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**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**  
**MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY**

**THE HANSARD**

Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024

The Assembly met at 9:30 a.m.

*[The Temporary Speaker (Hon. John Kamwaga) in the Chair]*

**PRAYER**

**MOTION**

**ADOPTION OF REPORT OF EDUCATION AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE ON  
IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF THE SCHOOL FEEDING AND UJI PROGRAM**

**Hon. John Mwangi:** Thank you Hon. Speaker, I am the Member of County Assembly (MCA) for Nginda Ward representing great people from Nginda. I am a Member of the Education Committee. I beg to move the following Motion;-

That, this Assembly adopts the Report of Education and Child Welfare Committee on the implementation status of the school feeding and uji program for Financial Year (FY) 2023/2024, laid on the Table of the Assembly on Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024.

Hon. Speaker, as Members have the Report, I wish to highlight a few issues. I start with background information on uji program. In 2023, the Murang'a County Government established the Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) uji program, which provides a daily cup of porridge for over 42,000 ECDE learners in 35 Wards. The program is fully funded by the County Government in partnership with food for education, a non-governmental organization. In view of the above, the Committee wrote a letter to the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Education and Technical Training requesting for information on the program who responded as follows;

1. That, in the FY 2023/2024, the feeding program and the budget of Kshs115Million. This vote was mainly to take care of feeding of learners in all public ECDE Centers across the County.
2. That, the program run throughout the FY without any hitches.

3. That, the department was able to renew the contract with Food for Education which expired in February 2023.

As indicated from pages six to 24 of the Report, Hon. Members can access the number of kitchens and learners in each Ward. For example, in you Ward Mugoiri Ward, there are 29 ECDE centers, who are served by two kitchens, namely, Muthiria and Ignatious Murai kitchen with a total of 988 learners. You can confirm that.

Committee findings and observations; the Committee made the following observations; that, the total number of ECDE learners benefiting from the uji program is 654. That, there has been an increase in the number of students benefiting from the program from the initial 33,750 to 42,653 children throughout the County. That, some Wards in the County have one kitchen while others have more than two kitchens. The Committee recommended as follows, I will just read a few because it is in the Report. That, there is need to constantly monitor the quality of the porridge to certify that is of fortified and quality. That, the distribution centre should be determined by the numbers of ECDE centers in the Ward. As such, one distribution center should only supply porridge to eight ECDE centres. That the county government should allocate funds in the budget so as to provide a snack to the students to accompany the porridge. I now call my good friend and colleague to second the Motion.

**Temporary Speaker (Hon. John Kamwaga):** Confirm your microphone is on.

**Hon. Edwin Wairagu:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, I am audible enough, I stand here to second the Motion as it has been read. I will make some few contributions to it as I am a member of that Education Committee. First and foremost is to acknowledge the good work that has been done by the chairperson and the Delegated chairperson for now who has moved the Motion. It has been well done and well researched. The presenter of the Motion did it so well. I also want to highlight a few things. This is a milestone that the county government of Murang'a has done. We anticipate to have more vibrant programs like these particularly now when we are dealing with young children who are below 10 years or thereabout.

The figure given already we have been told that we have over 46,000 or maybe 6000 I never got it so clearly but I can tell you that is a positive trajectory bearing in mind this is a starting point on education. In my ward in Gitugi we used to have low turn- out of the pupils in lower primary ECDE but I can now confirm that we have so many pupils; like the primary I came from, we have over 200 pupils because of this uji thing.

The same thing is escalating to even the local churches because some of the local churches they have come to know that to get so many children this the way to go, I thank you for that. On the issue of kitchen, distribution should be even distributed so that even if I have that kind of pupils in my ward and I have 29

or 30 ECDE centers I only have one kitchen; I had that view and it is also under the recommendations and I would say that even other wards in this County should follow suit such that the kitchen should be evenly distributed so that our children will get this product free of contamination. Having said that, I would say Hon. John Mwangi has done a good job maybe as the incoming vice chairperson of education and that tells this Assembly this is the person who can deliver so much. .

*(Hon. Hanna Wairimu on a point of order)*

**The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi):** Hon. Member, what is the point of order?

*(inaudible)*

**The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi):** Use your mic.

**Hon. Hanna Wairimu:** Okay, okay. I am standing on Standing Order 93. Honourable member should substantiate, he started saying he is the delegated chair. Now he's saying the mover of the Motion is the vice-chair education and we have not yet elected anybody. So he should withdraw. Thank you.

**The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi):** Honourable member, I think much I know, we current don't have a vice chair education and you seem to be purporting Hon. John Mwangi is incoming. You know that is a trying to bring issues which are not the Motion, in fact you should tune your yourself to the Motion that is on the Floor.

**Hon. Edwin Wairagu:** Hon. Speaker I wish I can have a copy of the Standing Order because I left mine. I can also tell you there's a Standing Order which says---

**The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi):** Honourable member you need to say which Standing Order that you are trying to defend yourself with, otherwise you should withdraw and move on.

**Hon. Edwin Wairagu:** Hon. Speaker I withdraw I can but have even that whoever raised the order, the point of order never specified which is Standing Order-----

**The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi):** Honourable member continue with the Motion because he specified Standing Order 93 and it is your role to know the Standing Orders, not us to educate you over the same.

**Hon. Edwin Wairagu:** The Standing Order number 93 clearly says that you have to quote the starting order that member said that you go into-----

**The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi):** Honourable member I think we are not here to educate each other about the Standing Orders. We already know the Standing Order and it is our duty

to know the Standing Orders. If you want to stand to defend the Standing Orders, I think I rule you out. Continue the Motion.

**Hon. Edwin Wairagu:** Thank you, Hon. Speaker, thank you very much and I withdraw my statement. Let me proceed but should you give me leave Mr. Speaker that the honourable member I will take her through those standing orders, what he really mention.

**The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi):** Honourable member it is not your role to take the member through. Hon. Wairagu I think the member knows the Standing Order and it is not your role to teach him the standing orders. She already knows how the Standing Orders are supposed to be followed.

**Hon. Edwin Wairagu:** Thank you, I oblige to that effect. Having said so, I support the Motion and I say the Motion is good as it is. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

*(Question Proposed)*

**The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi):** Honourable members, the Floor is now open for debate. Yes Hon. Hannah.

**Hon. Hanna Wairimu:** Okay, thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise to support the Motion and first to congratulate the Committee for the work well done and also to congratulate our Hon. Governor for coming out with this feeding program of uji in our ECDE schools.

Being an ECDE teacher for the last nine to ten years before I was nominated, I know the challenges that those pupils were facing. Due to hunger we used to encounter so many dropouts but now days the enrolment has increased due to this uji program. And also, the uji which is manufactured with high nutritional value our ECDE kids are much healthy. It has an added value to enhance child development growth.

As my colleague here Hon. Wairagu has said, there are those challenges the uji champions face when distributing the uji. Some of the kitchens where they are placed like in Gitugi Ward and Gaturi Ward, one centre is serving about 20 ECDEs, which is a bit complicated and the kids take the uji around noon because the boda boda is serving around 20 ECDEs and it is a bit complicated. There are also some challenges that those boda boda face. Like in rainy seasons there are those roads which are impassable due to poor road transport. So, we are urging if we can upgrade more roads in our rural areas or in our wards. Those roads will be passable and transporting uji will be a bit easier. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

**The Temporary Speaker (Hon. John Kamwaga):** Thank you Hon. Hanna. Hon. Member Priscilla.

**Hon. Priscilla Mwangi:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this Motion of uji feeding program and I must say it is one of the best programs that our Governor came up with. I also congratulate the Committee who are always punctual in discussing these matters.

We also added that these children apart from uji they should be given some snacks. Having in mind that some of these children come from a home even getting breakfast is a problem or even they do not have lunch. And so, if something like a snack is added, these children will be equal to the children who are getting lunch or who are getting breakfast.

It is also a program that makes children look forward into attending school and so I support this Motion. Yesterday as I was going about my business in Kenol, I heard two women arguing; they were talking about another lady whom they wanted to confront, and they were saying, "why is she not taking her children to school, yet there is free uji" and so I understood that it is something that may look very small to others, but it is something that makes even parents look forward to taking their children to school.

I support.

**Hon. Hillary Muigai:** Thank you, Hon. Speaker. First of all, I support. I have some inputs, Hon. Speaker, to make, and I will start by congratulating the Committee together with this House. Because some of these policies that are working very well in our County have been formulated here and passed in this Assembly. In the uji program, I think and I can confirm that this is the best program for our Early Childhood Development and Education centres, which is our role as a County Government: to take care of the ECDE and the early age education. It has promoted the attendance to classes by the pupils because this is a key player in child development because somebody who is hungry, it becomes very hard for that person to consume or get education.

Hon. Speaker, it is also good to note, and I congratulate this House again, together with our Governor, because the policy that we formulated in this House, the Kangata Care, has won a continental award. This is a milestone, and we should be very proud of ourselves. I want to note and recognise the efforts by the former chairperson, who is with us here, Hon. John Mwangi, who spearheaded the formulation of the Kangata Care policy. I wish to recognise the efforts and to congratulate this House because the policies that we are making are now beyond the borders of this country. The other thing, Hon. Speaker, the recommendations by that Committee, as well put, will help very well in improving this uji program if the children can have a bite after taking the porridge, I think it will be an improvement and we realise better grades and performance for our early childhood institutions. I support, Hon. Speaker, thank you.

**Temporary Speaker (Hon. John Kamwaga):** Honourable members, I want to confirm what the mover had asked or commented about ECD.s in Mugoiri ward, yes, they are 29 and I also confirm that the two kitchens are very operational. I now call the mover to respond.

**Hon. John Mwangi:** Thank you hon. members and all those who have contributed. Hon Wairagu, thank you for your positive feedback. Hon Hanna thank you for your contributions on the roads I know the MCA like in your ward Mbiri or in Nginda we will try to improve the infrastructure to enhance the transportation on bodaboda riders and I know that will be checked in the coming quarter of the year. On Priscilla, thank you for your positive contribution on the snack on the quality of the porridge I know the quality is good and looked on well and I know the coming supplementary budget as a member of the educational Committee and as the whole House we will look at it and add funds so that the matter of snacks can be checked to ensure the smooth learning of the programme. Thank you, Hon. Hillary, for your positive feedback I am grateful for your confirmation. I spearheaded the Kangata Care programme and I am always very happy for that. I call upon hon. members to support this Motion. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

## MOTION

### APPROVAL OF THE CALENDAR OF THE ASSEMBLY FOR THE FOURTH SESSION FEBRUARY 11, 2025 TO DECEMBER 3, 2025

**Hon. Francis Kibe:** I beg to move the following Motion. That pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 30 (1); this House approves the Calendar of the County Assembly (Regular Sessions) for the Fourth Session (February 11, 2025 to December 03, 2025), as contained in the schedule below.

Hon Speaker, we are done with two calendar years, this is our third calendar and it will start on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025, then we break on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025. That is part one. Part two, it will start from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 and break on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025. Part three, Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025 to Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2025. Part four Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025 to Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2025. Part five, 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2025 to Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2025. Part six, November 11, 2025 to Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025.

Hon. Speaker, it is good to note the Assembly shall sit from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; and 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm on Wednesdays. Pursuant to standing order No 32 of County Assembly Standing Orders.

Two, any special sittings shall be notified through a gazette notice as per Standing Order no 31 of the County Assembly Standing Orders. I call upon Hon Hillary to second the Motion.

**Hon. Hillary Muchoki:** Thank you Hon Speaker, I second the motion. Thank you.

*(Question proposed)*

*(No debate)*

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

**The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Kamwaga Mwangi):** Hon. Members, pursuant to the provision of the Standing Order no 29 and no 30 relating to regular sessions and calendar of the Assembly, the Speaker notifies that upon the rise of the House today, at the appointed time, regular sittings will resume on February 11<sup>th</sup> 2025 at 9:30 am. Hon Members on my own behalf and that of this office of the Speaker, I wish to wish all members Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I request as we go to the festive season, we take care and we meet in the New Year. On that note, this House stands adjourned until Tuesday February 11, 2025 at 9: 30 am.

*The House rose at 10:01 a.m.*