

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

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2017

The House met at 2.42 p.m.

*(The Speaker Hon. Nduati Kariuki in the Chair)*

**PRAYERS**

**MOTION**

**ADOPTION OF REPORT OF EDUCATION, CHILD WELFARE, RESEARCH, IT AND  
E-GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE ON THE SECOND NATIONAL SCHOOL MILK  
CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION**

**Hon. John Gitau:** I wish to move the following motion;-

That, this Assembly adopts the report of the Education and Child Welfare, Research Information Technology and E-Government committee on the second national School Milk Conference and Exhibition held on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> October 2016, at the Pride Inn Paradise beach hotel – Mombasa county, laid on the table of the Assembly on Tuesday June 13, 2017.

This second conference in Mombasa preceded another conference on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> September 2016, whose aim was to sensitize county governments on school milk programs.

This first conference was not a main conference because it was attended by 450 delegates from the national government and the counties which included Murang'a county, the aim was to make policies and legislative frame work on the milk program. They also wanted to look at the historical and current status of the school milk programs because the country is not new to milk programs.

I remember I also took milk in primary school during the era of President Moi this is where the country started thinking of how they could feed their children with milk. I know most of my colleagues here can remember somebody like hon. Njoroge from Mbiri, you remember how sweet that milk was?

(Laughter)

**Hon. John Gitau:** Mr. Speaker, you know Mombasa county is giving their children milk and some of the areas covered, Mombasa was prominent and they explained to the participants on how they are doing it.

The benefits of school milk program including nutritional and health benefits were looked into, the other thing that was covered was production, processing and quality assurance of the school milk.

During that first school milk program conference, there were some resolutions made and some of them were the fact that the conference endorsed the milk program. Remember Murang'a was one of the county's that were there, they also promised to lobby the national government to issue budget that will help or assist in giving school milk to the children.

They also agreed to develop relevant policies to support the program and also establish school milk program committees and trust funds. You know this program requires a big budget, the counties or the participants agreed that trust funds will be very important so that there will be enough money.

They also established a national school milk committee to work in cohort with the county governments, they also agreed to undertake annual forums to review the progress and also enhance partnerships between stakeholders to promote dairy development. This would provide very good market for milk and people would be encouraged to keep dairy cattle and even goats sometimes.

They agreed to do the benchmarking on the program best practices and following the first school milk conference one of the counties called Migori decided to launch the program. Other counties including Murang'a promised to also join in the program. Some of the committees had established technical committees included Embu and Kirinyaga.

There were stakeholders of the program which includes Kenya agricultural value chain support program, Kenya market trust and small scale daily program.

That was the first conference and if you allow me Mr. Speaker, I will now go to the subject of this report whose theme was also to give the school milk to the children in the counties. Here we are not only looking at the ECDE classes which are devolved but they were looking into the young children in totality and generally in primary schools.

This was of course a follow up of the first meeting and it highlighted some of the benefits which stated that children grew better and productive but of course when we say children are productive we do not mean biologically but they perform well in school.

The school milk program will also promote regular school attendance and I remember as I have said during our time we were given milk on Tuesdays and Thursdays, I can tell this House that during those two days, very few pupils if any, would miss classes so as to have that packet of milk, that is why we are saying that the attendance would improve in school.

It will support market for milk and also create jobs; this is self-explanatory. Some of the advantages of the school milk feeding programme, statistically, half of global child mortality cases are due to lack of proper nutrition, this includes Murang'a.

In the Kenya, 70,000 children die before their fifth birthday due to nutrition issues. Kenya has approximately 2 million stunted children due to nutrition. 11% of Kenyan children are underweight and looking at 100 children over 10 are underweight due to nutrition and due to this, children suffer irreparable brain damage including retardation and this affects their performance in school.

There is a journey that counties have travelled, including Murang'a and some of the progress in the milk programme is that the Kenya Dairy Board is supporting the counties to start the school milk programme. They are sensitizing all the 47 counties on the concept of the school milk programme, they have been fundamental since they have the responsibility to handle milk.

The resolutions of the second conference included endorsement of the programme and enhancement of partnership and collaboration amongst stake holders.

As earlier stated, we had organized for the committee to travel and establish the modalities, we were few in terms of resource, since there is no vacuum in government, as a committee we agreed that this county's officials can be taken to Mombasa and benchmark on implementation of the programme as their sample the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), we are lobbying for that and it is good to inform you Mr Speaker.

The benefits of school milk program range from children to farmers and other beneficiaries. Children will have improved nutrition as well as good healthy, there is also improved school enrolment and performance.

To dairy farmers there will be high demand for milk, increased revenue, market predictability and more investment opportunities. Other beneficiaries include private milk firms

and the county government this is because the county will have many resources as a result of a ready market.

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

**The Speaker:** Point of order

**Hon. Duncan Njuguna:** Is it in order for Hon. Cecilia Gitu, a member of Education and Child Welfare, Research, Information Technology and E-Government committee to sit in the chambers and fill wealth form instead of listening to this important motion which is being moved by the chairman?

**The Speaker:** Hon. Cecilia take note.

**Hon. Cecilia Gitu:** Noted

**Hon. John Gitau:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, I was mentioning the other beneficiaries who include: private milk firm, county and national government.

I will now go to recommendations of the committee which include: allocation of resources to support milk program and establish a trust fund, to that end this has been reflected in the budget. We now know why the governor was very keen on this school milk program; after going through the conferences, we understand it is not only his passion for milk but there are other advantages which supersede the problems that are there.

The county governments should lobby for the national government to support the school milk program, through senate; the House that is mandated to represent the counties.

Counties should develop a national policy framework to guide school milk program via senate, this is because we do not want this program to be there for five years only, during the tenure of the incumbent governor whose term will be over in five years' time according to the Constitution. It should be therefore captured and made law so that any other subsequent governor will continue with the program.

Murang'a county government should develop a five years strategy plan for school milk program. Politicians are politicians they can promise something today but fail to honour it tomorrow because of politics but if we have a five years strategic plan, this will be followed to the latter.

As I request honourable members to support I wish to thank members of Education and Child Welfare, Research, Information Technology and E-Government committee for working tirelessly for the people of Murang'a, although this may not have been reflected on what happened during election.

The committee and the Assembly have worked very hard in matters pertaining to education so as to ensure that our county benefits, this is because we are one of the counties that stood firm and said that Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) must be in Murang'a county.

I know this Assembly has been giving budget for milk program which will eventually benefit the children. I wish to rest my case there and call honourable Cecilia Gitu to second the Motion.

**Hon. Cecilia Gitu:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, my Chairman has taken me by surprise and I will second this very important motion by saying how important it is to have our children given milk in early years of their growing up. That way, the body and the brain will develop. With only a few cautions as we have put in the committee in our recommendations, we talked about sustainability.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that if we decide to give milk to our children, then we should devise ways that will make the program sustainable because we have done so far is nothing to

write home about. Sometimes we feed the children while in other times there is no money because we do not have a good policy paper on the program.

I beg to second. I thank you Mr. Speaker.

*(Question proposed)*

**The Speaker:** I will put the question if there are no contributions.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**The Speaker:** Hon. Members, the House adjourns until 2:30 p.m. tomorrow.  
Thank you.

*The House rose at 3:06 p.m.*