REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 12th August, 2020

The House met at the Assembly Chambers at 9.00 a.m.

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

PRAYERS

QUORUM CALL

Speaker: Clerk confirm whether we have quorum.

(Lack of Quorum confirmed)

Speaker: Serjeant at Arms ring the bell.

(The Quorum bell was rung for five minutes)

Speaker: Clerk confirm whether we have quorum.

(Quorum confirmed)

Speaker: Serjeant at Arms to stop the bell.

PAPER LAID

LAIKIPIA COUNTY COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT REVOLVING FUND

Hon. Peter Thomi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have the following paper to lay;

Laikipia County Cooperative Development Revolving Fund annual report and financial statements for the Financial Year ended June 30, 2020.

(Hon. Peter Thomi laid the paper on the Table)

Speaker: The paper stands committed to the Trade, Enterprise Development and Cooperative Committee.

STATEMENT

VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND ECDE CENTERS IN LAIKIPIA COUNTY

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Hon. Peter Matunge: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a statement request on Vocational Training Centers and ECDE centers in Laikipia. Pursuant to the provision of Standing Order 45 (2) c, I wish to seek a statement from the Chairperson Education and ICT regarding the above mentioned subject matter. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected education system all wide. It has led to the near total closure of schools, universities and colleges. Most governments around the world have temporarily closed the education institutions in an attempt to contain the spread of COVID-19.

As of 27th July, 2020, approximately 1.72 Billion learners are currently affected due to the closure of the schools in response to the pandemic. According to UNICEF monitoring, 106 countries are currently implementing national wide closure and 55 are implementing local closures impacting about 98.6% of the world student population. 48 schools are currently open. Kenya is one of the countries that has a total closure of all the learning institutions.

Schools closure not only impact on students, teachers and families but have a far reaching economic and social consequences. School closure in response to the pandemic has shed light on the various social and economic issues including student deaths, digital learning, food insecurity and homelessness as well as the access to child care, health care, housing, internet and disability services.

The impact was more severe to disadvantaged children and their families causing disrupted learning, compromising nutrition, childcare problems and consequences and economic falls of families who could not work. In response to school closure, UNICEF recommend the use of distance learning programs and open educational applications and platforms that schools and teachers can use to reach learners remotely and limit the disruption of education.

Countries are getting prepared for the resumption of learning post COVID-19 period by putting in place resources to provide adequate infrastructure that will allow for the address and adherence of COVID -19 guidelines.

Mr. Speaker, with all this in mind, I wish to request the Chairperson for Education and ICT to shed light on the following issues.

1) How much recurrent expenditure has been set aside for Vocational Training Centers and ECDEs in the 2020/ 2021 budget?

2) Has the County Government been paying the ECDE teachers and the VTC training of teachers since the onset of COVID-19?

3) Is the County Government prepared for the reopening of schools County wide taking into account all the Ministry of Education guidelines? What precautionary measures have been put in place to this effect?

4) Does the County Government have adequate facilities and teachers to enable resumption of learning for VTC and ECDE centers across the county?

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5) Considering that the COVID-19 struck mid-way between the financial year, what is the status of the ECDE centers budgeted in the year 2019/2020 budget as one of the measures to have adequate infrastructure?

6) What are the plans put in place by the County Government for the recruitment of qualified, motivated and well trained ECDE teachers? Thank you.

Speaker: The statement is raised to the Chair Education and ICT Committee. The Vice Chair has just come in. I wish to ask the Vice Chair to register what time she needs for her to respond to this statement.

Hon. Catherine Kibue: Mr. Speaker, one month.

Speaker: The one-month period granted.

Hon. Irene Wachuka: Asante, Mheshimiwa Spika. Niliuliza hilo swali kama wiki tatu au mwezi moja uliopita. Mheshimiwa Spika, hizi barakoa ni bandia. Ni bandia. Ni vizuri kwa mtu anayeongea kuhusu hii shida. Haiko *in order* nyinyi kupatia mfanyikazi kazi ya kuleta hizi barakoa hapa. Sisi tunaekewa barakoa pale, unaona, unaweka na yote inaharibika. Kwa nini tusiletewe vitu halisi? Mheshimiwa Spika, tulikuuliza juzi. Kila Memba anafaa kuwa na sanduku lake. Apewe sanduku lake.

Wafanyikazi hawa hawana shida. Sisi na uongozi wetu ndio tuko na shida. Ukimwambia Mfanyikazi peana moja atafanya hiyo. Hii ni mara ya pili. Ni vizuri tuonekane kuwa tukisema kitu katika hii Bunge inafanyika. Unajua unakaa na unasikia na siyo kusikia, mambo mengine hapa. Hakuna haja ya kupatia mfanyikazi agizo la kuleta hizi barakoa. Patia mwananchi kutoka nje kwa sababu ataheshimu hili Bunge na ataleta vitu halisi. Asante.

Speaker: Are they supplied by an employee of this County Assembly?

Hon. Irene Wachuka: Ndiyo, hata *sanitizers.* Ukisikia tukisema kitu sisi ni wanasiasa na tunajua kila kitu mashinani. Kazi yetu ni kuvuta *aerial* ya hii. Tuliletwa hapa na wananchi; wewe hutaambiwa. Siwezi kusimama mbele yako na niseme kitu ambacho sijui. Hizi barakoa na *sanitizers* zimeletwa na mfanyikazi mmoja na ndivyo unaona tunapimiwa kama dawa. Tuliongea hapa juzi na unakuta mambo mengine yanaendelea. Hatutaongea ile hapa. Hatutaki kuingia sana. Wakati tunakupatia habari wewe ndiye kiongozi wa nyumba hii na Spika wetu. Tukikupatia maneno ngoja mambo yafanyike.

Speaker: The Clerk has instructions to deliver the masks as we had requested for each Member. I believe I will be able to address that issue in the afternoon and update on where we are.

Hon. Catherine Kibue: Asante sana, Mheshimiwa Spika. Nikiongezea kwa kile mama yao amesema, shida sio nani anayeleta barakoa ama *sanitizer*, barakoa na *sanitizer* zenyewe hazipatikani. Kwa dhati Waheshimiwa lazima wakae hapa. Barakoa zenyewe sio zinazostahili. Tukiongea kwa umakini. Shida sio ni nani anayeleta. Barakoa na *sanitizer* zenyewe ziko wapi?

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Hon. Robert Maina: Asante, Mheshimiwa Spika. Nataka kuongeza kwa yale ambayo yamenenwa na Waheshimiwa Wajumbe. Imekuwa ni kawaida ama ni mazoea ya kuwa tukiongea kitu katika hili Bunge halichukuliwi maanani. Ugonjwa wa COVID-19 unaongezeka kila siku. Hili jambo ambalo tunaliongelea hapa tuliliongelea takribani mwezi moja uliyopita. Angalia ile nimepewa imetokana hapa saa hii. Hili Bunge silo la mtu binafsi bali ni la kuhudumia wananchi wa Laikipia.

Hatuko hapa mtu achukulie kama Bunge hili ni boma lake. Hili silo jambo la kurudia hapa na kama vitu hivi havipatikani na kuna watu wanakaa kwenye hizi afisi wanafanya nini? Wakati huu hatuko hapa kubembelezana, tunahitaji barakoa hizi za asili, vitakasa mikono na kila kitu. Mheshimiwa kupewa sanduku lake na kuhesabiwa na hawa karani wetu itachukua muda gani? Kitu gani kigumu hapo? Hiki kitu kinaudhi na hatuko hapa kurudia maneno kila wakati. Tumekasirika na hata wewe mwenyewe unajua vile huu ugonjwa umeenea hapa Laikipia. Sasa ugonjwa utatoka kwa wananchi uje kwetu na hata hapa hatujui kama sisi ni wagonjwa. Haya ni mambo yanayofaa kutiliwa maanani. Hatuko hapa kushinda tukiyarudia maneno kama watoto wadogo. Asante.

Hon. Chris Mark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to voice a concern, if you see the mask I am wearing it is a different one because I got tired of wearing these masks and they keep spoiling. It is a very critical issue as the Hon. Member has said. We are not just given masks but they must be genuine. This disease does not discriminate whether you are a politician or a member of the public. You saw even in Samburu a whole MCA has COVID-19 as we speak and was being treated here in Cottage. The other day it killed the former MP for Changamwe, the late Hon Ramadhan Kajembe. We want even the masks to be original and that is why such things cannot be original when they are being supplied by someone from within because they will look for short-cuts so that they can make bigger margins.

In fact, we want the health department to be involved in anything that is supplied here the same way we involved the CECM for infrastructure and the chief officer when we were looking for offices. We want to know if they are the ones that have been certified by KEMSA, together with the sanitizers also. There is that trend that they will talk and talk then they keep quiet because something else will distract them.

This time I do not think Members will be distracted by anything. What we ask if it is genuine, ours in our rightful place will have to be delivered. It does not matter how long but it will have to be delivered. We cannot be talking from January to December and someone sits somewhere saying that is the trend of Hon. Members. They will make noise then something will come up and they go for recess and keep quiet. In fact, if someone is wishing that we go for recess or home because of COVID-19 and the issues go down, we are not going to go.

Hon. Peter Thomi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to echo the words of Hon. Members and urge that this matter is also taken very seriously because these Members for the second time have stood on the floor of this House to complain about masks. I think it is very

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unfortunate that at this particular time this can be a discussion. If anything happens at this particular moment in this House, the HANSARD is there that these Members have complained on the masks they have. This could be very serious and if you move round some of these offices in this Assembly you will find that there are cartons of masks. We want to know how they are supplied, where they come from and who supplies them and why they could be in those offices. Unless you find somebody on the grounds of this building so that you can obtain a mask there is no specific point you can get a mask. It is very unfortunate and I support these Members that this matter for the first time is taken very seriously because it is an alarming case. Thank you.

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to support what Hon. Wachuka has stated. It is unfortunate if the Assembly with just twenty-four Members cannot afford the N95 masks that seem to be a bit safe for us. It is also unfortunate because even now Hon. Chris Mark has a very good one that cannot pull his ears to the front. By the end of this session, that is December, all our ears will be facing forward. It is unfortunate because this string is pulling our ears and we have no option because we fear this disease and have to put it on while straining. Sometimes you see us going outside to get a free space to remove the mask for your ears to be a bit calm. Sometimes you cannot even hear anything so let us have the genuine ones. Thank you.

Hon Irene Wachuka: Asante sana Mheshimiwa Spika na ninawashukuru wajumbe kikiongeza kitu kimoja. Umesema ifikapo saa nane na mwezi uliopita wa Julai tulikua hapa. Siongei kwa sababu ninajua sana lakini nimekuwa naibu wa meya kwa miaka mitano katika manispaa ya Nyahururu. Katibu wa Bunge akiambiwa jambo awafanyie Waheshimiwa hawa kazi, hiki kitu siyo cha mzaha. Leo nikitoka hapa ninene jambo ndogo tu kwa vyombo vya habari utaona sisi sote tutaenda nyumbani. Tutaanza kupelekwa kupimwa na ni vyema watu kupimwa na hata wengine wanajipeleka kupimwa. Hiki ni kitu muhimu sana kwa sababu kimesimamisha nchi na sio Kenya peke yake.

Kazi ya katibu wa Bunge ni kusikiza Waheshimiwa na hata wale wafanyikazi walioko katika milango na hizi afisi. Kama vile Mheshimiwa mmoja amesema ukiingia katika afisi zingine unakuta zile sanduku ziko. Sasa hivi nimeingia na nikamkuta mfanyikazi mwenyewe akiwaletea watu ndani. Nilikuwa nimesimama kwa sababu sikujua nini inaendelea. Hakuna haja nije hapa kama mwanafunzi na kusimama huko nikisubiri kama vile mtoto anasubiri kupewa penseli anaambiwa aingie kwa darasa. Hapana! Sitakubali na kama hakuna katibu wa Bunge atatuambia kazi yake ni gani katika Bunge hili.

Nimefanya na yeye na siyo mgeni hapa Bungeni. Tulikuwa na yeye katika manispaa na inaonekana miaka ikisalia miwili ya siasi tunaanza kudharauliwa. Tunakutuma kama mkubwa wetu hapa Bunge la Laikipia. Nimenyamaza lakini ifikapo kesho asubuhi tuletewe barakoa zinazofaa na zilizopitishwa na idara ya afya. Nikiongea hivi unapata mtu akipiga simu na unakuta anapewa hata sanduku mbili. Wewe uko na dereva kwa hivyo jipange na usiingie katika langu lile langu bila barakoa.

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Tunakuuliza kama Waheshimiwa ishirini na wanne uongee na Katibu wako pamoja na mkurugenzi, mketi ili kesho tuletewe vitu vya kweli. Kila mtu apewe yake na tupewe muda na zikiisha sote tunapewa wakati tunakuja kuchukua zingine. Heri tuyasimamishe mambo yote kuliko tufe na Korona kwa sababu hatuna barakoa. Mwezi uliopita nilisimama hapa na kunena kuwa hiki ni kitu kinatusumbua. Nitakoma hapo na isisemekane ati Wachuka anafanya siasa. Unajua wanasema Wachuka anafanya siasa, sivyo na kama ni siasa siyo hasa.

Speaker: The instructions are that each and every Member be supplied with a pack of masks and a certain measure, like half a liter or whatever, of sanitizer for you to put either in your bag or vehicle. At the same time a supply of the same items to the offices of the Members of County Assembly so that at the ward offices or rather the offices of the Members you have the required items; a gadget to take temperatures for people visiting the offices and also the sanitizers. I believe because we have a service board meeting immediately after this I think we will be briefed what the hindrances are and why it has not yet happened.

Hon. Catherine Kibue: Asante sana Mheshimiwa Spika. Kwa vile tumesema tukumbushane kila kitu, hata sisi upande huu kwa kuwa sijui kama upande huu huwa ya upinzani na ule ndio wa serikali tunataka kukukumbusha pia kuhusu mitambo ya mawasiliano. Tumechoka kushinda tukiinua mikono ili utuone.

Hon. Robert Maina: Mheshimiwa Spika, unajua tukinena kama Wajumbe tunaonekana kama ni siasa lakini ni vizuri nikuambie ya kwamba siku hizi hatuchungi mbuzi bali ni watu na tunajua yale mambo ambayo yanaendelea katika hili Bunge. Sasa ni mara ya tatu na kama Waheshimiwa hawajaelewa kitu, ukweli ni kwamba haya maji ambayo yako kwa hili chupa ya maji imeletwa hapa ikiwa nusu na ni kama imetolewa kwa chupa nyingine huko. Imetolewa wapi ikiwa nusu? Sijui kama mambo imesimama katika hili Bunge na sisi ndio wenye kununua maji hapa katika hili Bunge. Hii maji hata siyo ya Laikipia na hatufai kuletewa maji iliyo nusu. Tuwache mambo ambayo haifai. Asante.

Speaker: It is the Serjeant at Arms who brings water here. Where did you get a half bottle of water? Any way, we will be able to discuss that later. On the issue of the gadgets, of course they have to be fixed and that calls for the re-organization of the Assembly. We did bring a technical person to look at how our Assembly looks like and as you remember we were supposed to make some pathways in between and also place some gadgets fixed like this.

What is under this carpet are quite a number of connections for these gadgets and that is not work that can be done in one day for us to be there. We have to wait until we go for recess for us to be able to fix this House and disorganize it to remove the third column and remove another one next to where Hon. Catherine is seated, so that we can be able to fix all these wirings and fix the carpet again.

We all agree that we cannot be able to do that while we are still working here. So I think that it is strategic that we have to agree on the time it will take. If it will take one week then we

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can have a one-week recess to reorganize the House. If it will take more than one week then we will have a recess that will accommodate that. For the other issues to do with water and welfare issues, I thin k that they will be addressed and I will be able to give that communication in the afternoon.

CONSIDERED RULING

Speaker: Hon. Members, last week on Thursday I had said that we are going to have a *Kamukunji* because there was a concern by the Members who were present that day due to lack of business in this House. I had communicated that most likely on Tuesday or Wednesday we would have a *Kamukunji* to discuss on the same so that we can discuss all those issues of welfare and work together. I have not yet called for that *Kamukunji* because I only met the clerk assistants yesterday morning and had a meeting with them. They are supposed to have a meeting on Thursday and Friday this week before we do our *Kamukunji* because there is quite some information that we need for us to address ourselves.

I will be able to call for that *Kamukunji* in a day when we shall all be there and that can only be next week so that we give them time. We don't want to come and then wait for information because we need to discuss the issues of business. As you can see today the far we have gone is to the level of statements and that has happened for quite some time. Anytime we sit as House business, there is no much business to schedule and my worry was whether the committees are meeting and if they are meeting then where are the transactions of the committees going?

The other question was; is the Liaison holding their meetings and have they considered the activities of the committees and their businesses? We still have a huge amount of business and pending reports with some committees having more than 20 pending reports. So when these committees meet, what exactly do they discuss that these committee's reports have not found their way to the House? Therefore, it is something that we also need to look at.

I woke up last night at around 2.00 a.m. and as I was going through the social media I saw some HANSARD records. For your information, any member of the public can access our HANSARD records because it is not a private thing. So it is important for us to be keen not to be seen as if we transact business only on the level of statements like what we have done for the last two weeks.

I think we really need to look at that and I will think about it also and when we meet for that *Kamukunji* then we will be able to see what we have not done so that we speak to ourselves. If it is a committee that has an issue of membership or quorum like we raised the other day and a number of Members said that the clerk assistants were supposed to go for the BQ's the other side and have work plans for the oversight.

I talked to them and got the challenges that they have. They also have the weaknesses that are in those committees and therefore I think that it will also be important for us as Members to speak to ourselves so that when we meet together we shall come up with business that will push

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this House. We are not meeting in a private place and therefore we always have people who visit this Assembly in the gallery and so we need to be seen as a working House and therefore I believe that it is important for us to have that meeting.

At times we are busy and will not be able to attend this House every day and so the day of the meeting we need to avail ourselves so that we can speak to ourselves with the clerk assistants, the directors and the management so that we can see on how we can move forward with business in this House. For example, if Hon. Kanyutu performed so well in the department of Agriculture whereas in another committee like Rules and Procedure he fails to perform, what has affected his performance? Is it that he has got good working environment in the Agriculture Committee and he lacks conducive environment in that other committee? Is it that there is leadership in one committee that lacks in the other? Is it that he is passionate in matters of agriculture band he lacks passion in matters of rules and procedures?

Therefore, these are issues that we need to speak to ourselves so that at the end of the day we serve our people the way we are required to. Otherwise thank you so Much Hon. Members. I have always stood here to say that we must adhere to the guidelines of MOH because as leaders we should always lead from the front. If a Member fails to wear a mask and he is a leader, then it means that the citizen cannot learn from that Member. When we are telling them to sanitize and use thermal guards in churches and even in burials and yet when they visit a Member of the County Assembly they cannot see that, then it means that we will not be leading from the front. I will address all those issues in the afternoon after the service board meeting. Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: This House now stands adjourned until later today 12th Wednesday, August, 2020 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 9.35 a.m.

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