REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 30th June, 2020

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

[The Speaker (Hon. Patrick Waigwa) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

STATEMENTS

STATUS OF SIPILI VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE

Hon. Mutahi Muritu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give a response of the statement on status of Sipili Vocational Training Centre in Ol Moran Ward.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, a statement was raised and tabled in the Assembly by Hon. George Karuiru on 21st November, 2019 requesting for a response on funds allocated to a tune of Kshs 800,000 regarding provision and installation of motor vehicle equipment and furniture at Sipili Vocational Training Centre in Ol Moran Ward.

The committee requested for a response from the Department of Education and Social Development. It was tabled in the House and Hon. George Karuiru expressed dissatisfaction. The committee visited the Vocational Training Centre on 22nd June, 2020. It witnessed that only furniture had been distributed to the facility. The committee held a meeting with the department on 23rd June, 2020. The department responded on the issue of motor vehicle equipment that had not yet been distributed to the facility.

1. On why the project has not commenced up to date.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to respond as follows. That the department has bought and delivered furniture's and electronic to ensure delivery of learning and education service at the Centre. The department had delivered 10 tables, 100 plastic chairs, 1 laptop, 1 whiteboard and 1 projector as in annexure 1.

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2. On when the projects are expected to commence and when it will be completed.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to respond as follows. That there was a typographical error in the budget for the Financial Year 2018/2019. Indicating that Ol Moran Ward was to get more motor vehicle equipment. The Vocational Training Centre is yet to receive accreditation for the course. Two...

Speaker: We first deal with one statement unless you have additions to make on the same statement. The first statement. If no additions, then I will give Hon. George Karuiru to comment on the same.

Hon. George Karuiru: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to appreciate the Committee on Education led by its Chairman, Hon. Mutahi. I appreciate that the team invited me when they visited the Vocational Training Centre (VTC) on their oversight business. I accompanied them to the said VTC. We found out that after I enquired for the statement, something had been done although we were not able to access the facilities in one of the rooms very well.

The issue of what is in the budget and what is on the ground at times brings questions. I appreciate that they went and actually found some more detailed things. I know that during their sittings as a committee they will be able to address the touching matter about furniture because it was in question.

The second issue is on the motor vehicle mechanic equipment. I would want the Chair to clarify this big English called typographical error. This is where I might feel that I am deceived. We have a technical team that prepares the budget and they know what they are doing. When I am told that there was a typographical error, then I should be told the amount that was put in the budget. Whichever the case or the meaning of typographical error, where the money was allocated to. I think I need that clarity. Thank you.

Speaker: Hon. Chair, maybe you could respond to that so that we can move from this statement.

Hon. Mutahi Muritu: Mheshimiwa Spika, kwa kuelewa kwangu *typographical error* ni makosa waliyofanya wakichapisha bajeti zao. Yaani ni kama makosa wanapopiga chapa wakati wa bajeti. Nafikiri hivyo ndivyo naamini.

Hon. George Karuiru: Mr. Speaker, I think I need some more because the Hon. Member says that he thinks. So it is actually not the reality. I think what I wanted is the typographical error. I thought it is something to do with the area and actually not a spelling mistake. I asked him through you, Mr. Speaker, if there was a typographical error, where the money was also allocated to. This English about accreditation and I thought that the facility could hold.

Mr. Speaker, whenever we put things in the budget they are researched upon. We have researchers from the Assembly and the Executive. They know that if this budget is put here then

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it is done, if that is what accreditation would mean. It qualifies and is fit to have those equipment. There are two contradicting issues here, the typographical error and accreditation. It is not accredited. Mr. Speaker, I would want that clarity.

Speaker: That is okay but I would also want us to limit ourselves to the question that you did raise. The question that you raised was on when the project is expected to commence and when it will be completed. It is like you are being told that the project is not done because it was not allocated funds in the budget, if I am getting what the Hon. Member for Tigithi wants to mean. That answers the question that you cannot be provided with the date of when the project will start or end until when there is money allocation in the budget. Is it exactly like that?

Hon. George Karuiru: Mr. Speaker, I think it is as per when. If it is not there, my issue was on the ongoing process to have been done. It is they who have put it. I am not putting my own words. It is what they have responded. He should clarify that we realised and let me not put words in his mouth, that it was not accredited and there was a typographical error. It actually read Ol Moran. That is the clarity I would want from him.

Speaker: It is only the Chairperson who can clarify whether there is a relationship between the accreditation of the VTC and the budget not being allocated. Whether the failure to allocate the budget was due to lack of accreditation. It was his statement and he understands it better than anyone of us.

Hon. Mutahi Muritu: Nitamweleza Mheshimiwa wa Ol Moran kuwa shule za anuwai hutoa masomo zinapokuwa shule za anuwai. Ilikuwa haijapewa hiyo hadhi lakini shule yenyewe imesajiliwa. Katika safu ya masomo wanayotoa Ol Moran haikuwa imepewa hadhi ya magari. Yaani haikuwa imepitishiwa hiyo hadhi ya magari.

Mheshimiwa Spika, ukisoma bajeti, imeelezea kuhusu *typographical error* na nilimwonyesha Mheshimiwa mwenyewe. Panapojitokeza kuwa magari yaliingia pale lakini fanicha na zinginezo tunaweza kujibu inavyostahili. Wakati wale wanapopiga chapa kuweka katika bajeti walizidisha zaidi na kuandika mpaka magari. Nafikiri Mheshimiwa kutoka Ol Moran ameelewa hilo. Hapo ndipo tunasema *typographical*. Hadhi haikuwa imeombwa wakati huo. Tulikuwa na Mheshimiwa mwenyewe. Tulifika pale na wakasema kuwa wameomba barua na wamepewa hiyo hadhi. Tuzungumzapo, Sipili imepewa hadhi ya kutoa hayo masomo ya magari. Asante.

Speaker: Hon. Member the project was funded to a tune of Kshs. 800,000 in the budget.

Hon. Mutahi Muritu: Initial budget.

Speaker: I want to assume that other things including motor vehicle had Kshs. 800,000.

Hon. Mutahi Muritu: Hapo mwisho ilikuwa ipewe fanicha na vitu vingine vya kutendea kazi ya kusoma kwa sababu umeona vifaa vya kusoma. Kwa mfano meza, viti, na bodi iko pale.

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Pale mwisho yule akazidi zaidi na kuweka magari ndipo aliyejibu akasema *typographical error*. Nafikiri nimeeleweka vile ilivyo, Mheshimiwa Spika.

Hon. George Karuiru: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think there should be somebody who will carry the cross. Your noble question is actually clarified well. Mr. Speaker, may be if you allow me then I will have to get the pricing of the same at a later date. The budget was Kshs 800,000 and I do not know of the provision without the engine. I will have to enquire to know where the typographical error is. May be somebody just wanted to put the vocational training at a high level and typed that Kshs 800,000 was for furniture and motor vehicle. I still need to know more. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. I think we are clear with that statement you can go to the next.

STATUS OF MARURA ECDE CLASS.

Hon. Mutahi Muritu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to give a response to the statement on status of Marura ECDE class.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, a statement was raised and tabled in the Assembly by Hon. George Karuiru on 21st November, 2019 requesting for a response on funds allocated to a tune of Kshs. 1,467,000 for construction of Marura ECDE class in Ol Moran ward. The committee tabled a response in the House in regards to the status of the class whereby Hon. George Karuiru expressed dissatisfaction. The committee embarked on a visit to the site where the class was to be constructed on 22nd June, 2020 and indeed witnessed that the construction had stalled eight months ago as in annexure 1.

The committee held a meeting with the department in regards to the response earlier that the construction was ongoing on 23rd June, 2020.

1. On why the project stopped.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to respond as follows. That the department has been in contact with the project manager who is from the Department of Infrastructure. The project manager is in the opinion that the integrity of the proposed construction ground is questionable. Attached as in annexure 2 is a copy of a letter from the Infrastructure Department.

2. On when the project is expected to be completed.

The project manager has planned a consultative meeting with the Board of Management of the host primary school to relocate the construction to a different site but within the same location. The project manager has been in communication with the contractor who is willing and ready to construct the classroom once he is given a go ahead by the Infrastructure Department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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Speaker: Hon. Karuiru you did raise this statement. You could also have some comments on it.

Hon. George Karuiru: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me once again thank the committee for agreeing with me. I would reserve this especially to you, Mr. Speaker for it is just like yesterday that the same committee brought a report and deceived this House that the said class was ongoing. They have now verified that it was not. Mr. Speaker, you have heard that it has stalled for eight months.

It is deceiving that for those whole eight months the Chair stood in this same House and said that it is ongoing. I can see the photographer took a few pictures of the same class plus the materials. You can see I and the Chairman of the ECDE were there. I would beg to know the procedures of awarding a construction and in this case such a class. If it followed the due process I then think that the contractor was to be taken to the site. I do not know whether they excavated. Through that site handover, the contractor could have said that he or she is unable to construct on the said allegation in annexure 2 about the soil being black cotton soil.

Mr. Speaker, I think there is a problem because for the eight months nobody has gone to the same ECDE to ask. As the people's representative it is not my task to call them and tell them to now change the site. I think what I needed was comprehensively that the department has planned a date to go talk to the committee and identify a better site that does not have cotton soil.

Mr. Speaker, we have been put to task with you. I am now going to stay with this report. The next time I will come here to ask you what has been done on the site handover. I wanted the exact time that the construction would continue. As I have said, I think there is shallowness of the reports from the Committee on Education and this one is also not comprehensive. I cannot agree that this was the finding. I do not know about the time that they will agree. I believe that they have other issues.

There are so many contractors who are willing to construct even at this rate. The co-mandate of this House is oversight. If the BQ and the preparation was done and tendered which I think they are describing it with a lot of English, the IFMIS thing, and somebody qualified for that then I cannot see anything being quoted here about the contractor who is the key person. It is not about the Department of Infrastructure who did their due work of visiting the site, handing it over and assessing the BQ to see that it is fit. Digging trenches, laying out stones and ballast and then there is no construction.

Mr. Speaker, I think that this one statement is not timed as I had requested. You always guide us to work with the statement that we request. I need more light which should be that we have done this. Eight months is not a short time. They should have done this. We went to the site again and we decided that we outsource some money or we change. We agreed with the committee that where they had identified is not the correct site and let us change to this. Thank you.

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Speaker: Hon. Chair are you able to respond to the issues.

Hon. Mutahi Muritu: Mheshimiwa Spika, ukikumbuka vizuri sana taarifa hii ndio uliyoitolea maagizo. Wewe ndiye uliyeitolea maagizo katika hili Bunge. Tulikuwa na Mheshimiwa kutoka Ol Moran tulipokuwa tunaelekea kule na kamati yangu. Tulitembea pamoja. Alitununulia chakula cha mchana na tulienda na kujionea. Mheshimiwa Spika, kuna tatizo katika idara husika na nilikiri hilo Bungeni lako. Wajibu wetu ni kuwa taarifa inapoitishwa unaipatia kamati na sisi kama kamati kupitia katibu wasaidizi tunatumia idara husika na kutoa majibu.

Mheshimiwa Spika, majibu kutoka kwa idara kuhusiana na hili darasa, kama unataka tupate mwelekeo mwingine, hayakidhi haja. Ndipo unaona inajirudia hapa. Tulijiuliza maswali mengi sana. Tulijaribu kueleza kamati na tukaita afisa mhusika na waziri mhusika. Maswali ambayo Mheshimiwa anajaribu kuuliza kuwa tunataka kuwaona waliokuwa wameomba hiyo kazi. Sisi, Mheshimiwa Spika, wewe ulituagiza twende mashinani na tujionee na hivi ndivyo tulijionea. Wajibu wetu ni kutoa majibu kama haya lakini kujua zaidi ya hapo majibu ni kama hayo uliyoona yalitolewa. Nakuomba Mheshimiwa Spika, utolee taarifa hii mwelekeo wa kujua ni wapi tunakoelekea.

Tumeenda, tumekutana na Mheshimiwa na tumemwita waziri ambaye ametoa haya majibu. Barua hii ya Idara ya Miundombinu iliandikwa mwaka jana. Sasa ni uamuzi wako lakini hata sisi wenyewe hatukupata yale majibu. Tunahitajika kujibu maswali lakini hatutatafuta majibu mengine tofauti kama kamati kutoka kwenye idara. Kama ni afisa anayehusika, mwongozo ni wako Mheshimiwa Spika, asante.

Speaker: I wish to open it a little bit to any other Member who has a comment to make before we give the direction.

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is good because the issue has been raised by the Hon. Member for Ol Moran. There is an issue that he was seeking for clarification. It seems there was a previous report that shows the project was on-going. Later on, it has been stated that it is to be relocated. We need to see the way forward so that we be able to contribute.

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The report that we have here on this ECDE class, I feel it was the best report as at now. What we should be discussing from now is the way forward. If you look at everything that is here in the report, it cannot satisfy the people and the representative of Ol Moran. What was important in Ol Moran is to have a class. The report that has been given from the department indicates exactly what they know and have as at now.

Mr. Speaker, it is not a mandatory requirement for the House to concur with such a report. The report is there and comes from the department. We as a committee are still asking ourselves the same questions that Hon. Karuiru is asking. We are asking ourselves and on the other hand we had to bring the report as requested by the Hon. Member. As at now, we are at the stage of reporting

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what the Hon. Member had requested. To the Committee we feel that it is satisfactory as at now. Now we need to think and ask ourselves several questions.

Mr. Speaker, does it mean that around that area nobody will ever construct a masonry house? Does it mean that it is only in Ol Moran where we have black cotton? When I look at it according to the Infrastructure Department, we need to go further and question the person who did this. I am speaking of my experience in Umande Ward, we have a class called Kalalu and it is located in a black cotton soil area. You go up to seven feet and it is purely black cotton.

The same year, we had the same money Kshs. 1.4 million and the class was done. We need to advance and move to the new and current technologies. People are doing deep columns of even 10 feet and raising that floor. Kshs. 1.4 million will definitely do it. I really wonder whether that place in Ol Moran has a depth of over 12 foot which is purely black cotton. I do not understand and that is where we need to move on and start asking ourselves the direction that was given by the Department of Infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, does it even satisfy us? If the ground and area around that place is black cotton, does it mean that the young children in Ol Moran must go kilometres looking for a classroom where there is red soil? The red soil could be very far maybe even 20 kilometres from there. We must get a way forward because this report from the infrastructure has taken over one year. One year, Hon. Karuiru had an opportunity to do another budget. If they had given this information, maybe he could have added them Kshs. 100,000 or so. They just kept the information.

Mr. Speaker, this comes again exactly as I had said last time. The Department of Education is a failed department. One day one time you will come to realise this and concur with me, that it is a failed department. How do you stay with a report? Today we are talking about a report of last year telling us that the place has black cotton soil. You always have a way out because those people need a classroom. You need to have another option. They are saying that they are still in consultative meetings. I do not know whether they are consulting for over one year on the same.

We are now in another budget. It is disheartening and this House needs to move a step further. We need even to take action to the people responsible. They had an option to re-advertise the tender immediately. They could have done the same if the contractor was not willing. They had an option to adjust the requirements in the contract and were able to do all these. If they felt the building was to be done with Kshs 1.6 million, they had opportunity to do that from that year.

Mr. Speaker, there is somebody who has failed the people of Laikipia and the people of Ol Moran. To be specific, it is just two-three weeks ago when I was saying that the Department of Education in the whole of this year, they have utilised less than 10%. We need to add up all these things and come to a conclusion of what I'm saying. The department has failed. We might wait for this story forever. Until you give a direction on this. Do not just give a normal direction we must now have a harsh direction. We must take action to these people.

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If we remain this way, today is Ol Moran and I know Umande is full of black cotton soil, next year we will have the same. If you go to Thingithu, we have black cotton soil and we are doing the office of a Member in black cotton soil. Why is it done? We must ask ourselves all these questions. I feel this is just a scapegoat. Either they are not willing to do it, or maybe the money has already been siphoned. Maybe there is nothing existent of such money and now they are only hiding on black cotton.

We must stand up and rise as a House and have the correct direction. A very harsh decision from this House so that next year and next year but one, the people of other wards may not suffer the same. Thank you.

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Asante, Bwana Spika. Nashukuru kwa kunipatia nafasi hii ili niweze kutoa maoni yangu. Kuhusu taarifa hii ambayo imetolewa na Mwenyekiti wa Elimu. Kamati imefanya juu chini kuhakikisha wamepata ripoti hii. Ukiangalia wanavyosema kuhusu hili darasa la Ol Moran, utaona kweli idara hii hakuna kitu inafanya. Jambo ambalo nimejiuliza nilipoona taarifa hii ni kwamba, katika idara hiyo tulijenga darasa la ECDE katika Shule ya Msingi ya Matanya. Tulikuwa tumelitenga shilingi milioni 1.1. Kufikia wakati huu, hilo darasa limejengwa na likakamilika.

Huo ni ule mchanga ambao ni mbaya zaidi. Kuona hili darasa la Ksh.1.4 M halijafanyika ni kuonyesha kuna shida katika hiyo idara. Jambo ambalo ningemuuliza Mwenyekiti ni kuwa amekuuliza upeane mwongozo. Hakuna mwongozo mwingine ambao unafaa kupatiana. Bunge hili linaongozwa na sheria na *standing orders.* Inasema kama mtu ameshindwa kufanya kazi, iko njia yake. Sijui ni *standing order* nambari ngapi na labda Msaidizi wa Katibu wa Bunge anaweza kutusaidia.

Inasema vizuri iwapo mtu ameshindwa na kazi anafaa kuenda nyumbani. Hii ripoti kwanza namshukuru huyu amejibu hii kwa maana amejibu ilivyo. Ni kama mtu aje hapa akuambie kuwa mimi ni mwizi na nimeiba kisha kutoka hapo unajua huyo mtu anafaa kuwa jela. Hii taarifa ni sawa na inasema vizuri wameshindwa. Hii Kamati walete ripoti na watumie hizi na nyingine, ya kuwa hawa watu wameshindwa na kazi kwa hivyo waende nyumbani.

Hakuna kitu kingine Mwenyekiti unafaa kuleta. Kesho kuja useme Waziri wa Elimu, Afisa mkuu wa Elimu na Yule ambaye anahusika na mambo ya *procurement* wameshindwa. Hii Nyumba itoe suluhisho, waende nyumbani. Hiyo ndiyo suluhu, ama namna gani jameni? Namna hio, na hivyo ndivyo tunataka na ndivyo tutafanya. Asante, Mheshimiwa Spika.

Speaker: I want to first give to Hon. Member for Ol Moran so that the Chair can respond in full.

Hon. George Karuiru: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to Hon. Stephen although he is taking the mantle. He is not even going through the Chair. He is asking the Members if we have agreed. He should be in order. The other one, I think this is the paper you have just seen me

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standing checking. The second site report reads, 17th June, 2020. I want the Members to follow with me, the first one was 2nd October, 2019. Again, the site report here is dated 17th June, 2020.

Mr. Speaker, if you want to talk of incompetency from the Department and ignorance. There are two site reports at the back of this report. You can actually see the dates so that when we are prosecuting this issue, or the Assembly is taking any steps towards the Committee on education, you can tell how the dates differ. Thank you.

Hon. Mutahi Muritu: Mheshimiwa Spika, kuna wakati unaofika na watendaji katika idara wanazokabidhiwa madaraka. Nikiri kwenye Bunge hili na iende kwa kumbukumbu, kwamba idara husika na sana sana Afisa Mtendaji katika wizara ile. Nazungumza kwa nafasi yangu kama Mjumbe, kwanza ana kiburi na ushirikiano wake siyo mzuri sana. Hauridhishi kabisa kusema ukweli. Leo hii nakuja kwa hii ya Ol Moran. Kama kuna mtu atakuwa na kibarua kigumu na taarifa nzito kutoka kwa mwaka huu tunaofunga siku ya leo, ni idara hii husika.

Mheshimiwa Spika, ukienda pale kama ulivyosikia mzungumzaji kutoka Umande, amesema asilimia kumi. Zaidi ya madarasa kumi na tano yaliyoidhinishwa na Bunge hili, ni madarasa mawili au matatu yamejengwa, na ukimuuliza. Tulikuwa na vikao ndio unaona maslahi. Kwa nafasi yangu nimekiri na nimekubali ule uamuzi utakaochukuliwa na Kiti chako, na ichukuliwe na Bunge. Kama Kamati huko ndiko tutajielekeza.

Hii idara kama ulivyosikia, zaidi ya darasa kumi na tano. Ukiangalia hata mimi nilipoiangalia hii ripoti. Utaniuliza kama nilitia sahihi na nilitia sahihi. Ukiangalia hata maoni ya Afisa wa miundombinu, ilitoka mwaka jana. Sasa unashindwa kuitisha nyaraka zingine hapa zimekuwa kama ni kuomba. Nataka uone taarifa ya Afisa wa idara ya miundombinu alitoa mapendekezo yake lini, na tuko wapi na ni wapi tulipofikia. Hapo ndipo unaona kuna shida. Sitamtaja kwa kuwa sheria inasema Afisa Mtendaji ndiye anayekabidhiwa mamlaka yote na kuiongoza idara.

Yule mtu ambaye utachukulia, mimi kwanza nitasimama kusema. Afisa Mtendaji kwenye hiyo idara ndiye anayekwaza idara hiyo. Nasema ukweli, nimekwambia mwaka huu tunaofunga leo, zaidi ya madarasa kumi na tano ni darasa mbili tu na labda hata hayajakamilika. Sasa hata wewe unashindwa, sasa mimi ninaingia kwenye Bunge nitaonekana vingine. Hiyo idara kama utatoa mwongozo twende kwa hatua nyingine. Hiyo idara inatakiwa huyo Afisa Mtendaji anahitajika kushughulikiwa, asante.

CONSIDERED RULING

Speaker: Hon. Members, the Chairman for Education on 9th June, 2020 responded to a statement on the same Status of Marura ECDE class in Ol Moran Ward. It goes like this; *The committee requested for a response from the Department of Education and Social Development. On 4th June, 2020 we received a response from the Department by REF: CGL/EDN/SS/CA/1/5/Vol 1134, which stated that the construction of the class is currently on going.*

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Therefore, we need to take it from there that after you went to the ground. The response that you brought today shows that the project is not on going. One of the things I expected the committee to do is first of all, to ask whoever wrote that letter whether he misled that Committee to come and mislead the House. That is the first question, because that person must answer that. You said and we read it in the House and you responded that the project was on going. Then we have another letter even with prove that the project is not on going.

We do not leave this House to be taken as a House of jokes and games. It should be treated like an Honourable House. Two, I partly concur with Hon. Ndiritu that the Committee has powers. When you go to chapter 11 of the constitution that established the County Governments you will see the powers of the County Assembly. We have an oversight role. In the spirit of the constitution it did not just establish a single arm of the County government. With both the legislature and the executive in the same arm headed by one person.

It talks of independent arms because whoever wrote this constitution knew that it was likely. You could not implement a project and oversight yourself. They knew those who oversight are also not angels from heaven. They can also go wrong but when they go wrong there is another independent arm not influenced by the same executive that can oversight.

I therefore request the Committee in their oversight role and mandate to follow up on the same. Summon the officers concerned and get the correct answers. Provide this House with a comprehensive response in thirty days from today. The days start counting from tomorrow. In thirty days you will provide us with a comprehensive report. Hon. Chair you better listen. You do not need to go back to the site because you have already done.

You need to just call the officers to clarify. With the document that you have, first of all. Question number one, why is it that you misled the House by lying to the House that the project is currently on going while you also have letters to show that the project has stalled and has been inactive for about eight months. Hon. Chair kindly note that. You will bring a comprehensive report to this House.

Hon. Mutahi Muritu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

BILL

LAIKIPIA COUNTY YOUTH SERVICE BILL 2020

(First Reading)

Speaker: The Bill is committed to the Labour Social Welfare and Community Services Committee.

MOTION

POLICY FOR ECDE TEACHERS

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(Resumption of previous motion dated 25th June, 2020)

Hon. George Karuiru: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For giving me this opportunity to move the motion on the policy for ECD teachers. Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to move the following motion;

> THAT, NOTING THAT part 2 of the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, stipulates that pre-primary education, village polytechnics, home craft centres and childcare facilities is a function of the County Government;
>
> FURTHER NOTING THAT Early childhood education is critical in ensuring a good foundation for child development;
>
> AWARE THAT Early Childhood Education policy is not in place to date in our county hence minimum stipends to ECD teachers causing low morale;
>
> This House URGES the County Government to establish a policy for pre-primary education that will;
>
> 1. Seek to provide monthly stipends to the teachers;
> 2. Have adequate trained and motivated ECD teachers in all Public ECD Pre-schools in the County;

Mr. Speaker, pursuant to this section one, seek to provide monthly stipends to the teachers. I beg notice…

Speaker: Hon. Karuiru you have not read number three.

Hon. George Karuiru: Sorry. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Number three is;

> 3. Upgrade the physical facilities and provide instructional and recreational facilities in the public pre-schools.

Mr. Speaker, pursuant to number one I beg to give notice of amendment to the motion on policy for ECD teachers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we know, we all come from whoever went to school passed on through the ECD classes. In our early times it was called nursery school. The technology is changing even names and now it is ECD (Early Childhood Development). It is a cry to the County Government. We are now headed to our eighth or ninth budget since time of devolution. Our ECD teachers have never been recognized.

That is why I came with this motion. Despite of them getting monthly stipends, we feel that something needs to be done. During the formulation of the County or devolution, we started with people working from the National Government being brought to the County Government. Those that were in the former council, they are called I think council government or something. They were brought across the board. Those who were by then teachers actually were not recognized from the ECD especially.

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We have had casuals, drivers that now have either been absorbed or something else. They are being felt and being motivated. It is a worry, some time I visited an ECD and I was called by an ECD teacher who by then went and had a kid.

The outcry was when she went for that leave, which is also not recognized because they do not have a policy, on returning to the same school she found out that there was her replacement. That replacement now demanded that the teacher together with her child were sent home unconditionally. I feel something needs to be done to the ECDE at least to regulate and have a policy that these people are employed even if they will get the minimum wage they can access the loaning facilities like banks. I know most of them have got diplomas and there are those that do not have. We have county workers and those from the National Government who are also working and are studying while working. Our good friends here, our noble head teachers cannot have that.

I also urge the County Government to upgrade the physical facilities and provide infrastructural and recreational facilities in public schools. We have had the adjustment of the current education system and I feel that because this issue of ECDE is now devolved we need to do a lot to empower our nursery schools and the young ones to keep them updated. We have realized that once the kids get to class four there is this program that has been brought and I think the Chair Education can remind me the name. There is a name they are being called but I do not know whether he also remembers that name, through you, Mr. Speaker. The *tusome* and *tayari* and they cannot be able to now compact this if they do not have the upgraded physical facilities.

I urge the County Government that all that we are doing and why we are sitting here is because we passed through the ECDE. I beg Members to help me urge the County Government to come up with a policy so that we will be able to hold the second most sensitive part of the human being because first of all we were born. We then need to be educated through the current very good and essential systems. I beg the Hon Member, but before I do that I wish to move an amendment. I beg to give notice of an amendment to the motion on policy for ECDE teachers…

Speaker: Hon. Karuiru, first have a seconder.

Hon. George Karuiru: Thank you for the guidance, Mr. Speaker. I beg my fellow neighbour and learned friend the Hon. Simon from Marmanet to second the motion. Thank you.

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to second and also offer my help to the Hon. Member because he is seeking for help to push the government. Early childhood education is of great importance to us because were it not for that education we would not be what we are today. I second this motion and I am sure with a good policy we would wish even those ECDE teachers get a good stipend. I attempted one day to try and educate my young boy sometimes back and I am sure the kind of work that these teachers undertake is strenuous. That was my son and unfortunately I could not afford to spend over ten minutes trying to educate him because teaching a new child on how to go about it is a challenge.

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I support that we have a good policy and also ensure that these teachers doing all these strenuous jobs are well catered for through being given a good stipend. It is better for the county to engage them and they become county employees so that they benefit from the resources we get rather than doing some other activities. We might forfeit some activities to ensure these teachers get a good pay. I second and I am ready to support it and help the Hon. Member ensure it is well implemented. Thank you.

(Question proposed)

AMENDMENT TO MOTION

POLICY FOR ECDE TEACHERS

Hon. George Karuiru: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to move the following amendment to the said motion; that the motion on policy for ECDE teachers be amended as follows;

By deleting the words "part one of paragraph one" and inserting the works "seek to absorb and put them under payroll and increase the monthly stipends"

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I beg Hon. Thomi to second.

(Hon. Peter Thomi seconded)

(Question on amendment proposed)

Speaker: This means we are removing part one that says seek to provide monthly stipends to the teachers and replace with what is in the notice. Can I then ask the mover to reply?

Hon. George Karuiru: Thank you, Mr. Speaker for the moral support and also Members who have participated in the same because as we have all realized the ECDE teachers always get the monthly stipends even though sometimes late. If we consider the monthly stipend it is like twelve thousand shillings before deductions then after deductions it comes to around ten thousands shillings. The minimum wage that they would deserve according to whichever job group they would be placed is around 13,570 shillings when they are absorbed and are in the payroll. This is something they can go to General Motors and somebody say let me have this small vehicle because now I am employed under the County Government of Laikipia.

What they receive sometimes is so little that they cannot even be able to stand in front of a Hon. Member to say give me a loan of five thousand shillings and I will repay next month because you do not recognize them. They can be sacked tomorrow or the day after but once we have a policy and they are absorbed it is very clear they can be able to access any loan. I urge the Hon Members to support because I know in every ward there is an ECDE class teacher. I know Members feel for these teachers and what we can only be able to do at this particular moment is to urge the County Government to follow up issues with them, pay them well and absorb them so that they have pay slips. Thank you.

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(Question on amendment put and agreed to)

MOTION AS AMENDED

POLICY FOR ECDE TEACHERS

Speaker: We can continue with the debate of the motion as amended. Hon. Member for Githiga.

Hon. Peter Thomi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also stand to contribute and support the motion brought by the Hon. George Karuiru. Even with the amendments I still believe the motion has weight and good message to our children. I can say for sure that this is a leader who has come up with this motion which is very well thought because when we talk of these ECDE teachers it is the same as talking about our children who are in these ECDE classrooms. Because we love them and would wish them well it is important, as the mover has said, that we have a policy and think a lot about these teachers. These are our children and most of the time we get time to come to work because these children have gone to that classroom. That person who is with them needs to be given support not to have low morale.

These are teachers who we should think about and support that we establish that policy so that they are well catered for, well taken care of, and feel represented. It is very unfortunate when we just take them as mere teachers forgetting that they are the ones with these young children who learn right from day one. What they learn in nursery school is what they move to other classes knowing. I would say this is an important motion and that we should support in all ways possible to ensure that the county government and the department concerned clearly take into consideration the mover's request, and as we approve as Members because we feel that these children must be taken care of. They are the future of this country. They are people who may not know whether their right is being denied that is why I am saying the mover has thought a lot because we have to take care of them. Taking care of these children is considering the teacher who is always with them.

I support that we have, as the motion has said, respect and ensure that we have supported these teachers so that they are not left out and that even the classrooms they are in are done well knowing that those are our children and these are people working day and night spending a lot of time with our children. As one of the contributors in this motion as said, it is not easy. Even when we are at home we know it is not easy to handle these young children so I support this motion in a big way.

Hon. George Meshami: Asante sana, Mheshimiwa Spika. Mimi pia ninasimama kutoa hoja yangu katika mswada huu ulioletwa na Mheshimiwa George. Wacha niseme ni mswada muhimu sana katika kaunti yetu ya Laikipia tukielewa ya kwamba unaguza shule za chekechea pale mashinani na walimu. Ni muhimu sana kwa serikali yetu ya kaunti ijue umuhimu wa walimu wa chekechea kwa kuwaongezea mishahara kwa sababu mishahara ambayo wanalipwa ni midogo

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na hawawezi kumudu maisha yao tukijua maisha yamekuwa magumu haswa wakati huu. Mswada huu umekuja kwa wakati unaofaa tukijua ya kwamba walimu hawa ni wa maana sana katika nguzo ya watoto wetu kwa sababu ninaamini hakuna kiongozi ambaye hajapitia katika shule hiyo inayotulisha ndipo tupate kuendelea na maisha yetu. Mimi pia ninasimama na kuunga mkono kabisa na kusema ya kwamba ni muhimu walimu wetu wa shule za chekechea waangaliwe na serikali yetu na ipate kuwapa mishahara inayofaa kwa wakati unaofaa. Ninaunga mkono.

Hon. Mutahi Muritu: Asante sana, Mheshimiwa Spika. Ninasimama kuunga mkono hoja hii muhimu sana haswa unaohusiana na msingi wa taifa lolote kwa sababu sio wote waliobahatika kwamba watoto wao wanao nafasi bora zaidi kama sisi tulivyo hapa, awe mfanyakazi wa serikali ama sisi wajumbe hapa. Sisi tumebahatika tunaweza kutafuta hata shule ya kibinafsi lakini shule za serikali haswa hili ni jukumu la kaunti kuwajibika kushughulikia swala hili nyeti. Kama vile ilivyokuwa hapo mbeleni idara hii ni muhimu katika kaunti lakini serikali hii imeingia mikataba mingi sana ya fedha nyingi sana. Tumefanya mambo mengi na tumeleta sheria nyingi sana kwa maslahi ya wengine lakini hatujaangalia yule anayeunda msingi wa watoto wetu.

Isiwe tu ni mswada kwa sababu huenda usitiliwe maanani sana na serikali hii kwa kuwa walimu katika kaunti hii ni zaidi ya mia nane. Ukiangalia zile fedha, kwa mfano kama zile nilizokuwa nikiongelea za madarasa, hazikutumika. Kama ingewezekana hata iwe asili mia fulani kungekuwa na sheria tuhakikishe ya kwamba hawa waalimu wamewekwa katika orodha ya kulipwa ili tuwe na msingi mzuri wa maisha ya baadaye. Mwaka jana serikali ilizunguka hapa ikisema ni siku ya elimu, kliniki ya elimu, na sisemi ni mbaya lakini ninaona tulikuwa tumepoteza mwelekeo kwa sababu tulienda kushughulika na majukumu yasiyotuhusu. Tulienda kuwaona watoto wa shule za msingi na sekondari. Sisi tunapotea kwa jukumu letu na kujielekeza upande usiostahili.

Hili sisemi tu nikiwa ninachangia ila ninaamini hata moyoni mwangu kwa sababu yule mtoto mdogo aliye kule Ngare Ng'iro, Marura na Githiga, mtetezi wake ni nani? Mwalimu mwenyewe anapewa chambo na hata kitu chenyewe hakipatikani. Ugali unapikwa na baadaye anapewa ukoko na tunasema tunataka kuunda msingi mzuri wa siku za baadaye. Ninaomba kama serikali itafikiwa na hili iweze kulishughulikia. Ninamshukuru Mheshimiwa kutoka Ol Moran ikibidi hata kuwe na marekebisho ya lazima katika bajeti kwa kipindi kijacho katika bajeti tunayoingia tuweze kuwa shughulikia hawa walimu. Tutaimba pambio hapa na baadaye tutaletewa mambo mengine tuyawekee pesa lakini wale walimu wanaounda msingi hawapo kabisa.

Ninamshukuru sana Mheshimiwa kutoka Ol Moran na ninaamini sisi tulijukumiwa kwa Bunge la pili tutahakikisha ya kwamba angalau tumewatendea hawa watoto wadogo na vizazi vijavyo haki. Ukitembea kaskazini mwa Laikipia utaona ule mswada ulileta moto kwa sababu unakuta kunao watoto sasa hivi hawajapata darasa, hawako darasani ila wako chini ya mti. Yule mwalimu aliye kule hana maslahi yoyote na inauma sana. Sasa hivi tumekuja hapa tukiwa watanashati tukiongea mambo mengi sana lakini watoto wetu zaidi ya elfu ishirini na moja hata sasa hivi shule zikifunguliwa hakuna mikakati yoyote kwenye serikali. Nimesikia ya kwamba chuo

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zikifunguliwa leo wale watoto watapata dumu la maji, vitakaza mikono na barakoa. Sisi tunakimbizana na mambo mengine ambayo ninaona wakati mwingine siyo ya msingi kuliko haya. Ninamshukuru Mheshimiwa na ninaunga mkono asili mia kwa mia. Asante, Mheshimiwa Spika.

Hon. George Karuiru: Asante Mheshimiwa Spika. Ninataka kuwashukuru Waheshimiwa kwa kuungana na mimi na kushikilia ya kwamba kitambo waende shule ya msingi, sekondari na chuo kikuu wamepitia kwa hawa walimu wa chekechea. Ni vibaya sana kukaa na mtu asiye na mtetezi mwingine isipokuwa sisi akiwa tu na ule mshahara na hajui iwapo kesho ataenda nyumbani akiwa hana afya, na akitaka kuwa na watoto wapitie kwa hizo chekechea. Hawa marafiki wetu wa serikali kuu wakikubali, na ninajua watakubali wito wa nyumba hii ya nguvu, watayatekeleza hayo na kuwaweka kwa mishahara na sajili ya mishahara ili nao pia wawe wakiona kunao watu wanaowajali. Ninazidi kuwaomba tuendelee kushikana mkono na tuunge mkono kabisa hili wazo. Asante.

(Question on motion as amended put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: Hon. Members, you may rise. This House now stands adjourned until tomorrow Wednesday, 1st July, 2020, at 9.00 a.m.

The House rose at 3.50 p.m.

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