sana kwani inabidi walimu watembee na chakula ndio waweze kuwalisha Watoto shuleni. Hili mjadala ni wa muhimu sana ju kunayo shida katika shule zetu kwa mfano shule ya Mutirithia, waliokuwa wageni wetu siku ya leo. Mhsw. Mugweru, hili ni jambo la busara na sidhani kunaye anayeweza kupinga.

Mimi nakuunga mkono nikijua kwamba hili wazo ni la kuwasaidia wengi. Najua shule ya Mutirithia iko katika wadi ya Mheshimiwa Salim Edung, nimekua nikipitia hiyo wadi ya Segera hadi Impalla na uvundo kutokatana na mifugo pamoja na wanyama waliokufa ni wa kutisha. Inamaanisha ya kwamba serikali ya Kaunti ya Laikipia yafaa kusimamisha miradi zingine na kumenyana na janga la njaa. Kwa hivyo Mhsw. Daniel Mugweru, nakuunga mkono mia kwa mia nikijua kwamba umetupea wazo zuri. Asante Bwana Spika.

Hon. Nicholas Mwaniki: Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me this chance to contribute to this motion. Congratulations to our able Chair Hon. Daniel Mugweru for coming up with this motion in the House because it has been a burning issue in our County. I also congratulate the teachers and pupils of Mutirithia Primary School for paying us a visit to learn from their leaders and Hon. Salim for making it happen. I know they will learn something from us leaders.

I support this motion. It is all about wisdom of the committee because they have gone back to the era of President Daniel Moi when there was *Maziwa ya nyayo*. When I was a pupil in primary, Wednesdays was a day to rejoice as we drank the milk during break time and we looked up for it every day and we looked forward to learning in our school each and every moment. That helped us to learn because there was a good environment to learn.

My able Speaker and the Hon. David Mugweru, I support this and we will make sure to support the Committee on Education on everything. Also, as an Assembly we need to look at this issue with an open mind because we need to work on a plan to solve this issue of hunger once and for all because our people are hungry. Laikipia East is a food basket for our cereal growers, but still, we need to work on Laikipia West and East to make sure that there is adequate food in our areas.

Also, as Hon. Salim Edung has said, we are looking forward to support the Committee on Transport to facilitate road infrastructure in our areas so that there is availability of food on timely basis. Every school needs to have good roads and electricity so that exams and food can be available in time so that we can be able to serve our electorates in the right way as our pupils so that there can be future leaders in this country.

There has been construction of some good ECD classes in some wards, but there is no provision of equipment; desks, tables etc. We also need to work on toilets on ECD schools because there is no way young kids with good toilets in their homes find no toilets in school. They need them because they also learn how to use them, they cannot learn where there are no toilets or where toilets are dilapidated. It is upon our able chair and the rest of the team in the Education docket to work on those three issues as we work to improve the learning conditions in our schools. Thank you, and I support the motion.

Speaker: Hon. John Maina

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Hon. John Gichuki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, I would like to recognize the pupils of Mutirithia Primary School and their teachers for being concerned and wanting to know whatever we do in this Assembly.

Secondly, I would like to support this motion moved by Hon. Daniel Mugweru. We all know hunger strike is in the whole county. I would like to congratulate our County Government for the effort of distributing in schools and I think in the next one month or two weeks, food will be available in the whole county. Mr. Speaker, I heard the Hon. Member Salim Edung Saying that these pupils did not eat anything. I would like to offer to buy them lunch if that is in order. I will give them Kshs. 5,000 to go and eat so that they can come back when they are okay. As I finalize, I support this motion.

Hon. Samuel Mugambi: Mr. Speaker, I stand to be guided because from the gallery, I can see more than twenty pupils. The Hon. Member for Rumuruti is insinuating to give five thousand to more than twenty pupils. I am not even sure whether they can get a cup of tea each. Therefore, I would suggest that the Hon. Member from Rumuruti to maybe give ten thousand or twenty thousand.

Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, we can discuss this after the Assembly. That will be in order. I call upon Hon. Leshuel from Mukogodo East. On a point of correction, I understand that you are still on the floor.

Hon. John Gichuki: Asante, Bwana Spika. Kama vile mmesema tukaongee haya kwenye chumba cha bodi, ni sawa lakini ningetaka kumwelezea Mheshimiwa Gatati ya kwamba sikuwa nimewahesabu kwa sababu sikuwa nimejua ni wangapi. Nimehesabu tu wenye wako hapa mbele. Kama vile wako watakula mia mbili. Asante, Bwana Spika. Naunga huu mjadala mkono.

Hon. Paul Leshuel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker for this opportunity. I want to take this opportunity to appreciate the Chairperson for Education Committee for this motion. This motion is timely. Mr. Speaker, coming from Laikipia North Sub County, we all know that we depend on livestock and we have actually lost a big number of livestock due to persistent drought for almost four years now.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure if you go to the secondary schools like Doldol and St. Francis among others, all the students are at home due to lack of school fees. Parents are not able to pay school fees. Despite the fact that Education is not our mandate fully, it is our work as an Assembly to make sure we address the National Government to take care of our pupils.

I am aware that the National Government is distributing food today as the Majority Leader have said, but we need to take seriousness on this. I appreciate the Hon. Member for Umande because education starts from ECD level. We are lucky because we have a big number of ECDE's. In some areas, you may find they do not have a primary school. With that, it will be a challenge for us if we cannot be able to feed the ECD schools.

The nominations in this Assembly has a Member that falls on ECD and Sports. We have an allocation in our budget. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take serious action on this. The Executive must take priority on feeding programme of these pupils. Failure to that, we shall lose those pupils. Finally, I would like to give an example. We are always talking about insecurity but most of the areas that bring insecurity in Laikipia are from the pastoral areas.

The reason is because of our culture. If children are not going to school, we shall continue talking about insecurity in these areas. I urge the County Government of Laikipia to

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take a serious action on this so that we do not get school dropouts. The moment we get dropouts, we shall continue talking about insecurity in Laikipia for another ten or fifteen years.

Mr. Speaker, we are serious mobilizers of children to make sure that all of them are in school. The challenge is the feeding programme. Mr. Speaker, I urge the Government of Laikipia to allocate money for ECDE, construction of schools and feeding programme so that we can be able to take all the children to school. That is the only way we can have a future competition of this country. If people do not go to school, they will go back to the forest and get guns to shoot people.

This motion is very important. I am sure as we continue in the months and years to come, in this Assembly, we shall be talking things concerning food. We have lost what we depend on, so definitely, we shall go to the government. The Constitution clearly states that the government should feed its people. If that is the Constitution which is the Supreme Law, that should be implemented.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot sit here allocating money for other things when people are not able to feed themselves. I want to take this opportunity to thank the Hon. Member for Umande for bringing us this motion. It is timely and very important and it will help us in future. I am sure if you identify the ECD Schools, we can be able to feed them. This I am sure of and this cannot take a big budget, so it is possible for us to implement. This is not a big issue.

I also want to urge the Chairperson for Education Committee to bring us a policy instead of a motion. A motion is different from a policy. It is better we have a policy that will be a feeding programme that will last forever. I take this opportunity to thank him and appreciate the teachers and pupils who have come to this Assembly. They have not only come to learn but this is to encourage them that if you fail to go to school and also fail in discipline, you do not have a future in this country.

We are here as Members of this Assembly and you can see the way we address discipline. Mr. Speaker, this is making them learn that they must have discipline and they must go to school so that they can have a future. I rest my case by thanking the Hon. Member for Umande. I am privileged to be the Chairperson for the Implementation Committee and I am sure I will follow this motion and make sure that it is implemented. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Nicholas Lempaira: Thank you, Mr. Speaker for giving me this opportunity. I rise to support the motion. The motion is timely because when this policy is introduced in these schools, it will bring a lot of benefits. We cannot have a food programme without a water programme. When the food is supplied in schools, the County Government should also take responsibility to make sure that there is enough water in these schools and the pupils will get water to cook the food.

Mr. Speaker, if you go to Laikipia North, now the situation is bad. A few days ago, I think some of you have read in the newspaper and in social media that there are two children that died in Laikipia North because of hunger. Unfortunately, the report was wrong because they fainted in school but they did not die. This situation happened in Naiperere and another one in Kurum.

So, we have issues to do with food programme and I want to echo what the Majority Leader said, that the County Government has started distributing food to some schools. I urge them to consult with the Honourable Members representing these people so that we can give guidelines on the most affected schools and the ones that are not affected.

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Mr. Speaker, when this policy is developed, it will come with a way of how this programme will be sustainable not only for this government but for the incoming government in future. The policy that we shall make here is not a short-term thing but when the rains are there, this will be over. Most of us depend on livestock and now in the four years, drought has affected us and we have lost a large number of our livestock which is actually the source of our livelihood.

The thing that this policy should focus on is coming up with a way when the water is available, they encourage schools to do planting and irrigation within the school compound. They can plant vegetables such as cabbages and *sukuma wiki*. We need to start training children from Laikipia North it is not only the livestock that matters, but also other means for survival can be practiced.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Honourable Member who brought this motion today. I stand to be counted as one of the Honourable Members who supported this motion. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker: I now call upon the mover to give a reply.

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Asante sana, Mheshimiwa Spika. Nashukuru wajumbe katika Bunge hili. Naona Mheshimiwa Gichuki akicheka. Himiza la kuongea hii lugha ni msukumo wa Mheshimiwa Kamara maanake nimetamani Kiswahili chake nikasema nitajaribu kuongea kama yeye. Nashukuru Wabunge wote ambao wamechangia katika huu mswada haswa kwa kuhimiza Serikali ya Kaunti ya Laikipia iwe na sheria mwafaka ambayo itadumu na itatusaidia kuwa na nafasi ya kupea wanafunzi wa Shule ya chekechea chakula.

Si kwa wakati huu wa kiangazi peke yake bali tuwe tunawapea sasa na serikali ingine ambayo itakuja ifuate sheria ambayo sisi tumeunda. Tukiunda sheria ni ya kufuatwa na sisi na wale ambao watakuja. Nashukuru sana maanake Waheshimiwa wameguzia mambo ambayo inahitajika. Ukweli ni kwamba haya yote ambayo mumeguzia imeenda kwa kumbukumbu.

Nashukuru Mheshimiwa Leshuel kwa sababu yeye akiwa Mwenyekiti wa Kamati ya Kutekeleza atahakikisha yale ambayo tunanena hapa imetimizwa. Yeye mwenyewe amesimama hapa na kusema ya kwamba kamati yake itafuata ili kuhakikisha ya kwamba mjadala ambao tutapitisha siku ya leo umekuja kutimizwa na Serikali ya Kaunti.

Vilevile, ningetaka kushukuru Mheshimiwa Gatati maanake amesema angeomba huu mjadala uhakikishwe umetimizwa. Nilipokuwa napitia nakala zangu, nimeona ni mmoja wa wanakamati wa wale ambao watahakikisha ya kwamba hili limetimia. Kila mmoja yuko na jukumu lake binafsi na kama kamati la kuhakikisha ya kwamba yale ambayo tunaleta katika Bunge hili yanakuja kutimia.

Nashukuru Wabunge wote ambao wamechangia katika huu mswada na pia wale ambao hawajachangia maanake sisi zote hapa tuko na mlengo mmoja wa kuhakikisha Laikipia imesonga mbele. Asanteni na tuendelee kuunga mkono huu mjadala mpaka dakika ya mwisho. Asante.

(Question put and agreed to)

PROCEDURAL MOTION

ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY

Hon. John Gichuki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I beg to move the following motion;

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THAT this Assembly approves the application of Standing Order No. 29(3) to allow it adjourn its sittings from Friday, 28th October, 2022 to Monday 7th November, 2022 and to assume on Tuesday, 8th November, 2022.

Mr. Speaker, this is in order to undertake the approval hearing for County Executive Committee Members nominees and to undertake any other relative committee businesses. I request Hon. Eunice Moile to second this motion.

(Hon. Eunice Salaten seconded)

(Question proposed)

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I wish to make my contributions in support of that motion that has been brought by the Majority Leader on us going for a recess between today and Monday, 7th November. Hon. Speaker, when we were elected by the people of Laikipia, there are responsibilities that were given which are duties that we are supposed to perform.

One is that of representation. You cannot represent people if you do not know what they need. That one week is upon us Hon. Members to go to the people who elected us, listen to them, be with them and from 8th November. We shall represent the issues that affect them. We did not come here to represent ourselves but we came here to represent. You cannot represent people if you do not know their requirements.

It is upon us Hon. Members to utilize that week. We shall go there and mingle with them and listen to them. From there we shall come back here to represent their issues in this House. Hon. Speaker, I support that between now and 7th we be out of this House to go and listen to our people. Thank you.

Hon. Samuel Mugambi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of the motion on recess. I think being in the forming stage of the committee, it will be of good help if we start by empowering those people in different committees. I have a different opinion from Hon. Daniel Mugweru of Umande. I think this is the high time we consider training the Committee Members because some of us don't have good knowledge and the skills to be on some Committees.

I know the leadership of the House is here and we are Hon. Members. I think you can just take us to Tanzania and call some good teachers to teach us how the Committee work. This is the initial and most important stage and if we miss it from here, we miss the whole point. There is something we call dead on arrival. If we don't train our Members well, we are dead on arrival. So Mr. Speaker, though the Tanzania idea is just but a joke, my emphasis is that we are taken somewhere and have more on the Committees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon Catherine Nyokabi: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of the motion that has been brought before this House by our able Majority Leader. Thank you.

Hon. Benson Kuria: Asante, Bwana Spika. Naunga mkono kwa sababu najua nafaa kukaa na familia pamoja na wananchi kidogo kwa hivyo naunga mkono. Barikiwa sawa.

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I support the Majority Leader for this good proposal. As Members go to rest, I call upon all of them if they will be able on the 12th after we open for sessions, I would wish all of them to accompany me because I have a thanksgiving prayer at my place. So, on 12th November I hope I will be able to accommodate all of them so that we can share together. I wholly support the issue of the Majority Leader on our recess for that one week and congratulate him for that noble idea.

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Hon. George Karuiru: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also want to take this highest opportunity to welcome the thought of going for recess. I would want this to be taken to the nearest bank, once we enter into this field of politics; I can see this blessed House has talents, mostly youthful leaders who need to have their families always. It would be the best initiative that at least when we put two and two together, we sit down with our families.

Last night, we burnt the midnight oil trying to formulate committees although I was not privileged to be a Chair or even a Deputy, I could not care less because I am not being recalled by the Ol Moran people. I will actualize their dreams. Importantly, as one of the Hon. Members have said here, it would be bad if we spent the whole recess. As the programs roll out in this County Assembly, we need to have more inductions. We formulated the committees, so we need inductions.

As I know the calendar of the year is still running, we need to go and continue organizing. The Executive has taken lead in giving us public participations which is ongoing, and I am hoping that maybe next week will be the last week. It would be prudent that they do all those public participations without us. It is in order to know that after they do the public participation it be brought to this House, the name of the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) and it would be wise if we will also interrogate the ground on what their proposals would be as well as trying to figure out what will be brought in this House.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that even our vehicles for example myself, when I travel for 200 kilometres from here, at least when I reach Nyahururu Town, sometimes I rest. So it is not bad for the House to go on recess and digest from where you come from and where we are headed. We are going to come back here refreshed on 7th November after recess. If we just play around thinking we are talking good about our people regarding ECDE, Security and other issues, then you will hear some people here saying Murife don't run.

It is not just about Murife running, but about progressing our issues. After five years, we shall be gauged by what we did for our people. So, I embrace and support the move by the Majority Leader and we should actually have that time of recess. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker: I now call upon the mover to reply.

Hon. John Gichuki: Asante, Bwana Spika. Kwanza nawashukuru wote kwa kutia nguvu. Bwana Spika, Kiswahili inatutatiza kidogo… I want to thank everyone for supporting this motion and have a good day

Deputy Speaker: I am not going to put a question. Pursuant to Standing Order No. 29(3); *on a day when Assembly is scheduled to adjourn, to a day other than the next normal sitting day in accordance with the Assembly Calendar, the leader of the Majority Party or the leader of the Minority Party or another Member of the House Business Committee shall move a motion of adjournment which shall be debated for not more than three hours after which the Assembly shall adjourn without question put.*

ADJOURNMENT

Deputy Speaker: The sittings of this House now stands adjourned until Tuesday, 8th November, 2022 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 4.03 p.m.

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