

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
NYANDARUA COUNTY ASSEMBLY
2ND ASSEMBLY- 1ST SESSION

OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday 18th October 2017

The Assembly met at the Assembly Chamber at 2.30 p.m.

[The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Zachary Njeru) in the Chair

Prayer

QUORUM CALL AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE SITTING

(The Clerk-at-the-Table confirms that there is no quorum)

Speaker: In accordance to Standing Orders No. 35, I direct that the bell be rung for 10 minutes or until such time that quorum will have been achieved.

*(The bell rings for 1 minute and quorum is achieved
as confirmed by the Clerk-at-the-Table)*

First order.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

VISITORS

Hon. Members, today 18th October 2017, we are honoured to welcome the teachers and pupils of Mwiang'ia primary school in Shamata ward in Ndaragwa Sub County of Nyandarua County. They are 63 pupil and 3 teachers leading the delegation. They are;

1. Mr. John Gichuki
2. Elizabeth Kabucho
3. Gerald Mbutia

We also have the leadership of the pupils;

1. Tabitha Wambui head girl
2. Misheck Macharia head boy

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As an assembly, we have the tradition of welcoming our visitors and more so pupils as we deliberate on matters touching on the county. I therefore ask the members to applaud the teachers and pupils of Mwihang'ia primary school as foresaid.

(Applause)

I wish to thank the member of the County Assembly of the area, Hon. Reuben Gitau for ensuring that the pupils are accommodated in the assembly during our plenary.

Next order.

MOTION

FREE PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION

Yes, member for Githioro Hon. Sambigi Mukuriah.

Hon. Sambigi Mukuriah: Mr Speaker I would like to be guided because the order is appearing under notice of motion and I am supposed to be moving the motion this afternoon.

Speaker: We had another Order Paper this morning please check whether the Order Paper you have is for 2.30 p.m.

(The member gets another Order Paper)

Hon. Members, I have noted the error. You are supposed to be moving the motion. Proceed.

Hon. Sambigi Mukuriah: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I beg to move 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, I call upon Hon. Kariuki Muchiri to second.

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

Hon. Kariuki Muchiri: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I second the motion but we are new in this assembly and possibly conversant with the procedures of this House. Before I second this motion, it would have been in order for the mover, who is aware of all the issues about the motion, to contribute to the motion after reading it. However because I have already been called to second, I will proceed.

Speaker: Point noted Hon. Muchiri. We are still in the learning process and since the member for Githioro may not have any other chance to contribute, he can proceed.

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Hon. Sambigi Mukuriah: I appreciate the member for Murungaru. Mr Speaker can I proceed?

Speaker: Proceed.

Hon. Sambigi Mukuriah: Mr Speaker, article 53 of the Constitution of Kenya provides the right for every Kenyan child to free and compulsory basic education. On the ground, we find that the parents are compelled to pay education fee because the county government has not complied with this article. We have about 570 public ECDE centres and 231 private ones. The total enrolment of children in Nyandarua is 21,933. The teacher-child ratio is completely below the acceptable standards.

The county government needs to be involved, recruit more teachers, and ensure that no parent is paying for the same. The teacher-child ratio should be one to twenty-five. Currently we have 400 ECDE preparatory assistants that are engaged by the county government of Nyandarua. If you compare that with the number of pupils enrolled, you will see that they are learning in very congested environment and the more they are the more they cannot concentrate.

Petition 127 of 2014 Kenya National Union of Teachers vs Attorney General and the Teachers Service Commission and the Council of Governors upheld that the county governments can employ ECDE teachers but only those that are registered by the TSC. They have already employed once. The county government and the TSC should regularise those ones.

It is regrettable that since it came into being, these teachers have not had their terms of service defined. They do not have a defined term of service. I am calling upon this House to ensure that the county government complies with this article. Teachers cannot continue enjoying top ups.

We also need to develop a policy that is going to engage the preparatory assistants. The county government should allocate more resources to the ECDE centres to cater for the employment of teachers and acquisition of learning materials. They should also increase construction of ECDE classrooms and child friendly facilities such as toilets and play grounds. Most of the ECDE facilities are housed in primary schools and the pupils are forced to share the same facilities with the older pupils. This is completely unacceptable because of hygiene and the fact that they are not even user friendly. We therefore insist that the county government does not only construct classrooms but also other facilities that are biased towards the ECDE learners. These centres are not evenly distributed across the county and I do not even know how the county government singles which ones to develop.

Secondly, the primary schools that we have in the county are far from each other and we must be able to develop a formula on the distance that a child should cover when going to those centres. Mr Speaker if this is done I am sure that we shall have offered service to our people.

It is also good we think about learning aids. It should be compulsory that the budget for ECDE classroom construction include buying the learning tools. We know well that children learn best through touch and sight. We should have those tools in the classrooms.

I now call upon Mr Kariuki Muchiri to second.

Speaker: Member for Murungaru Hon. Kariuki Muchiri

Hon. Kariuki Muchiri: Thank you Mr Speaker, even as I rise to second this motion, I wish to inform the members that in this Hon. House, we do not have Misters; only Honourable Members but because learning is a continuous process, we shall continue enlightening one another. This is a very important motion by the Member for Githioro Ward and I wish to raise a few issues regarding pre-primary institutions. If I were a policymaker at the national level, I would ensure that pre-primary education teachers get the highest salaries, possibly the

equivalent of professors. These teachers do a lot in moulding our children, most of whom join school when they are too young to even hold a pen. It is the teacher who must teach them to write the very first letter. At the pre-primary level is where we should have the best facilities. There should even be dormitories where they can rest since they are very young minds. I am glad that the previous government made major efforts towards improving pre-primary education. When KNUT insisted that hiring teachers fell squarely on their mandate, we decided to employ them under the guise of preparatory instructors and that is how we were able to engage them. We do not even pay them a salary; what we give them is a top up of what they used to get previously.

If you happen to visit some of these ECDs, you will be shocked to see that the classes have gaping holes through which you can see the pupils in class. I am glad that the first assembly saw it fit to set aside money to build more and better ECD classes. However, we could not do all the required classes. In addition, some of the contractors did shoddy jobs while others took off midway. I know the Members will be going back to the wards to assess some of these stalled projects and they are quite many, Mr Speaker. There is one in my ward at a place called Kamirangi where a contractor was specifically instructed to use non-porous ballast but he went ahead and used ballast that absorbs water. Now the project is stalled but we still have a problem.

The other issue I would like to highlight is on the management of these ECDs. You will find that these teachers are under the management of the head teachers of the primary schools. I believe there should be an ECD management policy for these schools. There is need for uniformity in the way they are managed. Some teachers used to get as little as three thousand shillings until the county government came in to top it up.

Making pre-primary education free and compulsory, coupled with the incentives we are talking about like the porridge, will enhance access to education. I reminisce a time when this county used to top in KCPE and I believe it is time we retraced our steps and established where the rain started beating us. With those remarks, Mr Speaker, I second.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Gathure Wambui: Thank you Mr Speaker...

Speaker: Yes, Member for Kaibaga, Hon. Gathure Wambui.

Hon. Gathure Wambui: Thank you Mr Speaker, it is worth noting that I am very swift. I wish to appreciate the Chairperson of the Committee on Education for bringing this very important motion...

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

Speaker: What is it Member for Murungaru, Hon. Kariuki Muchiri?

Hon. Kariuki Muchiri: Thank you Mr Speaker. This is a House of rules and procedures and if more than one Member rises seeking to make their contribution, it is up to the Speaker to apply his discretion and decide who should speak first. Is it in order then, for the Member for Kaibaga to stand up and start contributing without your permission?

Speaker: The point has been noted Member for Murungaru. The Hon. Member did not just rise for the sake of it. He caught the Speaker's eye and he was the first to switch on the microphone. Therefore, you can proceed Hon. Gathure.

Hon. Gathure Wambui: Thank you Mr Speaker for protecting me. I would like to remind the Member for Murungaru that commonwealth traditions provide that the Leader of

Minority is always given the first opportunity to contribute unless he is not on his feet. I am not the Leader of Minority but I am the “shadow Minority Leader”...

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

Speaker: What is it Hon. Sambigi?

Hon. Sambigi Mukuriah: Thank you Mr Speaker. Is it in order for the Hon. Member for Kaimbaga to insinuate that he is the Leader of Minority while we know very well that we do not have such a position in this House?

Speaker: Point noted. Hon. Gathure, as you are aware you are not the Leader of Minority and I urge you not to drift away from the motion at hand. Proceed.

Hon. Gathure Wambui: Thank you Mr Speaker. In order to save time, I will continue with the debate on the floor of this House. I would like to say that we all know that ECDE is a devolved function. However, it is not in order to have the National Government, having devolved the ECDE, do it partially. I say that it was partial because the County Government for example, can construct classrooms but cannot employ or pay the tutors. It is paramount that we have enough tutors. The ratio of the tutors to pupils is 1:25 as aforementioned by the mover. This is regrettable. We therefore need to employ more tutors and make sure that there is enough money to pay the tutors. Today, we are saying that we cannot pay the tutors but we can offer them top-ups, which are not offered to all tutors in the county. For instance, if we have approximately five thousand ECD tutors, only five hundred of them receive the top-ups.

We have tutors who are paid Kshs.3000 per month. How on earth can you pay a professional such an amount of money? Today, an unskilled ‘shambaboy’ is paid more...

(Consultations)

Speaker: Order Hon. Members! Hon. Kariuki Muchiri, consult in low tone.

Hon. Gathure Wambui: Thank you Mr Speaker. It is good if an Hon. Member has already made his or her contribution to give the others a chance to contribute. The County Government should ensure that all the tutors are given the top-ups, I was talking about earlier. Besides, it should try to use the policy that is used in the health sector. You find that during the construction of a dispensary, the contractors take into consideration the diameter or radius from another dispensary. With that, you will not have two facilities located very near to each other or very far from each other.

The other thing I wanted to mention is on feeding program. We were discussing the issue with Hon. Wairimu Njane and realized that for the program to be up and running, we do not require a lot of money. With Kshs.3000, Hon. Njane told me that she was able to start a porridge program for an ECDE classroom in her ward.

We need to start a program like the laptop project being rolled out by the National Government. The intention is to buy laptops for class one pupils. Our county government should therefore have such programs for the nursery schools by providing them with tablets, which I am sure they can get at low cost. In fact, we can acquire them from as low as Kshs.4000.

There is another issue of students who have special needs and require special attention...

(Hon. Sambigi Mukuriah rises on a point of information)

Speaker: Hon. Member from Kaimbaga, do you require the information?

Hon. Gathure Wambui: I will appreciate.

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Speaker: Proceed, Member for Githioro.

Hon. Sambigi Mukuriah: Mr Speaker, as much as I appreciate the Hon. Member's contribution, I think that it is only fair that I inform him that he has digressed and gone out of the topic. He is talking about the feeding program, laptops, and special needs children. This is despite the fact that my motion was specific to free education for pre-primary learners. Thank you.

Speaker: Member for Kaimbaga, I think you can continue but stick to the topic.

Hon. Gathure Wambui: Thank you Mr Speaker. I think I have been informed but it good if the member would understand that free education must be accompanied the basic needs of the pupils. There is no way that a child will go to classroom when hungry or without shoes even if the education was free. For proper running of the ECD centres, we need to take care of the students who are enrolled and got special needs. If a child is physically challenged, he/she would require proper latrines. These things are interdependent.

We also need proper fencing of the ECDs so that distractors that can affect the learning of the children may be mitigated. For instance, just recently, a school in Turkana was attacked by militias and some students lost their lives. We therefore need proper fencing of the educational institutions.

With those few remarks, I support the motion.

Speaker: Thank you Member for Kaimbaga. Yes, Hon. Member for Wanjohi, Hon. Kung'u.

Hon. Isaac Kung'u: Thank you Mr Speaker sir. I want to say that this motion is very close to my heart because an ECD teacher brought me up and therefore whenever we discuss on ECD, it elicits some emotions. I want to appreciate Hon. Member for Githioro for bringing this motion to this House for deliberations.

It should be a priority of any government to take care of children. There is a Swahili saying that goes, '*mkono mmoja haulei mwana*'. In other words, it means that one hand cannot nurture a child. We have to appreciate the First Assembly that looked into the issue of compensating the ECD teachers. However, not all of them benefitted from the action. If you look at my ward, we have 64 ECDs and only 16 of them are receiving the subsidies that Hon. Kariuki Muchiri was talking about.

At this formative stage of life, children need very specialized care. It is high time we recognize the work being done by these teachers. Assumingly, we are all parents in this House and we know how important our children are to us. It makes me sad when a ECD teacher gets Kshs.3,000 monthly. Much less than what our house helps are getting. This is the reason we require the intervention of the County Government, which should come up with a policy document specifically for the salaries of ECD teachers. I know there are issues with TSC but in the Council of Governors, we have a committee on education. It is about time they sat down and negotiate. We cannot say that we have free primary education while the ECD teachers have been neglected. Let us lead the way for other counties by ensuring that we remunerate our teachers well.

If you go to developed countries like the USA and others, you realize that an ECD teacher is so much respected. The behaviour of adults has their foundation in ECD and the way I was brought up. At that cognitive stage, people learn behaviours and emotions. Therefore, the efforts that we undertake to improve ECD and the financial obligations that come along are actually not costs but investments. What kind of adults shall we have tomorrow if we are not ready to prepare them today?

This is serious and it is not just another motion. The county government needs to take this matter seriously and the CECM for education should act on it by coming up with a document and look for support from all the stakeholders to make sure that the ECD teachers in

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this county are motivated while at their work. You can imagine a situation where we do not have ECD teachers. Have you ever heard of ECD teachers going on strike? I think they are the most loyal employees we have in this country but they are the least appreciated. They do not only help the children acquire knowledge but also help in shaping their behaviours. We need to respect and demystify the notion that they are just mere nursery teachers.

Hon. Members, we need to take this matter with the seriousness it deserves. The Executive should take it upon themselves to make sure that we have the best policies and that ECD teachers in our county are well remunerated so that they can be motivated.

Mr. Speaker, I support.

Speaker: Yes, Deputy Leader of Majority, Hon. Kenn Mukira.

Hon. Kenn Mukira: Thank you Mr Speaker. I rise to support this motion given the history about myself. I was brought up in a slum and later attended Inoorero Nursery School. When we joined class one the teacher would ask, '*ciha ciana cia inoorero?*¹' Literally, we went to school to be sharpened. A short example is that I visit at least one nursery school or a primary school in my ward every Friday so that I can understand the challenges that they face. I have learnt that a big number of children in ECD and majority of whom are in public ECDs attend school for half a term. Others join the school during the second term and by the end of the year, it becomes very challenging to assess the children so that they can join class one. The main reason behind this particular challenge is that *Wanjiku* is unable to pay the amount charged as school fees.

What the teachers get as salaries is not equivalent to what the person who attends to my cows get. I told you about my cows, one gave birth; I pay the caretaker about Kshs. 7500 per month. A teacher who takes care of about 40 children only gets about Kshs, 3500. I pray that this is treated urgently.

It would be so bad to have free primary and secondary school education while early childhood education is charged Kshs.1500 per term. It beats logic and it should not happen when we are in this House. I support.

Speaker: It would be unfair not to give the member for Shamata a chance while we have his school here.

Hon. Reuben Gitau: Thank you Mr. Speaker and before I go ahead, I appreciate the visit by Mwihang'ia primary school. They have seen where we do legislation. Concerning the motion, I would say that we have the right chairperson in the committee of education. This motion is very timely. My wife happens to be an ECDE teacher.

(A phone rings)

Speaker: Hon. Members, I ask that we follow the rules of the House and kindly put your phones on silent mode.

Hon. Reuben Gitau: The reason why ECDE is expensive is that the teachers have to be paid, putting up of other infrastructures has to be done and a feeding program has to be taken care of. Those are the major expenses in a nursery school. The county government through the department of education has to ensure that it meets all those expenses. Concerning infrastructure, I will not say that the former government did nothing, they tried but it is not good that it could not manage that level of education. I feel something was not done in the right way. Money was not spent well because there were allocations to that department. In my ward, there are only four newly constructed ECDE classrooms. With proper planning the county government has a capacity to run the ECDEs. Education involves both curricular and co-curricular activities. If a child has a talent such as drawing or athletics, it would be good to start

¹ Where are the children from *Inoorero*?

moulding them from the beginning. The county government is capable of seeing to it that the children are well nurtured as they proceed to primary level. I support the motion

Speaker: Yes, member for Weru ward Hon. Simon Mbogo Mburu.

Hon. Mbogo Mburu: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I have been really waiting for this chance. I said that I have to contribute to any motion that concerns kids. I have two and I am willing to have more.

I support this motion. It would be terrible to think about other things and forget those angels. In my area, there is a kid who walks for seven kilometres to an ECDE centre. The child is only three and a half years old. This is pathetic. I think the greatest challenge is that there is no policy that unites the 2010 Constitution and the County Government Act. A case study is Nakuru where the department of education came up with a policy that follows both the 2010 constitution and the county government act. It allows the county government of Nakuru to employ the ECDE teachers on permanent and pensionable terms. In the national government, the Teachers' Service Commission is the one that employs teachers. That policy enabled the county to employ teachers without quarrels. A teacher acquires a TSC Number after qualifying; he or she is recruited and employed on permanent terms. There is an entry point, annual increments and promotions after three years. I urge the chairperson of the committee in education to go there and find out what they have done.

A Curriculum is very important at this level of education. Today if you go around those centres, you will find that what is done in nursery school A is very different from what is done in nursery school B. they do not have same curriculum that shows the beginning and the end. The curriculum originates from the teacher. I support the motion and emphasize that the committee on education should benchmark with Nakuru to see how they have employed their teachers without violating the constitution.

Speaker: Yes, member for Charagita Hon. Wairimu Njane.

Hon. Wairimu Njane: Mr Speaker, sir, I rise to support the motion. We should have free pre-primary education. This is the foundation of education and I feel that we should give it the best. I compare this with how we do the seedbeds. We give it more importance than when we are preparing these young minds.

I will agree with what most of the Hon. Members have said, we should give a holistic learning environment for these young minds so that they can even enjoy going to school. We know that most of them cry when going to school because they see nothing good about school.

The condition of some of the pre-primary classrooms is pathetic. Some were stores. The county government should give them more importance than the university and the rest. We should make education a firm foundation and this can be done from the pre-primary level. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Yes Hon. David Mwangi Maitai, member for Ndaragwa Central.

Hon. Mwangi Maitai: Thank you Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support the motion on free primary education*. Keeping in mind that education is the key to success. We have always told our kids that and encouraged them. This is the main reason as to why our Hon. MCA from Shamata has invited students from his place to this Assembly. We should all support this particular motion.

Concerning structure, we should try to elaborate how free is free. I think it should be fully free, in terms of stationary, furniture and even classrooms. The centres are also supposed to be distributed well so that we do not have kids who are just three to four years old travelling more than a kilometre to school.

We are also supposed to set an elaborate scheme of service to the ECDs' teachers so that we motivate them. We know when a worker is not motivated, the output goes down and if you pay them well, they are going to be encouraged and work harder.

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The students are supposed to be given incentives in order for them to like the education idea. This goes back to yesterday's motion of introducing food and porridge in schools, the students will be encouraged to attend school always.

We are also supposed to consider giving them some uniforms to reduce our parents' burden. In my area, there are some ECDs which are mud-walled and it is very unfortunate at this era and age. I urge the chairperson of the education committee to visit some of those schools and table the results. With those few remarks, I wish to support this motion.

Speaker: Thank you Hon. David Mwangi Maitai. Yes, Hon. Gathungu Kamau, majority leader and member for Leshau Pondo.

Hon. Gathungu Kamau: Thank you Mr Speaker, Sir. I stand to support this motion by Hon. Sambigi, the member for Githioro. I would say that he is doing his job right as the chairperson of the education committee, looking at the two motions he has brought and especially this on free pre-primary education. The pre-primary education was solely a function of the National Government but it has been devolved to the county Governments. The community will now check whether we are performing our duties well.

When we come to the ECDE centres, it is quite unfortunate that in most centres and even in areas where classes have been done, you will bear me witness from your localities; there are no proper toilets for the ECDE centres. I urge the committee on education to take note of this, even if we are doing good classrooms, we need to do good toilets for the centres.

The other issue is on pathetic condition of classes in most places. I am encouraged that the committee on education will be visiting several ECDE centres as from next week. This will be a chance for them to see that there are some classrooms, which are collapsing. This is an anomaly that should be corrected.

We may construct good classrooms but we also need the teaching aids. There is a saying that goes that, "a picture speaks a thousand words." We need pictures on the walls of those ECDE centres, so that the kids can learn even from the walls.

When we come to the payment of the ECDE teachers, I want to echo on what most of the members have said. We need to remunerate our ECDE teachers well and in most places, it is the parents who are carrying that burden. We should offload that burden from them. Let Nyandarua lead by example.

Finally, on co-curricular activities, even if we do everything we can do to improve on education, let us also think on how we can improve on co-curricular activities by providing playing equipment like balls and swings. A saying goes that, "work without play makes Jack a dull boy." Therefore, I would like to enrich this motion by saying when improving the learning institutions, let us also look at all angles. I support this motion. Thank you Mr Speaker, Sir

Speaker: Thank you majority leader. Yes, Hon. Kamau, member for Gathaara.

Hon. Kamau Kariuki: Thank you Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support this motion by saying that most nursery schools are built near the roads. Bumps should be erected to prevent those little kids from being knocked down by the vehicles. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Hon. Kamau. From the mood of the house, I give this chance to Hon. Kamau to call the mover.

Hon. Kamau Kariuki: Okay. I will call the mover.

Hon. Sambigi Mukuriah: Thank you Mr Speaker, Sir. I would like to start by thanking the Members for the overwhelming support that they have shown and given to this particular motion. I would also like to bring this to the attention of the members. The physical planning handbook proposes that an ECDE learner should only cover half a kilometre if walking. That should be used as a guide by the policy developers when they are determining the location of the ECDEs.

At this early stage, though it is not my responsibility, I would like to introduce the nominated member from Shamata to the pupils who have come from her area so that they may not wonder if she was in the house. Maybe the students from your area would be happy to know that you are here.

Speaker: Yes, Hon. Sambigi, maybe the member can just stand.

Hon. Mary Waweru: Thank you Mr Speaker, Sir. Mine is first to welcome the students from Mwiang'ia primary school and their teachers. This is where we stay and discuss different issues about our areas and I think you have seen how we usually do our job. Thank you Mr Speaker, Sir.

Speaker: Thank you Hon. Sambigi for that observation, you can carry on.

Hon. Sambigi Mukuria: Thank you Mr Speaker. I would like to say that whatever we do here, we do it for posterity. As we keep on doing our job, we should come up with policy frameworks that are going to shape the destiny of this county going forward.

I would like to respond to a few of the comments and observations that were made by the Hon. Members. Hon. Maitai, I would like to correct you. We are not talking about free primary education here. We are talking about ECDE specifically. I really do appreciate your contribution but for the sake of the Hansard, it should go down as the ECDE and not free primary education.

Commented [f1]:

Hon. Gathure I do appreciate your contribution and I do agree that we should develop a clear scheme of service for the tutors. This is going to be our way of motivating them because as we all know, as parents we can imagine what those tutors go through. Therefore, it is good to motivate them by developing a clear scheme of service, which is not only about employing them on permanent basis but is also going to change their payments instead of them getting top-ups. It should also cater for their medical cover because a healthy ECDE teacher is going to be more effective when looking after the children. They should also be given house trainings or refresher courses to keep up with the first changing social economic development due to the available technology.

Hon. Mukira has continuously made this remark in this house and I think it is the high time we put the record straight. His cow did not "give birth", it calved. So Hon. Mukira you should be informed that your cow calved.

I also do want to appreciate a contribution that we should develop a curriculum. Comprehensive curriculum that is going to cater for the teaching needs of young ones across the county. That should maybe be emulated by other counties.

We should also ensure a clean, safe and befitting learning environment complete with user-friendly classrooms, comfortable seats and desks. We should also have user-friendly toilets and playground facilities that is befitting the age, size and need. We should also have clean and comfortable beddings for the children for their siesta.

I would also like to commend a member whose contribution was that free childhood education should not only be compulsory but this must be enforced. We must ensure that the people who are charged with the responsibility of ensuring that these children go to school do not let themselves be impediments by charging fees. It is actually a criminal offence and maybe one of these days it will just take a parent to walk to a court of law and sue the County Government and various ECDEs that are charging. We should stop this before it happens. We must know that we are now investing for the future of the county and the country at large.

Finally, I would like to say that I would never ever want to see a child miss a day in school because of money issues. With those many remarks, I beg to move this motion.

(Question put and agreed to)

Speaker: Next order.

ADJOURNMENT

Okay. Hon. Members, the business of the day having been exhausted, this house do adjourn up to Thursday the 19th day of November 2017 at 2.30 p.m.

(The house rose at 3.50 p.m.)