REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 16th September, 2020

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

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

PRAYERS

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

ASSEMBLY VEHICLES DEDICATION CEREMONY

Speaker: I Just have a brief communication to inform you that tomorrow we will be having a short ceremony to dedicate our vehicles. We have invited a Priest to join us in that short ceremony so that we commit our vehicles and dedicate them to God. It is important. It will be tomorrow immediately after the morning sitting.

STATEMENTS

COUNTY ENTERPRISE LOANS

Hon. Stephen Ndiritu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a response to a statement on the issuance of county enterprise loans to beneficiaries. A statement was read on the Floor of the House by Hon. Peter Matunge on 15th August, 2019 and committed to Trade Tourism and Cooperatives on same day.

The committee tabled a response received from the CECM for Tourism and Cooperatives for deliberation in the House on 20th July, 2020. Upon deliberation it was noted that the issue raised on number 4 and 5 in the statement were not adequately addressed. The committee received a response on the above issue which is attached for deliberation and adoption in the House. The committee wishes to Table the response before the House for deliberation and adoption.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I forward here with a response to your letter dated 22nd July, 2020 Ref. CGL/CA/CM/002/010 to issue raised on number four and five. The issue number four is on the amount used for training and skill development related to enterprises and business development in accordance to Section 11/5 of the Laikipia County Enterprise Fund, 2014.

The credit policy provides for training on loan beneficiaries to ensure that loans are paid and used for the intended purpose. Most of the expenses in the related training have been in relation to basic awareness, training, awareness forum on the criteria of loan applications, appraisal process and requirements. Training has also been done to loan applicants to ensure that they are aware of the requirements, interest rates, loan payments and duration. Before

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giving out the loan, the loanee's are trained on how to fill the loan forms. The training is mandatory for any loanee before being awarded his/her cheque.

Below is a tabulation of the amount spent on training of groups and individuals for the following consecutive years. In that column there is the Financial Year and the amount spent in training. In 2015/16 the amount was Kshs. 70, 300; 2016/17 it was Kshs. 579,500; 2017/18 it was Kshs. 564,200 and in 2018/19 it was Kshs. 273,250.

On issue number five, why did they fund the project named training and skill development related to enterprise and business development without a strategic plan in place contrary to Section 16 of the Laikipia County Enterprise Fund Act, 2014 as read together with section 11/5 of the Laikipia County Enterprise Fund Act, 2014?

In response, the projects funded under trained and skilled development related to enterprise and business development were mostly of the expenses related to basic awareness, training awareness forum on criteria of loan application appraisal process and requirement which were a requirement before issuance of any loan to the beneficiary as stipulated under part 11 section 11/5 notwithstanding sub-section 2, *a loan shall not be disbursed to an applicant unless the applicant has undergone through the prescribed training of the Laikipia County Enterprises Fund Act, 2014.*

Currently, the Laikipia County Enterprises Fund Board has developed its first official draft in collaboration with the patent department after having constraints to fund development of the strategic plan and is in the process of finalizing the document. Please find the Laikipia County Enterprises Fund Strategic Plan Draft attached.

Mheshimiwa Spika, kama vile Mheshimiwa alikuwa ameuliza, nafikiri idara imeweza kujibu kulingana na vile hizo pesa zilitumika. Kulikuwa na suala la nambari nne na tano. Majibu yameeleza kinagaubaga. Nafikiri Wajumbe wako na hiyo *strategic plan* ambayo iko. Idara imeweza kueleza na nikaweza kusoma kama nilivyoagizwa na Bunge. Mheshimiwa Matunge kwa sasa yuko na majibu ya kutosha. Naona ni kama ameridhika lakini atasema yeye mwenyewe. Asante sana.

Hon. Peter Matunge: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to appreciate the Trade and Tourism Committee specifically from the Chair for the effort that they have put in answering this question. They have tried to be so honest when responding to the question. As per their response I am confortable from what the committee has said.

It is only that there are issues that need to be picked from here. The document is confirming that they have conducted trainings contrary to what is required by section 11/5 of the Laikipa County Enterprise Fund without a strategic plan. I think that they are now struggling to do the strategic plan. The purpose of the law is so that we are able to follow. It is we the government who makes laws. When we do not follow the law, what do we then expect from the ordinary citizens of this county?

What the committee has answered is okay. It is only that there are issues that need to be now picked. The oversight committee of this House needs to do serious work as we can see that people are doing things out of their minds without following the provided regulations and

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laws. I think that the reason as to why this House is making laws is so that we are able to put order in this government operation. I am satisfied with what the committee has said. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Matunge and Hon. Ndiritu for that response. That brings us to the end of that statement.

MOTION

RECRUITMENT OF TRAINED TEACHERS

Hon. Peter Matunge: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the following motion.

THAT NOTING THAT the part two of the Fourth Schedule of Constitution of Kenya, 2010 stipulated that pre-primary education, village polytechnics, home craft centres and child care facilities is a function of the County Government.

FURTHER NOTING THAT Early Childhood Education is critical ensuring good foundation for child development.

AWARE THAT despite the growing importance of Early Childhood Education, there are a number of challenges that have continued to pull down this effective implementation. This includes inadequate teaching and learning resources, socio-economic factors, high teacher child ratio with poor remunerations and financial constraints.

This House URGES the County Government to;

1. Recruit trained ECDE teachers with clear job description and terms of service.
2. Undertake county wide ECDE analysis based on teacher-pupil ratio, classroom pupil-ratio, existence of PP1 and PP2 in all the centres as per the requirement of the national pre-primary policies and the status of classrooms.
3. Develop a program that will improve the learning environment of ECDE centres like the free food programme.
4. Partner with other stakeholders to upgrade the physical facilities and instruction, recreational facilities in public primary schools.

Mr. Speaker, I have been talking of the issues of ECDEs for some time because it is the core mandate of the County Government. The reason as to why I have continued to push and talk about the issue of ECDE, it is because of my understanding that ECDE is the foundation of our child development in this county. If we fail to invest in the education of our children at the early stages and we are then denying them the opportunities and the ability to compete with other children in this county and in the larger world.

The drafters of the constitution were so clear that the Early Child Education in terms of infrastructural development and human resource, should come from the County Government. I have been in this county for some time. What I have seen and experienced is that we are

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putting too little in terms of putting and giving our children the opportunity that they need in terms of education. It is both in terms of infrastructure and the human resource that these people need. They should be able get the quality education that they need in this area.

The little that we normally do in education in terms of the few classrooms we do every year is not adequate. I remember that some time back I had tried to do the analysis of the percentages of permanent and the standard classrooms we have in this county. I am so comfortable to say that there are no more than 20% of the classrooms that we can say that these are the standard classrooms required and can be used by the children in a very comfortable manner.

With all that in mind, we then need to pull up our socks and partner with other institutions and stakeholders so that we continue investing in education. The national Early Childhood Education Bill provides and gives a layout of what is required from the National Government. Section 6 of that law part e, says that the County Government should provide the necessary infrastructure and funds that are necessary for development of education centres and administration of early childhood education within the county.

Since devolution started in this county we have never recruited trained teachers with a clear definition of what they do and clear terms of service. What we are doing is that we have teachers who are still depending on a stipend. They neither have clear terms of service nor a clear job description.

I think it is the high time that we all put our resources together and do this for once and for all. We recruit well trained teachers who are able to provide the quality education that these children require in this county. If we give these children to people who are unable to handle them at the early stages, we are then so confident to say that these children are not well prepared to go to the next level of education. We are doing an unfair thing to the children.

We are also talking about the issue of infrastructure. We can find a classroom with more than seventy children. A teacher is teaching the PP1 and PP2 in the same classroom. I think that we need to do an analysis of the same and have adequate data. This is so that when we invest we then know the available gaps in these centres. There are very few centres that we can comfortably say that they are well enough for these people to use them. It is the high time that we all put an adequate budget in education. I do not know how much we have set aside in terms of the recurrent expenditure for the ECDE teachers.

We have the basic and the mandatory application that we are given by the constitution. When we have someone depending on a stipend and we are not putting resources, we are then not doing justice to these people. It is the high time that we all put our resources together. This is in terms of enough resources in infrastructure and human resource. This is so that we provide the best quality education that these children need. We prepare them for their future life. With those few remarks, I wish to call upon Hon. Catherine Nyawira to second this motion.

Hon. Catherine Nyawira: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank Hon. Matunge for bringing this motion to the House. It is something that clearly touches our children in *mashinani*. Mr. Speaker, you look at the recruited trained ECDE teachers with clear job

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descriptions and terms of service. In the 2018/19 budget, there was money set aside for training. Maybe the Education Department would be kind enough to let us know what happened to these monies and whether these teachers were trained.

It is unfortunate that once we adopted the PP1 and PP2 programs, our ECDE babies still lack the necessary materials to do their practical work. I believe that this is lack of creativity. Some of these things do not have to be bought. If it is a bottle that is being used, a child should be able to bring a bottle from home to do the practical. The initiative of the parents should come in very handy.

I recently visited an ECDE in Ngobit Ward called Bahati. Mr. Speaker, if you went there you would want to cry. Why am I saying this? This is because there is a dam that is just a few metres from there, just a very short distance. This dam was dug by the County Government of Laikipa on a private land.

The County Government put a budget to fence the ECDE to protect the children from the dam but it went and fenced the private dam. It has no fence now. I fail to understand how this government works. These children are staring at death in their eyes. These are more questions raised than answered.

Another initiative of the County Government was to adopt a school. It is an initiative where the County Government went around to primary schools and asked the parents, stake holders and professional to adopt a school in your ward, village or one that you went to. How are you supposed to adopt it? You probably sit as a member of the board or an advisor to the school so that you can bring funding ideas from the private sector.

I believe that this House has no one person who took an initiative to adopt a school, attend those meetings, contribute and listen to the challenges of those ECDE centres. I believe that we would understand what they go through. I want to categorically say here that I adopted two of them. I understand the challenges that these children go through. I contribute with my ideas. I do not get a stipend or anything when I attend those meetings. It is voluntary and for the sake of these children.

I have travelled and seen a few ECDE centres. Some of them have gaps in the wooden buildings. Probably they are buildings built during the colonial times. I fail to understand. I would personally not want to take my child to a classroom where when the sun shines it peaks through his book and when it is cold the rain droplets fall on his book and they then have to move to the centre. It is very unfortunate. When you look at budget absorption, it was lowest in the education department. These people are failing to do development projects even when a budget is passed for the same.

I think that it is the time we as an Assembly become keener on these initiatives. If the ECDE centres are to be built in every ward then that money should go directly into building. There is that one person who has not finished an ECDE centre since we came into this Assembly. It is just lack of proper policy and oversight even from this Assembly. I can say that. Why has somebody not built? That persons contract should be cancelled and another

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person given that money. You find that they are still delaying which is unacceptable. I support this motion. I beg to second.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Daniel Nyausi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker for giving me this chance. I rise to support this motion brought by Hon. Matunge to the Floor of this House. I do not really understand as to why our ECDE teachers are still under stipends. Mr. Speaker, when you even visit our clinics, a watchman has been had by the County Government. I really wonder what sort of thinking we are having. This is for all the positions including that of a watchman. Yes, it is very important but that person has been paid all along by the government using our tax.

Today if you visit our ECDEs, you find that the parents are paying for the ECDE teachers. We only find the government shipping in in the name of a stipend. Mr. Speaker, allow me to say that we are not trying to be honest to ourselves. This is where we have all started. It does not matter. If you look at all levels of education in Kenya today, most Kenyans who know what they are doing are spending more on those young children. We are doing that as a by the way.

A stipend does not mean anything that can be promised. If a competent and qualified ECDE teacher under stipend gets any other private institution that offers a permanent salary and can be able to get a loan, he or she will not have to think twice. He will have to leave the stipend and go for a permanent position. It is the high time that we at least ensure that this has happened.

I agree partially with the massive recruitment of trained teachers. I say partially because there are some clauses, although they are not being included here, that I will not support. We have some ECDE teachers who have been serving us for the last 20 years and they are still in service. Today, if we train new teachers, they will obviously not meet the condition to be recruited because they were recruited a long time ago.

A lot of changes have taken place today. If you are recruiting new teachers then let us have the very best qualification of the day. Those who have been in service and are on exit for their retirement, then let us give them time because they have been serving us even without payment.

If you go to a police post, most of the recruited policemen do not meet the basic recruitment qualification that is being needed today simply because of time. If you also go to the TSC, some teachers were actually recruited just after finishing class 8. That was the best of them and they did their best. I will find it very unfair to if we swept out very ECDE teacher including those who have been in service for all their life.

Although the motion is not very clear on that, I support the mover and he will give some clarification on the same. We at least maintain those people who have been in service for all this time. We have to get the best for those who will be recruited. We give them permanent and pensionable services so that they deliver.

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On the part of infrastructure, we need to at least go for an extra mile on what should happen in this department. In all the counties there is the developmental money and the departmental budgets. I think that there is a huge problem there. You find that the department is allocated very less amount of money for development. If you tell them to construct more classrooms they just get to the limit whereby they construct one or two classrooms.

We just need to think of how we should go about this. We do not need to struggle for long with infrastructure. Constructing a classroom will give you at least 20 years of service. If we come with a good plan of at least constructing a good number of classrooms for two or three years, this problem will have been sorted. A classroom will serve you for many years before changing it. We need to work on that as well. Some of our kids are under trees and in dilapidated classrooms. We really do not wish them to be there.

Some of us who might afford the private schools, if you compare a public and a private classroom you find that there is a very big difference. They should all be the same. There should not be that much difference. We all know how an ECDE class should look like. The government should do that for our people. We have to push them and ensure that at least our children get the best. There is no other way which will push everyone to be close in the same level if we do not push about education. Education will start from the ECDE.

If we do not get it right at the ECDE, then there will be a difference across. We want to bridge that gap. We should ensure that every Kenyan child gets quality education. We will then find most things unfolding by themselves. We just get to start with the right foot. I totally agree with this motion. It is always good to look at the child-teacher ratio. It is very important. Some of these classrooms and schools will have a teacher having like forty or fifty ECDE students.

We know that they deserve more attention than a university student. It is funny that if you go to a university class or other levels you will rarely find a forty plus class. When you come to the ECDE where that special attention of the teacher is needed, you find that there is no harm when you find 45 children in a classroom. I am very sure that we are not moving very well on our ECDEs. We need to do something and act so that our pupils get the best. That is how we will bridge the gap in this country. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I support the motion.

Hon. Joseph Kiguru: Asante, Mheshimiwa Spika. Nimesimama kuunga mkono mswada huu wa kusema ya kwamba shule zetu za chekechea zimeshughulikiwa kwa njia ipasayo. Nitaanza kwa kushukuru. Ninapofikiria kuhusu mambo haya, kazi moja tuliyopewa wakati ugatuzi ulikuja ni ya kuhakikisha ya kwamba shule zetu za ECDE zimeekwa kwa njia inayofaa.

Wakati mwingine yanakuwa mambo ya huzuni tunapoingilia kazi isiyokuwa yetu. Tunakuta ya kwamba kazi tuliyopewa kisheria hatufanyi kwa njia ipasavyo. Najua ya kwamba mengi yamesemwa ya kuhusiana na kuhakikisha ya kwamba ECDE zetu zimekaa kwa njia inayofaa.

Mheshimiwa Spika, ukienda mashinani utakuta ya kwamba majukumu yetu kama Serikali ya Kaunti sehemu nyingi mashinani hakuna shule za chekechea ambazo zimekaa kwa njia ipasavyo. Mheshimiwa Spika, naunga mjadala huu mkono na kuhakikisha ya kwamba

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tumefuatilia. Walimu wa shule za chekechea wako na shida. Nimeongea na watu kadhaa katika Serikali ya Utawala na Nyandarua juzi waliajiri walimu wao na kuwaweka kwa kiwango ambacho bila shaka unaona wanafikiria hao waalimu.

Huku kwetu mwalimu anafanya kazi na hata chakula cha jioni sijui utawalinganisha na akina nani kwa sababu wanapitia shida. Ni wakati wa kuhakikisha ya kwamba wameajiriwa kazi. Sisi kama Bunge tuhakikishe ya kwamba tumefuatilia kwa sababu kaunti zingine wakati wanaajiri walimu kazi za kudumu. Tuko na shida kwa sababu hatufikirii waalimu. Tuhakikishe ya kwamba tumefuatilia na kufanya kazi yetu kama Bunge ili tuhakikishe serikali imefanya majukumu yao kuhakikisha ya kwamba tumepata waalimu ambao wamewekwa katika viwango ambavyo wanapofanya kazi wanajihisi wanatambulika na kazi ambayo wanafanya inatambulika.

Mheshimiwa Spika, naweza ongea masaa mengi kuhusu shule za chekechea kwa sababu kwangu kuna shida kubwa sana. Tufikirie shule za chekechea kwa sababu zina shida kule mashinani. Nashukuru kwa sababu wakati tulikuwa katika likizo tulitembelea shule zingine. Tulipatiwa orodha ya watoto ambao walikuwa wanasomea hizo shule. Juzi Mheshimiwa Rais alisema ya kwamba hao watu wametoka jangwani. Wanadhania ya kwamba mji kama wa Nairobi ni sehemu ambayo iko na matajiri. Tusipochunga tuhakikishe hela zimegawa kulingana na idadi ya watu, tutakuwa kwa shida.

Nikiongea na waheshimiwa wenzangu kuhusu Nyahururu wanasema huu ni mji lakini kwa mfano shule ya chekechea ya 91 Manispaa iko na watoto 160. Darasa moja linasomewa na watoto sitini. Wakati wa bajeti tunaomba tugawe pesa kulingana na idadi ya watoto. Tusihubirie watu wakunywe maji ilhali sisi tunakunywa divai. Bunge hili lihakikishe tunapofika wakati wa bajeti pesa nyingi ziende mahali kuna watu wengi.

Hilo jambo litaonekana katika Bunge letu na mbele ya mwenyezi Mungu tunafanya haki. Pesa haipelekwi kwa Ng'ombe ila inapelekwa kwa wananchi. Ningetaka kumalizia kwa kusema ya kwamba...

Hon. Daniel Nyausi: Hon. Speaker, the Hon. Member is out of order. We are not discussing on money ratio issue here but we are discussing on ECDEs and our teachers.

Hon. Joseph Kiguru: Mheshimiwa Spika, ni asante kwa sababu naibu wa...

Hon. Catherine Nyawira: Mr. Speaker, just to clarify all these issues that are here when you talk about teachers being paid are money issues. When we talk about that classroom, these are money issues. We do not build things without money so money is the key factor. Let us be clear about it.

Hon. Joseph Kiguru: Sijui ni nini mbaya na mwenzangu. Kama vile imeandikwa *child ratio with poor remuneration* ningetaka kumwelekeza mambo ambayo tunaongelea hapa yanahusu pesa. Wakati tunasema waalimu wapewe kazi kulingana na idadi ya watoto hatuhesabu ng'ombe, miti ama mashamba ila tunahesabu watu. Sijui ni kwa nini naibu wa Spika katika Bunge hili anataka kupotosha Bunge kwamba kuna kitu sijapeleka kwa njia na utaratibu ufaao.

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Pesa igawe kwa shule za chekechea. Huwezi peleka waalimu mahali kuna watoto wawili. Ni hao watoto waungane na wengine ili idadi iwe nzuri. Mheshimiwa Spika, haya mambo yanahusu pesa. Asante sana kwa sababu nimeona vile ametulia amehubiriwa. Ningeuliza kama angetaka kuokoka angekuwa wa kwanza kuchukua mkono juu.

Hon. Daniel Nyausi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to clarify what I meant by asking the Hon. Member that we should not go as per that ratio of trying to balance the equation said. If you build a classroom today in the most populated area which is Nyahururu, you are more likely to get a maximum number of children there but in Laikipia North you can have 20 children under the tree but you will walk another 30 kilometres to get another school or children learning under the tree.

If you build one classroom in Nyahururu which is the most populated area, you will be able to serve a maximum number of children which is good. In Laikipia North as much as you want to help them, their lifestyle does not allow that because they live far from each other. So then if you build one classroom in Nanyuki or Nyahururu today you are very certain that you will get maximum number of children. Once you build that classroom in Laikipia North, you will struggle to get a full number in some parts of that area.

It is not automatic as in other regions. So please let us try to balance equation in both sides. Thank you…

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Mr. Speaker, I was rising on a point of clarification to the Deputy Speaker on how we build a class or start searching for the children to go to their class. Mr. Speaker, I did not get that clarification clearly.

Hon. Daniel Nyausi: Thank you, Hon. Speaker and Hon. Kanyutu. I did not say you build a classroom then go search for children. If you take an example we have an opportunity to build two classrooms one in a rural area or in a town like Nanyuki and Nyahururu and another one in the remote areas of Laikipia North. In Nanyuki and Nyahururu, you are very certain you will get a maximum number of children that you would like to utilise but once you build that classroom in the remote areas, you might not get a good number of children who will occupy that classroom simply because that area is not populated.

Sometimes you will find one classroom will serve many people here but not as much as in Laikipia North because it is not populated. Thank you.

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Mr. Speaker, I am still on a point of clarification because the Hon. Member is stating that if we get an opportunity to build a class, don't we do public participation. It is what comes from the members of public from that region that they require that class not that an opportunity comes. It is the members of the public that propose that we have 20 students so they need a class. Now I am hearing the Hon. Member stating if we get an opportunity. If he claims to get an opportunity I can also get an opportunity and fix a class where getting children, it will be a challenge. If it comes from the members of the public, they will be owning that class because they are the ones to bring the children.

Hon. Joseph Kiguru: Asante Mheshimiwa Spika. Nilikuwa nataka kumwelekeza mwenzangu Mheshimiwa Daniel kwa sababu amekubali hatufanyi kazi. Mheshimiwa anaona

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kana kwamba nasema hatugawi pesa kulingana na idadi ya ng'ombe. Anatafsiri kana kwamba naongelea kuhusu ng'ombe. Namaanisha pia za kwetu. Namwelekeza tu na hapa ni vizuri tuseme ukweli kwamba hatuwezi kujenga darasa ili tutafute watoto. Kwanza ni tutafute watoto ili tujenge darasa.

Ni vibaya sana kutumia fedha za serikali kwa njia ambayo haifai. Utakuta ya kwamba tumejenga darasa kwa kutumia fedha lakini hilo darasa halina watoto. Tukubaliane ni vizuri wakati wa ugavi wa raslimali za serikali ni kulingana na mahitaji na si kwa sababu tu ya kugawa. Asante, Mheshimiwa Spika.

Hon. Daniel Nyausi: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I choose to drop that information that I was being given because I did not mention anything to do with cows. I have been talking of child ration and teachers but not cows. The Hon. Member has mentioned that two to three times but I did not. The good thing he mentioned is we give priorities to public meetings. Hon. Kanyutu has also stated that we base on the requests from public participation which I totally agree on. Mr. Speaker, the issue of 1 child 1 kilometre sometimes it does not work.

Today, if you try to correct people in this county, if you put a mast right in a densely populated area you will find you are serving most citizen using one single light mast. Mr. Speaker, when you try to take a mast to the reserve you will be serving 10 to 20 people. I will keep on saying we balance citizens because things are not automatic. Laikipia is cosmopolitan with different tribes who translate to different lifestyles of people. These people are totally different in terms of the activities that they are doing. As much as we have populated area Nyahururu mask right can solve a problem of most people.

When you translate that in Laikipia North it will not solve the problem. For example we are living in a very diverse county so let us take time we find a suitable formula that will help most of our people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Catherine Kibue: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am in support of this motion. First I would like to congratulate the mover of this motion for coming up with a good motion. The issues raised are very noble for our young children and their teachers. I support.

Hon. Judy Lukio: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to support this motion. This motion has come severally in this Hon. House. It is the format that has only been changed. Mr. Speaker, it is good to know the status of the ECD and the teachers in Laikipia County. Mr. Speaker, if we compare private ECD classes versus the county ones, the private ones are doing marvellously yet the children are still the same.

They are coming from the same home but in different classes and different handling. Mr. Speaker, we know that ECD classes is where we get the foundation of children. It should be handled with a lot of care and compassion. Mr. Speaker, there was a time we visited Vihiga County with Hon. Robert Maina and Hon. Wakahiu on a different issue. I admired the way they had handled their ECD classes. Mr. Speaker, they employed their teachers on permanent and pensionable condition from Degree, Diploma, Higher diploma and certificate holders. Their scales of salaries are different.

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Surprisingly, in 2019 there were people who were awarded number one nationally for a completion which we never heard of it in Laikipia. Once we handle our ECD classes and people well, Laikipia will definitely be in a good position from ECD class to Standard 8. We will get marvellous results. There was a time I had the Governor say we only get D and below. How can we get good results when our nursery schools pupils are in bad condition? I support this motion. Thank you.

Hon. Simon Kanyutu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to contribute on this motion. I thank the mover for making considerations to this. Mr. Speaker, I had to ensure that I contribute I had been silent for some times. Were it that I raised a point of clarification with the Hon. Member I came to learn that he is trying to push how we shall work on kilometres and population. On ECD, kilometres ratio cannot apply. He has clearly stated that on pastoralists we may put a flood mast that may not be beneficial. Instead of putting a flood mask we can put a trap where they trespass or wherever they move to ensure they benefit. We can put in populated areas where we can put the flood mask.

Mr. Speaker, on the issue of ECD teachers, this is a requirement and necessity on our part. It is our role as elected members to ensure that all areas where we have young kids benefit even where I had the Deputy Speaker say they learn under the trees. We better have an ECD there as we plan on how to build a class. If we have a teacher there, he will be able to move to participate in the public participation and raise the concerns for our class.

Mr. Speaker, there is another part that the mover of the motion has raised on recreation facility on the public schools. This is a necessity so if we need healthy kids we need to ensure we have recreation facilities. Our kids will be enticed being in school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I support and wish the implementation will be done immediately because it is a requirement and a necessity to all of us.

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

Hon. Peter Matunge: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I take this opportunity to thank the Hon. Members who have contributed. The motion was almost diverted to issues of the CRA formula because people are talking of population and land mass. This sometimes brings the question of where Laikipia lies. Does it lie on population or landmass? Are we on Mt. Kenya region or Rift valley?

Mr. Speaker, it is very true that Laikipia is cosmopolitan and it has different types of economic activities that must be considered. Away from that I know Hon. Members have raised concerns on where the resources are not adequate. What do we need to do so that we are able to provide our children with what they need? Every Member agrees that surely we are doing little on our responsibilities. Mr. Speaker, if we commit ourselves to allocate Kshs.100 million in the Department of Education, ECD and infrastructure, it will give a cost of one million per classroom.

There are others who are giving inflated cost. I have done a classroom that cost between 800,000 to 900,000. With Kshs.100 million we can be able to get 6 to 7 classrooms in one year. If we have five years by the end of our term we can be able to have 35 classrooms in our wards.

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Mr. Speaker, sometimes it brings the question of which comes first and what do we need to focus on. Do we focus on bursaries or ECD? Why are we given the responsibility of ECD and not primary schools or secondary schools?

Mr. Speaker, sometimes we need to fire the bullet and take it the what it is. We should say the Kshs.50 million that we give bursaries can add up and do more classrooms. For a right decision it needs a hard decision to be made. It is the high time that we need to make the right decision. I know it is a hard decision that is not popular. I have seen counties doing more than 70 classrooms in a year for the case of Kajiado and Samburu County. They are doing adequate classrooms for their counties. They have the same amount of money we are getting. Let us put seriousness on the issue of ECD.

The other day I saw the Governor from Kisumu Prof Anyang Nyong launching the ECD terms of services and what they are paying. They are paying between 23,000 to 25,000. They are in permanent and pensionable services. Why not Laikipia? Why we are still owning our teachers on stipend our children should not continue operating in classrooms that are not of the required standard. It is us who are not taking seriously the responsibility of ECD.

Mr. Speaker, I know we have our teachers who have been serving and they are not qualified. There is a provision that when we are serving as a teacher or anybody, you can be able to build your capacity. There is a chance of you building a capacity. You can enrol on school based program and by the end of a certain time, you can be able to be learning.

Mr. Speaker, by the end of the process, you are already a qualified teacher. When you sit there, years in and out yet you are expected to be taken up, sometimes we need to put our efforts. ECD teachers are putting their efforts going to school every holiday yet I know most of them are qualified. Those are the teachers we need to consider because this is our county and it is us who are making decisions.

There is also something we need to provide on our policies. We need to work on early education bill. I have seen counties coming up with early educational bills and I know Laikipia is not one of those counties. We need to look into this so that we can say we provide our children with what they need.

The first schedule of the national childhood education is what is needed for an ECD centre. We need to have the required number of children. The size of the classroom is provided. It must be 8m by 6m and it should not have more than 40 children. The condition of the premises must be habitable by human beings.

Why do we have to take our children to private schools? Why do we have private schools performing better than public schools? It should be public schools performing better than private schools. Mr. Speaker, we can say we have an opportunity to take children to those private schools but how many Laikipians are able to do that.

We are not taking our children to a dilapidated school because you have an option but because you do not have an option. We must have adequate furniture which is suitable for the children. We must have ablution blocks. How many of our ECD centres have ablution blocks?

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They are not there and we are depending on churches and on semi-permanent structures that are not there. There is no existence of play grounds.

Those are the things we need to look into. This is a serious debate that we need to talk seriously on the same. With those remarks, I thank the Hon. Members for supporting the bill. Thank you.

(Question put and agreed to)

CONSIDERED RULING

Speaker: Just to add something on the same, this is a very important debate and the revenue formula where nationally is they will give us more money as a county. As Hon. Matunge says, we have a county that is in between both agricultural with pastoralist activities with some areas being densely populated and other areas being sparsely populated. With the current formula of population, a bigger percentage of this county is well populated. We are getting an increase of Kshs. 600 million but there are questions we would ask ourselves out of this debate. The Maina village needs a number of classrooms that serves maximum number of peoples.

At the same time we have sparsely populated areas where in that village you can only get kids but they need a classroom. If you add one more kid, that kid will have to travel more than 4 kilometres to access classroom. We must always be seen to strike a balance between the population and the distance walked. For a kid who will walk 4 kilometres in the morning and 4 kilometres in the afternoon is already physically tired. Therefore, we must be able to strike that balance.

When the Deputy Speaker was being asked whether the money is allocated to cows, I thought the first thing they should have done is the truth. When you want to give some veterinary services, I believe you will give them with respect to livestock that exist. When you do a dam, you can only do that water point to serve a certain number of cattle or sheep. When you want to allocate money to veterinary services or when you want to put up an industry that receives its raw materials from the hides and skin industry.

You cannot put it in Matanya or Ngobit. You can only do it in Rumuruti, Sosian or Mukogodo East. Therefore, let us not confuse services are only to population of human beings. Even if we have 20% of the population that has many cattle, then it means you can only do a leather industry in those places. When you do that leather industry, it means you must be able to connect infrastructure and electricity to that particular place.

As Members that should inform us how we are sharing resources. We may not concern ourselves so much with the National formula. We might be favoured by the one for population but when we come down here we must also see how we share our resources to make sure that every part of this county is well developed. Our unity is very important. We are a cosmopolitan county and we live as brothers and sisters of the same county.

All in all, I still encourage we continue raising such issues. We should also ask ourselves the same questions Hon. Matunge is asking. Someone said in Kikuyu that if you do

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not have a cow do not involve yourself with the discussions of cattle dips. The question is that we are the people charged to improve the public schools. If majority of us do not have children in those public schools, then we shall be like that person who doesn't have a cow yet he want to be the Chairman for that cattle dip.

We should ask ourselves hard questions like what if we did not have private schools. We would be paying ECD teachers who are educating our children in primary schools. The other question we ask ourselves is why people would be so mean. We may not have that direct role of putting money. It is also the executive and others. Why do we count that person who cleans this town more important that that ECD teacher who trains all of us that hard job? Why are we not ready to reward that person who trained us to become who we are today?

This is an issue that we need to look into and consider that all jobs are important. Let the Government not discriminate against ECD teachers because of the huge numbers of 700 or 800. I believe we should support that we reward them accordingly and give standards. There is no investment that you can do to your kids. We are living in a world where land is becoming a very scarce property and when you have that huge portion of land yet you do not have education, you may not be able to compete in future.

The world we are in today is not the same world our children will be into tomorrow. It will be very competitive and without education and the minimum requirements in education it means your children, grandchildren and great grandchildren will have no power to compete unless they have good education. Because all of us represent people, these people cannot come here where the decisions are made to speak so let us speak on their behalf and let us look into their needs and the future of their children and great grandchildren. We will be able to improve their lives so that they will also be competitive.

Unless we do not want our children to compete with them, that will be very unfortunate. Let us give a level ground for all of them. We can only do this by putting resources in those education centres to make sure that teachers are hired and the children from the poor families get education. Whatever we do today, we might be doing it for ourselves. Hon. Matunge might be educating his child in a private school but a time comes when that child you will be educating in a private school realizes there are some disadvantages of not getting time to the real issues of life. I would say my child will never go to a private school and my grandchild will be in that public school that we did not put resources into.

Let us be considerate and let us speak on behalf of the others who are not here so that we improve education in this county. We must push the County Executive to do that. I believe we have money for everything. If today we put money in education, we will still get money to do the other things that we will be doing. There was COVID and we did not have enough revenue yet we still survived. Life still continued and I believe we still have money for other things like employing these teachers.

Nationally we have always had the doctors, nurses and teachers strikes simply because of the numbers. Let us give them resources. This category trains our children and the other category takes care of our lives. It is important.

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ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: The sittings of this House stands adjourned until later today, Wednesday 16th September, 2020 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 10.15 a.m.

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