

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
NYANDARUA COUNTY ASSEMBLY

2ND ASSEMBLY- 1ST SESSION

OFFICIAL REPORT

Tuesday 17th October, 2017

The Assembly met at the Assembly Chamber at 2.30 pm.

[The Speaker (Hon. Ndegwa Wahome) in the Chair]

Prayer

QUORUM CALL AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE SITTING

(The clerk-at-the-table confirms that there is no quorum)

Speaker: Very well, quorum having not been recognized, I now direct pursuant, to Standing Order no. 35, that the quorum bell be rung for an initial ten minutes or until such a time within the ten minutes that quorum will have been achieved.

*(Quorum bell is rung for three minutes and quorum is achieved
as confirmed by the clerk-at-the-table)*

Speaker: Hon. Members, quorum having been recognized, we shall now proceed with the business for the sitting. I am invoking my discretion under Standing Order no. 41(2) and I direct that we start by dealing with the Supplementary Order Paper and then we revert to the Main Order Paper. So, clerk proceed.

SUPPLEMENTARY ORDER PAPER

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

Hon. Members, I have two communications to make. The first one is triggered by a letter by a letter that was received by the Office of the Speaker on 16th October 2017, that is yesterday and forwarded to the Office of the Clerk, today, the 17th day of October 2017 and it emanated from His Excellency the Governor, Hon. Francis T. Kimemia.

Before I go to the actual communication, I would like to read on the face of the said letter, the statement of H.E. in forwarding the names or the proposed persons to occupy the different

departments within our county. The same is addressed to me and it is titled, “Nominations of County Executive Committee Member and County Secretary”. It reads thus;

‘On behalf of Nyandarua County and on my own, I would like once again to congratulate you and thank you for your continued support to the Executive since your re-election as the Speaker. I am confident that the synergy between the two arms and working closely with all elected leaders and the people of Nyandarua, will transform our county from being marginal to newly industrialized county. This has been catapulted by the recent timely entry of H.E. the President, Uhuru Kenyatta, as the first governor of Nyandarua, so as to ensure that all our programs succeed.

In accordance with the Article 179 Constitution, and the County Government’s No. 17 of 2012 part 5 and section 35 thereof, I hereby submit the list of ten nominees for the position of County Executive Committee Members and County Secretary’

That therefore, is the forwarding statement in the said letter and after naming the ten CECMs and County Secretary as the number eleven, he continues to conclude thus;

‘I would be most grateful that the County Assembly accords this matter its most urgent attention to facilitate immediate implementation of our development agenda’.

From that Hon. Members, my communication flows this way,

1. NOMINATION OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND COUNTY SECRETARY

Hon. Members, this is to notify you that by a letter dated the 16th day of October 2017, that is yesterday, and received in the Office of the Clerk, today, the 17th day of October 2017, His Excellency the Governor, Francis Kimemia, E.G.H, C.B.S, has in line with Article 179 of the Constitution of Kenya, Sections 30 and 35 of the County Governments Act, 2012 nominated ten (10) persons to the positions the County Executive Committee Members and a nominee to the position of County Secretary. These are:

1. Mr. Dominic Ngugi Murani - CECM for Youth, Sports and Arts from South Kinangop
2. Eng. V.M. Kariuki - CECM Public Administration & ICT from Ol’Jororok
3. Ms. Faith Wanjiru Mbugua - CECM for Education, Gender, Culture and Social Services from Ol’Jororok
4. Eng. Stephen Mbugua Chege - CECM for Transport, Energy and Public Works from Ol’Kalou
5. Dr. James Ngandu Karitu - CECM for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries from Ol’Kalou
6. Mr. Simon Mwangi Ng’ang’a - CECM for Water, Environment, Tourism and Natural Resources from Ndaragwa
7. Ms. Rose Muthoni Wamuya - CECM for Industrialization, Trade and Co-operatives from Kipipiri
8. Mr. Lawrence Mukundi - CECM for Lands, Housing and Physical Planning from Kipipiri

9. Dr. Peter Kung'u Mbugua - CECM for Health Services from Kipipiri
10. Ms. Mary Mugwanja - CECM for Finance and Economic Planning from North Kinangop
11. Mr. Hiram Mwangi Kahiro - County Secretary from Ndaragwa.

Article 179 of the Constitution of Kenya and Section 30 and 35 of the County Governments Act, 2012, governs Hon. Members, the appointment of the Executive Committee and any Member to that Committee. These constitutional and statutory provisions require for the approval of a nominee by the County Assembly.

Hon. Members, the Nyandarua County Public Appointments (County Assembly Approval) Act, 2017 provides under Section 6 that a notification of nomination shall be accompanied by information on the procedure used to arrive at the nominees, candidates' academic credentials, professional training and experience, personal integrity and background among other requirements. Hon. Members, H.E. the Governor did not submit the documents as required by the Section and in writing, the Office of the Clerk shall inform the Governor on the issue for the purposes of submission of the documents.

Section 6(4) of the Nyandarua County Public Appointments (County Assembly Approval) Act, 2017 provides that notification of nomination shall be deemed to be duly given on the day on which it complies fully with the requirements of the Act.

Therefore, Hon. Members, these names reached the Clerk of Assembly today, the 17th day of October 2017. The 21 days should ideally start counting today. However, because the required information has not been supplied, the 21 days will start counting on the day when the Assembly shall receive all the information pertaining to all these candidates from H.E. the Governor.

Further Hon. Members, Standing Order No. 47 (1) provides that;

“ 1) Upon receipt of a notification of nomination for appointment to an office as is provided under the Constitution or under any other legislation required to be approved by the Assembly, the nomination shall stand committed to the relevant Sectoral Committee of the Assembly for consideration.

2) Despite Paragraph (1), appointments under Article 179 (2) (b) of the Constitution shall stand Committed to the House Business Committee.”

So, the Constitution has clearly indicated that all the appointments for the CECMs, under article 179 of the Constitution, actually, not even the Standing Orders or County Governments' Act but the Constitution that says that the matter should be committed to the House Business Committee.

In light of the above, the House Business Committee shall, upon receipt of the information stated above through the Office of the Clerk, conduct the approval hearings of the ten (10) nominees for the positions of Executive Committee Members and table a report with twenty one (21) days.

Further, Hon. Members, is that over and above tabling the report within 21 days, the report must also be approved or rejected within the same 21 days. Otherwise, the names would go through on expiry of 21 days.

Hon. Members, on the nominee to the position of the County Secretary stands committed to the Committee on Justice, Legal Affairs and Public Service and the Committee shall upon

receipt of the information stated above conduct approval hearings of the nominee and table a report with twenty one (21) days.

I had a lot of reservations about the nominee for the position of the County Secretary because as you are aware, there are two advertisements in relation to that position. In one advert, the persons interested in the position were required to submit their applications by 20th of September 2017. There is another advert that also appeared in the papers. The first advert was by the Office of the Governor and it was okay in relation to the County Secretary because the Governor is allowed to recruit. The second advert was by the County Public Service Board and the deadline for submission of applications was today at five O'clock. Anyway, I will leave to the wisdom of the Justice, Legal Affairs and Public Service Committee to know how to go about. Otherwise, that is the confusion surrounding the nomination to the position of County Secretary because the submission of applications has not closed. They are supposed to close today at 5.00 pm.

The two committees will, in public, carry out the approval proceedings otherwise known as vetting and shall be expected to thoroughly scrutinize the process to ensure that there was total adherence and fidelity to the law in reaching at the nominations as well as the suitability of the said nominees. That is as far as the communication goes.

Next order.

(Hon. James Gachomba rises on a point of order)

Speaker: What is it member for Njabini Kiburu Hon. James Kiiru Gachomba?

Hon. James Gachomba: Mr Speaker I wanted to seek your guidance on whether we can comment on that list now because it does not show regional balance as it is supposed to.

Speaker: *Mheshimiwa* that can only be done during the approval but today is purely communication on what has been communicated by H.E. All the issues pertaining to gender and regional balancing and qualifications will come after the House Business Committee tables the report. This will also attend to the report by the Committee on Justice, Legal Affairs and Public Service on the County Secretary.

I can now see that the chair of the committee is here, though he has the chance of looking at the Hansard, that there are two advertisements for that position and one of them was closing today at five o'clock. At this time, we can say that the name has been submitted prematurely but I decided to forward the name to the assembly for the committee to use its wisdom and decide what to do with the name. If there is no prejudice and the larger interest of the people of Nyandarua is not lacked the committee should exercise its freedom.

I have directed that the letter by H.E be scanned and sent to the members but a hard copy will be available and I will release to the clerk immediately.

2. APPOINTMENT OF THE MALE MEMBER TO THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY SERVICE BOARD

Hon. Members I had indicated that I have two communications and the next communication relates to a letter that has been received today by the office of the Speaker on the appointment of the male member to the County Assembly Service Board for approval by the House. The reason for indicating that it is a male member is because all the ladies that applied did

not comply with the advertisement. The only two that had complied are not residents of Nyandarua. The ladies in Nyandarua should improve on this. The ladies that represent the women in this Assembly should communicate this effectively because there were only two ladies that had filed their applications properly, one from Meru and their other from another jurisdiction. Those from Nyandarua did not comply with the mandatory requirements in the advisement. These were legal requirements not a matter of the board. Therefore, we had to re-advertise the position.

With regard to the male member of the County Assembly Service Board (CASB), I would wish to make the following communication.

This is to notify you that by a letter dated today 17th October 2017, the Clerk of the County Assembly and the secretary to the County Assembly Service Board notified my office of the nomination of Mr David Kamiru Munyeki as a member of the Nyandarua County Assembly Service Board. In the letter, the Clerk noted that the recruitment of the board members contemplated under section 46 of the County Assembly Service Act 2017 was done and unfortunately, no female candidate qualified for short listing. This means that there is a vacancy for a female member to the CASB whose re-advertisement was done vide newspaper adverts in the Daily Nation and The Star on Thursday 12th October 2017. Hon. Members, pursuant to the provision of paragraph 4 of the first schedule of the County Assembly Service Act 2017, the County Assembly is obligated to conduct approval hearing of the nominee in accordance with the Standing Orders. 47 (1) provides that;

(1) Upon receipt of a notification of nomination for appointment to an office as is under the Constitution or under any other legislation required to be approved by the Assembly, the nomination shall stand committed to the relevant Sectoral Committee of the Assembly for consideration.

(2) Despite paragraph (1), appointments under Article 179 (2) (b) of the Constitution shall stand committed to the House Business Committee.

It is worth noting that there is no Sectoral committee which oversights the County Assembly thus borrowing from the practices of other jurisdictions, I am sufficiently informed that the House Business Committee should conduct this particular approval hearing. The committee will carry out the approval proceedings otherwise known as vetting and shall be expected to thoroughly scrutinize the report of the County Assembly Service Board to be tabled by Hon. Kariuki Muchiri and look into the recruitment procedure to ensure that there was total adherence and fidelity to the law in reaching at the nomination and suitability of the said nominee.

The committee shall conduct hearing on the proposed appointment and shall table its report within 21 days from the date of the receipt of the nomination. It may be of importance to note that if you do not deal with the issue within 21 days, the name stands approved by operation of the law.

PAPERS

1. FIRST REPORT ON THE RECRUITMENT OF TWO MEMBERS OF CASB

Yes Member for Murungaru Hon. Kariuki Muchiri.

Hon. Kariuki Muchiri: Thank you Mr Speaker, I wish to table the First Report of the County Assembly Service Board on the Recruitment of Two Members of the Nyandarua County Assembly Service Board.

Members will note that though we are saying that they are two members of the CASB, there was no female member that qualified. Since the advertisement was on two positions, the report reads two members of the CASB.

Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Next order.

2. LETTER BY H.E. THE GOVERNOR ON TEN NOMINEES TO THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOMINEE TO THE POSITION OF THE COUNTY SECRETARY

Yes Member for Leshau Pondo Hon. Gathungu Kamau.

Hon. Gathungu Kamau: Mr Speaker, I beg to table the letter by H.E the Governor Hon. Francis Kimemia on the ten nominees to the County Executive Committee and the nominee to the position of the County Secretary.

Speaker: The letter is duly tabled and the same will be given to every member.
Next order.

Members we are through with the Supplementary Order Paper and now we can revert to the original order paper and we can start with order number 5 in the original order paper

(Reading from the Main Order Paper)

PAPERS

1. NYANDARUA COUNTY EXECUTIVE REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Yes, member for Leshau Pondo and the Leader of Majority, Hon. Peter Gathungu Kamau.

Hon. Gathungu Kamau: Mr Speaker, I beg to table the Nyandarua County Executive Reports and Financial Statements for the FY ended 30th June 2017.

Speaker: The same is duly tabled

(The Speaker consults with the clerk-at-the-table)

Hon. Members, the Nyandarua County Executive Reports and Financial Statements for the FY ended 30th June 2017 is referred to budget committee.

(The Speaker consults with the clerk-at-the-table)

(Hon. Kieru Wambui rises on a point of order)

What is it member for Gatimu?

Hon. Kieru Wambui: Mr Speaker, maybe we should first ask which office the reports have emanated from. Who is the author of the document?

Speaker: Definitely, that is the office of finance and you know that both Budget and Finance Committees supervise the CEC for finance. It was thought that the fund should be

examined by the Finance and Economic Committee. It is confirmed that it is the CECM for Finance.

The Nyandarua County Executive Reports and Financial Statements for the FY ended 30th June 2017 will go to Budget and Appropriations Committee. I hope there is a member of that committee who has taken note of that. Member for Wanjohi, you are a member of that committee and you can tell us what time you require to bring a report on this

Hon. Isaac Kung'u: One month Mr Speaker.

Speaker: Very well, note that we shall require the report after one month.

Next order.

2. NYANDARUA COUNTY EMERGENCY FUNDS REPORTS

3.

Yes, member for Leshau Pondo and the Leader of Majority, Hon. Peter Gathungu Kamau.

Hon. Gathungu Kamau: Mr Speaker, sir, I beg to table the Nyandarua county Emergency Funds Reports for the FY ended 30th June 2017.

Speaker: Very well, the report is duly tabled we shall refer the same to the Committee on Finance and Economic Planning. Chairperson and the member for Kanjuiri Ridge, Hon. Suleiman Kihika, what time do you require?

Hon. Suleiman Kimani: Thank you Mr Speaker, we need about one month.

Speaker: Next order.

4. NYANDARUA COUNTY GOVERNMENT CAR LOAN AND MORTGAGE FUNDS REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Yes, member for Leshau Pondo and the Leader of Majority, Hon. Peter Gathungu Kamau.

Hon. Gathungu Kamau: Mr Speaker sir, I beg to table the Nyandarua County Government Car Loan and Mortgage funds Reports and financial statements for the FY ended 30th June 2017.

Speaker: The same is duly tabled. Chairperson of the committee on finance and economic planning, Hon. Suleiman Kimani Kihika, will do it within the same month?

Hon. Suleiman Kimani: Mr Speaker we can be added one week.

Speaker: That will be five weeks.

Next order.

5. NYANDARUA COUNTY BURSARY FUNDS REPORTS AND THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Yes, member for Leshau Pondo and the Leader of Majority, Hon. Peter Gathungu Kamau.

Hon. Kamau Gathungu: Thank you Mr Speaker. I rise to table the Nyandarua County Bursary Fund reports and financial statements for the year ending 30th June 2017. I table.

Speaker: Very well, the report is duly tabled. Since the implementing department is the department of Education, Culture and Social services, the same stands committed to that committee. Chairperson of the Committee and Member for Githioro, Hon. Sambigi Mukuriah, when do you think the report will be ready?

Hon Sambigi Mukuriah: Thank you Mr Speaker, we shall have it ready in a month.

Speaker: Okay, that is in four weeks.
Next order

NOTICE(S) OF MOTION

1. RIGHT TO CLEAN AND SAFE WATER

Speaker: Yes Member for Githioro, Hon. Simon Sambigi Mukuriah.

Hon. Sambigi Mukuriah: Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to give notice of the following motion:

Aware that that article 43 of the Constitution of Kenya provides a right for every person to clean and safe water in adequate quantities;

Concerned that a majority of Nyandarua County residents do not access clean and safe water through pipe reticulation to their homesteads;

Appreciating the potential of co-operative societies in participating in the business of supplying piped water to the residents of Nyandarua County;

Noting that the County Government has a role in promoting cooperative societies that address the social-economic needs of its people such as access to clean, safe and piped water;

This Assembly therefore urges the Nyandarua County Executive Committee to –

- i. Initiate a programme in all county villages, sensitizing the Nyandarua County residents on the need to establish co-operative societies with a view of supplying piped water to the homesteads;
- ii. Encourage the existing co-operative societies to venture in the business of supply of piped water to people within the jurisdictions of their operation; and
- iii. Identify ways through which the county government can assist the said cooperative societies in ensuring the cost of water remains affordable to the people, such as subsidizing certain operational costs such as electricity.

Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Speaker: Very well, the notice is duly given but, Member for Githioro, I was looking at the provisions given for when a motion is dropped due to the absence of the mover and it is apparent that it requires the leave of the Speaker to be brought back to the floor of the House. I do not remember granting leave on this particular motion. For your information and that of the rest of the Hon. Members, once a motion is dropped, the Speaker must first grant leave before it is brought back to the floor of the House. However, the notice of that motion is duly given and the House Business Committee shall allocate time for its processing. Next order

2. FREE PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION

Speaker: Yes Member for Githioro, Hon. Simon Sambigi Mukuriah.

Hon. Sambigi Mukuriah: Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to give notice of the following motion:

Aware that article 53 of the Constitution of Kenya provides a right for every Kenyan child to free and compulsory basic education;

Noting that section 2 of the Basic Education Act No.14 of 2013 defines ‘basic education’ to include education offered in pre-primary education institutions and centres;

Concerned that Nyandarua County Government has only partially implemented a free pre-primary education programme in its public pre-primary education centres;

This Assembly therefore urges the County Executive Committee of Nyandarua County Government to comply with the Constitution and fully implement a free pre-primary education programme in its pre-primary education centres and that the said centres be within a reasonable distances from the residences of the children.

Thank you Mr. Speaker

Speaker: Very well, the notice for that motion is duly given and the House Business Committee shall allocate time when the same shall be processed. Next order.

MOTION

1. PROVISION OF NUTRIENTS-FORTIFIED PORRIDGE TO PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION

Speaker: Yes Member for Charagita, Hon. Catherine Wairimu Njane.

Hon. Wairimu Njane: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. Article 53 of the Constitution of Kenya provides a right for every Kenyan child to basic nutrition;

Noting that the government and in particular, the county governments have an enormous obligation in guaranteeing the said right...

Speaker: Hold on Member for Charagita, you require to move the motion as it appears on the order paper before you start clothing it with the requisite materials.

Hon. Wairimu Njane: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir; I beg to move the following motion:

Aware that article 53 of the Constitution of Kenya provides a right for every Kenyan child to basic nutrition;

Noting that the government and in particular the county governments have an enormous obligation in guaranteeing the said right;

Appreciating that this right would best be guaranteed by County Government by initiating a feeding programme in its pre-primary education centres;

This Assembly therefore urges the County Executive Committee of Nyandarua County Government to initiate a school-based feeding programme in its pre-primary education centers particularly by providing nutrients-fortified porridge to the children. Thank you Mr. Speaker

Article 53(1) of the Constitution of Kenya provides a right for every Kenyan child to basic nutrition. The fourth schedule of our Constitution places the function of providing pre-primary education on the county governments. This position has now been reinforced.

(Hon. Kariuki Muchiri rises on a point of order)

Speaker: What is it Member for Murungaru?

Hon Kariuki Muchiri: Thank you Mr Speaker. Although I will be seconding this motion, I wish to draw your attention to the fact that the Member for Charagita is reading her presentation and I believe she ought to first seek leave of the Speaker. The House stands to be guided by you.

Speaker: Yes, the Member for Murungaru is right and though I had noted that, the Speaker is not supposed to see and I was rushing to look at the provisions of our standing orders. Members are only allowed to refer to notes, quote from the Standing Orders, the Constitution and other statutes but are expressly barred from reading written statements. I will allow you to refer to your notes but you cannot read them word for word.

Hon. Wairimu Njane: Thank you Mr Speaker for the guidance. Pre-primary education sets the foundation for our children and if they are not well fed, they will not concentrate in class. It is in this regard that I feel it is important that we feed our children. Most of these children come from poor families that cannot even afford a meal and consequently cannot perform well in school. Some of the areas in Nyandarua are very dry and the Members from Ndaragwa Sub-county can bear me witness. I know of one school in my ward that is already implementing it; Nyairoko nursery school and it is doing very well. I am not oblivious of the fact that this motion has some cost implications but the benefits supersede the costs by far. It is for these reasons that I urge the Members to support this motion and request Hon. Kariuki Muchiri to second.

Speaker: Yes, Member for Murungaru, Hon. Kariuki Muchiri.

Hon Kariuki Muchiri: Thank you Mr Speaker. I rise to second this motion as brought by the Member for Charagita. It is indeed a good idea that our children in pre-primary are fed because it will encourage more children to go to school. I remember in the past when we only had nursery schools contrary to what we have today in the name of baby class and kindergartens, we used to be fed. In the late 70s, the government would provide free milk to primary school children and this had a major impact on the enrolment rates. In my class one, for instance, we had five streams. We knew that going to school meant having something to put into our stomachs since getting a meal those days was quite a challenge. If this programme is rolled out with a comprehensive policy document to guide the programme, I believe more children will access education. I am aware that not all areas in our county have bounty harvests. Some are at one time or the other drought stricken and such a programme would go a long way in ensuring that our children access and remain in school. Thank you Mr Speaker, I second.

(Question proposed)

Speaker: Yes, Member for Kanjuiri Ridge, Hon. Suleiman Kihika Kimani.

Hon. Suleiman Kimani: Thank you Mr Speaker, I rise to support the motion as moved by Member for Charagita. It is important that we have this program in place because we can extend the hours that the children are in class. You can remember when we had the ‘*maziwa ya nyayo*’ program in schools. It was so important that those pupils who had no milk in their homes would get something to supplement what they have in their homesteads.

It is therefore important that we have this program rolled out and we urge that we, the Members of this County Assembly should liaise with the Executive in case they have such a program impending so that we can start this program in our wards. I support the motion.

Speaker: Yes, Member for Githioro, Hon. Simon Sambigi Mukuriah.

Hon. Sambigi Mukuriah: Thank you Mr Speaker, I also rise to support this motion given that I am the Chairperson of the committee on Education where the ECD issues squarely lie. I would, however, want to inform the Members for Murungaru and Kanjuiri that they should use relevant examples when they want to campaign for such a motion. This is because a huge chunk of the membership does not know about *Nyao* era milk – they are younger than that. Therefore, we should put into consideration when we want to support a motion or a bill.

That put aside, the idea of feeding children in schools cannot be gainsaid. As we all in a spheres of life, children at this time are at their formative stage and the perception they acquire about schooling at this tender age will ultimately affect their future because it is at this stage that they will like or hate schooling. Therefore, I would propose that we adopt this motion and go ahead

and support it because our children will have better foundation and therefore, a more educated population to support the our economy in future. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Speaker: Yes the County Member from Karau, Hon. Geoffrey Ngaruiya Kariuki.

Hon. Geoffrey Kariuki: Thank you Mr Speaker. I rise to support this motion. Just like the other members have said, it is important that we take care of our future generations. The children at that age are usually at their formative stage and we need to take cognizance of the fact that some of them come from not-well-to-do backgrounds. This makes them go with empty stomachs especially in the mornings when they are supposed to have energy to play. We need to sympathise with them. I tend to think that this is somewhat shameful because we as a county pride ourselves as the land of milk and potatoes. I therefore support this motion and I am sure that all of us including the Assembly and the Executive will set some funds aside for this cause so that we can go back to the day when children used to feed in schools. Some of us were beneficiaries of school feeding programs and if we were able to do it then, it is also possible now. In fact, some of these programs are long overdue. It is high time that Nyandarua emulates Murang'a County which has such a program although I stand to be corrected. If you consider Murang'a County's food production, we are way better than them yet they have been in a position to set up such a program.

Mr Speaker, by rolling out this program, we will be providing market for our farm produce such as milk. This will help have our money circulate within our county.

Thank you Mr Speaker, I support the motion.

Speaker: Yes, the Leader of the Majority Party and Member for Leshau Pondo, Hon. Peter Kamau Gathungu.

Hon. Gathungu Kamau: Thank you Mr Speaker, I rise to support the motion and echo the sentiments raised by the Hon. Member from Rurii, Hon. Kariuki Ngaruiya.

This program is long overdue. This program ought to have been rolled out by the First Assembly. I come from the North Eastern part of this County which is one of the driest parts, especially Karampton. Actually, we are the wearers of the shoe and we know where it hurts most. We have seen kids dropping out of school primarily due to lack of food. In the neighbouring Laikipia County, the feeding program has been ongoing for years. And, given that our environmental conditions are similar, this program ought to have taken off long time ago – which is the reason I insist that the feeding program is long overdue. I remember an instance where you had come to the lower part of Ndaragwa with the first Governor of this County whereby I challenged the Governor to introduce a school feeding program in that area. He said it would be done but I think the issue ended immediately he left the gathering since it has never seen the light of day.

Therefore, I would say that we introduce the program despite the fact that it has some cost implications. I think it is one step that would put this county forward. I would also reiterate the words that have been uttered by Hon. Kariuki who says that it is a source of employment because we will be suppliers of maize and milk to these ECDs. We also have people who will be employed to work there and as such, kill two birds with one stone.

I support this motion and emphasize that it is long overdue. I hope the Executive will support our views, if it does not we will continue pushing for such a program in this House so that we can move forward. When we were campaigning with Hon. Maitai, we promised our people that we would try our best to ensure that a motion is passed in this House geared towards starting a feeding program for our children.

With few remarks, Hon. Speaker, I support the motion. Thank you.

Speaker: Yes, the Member for Karau and Deputy Leader of Majority Party, Hon. Kenn Mukira.

Hon. Kenn Mukira: Thank you Mr Speaker Sir. I also rise to support this motion. Hon. Sambigi talked about Moi era. If you compare the body sizes of those members who were there during the Moi and Kibaki eras such as Hon. Sambigi and Hon. Kariuki Muchiri and others such as Hon. Kung'u and Hon. Mbogo, you will see clearly that there is an underlying problem. I think the feeding program should be taken seriously. I have made a number of visits to various schools...

(Hon. Isaac Kung'u rises on a point of order)

Speaker: What is it Member for Wanjohi?

Hon. Isaac Kung'u: Thank you Mr Speaker, Sir. Is the Member Karau ward in order for trying to insinuate that we have small body sizes because we were not fed properly?

Speaker: That is a point of order that ought to be ruled on before you can proceed. What I can say from my view point is that the observation by Member for Karau is rational. Proceed Member for Karau. Proceed member for Karau.

Hon. Ken Mukira: Thank you Mr Speaker, in fact the word I could have used is stunted which means the height and the body size are contrary according to the growth of the child.

(Hon. Simon Sambigi rises on a point of order)

Speaker: What is it Member for Githioro, Hon. Simon Sambigi Mukuriah.

Hon. Sambigi Mukuriah: Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to challenge what my colleague from Karau is saying because judging from there then, he must have suffered severe malnutrition when he was a child and I would like him to tell us which era he belongs to.

Speaker: I think that is just an observation; it is not a point of order. Member for Karau proceed.

Hon. Kenn Mukira: Thank you Mr Speaker for protecting me. I am of the Kibaki era Hon member Sambigi. So as I give my input, I wish to compare the education performance. If you compare those kids who got the opportunity and were well fed during their early childhood days, I think they performed very well.

Nyandarua was among the best performing schools. As we speak today, Nyandarua is counted among the forgotten academic giants of this country. Could it be because of the feeding program? My issue is, we can try to make sure that we feed all children during this formative stage. Also from class 1, 2, 3. This may give a better input in terms of performance of our kids.

Still on it, I would like to give a commendation to the former Member for Karau ward because he ensured that there was an audit on the number of ECD schools in my ward. I found out that he was feeding the ECDs using his own pocket money. I would therefore say that it's very strenuous for me to go and ensure the project he undertook is still running.

It is therefore wise for this House, through the Committee on Education, to make sure that this project is implemented and gets some constant budgetary allocation to make sure that all kids are well taken care of. It will also go a long way in helping me because if I take it upon myself to continue with the program that had been undertaken by the former Member for Karau in order to fit into his shoes, I promise you I will be walking with no shoes when I am coming to the Assembly which is against the rules of this House. Thank you Mr Speaker Sir.

Speaker: Very well Member, he likes referring to himself as an independent member from Ndaragwa Central, Hon. David Maitai.

Hon. David Maitai: Thank you Mr Speaker, Sir. I rise to support the motion. Feeding of the kids at the ECD level is of paramount importance. There has been free primary and secondary education while the ECD, which is the foundation, is not free. Parents have been suffering and to therefore we should feed the pupils. For that, I support the motion.

The other thing is that feeding program will reduce the rate of absenteeism especially in our areas. We have so many kids at the boundary who usually go for the ECDs in Laikipia but after they graduate, they come back to Nyandarua where they are treated equally. I also support the motion in the sense that it's going to supplement the food which they usually get from their homes. This is specifically so for those ones who come from poor backgrounds and if we do so, we shall have a healthy nation. I think that makes a good foundation for our kids to excel in their academics. We will be going back to where we were some years ago when Nyandarua was ranked number one unlike now when the academic performance has plummeted.

I also support the idea, which was raised by the Hon. Member from Karau ward who said that we are going to create markets for our farm produce. It has been said now and again that we should build Nyandarua with our own resources. So I support this particular motion. Thank you Mr Speaker, Sir.

Speaker: Yes Member for Weru, Hon. Simon Mbogo Mburu.

Hon. Mbogo Mburu: Thank you Mr Speaker, Sir. I also rise to support the same motion. And to start with, am supporting it knowing that I am going to be a direct beneficiary of the program because I have two kids and still I am waiting to introduce some more.

It is pathetic when you travel to one of our health facilities and note that we have kids suffering from malnutrition in Nyandarua. It is on record. If you go to J.M. Memorial Hospital today, you will find a number of them there.

Apparently, a kid of three and a half or four years cannot access breakfast at school and he or she is expected to feed on cold food they often get from home. So I rise to support the motion that seeks to introduce feeding program into our ECDs. Today, the market of potatoes is not fairing very well and therefore we can create a very ready market for our farmers if this program is rolled out. In this case, the county government will be the buyer of milk and other surplus produce in our county. So it is a good idea, although it is going to have some cost implications. It is of paramount importance to feed our kids. Considering that the only kids we are entrusted on are the pre-primary ones and they are the young angels of this Honourable county, it is important if we support the motion and hope that the executive supports us in this. I know, from the mood of the House that it is going to pass. When implemented, I know it is going to be one of the landmark programs we are going to introduce. So Mr Speaker, I beg to support the motion.

Speaker: Yes, Member for Wanjohi, Hon. Isaac Kung'u.

Hon. Isaac Kung'u: Thank you Mr Speaker, Sir. I also rise to support this motion because as we all know, ECD education is part of basic education that is guaranteed by our constitution. Nonetheless, for a long time it seems as if this has been forgotten, I think it is high time that we start concentrating on the ECDs as we all know this is the formative stage. They say that how healthy you are is also related to your IQ. So we need to take care of our kids.

Of importance to me is to urge the executive to support this idea because by reading the mood of the House it largely shows that the members are in support of this motion. I also want to thank you for the notice of motion given by the member for Githioro without anticipating that debate will jell well with this motion. To make sure that now it goes hand in hand as we provide

infrastructure, good environment, as we pay our ECD teacher and deal with the issue of staffing, we also provide nutrients to our kids so that we can have a wholesome program that is going to cater for our ECDs.

I urge the executive to do a very good policy document on how this program can be implemented for sustainability because it will be bad to start something else and not be able to sustain it. I am sure it has some cost implications especially on our budget. My recommendation is that we need to do serious planning and see how this can be implemented.

I support this motion, Thank you.

Speaker: Yes, Member for Gathanji, Hon. Ngumo Ngamau.

Hon. Ngumo Ngamau: Thank you Mr Speaker. I want to support this motion with the strongest terms possible. I have been in school for a long time and I realized that we have three problems from the young ones. One, children from nursery schools have running noses every other lesson and so many stomach upsets. In fact, diarrhoea is very common. The reason being that they carry cold food and this food offers a good environment for germs to thrive between the time the mother packs the food and the time the kid takes it. You realize that these children sometimes instead of going to classes for five days in a week, they go for two days only. So medically, it is very expensive when we don't have this feeding program in school because the food which is provided in school is quite hygienic.

The other thing I would want to say is that, in a few occasions, I have realized that these young ones steal food from one another. For instance, kids from richer families will go with bread with blueband and those kind of things while others carry *githeri* and potatoes. In fact, some children go to the extent of hurting others which is not good and that creates bad neighbourhood because in the evening the parents of those children will fight each other.

Thank you Mr Speaker Sir, I support the motion.

(No member rises to contribute to the motion)

Speaker: Maybe then you can call the mover to respond.

Hon. Ngumo Ngamau: Madam Catherine, you can stand and respond, this is your motion.

Hon. Wairimu Njane: Thank you Mr Speaker, Sir. I wish to thank all the members who have contributed to this motion. And as I had said, it has cost implications but the benefits will definitely outweigh the cost. At this juncture, I wish to move the motion.

(Question put and agreed to)

Speaker: So Hon. Members, you note that this is a motion with financial implications and in my situation, I would have referred it to the executive. Am saying this so that as we move into the future, we do not find hard doors on the way to the CECM for finance to comment on the same and also to the Budget and Appropriations Committee of the Assembly to also look at it and comment. But with the importance of the motion, and having noted what I have seen as I go around Nyandarua and the lower sides of Ndaragwa, it is pathetic and sometimes the law is meant to serve the people the other way round. And this is one motion that can create a strong foundation for our human resource in this county.

So in approving it, it was first served by the fact that the executive is in the process of creating a supplementary budget and I thought that if approved by the House, which it has already done, then the resolutions will be sent to H.E. the Governor. And finding the need for this motion

might even factor in some money as it has been suggested by the member for Wanjohi. This is a serious program with very serious financial implications, but in the time being, in the supplementary budget, the Governor might consider doing pilot program in some of our ECDs. So that in the next financial year, we can maybe roll it out again across the entire county.

(Hon. Suleiman Kimani rises)

What is it member for Kanjuiri, Hon. Suleiman Kihika Kimani.

Hon. Suleiman Kihika: Thank you Mr Speaker. I have a reservation that when we brought the motion in this Assembly. Yes, it is taken to relevant bodies but we don't have any response. I was suggesting that if it is possible we get the feedback, so that we know if there is implication of funds. But when we bring the motion in the Assembly, then they keep quiet, we don't know whether it is ignorance and we end up feeling as if there is no need of bringing the motion in the Assembly. So if it is not possible, let us get the information so that we can know the reasons. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Speaker: Very well. I think I have addressed this issue to Hon. Members severally, that the Implementation Committee seriously let down the First Assembly and Member for Kanjuiri is aware of that. Hon. Isaac Kung'u, the member for Wanjohi, this is your first job to ensure that in 60 days, the executive reports back whether it is able to implement this or when they think they can implement or just say that it is a good idea and they will look into it. At least 60 days. That is what Standing Orders provide.

We understand the disappointment of the Member for Kanjuiri that the Implementation Committee not even once brought us a report here of what has happened in 60 days over resolutions of this House and it was a major problem. So, I believe that with the present Implementation Committee, the resolutions of this House will be forwarded and that reports will be coming back to this House on what has happened or become of its resolutions.

Next order.

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker: Hon. Members, the business for the sitting having been exhausted, this House will now adjourn to tomorrow, Wednesday the 18th day of October 2017 at 9.00 a.m.

(The house rose at 3.52 pm.)