

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MURANG'A COUNTY ASSEMBLY
THE HANSARD

Thursday, 15th June 2017

The House met at 2:32 p.m.

(Temporary Speaker Hon. Beth Ngugi in the Chair)

PRAYERS

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

TIME KEEPING

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Beth Ngugi): Yes Njogu, I would like to communicate. Hon. Members, I believe that we agreed to be keeping time. We should try to be in this House to dispense the business we have at hand before we exit. Office of the Clerk, microphones were not there; that is a laxity. I believe that it will not happen again. Next order.

STATEMENTS

APPROVED HOUSE BUSINESS FOR THE PERIOD JUNE 20, 2017 TO JUNE 22, 2017

Hon. Duncan Njuguna: Thank you Madam Speaker, I am the Member of County Assembly (MCA) for Gitugi and a member of the House Business and Rules committee.

On behalf of the chair, and pursuant to standing order no. 46 (2) (a), I beg to issue a statement on approved business that will come before the Assembly for the period of Tuesday, June 20 to Thursday June 22, 2017.

Madam Speaker, as stipulated in the schedule, on Tuesday 20th June 2017 morning sitting, the first item will be a notice of motion by Hon. Rebecca Mwicigi and it will be the only item on the order paper.

In the afternoon, we will also have one item in the order paper and that is a motion by the chairperson for Education, Child-welfare, Research and Information Technology and E-government committee on the second national school milk conference and exhibition held on 27th and 28th October 2016 at Pride in Beach Hotel in Mombasa.

On the afternoon sitting of Wednesday 21st June 2017, there will be only one item on the order paper; a motion by Hon. Rebecca Mwicigi. On Thursday afternoon, there is only one item listed

(Consultations)

Hon. Duncan Njuguna: Madam Speaker, please protect me from the new skiza tune in town from Hon. Eliud Gitau.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Beth Ngugi): Hon. Gitau, you know the drill, let us please observe decorum.

(Hon. Eliud Gitau bowed)

Hon. Duncan Njuguna: Madam Speaker, it is the hot skiza tune.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Beth Ngugi): Hon. Duncan, do not run in the salt

Hon. Duncan Njuguna: Madam Speaker, I apologise.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Beth Ngugi): Yes.

Hon. Duncan Njuguna: We only have one item in the order paper on Thursday; that is a statement by the chairperson of the House Business and Rules committee. That is the business of next week. Thank you Madam Speaker.

MOTION

ADOPTION OF REPORT OF EDUCATION, CHILD WELFARE, RESEARCH, IT AND E-GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE ON THE FOURTH ANNUAL SUMMIT ON THE EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION (ECDE)

Hon. John Njoroge: Thank you Madam Speaker, I wish to move the following motion;-

That, this Assembly adopts the report of the Education, Child-welfare, Research, Information and Technology and E-Government committee on the Fourth Annual Summit on Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE), held between 13th and 17th March 2017 at Sai Rock Hotel in Mombasa county, laid on the Table of the Assembly on Tuesday 13th June 2017.

Madam Speaker, this was a meeting between the Committee and representatives of other committees, including their chairs, it was held between 13th and 17th March 2017 in Mombasa county.

The theme was to review the ECDE standards to effectively manage it. One of the issues that the meeting sought to address was clear understanding of the County ECDE Bill, which was passed in 2017 by the Senate and is at the registration approval stage.

Madam Speaker, the other issue was agreement on a joint approach toward management of ECDE services, involving all the stakeholders by providing and enhancing understanding of the role of the national and county government for effective delivery of ECDE services in Kenya.

The other item that we looked at was to harmonise the integration of health and nutrition care, safe drinking water, and sanitation of ECDE centres.

Madam Speaker, the other issue was about strengthening of co-ordination and management of ECDE services to ensure that ministries at the national level and those of the counties deliver a uniform issue.

The other one was to agree on ECDE teachers' employment which has already been taken care of here in Murang'a county; and mechanism as set by the available recruitment institutions. There has always been that issue on which body is supposed to recruit the teachers and who is going to pay them.

There was the final issue which was to strengthen partnership and community networking for resource mobilisation to supplement the government allocations for ECDE services.

Madam Speaker, we had key speakers in that meeting, one of the speakers is the current secretary general of the Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT), who is Wilson Sossion.

He tackled the topic on science and economics behind ECDE as a future development for Kenya. He highlighted the engagement with the county governments and, among the issues he raised, was that KNUT is committed to provision of free ECDE learning. They are also looking at more resource allocation to the county governments targeting ECDE.

As you are aware, the amount of money, we need to do a lot for ECDE as a devolved function, even other bodies are trying to get more money to fulfil this need.

Proper co-ordination and management of ECDE between the national government and the county government cannot be over-emphasized.

Provision of properly qualified personnel and this is because as you know counties are recruiting, even those that have managed to employ the ECDE teachers, during the employment process there was a problem because some of the ECDE teachers, the current ones have not gone

through the necessary training and there was an issue of laying them off which could have attracted legal issues.

This issue and members were happy was being addressed is an important issue of having enough qualified teachers and Madam Speaker because ECDE is the foundation of our children, we need to have qualified teachers so that we are able to do very firm foundation for our children. Issues of inadequate infrastructure and we gave the way on how mitigate them.

Insufficient learning materials for children and increased parental engagement, in most parts of our counties and it is not in isolation with other counties, parents need to be encouraged to have increased parental engagement because you find that some parents would give birth every year and the child born last year will have to be somehow be neglected so as to take care of the infant born this year.

It is good to notify this House that Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT) boss Sossion has secured funds in Danish Union of Early Childhood and Youth Educators (BUPL Denmark) to train teachers on modern skills of learning through plays and are looking forward to working with a few county governments with whom they have signed a Memorandum of understanding (MOU) on engagement with the county government. After our meeting with the CEC for Education we reminded him that Murang'a county has to do an MOU with KNUT so that we can also benefit.

There was the Network of Kenya Early Childhood for Human and Economic Development. The future of any society depends on its ability to foster the health and the wellbeing of the next generation, that's as I had said before, the future of our education system depends on how we start it and that's through ECDE. We therefore need to invest wisely in our children and parents in preparing the next generation to pay back through lifetime productivity and responsible and citizenship.

There is what we call target two of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 4, which requires that by 2030, all girls and boys have access to ECDE care and pre-primary education in preparation for readiness to join primary education.

ECDE has been recognized as a key contributor to positive outcome because like in most counties people sighted that if the foundation is not good then these children are not able to proceed to primary schools and if they do their performance will not be good.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Beth Ngugi): Order! Honourable Gitau, resume your seat please. Were you prepared to move this motion? Were you? Because there is so much monologue--- aaah--- eeeeh---- the way you are moving the motion leaves a lot to be desired and then you are reading verbatim most of the time.

Were you prepared to move the motion? If so stick to the guidelines of moving the motion because honestly it is becoming a bit boring.

Hon. John Gitau: It is unfortunate that its becoming boring, yes I was prepared and you will agree with me, I am not feeling well and that's why I am getting out of-----

(Honourable Bernard Kariuki rose on a point of order)

Hon. Bernard Kariuki: Is the Honourable mover in order to move a motion and even report to work when he is sick, he should be at the hospital.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Beth Ngugi): I will over rule that order because he is able to walk and speak, please move the motion. Order! Honourable members.

Hon. John Gitau: Thank you madam Speaker, it is also good for the member to note that the doctor did not give me a sick leave.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Beth Ngugi): Order! Order! Honourable Gitau, can you move the motion please?

Hon. John Gitau: Yes----- (*silence*)---- before I was interrupted Madam Speaker we were looking at the some of the papers done and one of the research has shown that programs, one of the papers which was done by Haidi and Kabilo 2003 shows that learning overall----- what I am saying Madam Speaker and I think you also need to protect me from some members who are behind me, you know English came with the ship.

What I was saying is that children from disadvantaged families benefit more from Early Childhood Development (ECDE) quality feeding program. This is because rich people will send their children into first class ECDE centres where they are able to pay for them.

There is a paper which was done in 2016; it shows that development which begins at conception requires early intervention in health and nutrition. Parents, families and the community should provide nurturing care that promotes health care and nutrition. Families need to be supported financially in enabling national policy.

There is also brain development; we were taken through how human brain develops. Where we were told that, the first five years are very important for children brain development. As parents we should be very careful in our actions, reason being children are very sensitive in the first five years of their development. At this age they register everything that we do in their mind.

We have a provision on good nutrition, health and exercise that influence brain development and learning. That is why it is important to allow children to play even as they continue with their academics.

Best learning happens in nurturing relationships, where children are engaged. This is written by Lancet in 2016 and 2010 by Winter. Just for members to note, brain capacity for change is most flexible in early life. I need to read some of these things Madam Speaker because they are scientific.

Early in life the brain is most flexible to accommodate a wide range of environmental experiences and interactions. As it matures it becomes more specialized to assure more complex functions. It is less capable of recognizing and adopting; it is therefore the reason we are saying it is very important to learn at the early age because what you learn in early age is what will stick in your brain.

Early plasticity means it is easier and effective to influence baby's brain development than to rewire circuits of the adult years. For those who have the reports there is a chart displaying human development and neural connection for different function development sequential.

For the first year we have the sensory pathways, those are the things a child will start learning together with the language. As you can see from the chart we look at the children even when they are inborn and you can see some of the essential pathways, vision and hearing which develop at inborn stage. As we progress the first year we have languages then as the child progress to 15 years we have higher cognitive functions like learning. Why should we invest in children?

Globally the state of world children report 2010, I will give the reasons as per the findings of the experts; almost 70 million children may die before their fifth birthday, that should be taken very seriously because that is not a small figure. This will mean that in 2030 alone 3.6 million

children may die. Children in sub-Sahara Africa will be ten times more likely to die before their fifth birthday more than those in high income countries as a result of poverty.

I am happy with some of the members because who have been bringing motions and legislations in this House to ensure we eradicate poverty.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Beth Ngugi): Order! Honourable Bernard Kariuki, Order! Honourable John Njoroge, please pardon me.

Standing Order 107 limitation of a debate (4) “No member should speak in a debate on Bills, Sessional Papers, Motions or Reports of the committees for more than 20 minutes”. Honourable John Njoroge you are getting out of order because you have not observed this standing order can you please wind up your motion.

Hon. John Njoroge: Thank you Madam Speaker, I will go direct to recommendations and way forward, which are of importance.

There is need to identify for a study to establish the status of implementations of devolved early childhood function which is self-explanatory.

The national government to finalize review of ECDE and ECDE policy as well as ECDE service standard so as to align them to constitution of Kenya 2010 and vision 2030 and target two of SDG goal number four. There is a Bill in Parliament for 2014 which should be fast tracked so as to provide guidelines for ECDE.

The committee recommended that the county government should enforce their Basic Act 2013 (all children with the right to attend two years of pre -primary education) which according to Article 53 of Constitution of Kenya 2010, that provides every child to free and compulsory education.

County government should partner with administration which includes: assistant chiefs and chiefs so as to ensure that all children will acquire early primary education without exception.

The other recommendation of the committee is that, county government should provide basic nutrition, shelter and health to destitute and poor children so as to retain them in school. I wish to call honourable James Kariuki to second this motion. Thank you.

Hon James Kariuki: Mr. Speaker sir,

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Beth Ngugi): Order! Honourable members I think we are taking things lightly, this House is becoming a joke and I believe this is not prudent, let us behave as our titles are waheshimiwa, proceed honourable Ngugi

Hon. James Kariuki: Madam Speaker, I stand to second, I went to Mombasa for the workshop which was very enriching.

The late Nelson Mandela said that education is the only thing that can change the world; I am impressed with devolution because for the first time since independence we are taking ECDE seriously.

(Hon. Duncan Njuguna rose on a point of order)

Hon. Duncan Njuguna: Is it in order for the mover to leave his personal documents on the dispatch table

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Beth Ngugi): That is out of order

Hon. James Kariuki: Mr. Speaker

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Beth Ngugi): Honourable Ngugi I will rule out of order, I am not Mr. Speaker, and can you please use the right salutation.

Hon. James Kariuki: Thank you Madam Speaker, the fact that we have a Senate Bill 2014 awaiting completion shows we are taking ECDE seriously; in the past, ECDE teachers were untrained in our villages. You could get old men and women teaching these young brains. Madam Speaker, it is good that we are changing this and I am happy that for the first time ECDE will belong to its rightful place.

One of the major constrains in the ECDE sector is lack of enough classrooms, learning materials and well trained teachers to handle these young boys and girls. This has changed and to me this is a good thing.

Once the Senate Bill goes through, we will have done justice to young boys and girls just like we have a scheme of service for other teachers in primary secondary and tertiary institutions. We need to develop a scheme of service for ECDE teachers; this will give them a sense of permanency in their jobs which is necessary but lacking.

Madam Speaker, we learnt through science that the brain of young ones develops well up to eight years. If we take good care of ECDE through nutrition and proper learning, we will have taken care of the future.

Madam Speaker, learning for young ones is through action, I know this matter has been addressed by the Bill in the senate and we are happy that going forward we will have an ECDE policy that will guide the sector to the future.

Madam Speaker, if you look at Vision 2030 and the other things we are doing to achieve this vision, one of the things we need to focus on is education matters from ECDE to university.

I am impressed we have a new system that is coming which is competence based since the current system is academic based. I am hoping that even in future, a competent based curriculum will find its way there.

The introduction of computers is another good thing for our young minds because this will create another Silicon Valley in Kenya and you will be shocked by 2030, this country will be far in terms of digital issues.

County governments have not taken ECDE seriously including our county government here and I am hoping that once the Senate Bill is assented we shall be doing the right things for the sector especially in regard to nutrition and employment of teachers. I therefore second the motion and ask all the other members to support it.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Cecilia Gitu: I stand to support this very important report. To me, it is sweet music in my ears because it is this very reason I had a fall out with the current CEO of this county because I said early childhood education is very important.

It is the foundation of all levels of education, though I was told I was politicking and giving rhetoric. I am now happy because people have started being serious about early childhood education; this is the root of every education, since if you miss it at this tender age you will never catch the child ever again.

I applaud the efforts of the ministry of education and all the stakeholders. In realizing that those years are so impressionistic, because that is when a child loves or hates learning depending on the way education is introduced to the child.

When we talk about getting more serious on the development and knowing all the stages like knowing how much you can learn from one and eight years and having a good curriculum. When

we are involving many stakeholders, that way we will be able to provide the personnel. Properly trained personnel have declined and it is wrong.

When I was teaching I was saying it was very wrong having private people training the early childhood teachers, they were making themselves rich at the expense of our children.

I thinking we are getting the correct perspective as we train the personnel, the teachers. We know we need well trained teachers to be able to handle that very sensitive stage of development.

The fact that we are even putting in the aspect of nutrition, because a hungry child cannot learn have seen children going to school hungry because they hate the very idea of going to a school with no food and learning material.

We engage such important questions as early as possible because at the end of the day we all realize that early childhood education is the foundation of primary, secondary and even university. The child will love it if you introduce it in a good way. I support, thank you.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Beth Ngugi): Yes honourable Kariuki

Hon. Bernard Wanyoike: I want to contribute to this motion but first I thank this committee and the chair for this very wonderful report.

Madam Speaker this is one of the most important committees as far as implementation of projects in this county is concerned. Members can attest to that, this is the only committee that member for Kamacharia will rely on as he seeks re-election.

I want to congratulate the mover for this wonderful report and say that as a county government and a committee we are supposed to do what you are supposed to do in as far as ECDE is concerned.

Honourable Speaker, I am one of those who attended this workshop and what came out there was very helpful to this committee. I want to congratulate this committee for making very good recommendations in this report.

In the wake of devolution and when ECDE was devolved, it is important for the county government to look at this issue. We know ECDE was initially under the national government together with the primary school but it is the exclusive function of the county government and we therefore need the county implementing intervention mechanisms and programs that will entrench ECDE education the way it is supposed to be.

The most beautiful part of this report is that the summit came up with recommendations for standards because reading from the Constitution is that most of the functions that are devolved the policy is left with the national government. Therefore the national government should come up with a comprehensive ECDE policy so that across the 47 counties we have one curriculum and that curriculum is being improved at the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development.

I would encourage the members that are coming back to the education committee to follow up with this issue. It is very unfortunate that the chair is not coming back; he has been very passionate even operating two ECDE centres in his area of representation. I hope that the members that are coming in September, luckily we have member from Kamacharia who will guide the committee to follow up on the ECDE, especially on maintaining standards world over, pre-school learning is very much looked at. We need to compete globally so that our education sector can continue to improve.

Honourable Speaker, as a saying goes to build a strong building the foundation is most important. In education the ECDE is foundation and it is at this stage that pupils will learn things like reading skills, listening skills; there is where you find the difference of pupils that went to a public school and those from private school.

This report is very comprehensive and we would wish that the county executive would implement the recommendations made by this committee, most importantly is the resource allocation, we require requisite resources for the department of ECDE to run well.

As I have said when building a house, the foundation takes a lot of resources, therefore, there is need to put more resources. I hope our coming budget is going to have enough resources for the same so that we can keep the pupils in a conducive environment.

I know you have experience in teaching and you know unless you put students in conducive environment they cannot learn very well especially little children they require to be catered for very well and I think that is why the drafters of Constitution thought that this should go to counties because if you look at counties like Murang'a and compare it with county like Turkana, the areas are very different, therefore, as a county government we should put more resources in it.

If the governor would consider, because I heard that the milk program will continue, it is much better to give the ECDE people milk daily rather than giving them once per week to the whole school. Even if you give big boys milk, those of class eight they will not change, it is better that milk be consumed by the little pupils.

Honourable Speaker, resource to this ministry is paramount and we will not regret in ten years. If we give the milk to ECDE like Kirinyaga county has done, we will not regret. ECDE has been captured in the report page nine; it is very critical as a student of social science I can tell you at this age of ECDE that is when people develop their personalities. Therefore, it is a very critical stage and pupils need to be taken care of.

I want to agree with the committee on their recommendations especially that the county government should be able to adopt the spirit and the letter of the Basic Education Act 2013 which says that all children should go to school.

We should have a transition when mothers come out of hospital, the county government should have a track record so that those babies that are born from the hospital, there is a transitional rate from hospitals to ECDEs, just like the national government is planning on transition from primary schools to secondary schools; to make sure that all our children are in ECDE centres waiting to transit to primary schools.

Honourable Speaker, I request honourable members to support this report because it is a very comprehensive report. It is very important for us as we windup this Assembly in August, it is very important we pass this kind of reports so that the people that are coming here will be able to follow up on many issues that we will have discussed as an assembly. Thank you Honourable Speaker.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Beth Ngugi): Reading from the mood of the House as some members are asleep, others on their phones, I request the mover to respond.

Hon. John Gitau: Thank you Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the members because generally the motion appears to have been supported by the House but I still request them to support it to the end.

Madam Speaker we have Hon. Cecilia being the teacher that she has always been she has cited the issue of children just like trees being shaped when they are very young which is a very important observation.

Among the issues that Hon. Bernard has cited is about the committee being hardworking which is clear to everyone and passionate.

Thank you very much members for supporting and I hope you will support it to the end so that we can have our children, all of them proceeding to primary school. Thank you Madam Speaker.

(Question Put and Agreed To)

**SUPPLEMENTARY ORDER PAPER
PAPERS**

**REPORT OF BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE ON SECOND
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2016/2017**

Hon. Joseph Machiri: Thank you Madam Speaker, with your leave I would like to thank member for Gaichanjiru for that humble prayer if at all it was coming from the bottom of his heart, I would urge him to continue praying. He is a very prayerful person an Anglican person----

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Beth Ngugi): Proceed Hon. Machiri, proceed to the business at hand.

Hon. Joseph Machiri: I am will Madam Speaker thank you.

On behalf of the Budget and Appropriations committee, I beg to lay the following paper on the table of this House today 15th June 2017;-

The report of Budget and Appropriations committee on second supplementary budget for the financial year 2016/2017, thank you.

(Hon. Joseph Machiri laid the paper on the table)

NOTICE OF MOTION

**ADOPTION OF REPORT OF BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE ON
SECOND SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2016/2017**

Hon. Joseph Machiri: Madam Speaker I beg to give notice of the following motion;-

That, this Assembly adopts the report of Budget and Appropriations committee on the second supplementary budget for the financial year 2016/2017, thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Beth Ngugi): Honourable Members, there being no other business this House stands adjourned until 20th June 2017, at 9:30 a.m.

The House rose at 3:25 p.m.