



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
NYANDARUA COUNTY ASSEMBLY
1ST ASSEMBLY- 4TH SESSION



OFFICIAL REPORT

(The Hansard)

Thursday 4th August, 2016

The Assembly met at the Assembly Chamber (P.C.E.A Hall) at 2.30 P.M.

The Speaker, Hon. Wahome Ndegwa, in the Chair

Prayer

QUORUM CALL AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE SITTING

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

Speaker: Hon. Members, pursuant to Standing Order No. 34, I direct that the bell be rung for the initial ten minutes or until such time that quorum will have been achieved, within the ten minutes.

The bell is rung for one minute and quorum is achieved as confirmed by the clerk-at-the-table.

Quorum having been achieved, we can now proceed with the business for this afternoon.

First order.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

Speaker: Hon. Members, the communication is not written but it is very brief, considering that the request to give the communication has been placed now by the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Sports Committee. Hon. Members, you are requested to provide the said committee with information on certain requirements that will necessitate it conduct an activity that is part of the arrangements for your participation in the CASA games. So ensure that you provide the committee with the information before you leave the Assembly today since the said activity commences tomorrow.

Next order.

PAPER LAID

ADDENDUM TO THE REPORT ON AUDITED FINANCIAL OPERATIONS OF THE
NYANDARUA COUNTY EXECUTIVE FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1ST JULY, 2013 TO 30TH JUNE,
2014

Speaker: Yes Member for Githioro and the Chairperson of PIC/PAC, Hon. Silvester Kagiri.

Hon. Silvester Kagiri: I wish to table the Addendum to the Report on Audited Financial Operations of the Nyandarua County Executive for the Period from 1st July, 2013 to 30th June, 2014. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The paper is duly tabled. The House Business Committee shall give requisite directions on when the motion on the report will be moved. Notably Hon. Members, what has been tabled is an addendum to the report already in your files; so it is a supplement to the report by PIC/PAC.

Next order.

NOTICES OF MOTION

Speaker: Hon. Members, we have cleared the House Business Committee part two; and that may be the reason why notices of motion were not provided for. But there is a supplementary order paper that will give chance to the Chairperson of PIC/PAC to give notice of motion on the tabled addendum. The House Business Committee has agreed that the motion on the Report on Audited Financial Operations of the Nyandarua County Executive for the Period from 1st July, 2013 to 30th June, 2014 by PIC/PAC will be moved in all sittings of next week; that is, during Tuesday's afternoon, Wednesday's morning and afternoon, and Thursday's afternoon's sittings.

Next order.

MOTION

STATUS OF GATONDO DISPENSARY AND OCCUPATION BY THE ADMINISTRATION
POLICE.

Speaker: Yes, Member for Githabai and the Chairperson of the Committee on Health Services, Hon. Peter Kairu.

Hon. Peter Kairu: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. I beg to move the following motion:

That this House does adopt the Report of the Committee on Health Services on Status of Gatondo Dispensary and Occupation by the Administration Police, as a report of this House and the recommendations therein as resolutions of this House.

Mr Speaker, Sir, on 7th June, 2016 the Member for Wanjohi Ward Hon. Joseph Mumba Gichini attended a Committee meeting held at the assembly precinct, he informed the Committee that there was public outcry around Gatondo dispensary located in his ward. The outcry was concerning police officers residing in some of the rooms in the dispensary hence hindering provision of key health care services to the residents. The Committee took it upon itself to enquire more on the matter so as to come up with a lasting solution.

Mr Speaker, I remember when we were holding our sittings at Manunga Catholic Church Hall the issue on Gatondo Dispensary arose and you gave an ultimatum that something should be done. The Committee derived its terms of reference from the request by the Hon. Member representing the ward in which the dispensary is situated, who sought to know what the Health Services Department was doing towards resettling the police officers residing at the dispensary.

Mr. Speaker, since my fellow Members have a copy of the report, allow me to move directly to committee's observations and findings.

On the 16th June, 2016 the Committee visited Gatondo dispensary where the nurse-in-charge, Mr. John Macharia, took the Committee round the dispensary. The Committee undertook a holistic approach since there were other problems affecting the dispensary performance apart from the police officers occupying the rooms belonging to the dispensary. The following observations were made during the visit:

- a) The consultation room is used for treating patients i.e. (ante-natal clinic, deliveries, family planning and for consultation purposes).
- b) The dispensary has no laboratory and consequently, patients who require further diagnostic testing are referred to Wanjohi Dispensary which is 12km away.

- c) The dispensary have a total of five rooms; one is used for all the health related services and the rest are occupied by the A.P officers. There is also a separate room which is used for store and drugs dispensation.
- d) The police officers were allocated the three rooms before the official opening of the dispensary for security purposes. When the dispensary became operational, the officers were not directed to vacate the rooms.

The Committee also learnt that;

- a. The construction of the police officers houses had started some time back but had since stalled due to lack of funds.
- b. There are some laboratory equipment which are not in use since there is no available room, and that other necessary items like lab reagents would be availed once the laboratory room is free.
- c. The dispensary attends to an average of 1000 cases per month. In the month of May, 2016 for example, the dispensary attended a total of 1034 cases.
- d. The dispensary does not experience major problems with drug supply, but not all drugs requested are delivered by the Health Services Department.

Mr. Speaker, let me move over to the Committee's recommendations because I believe fellow Members have gone through the report.

The Committee came up with the following recommendations:

1. That the County Security Committee should consider relocating the Administration Police. In this regard the Health Service Department should report back to the Assembly Committee on the progress of relocation.
2. That the Health Service Department does consider fully operationalizing the dispensary so as to offer maternity services.
3. That the Health Service Department should consider adding a nurse to the dispensary given the amount of workload in the dispensary.
4. That taking into consideration the number of referrals and the distance taken for laboratory services. The Health Service Department does operationalize the Laboratory and does deploy a laboratory officer.

5. That the County should consider gravelling the road leading to the dispensary.
6. That the Department of Health Services does consider providing a storage tank to harvest water before installing water system in future.
7. That the Department should consider having a written agreement in case of such arrangements so as to avoid any future disputes.

Mr. Speaker, Gatondo Dispensary was constructed to offer health services to the people of Wanjohi but police officers occupied some of the facility's rooms. This jeopardised delivery of services at the dispensary. Now only two nurses serve clients at the dispensary. The nurses end up being overworked because they handle registration, consultation, injection and dressing services. That leads to patients waiting in the queue for long, which is against the service charter which states that a patient should wait for consultation services, for instance, for five minutes. In addition, services offered at the dispensary are poor because the said nurses are not specialised in all areas of service delivery at the hospital.

Expectant women fear visiting the dispensary due to lack of laboratory equipment at the facility leading to lack of good antenatal services. So, the expectant women visit other health facilities. It is dangerous if preventive services are not offered in the best way.

A health officer who has offered curative services to, for example, a thousand clients mostly does less work than a health officer who has offered either preventive or reproductive health services to two patients.

Clients have lost confidence in the services offered at Gatondo Dispensary. Referral of patients from the dispensary makes them question the qualification of the nurses working there. It is, for example, unfortunate that clients with amoeba are referred to health facilities that are very far.

Since almost all services are concentrated in one room at the facility, clients, especially those with HIV related ailments opt to visit other health facilities. A factor that also leads to this is that clients fear being kept waiting for too long. It is akin to being kept for long in a banking hall; you would prefer to visit another bank where services are offered faster. The three rooms occupied by the police officers should be used for purposes of serving patients. If there is a symbiotic relationship between the police officers and the dispensary management, then the police

officers should occupy only one room and leave the other two to be used for offering services to clients.

Other health officers should be employed to supplement the services of the nurses working at Gatondo Dispensary. I now call upon Hon. Dorcas Kihara to second.

Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Yes County Member from Githioro, Hon. Dorcas Kihara.

Hon. Dorcas Kihara: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise to second the motion. Gatondo Dispensary was constructed with money from CDF to cater for the health needs of the people of the area where it is located. The reason for housing the administration police at the dispensary was because of insecurity in the area. However, an AP camp was to be constructed in the area and actually the construction was initiated but it is not yet complete. In fact the camp is just a hundred metres from the dispensary.

One of the rooms occupied by the administration police at the dispensary was meant to be a delivery room. So in case of a delivery the consultation room is used, yet the consultation room has no delivery bed. A mother being delivered of a baby does not just lie on a normal hospital bed. Confidentiality of giving birth is lost when deliveries are done in the consultation room. You know that maternity wings are situated far from outpatient wings in order to maintain confidentiality of women in labour. The security authorities concerned should ensure completion of the police camp in order for the police officers hosted at the Gatondo Dispensary to vacate and leave the three rooms they occupy to be used to deliver health services to the people.

Patients are usually referred from Gatondo Dispensary to Wanjohi Dispensary. The road that connects Gatondo Dispensary with Rironi, where the tarmac road passes, is seven kilometres long. From Rironi to Wanjohi Dispensary is a distance of five kilometres. So a patient referred from Gatondo Dispensary to Wanjohi Dispensary covers a distance of twelve kilometres which is costly to most patients considering that motorcycle operators charge a hundred shillings to ferry customers from Gatondo Dispensary to Rironi. Due to this, many clients opt to visit Wanjohi Dispensary or any other private health facility instead of visiting Gatondo Dispensary where they may not get all the services required.

Gatondo dispensary is located near Sophia village whose residents occupy 50 by 100 pieces of land. It is costly for many of these villagers to travel from that place to Wanjohi Dispensary. Remember a healthy county is a developed county.

The police officers housed at the dispensary in question use electricity whose bills are footed by the County Government. That is a burden to the County Government. Remember security is not a function of the County Government.

A well-equipped delivery room at Gatondo Dispensary would reduce referrals to hospitals like J. M. Memorial Hospital. In order for Gatondo Dispensary to offer optimum services, the County Commissioner must ensure that the said police camp is completed as soon as possible so that the police officers occupying the three rooms at the dispensary vacate.

Gatondo Dispensary has two nurses; when one of them is out of duty the other is forced to work round the clock. Remember the nurses are also housed at the dispensary. In view of this, another nurse should be sent to Gatondo Dispensary after the process of recruitment of nurses and other medical officers following an advertisement to fill the positions. It is not fair for a nurse working at the said dispensary to be overworked.

With those remarks, I beg to second. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Question proposed

Speaker: Yes Member for Wanjohi, Hon. Mumba Gichini.

Hon. Mumba Gichini: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise to support this motion. I commend the Committee on Health Services for coming up with the recommendations in the report at hand. It is not the first time that I am standing on the floor of this House to talk of the encroachment of the dispensary facilities by the administration police.

The facility has six rooms, three of which are occupied by the administration police. The remaining rooms are used to house the following services: pharmacy, waiting bay, dressing and consultation.

The dispensary has only two nurses, yet the facility serves people from places as far as Kaka. In addition, the services offered at the facility are not adequate. In view of this, the County

Government should upgrade the equipment at the dispensary to boost service delivery. Most delivery cases at the dispensary are referred to Wanjohi Dispensary or the J. M. Memorial Hospital.

The dispensary has no laboratory and so cases of diagnoses are referred to Rironi Clinic or Wanjohi Dispensary. It is a tall order for a patient to be referred from Gatondo Dispensary to Wanjohi Dispensary. This is because transport cost alone to and fro is Kshs 300. The County Government should ensure that Gatondo Dispensary provides optimum services to its clients. The National Government has delayed completion of the police camp where the police officers residing at the dispensary should vacate to.

Thank you.

Speaker: Yes, Member for Engineer, Hon. Mwangi Gichuki.

Hon. Mwangi Gichuki: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise to support the report. I wish to point out that there are similarities between Gatondo and Weru Dispensaries. The same issues that are raised about Gatondo Dispensary are the same issues raised about Weru Dispensary. The Department of Health Services should improve maternity services in our county. Expectant women from my area fail to visit Weru Dispensary because they fear that their confidentiality might be compromised. This is because due to limited space, a woman in labour would be heard by patients on waiting.

The HANSARD should be forwarded to the relevant county health authorities, especially the CECM for Health Services, for them to know that this House has resolved that all health facilities offering production health services should assure privacy to mothers being delivered of babies.

I wish to comment that this debate was so seriously focused on how maternity services should be improved until old men in the House left. But we appreciate mothers and we would want them to share some little information with us such as concerning the delivery beds which I heard one member say that it is not a normal flat bed.

I beg to support and I call the mover to support. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The mover, Hon. Peter Kairu.

Hon. Peter Kairu: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I thank my fellow Members for contributing to the motion. Gatondo Dispensary is just an example of health facilities that offer inadequate services due to lack of equipment, space or workforce.

I thank His Excellency the Governor and the County Department of Health Services for the effort to purchase drugs. Actually our county was ranked top by KEMSA for purchase and payment of drugs. This was necessitated by the budgetary allocations to the Department of Health Services.

Applause

Mr. Speaker, recruitment of medical officers to replace the retiring ones is underway. So if Members know of any qualified officers, they should pass on the information. I once again thank my fellow Members for supporting the motion. I beg to move.

Question put and agreed to.

Speaker: I hope that the Member for Wanjohi will collaborate with the Implementation Committee to, within sixty days, report on the steps that have been taken on the resolutions of this House emanating from the motion. We appreciate security, but it should not compromise provision of health care. Actually none of the two should compromise the other.

Next order.

MOTION

A BENCHMARKING VISIT TO UASIN GISHU COUNTY

Speaker: Yes the Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture, Livestock Development and Fisheries, Hon. Samuel Kimani Njiraini.

Hon. Kimani Njiraini: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I beg to move the following motion:

That this House does adopt the Report of the Committee on Agriculture, Livestock Development and Fisheries on a Benchmarking Visit to Uasin Gishu County as a report of this House and the recommendations therein as resolutions of this House.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I wish to extend my sincere appreciation for the invaluable support accorded to the Committee by this House in ensuring that the Committee delivers on its mandate.

I also wish to recognize the efforts and commitment of the Hon. Members of this Committee during the report writing exercise. The Committee secretariat is also appreciated for the dedication exhibited. We extend our gratitude to your Office and the Office of the Clerk for making the entire report writing process successful.

Finally, Mr. Speaker Sir, it is my pleasure, on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Development to present this report to the House for Adoption.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Development is one of the ten Sectoral Committees established under Standing Order No. 191 (1) of the Nyandarua County Standing Orders from where it derives its mandate.

This benchmarking exercise with the University of Eldoret, Manor House Agricultural Centre (MHAC), Kitale and Uasin Gishu County Assembly was expected to be undertaken following a resolution by the Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries. This decision was arrived at following thorough research, discussions, as well as consultations on the nature of agricultural activities undertaken in these institutions, rendering them suitable candidates to benchmark with. During this exercise, the Committee was required to acquire information on various agricultural practices that may be practiced in Nyandarua County. The Committee was also expected to learn, from their counterparts in the Uasin Gishu County Assembly, about how the execute their mandate.

Mr. Speaker, I won't go through the report but will go directly to the main content of the report. Through the Constitution, it is expected that County Assembly Committees shall play its roles effectively and efficiently. Consequently, through resolutions of meetings by the Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, it was agreed that a benchmarking exercise should be undertaken with University of Eldoret, Manor House Agricultural Centre (MHAC), Kitale and Uasin Gishu County Assembly aiming at equipping the Committee with the necessary information for it to execute its mandate effectively.

Following a number of meetings by the Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, it was agreed that the Committee should find ways of enhancing execution of its mandate as stipulated by the Constitution.

The benchmarking exercise was aimed at achieving the following objectives;

- i. To find mechanisms that can be applied to avert food shortage that has become a norm every year, in some parts of Nyandarua County.

- ii. To find the agricultural practices employed in other counties to enhance food and livestock production.
- iii. To learn the successes of Committees on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries from Uasin-Gishu County Assemblies, in executing their Constitutional mandate.

At the University of Eldoret, the Committee visited two sections including biotechnology laboratory, as well as farm department. UOE's farm department operates on commercial basis mainly on milk (including milk products like yoghurt) and cereals (maize and wheat). Therefore, the farm department has two sectors namely dairy unit and the farm unit.

In the dairy unit, there is cattle keeping with Freshian and Ayrshire being the major breeds reared. Semen for the breeds is usually obtained from dealers. The unit has 60 cows. Production averages 15 litres per day per cow under semi-intensive care. Under the semi-intensive care, the cows are fed on silage from maize, which is supplemented with commercial feeds and hay.

Silage is made from whole maize, which undergoes chopping and then stored in a pit. Molasses is added to it. The mixture is covered and given time to undergo fermentation. The major challenge in cattle rearing is disease, mainly East Coast Fever. Milk produced in this unit is usually supplied to members of staff from the institution, students, as well as the neighbouring community.

The farm unit is basically used for commercial production of cereals mainly wheat and maize, as well as a demo farm. Cereals are usually sold to the National Cereals and Produce Board. The demo farm, on the other hand, is basically used for training farmers on farming practices. It is also used for research and development of new varieties of maize and wheat.

The Committee also visited a biotechnology laboratory. Biotechnology is any technological application that uses biological systems, living organisms or derivatives thereof, to make or modify products or processes for specific use. The biotechnology laboratory at the University of Eldoret is basically used for research on plants where there is mainly development of new varieties of plants with unique traits to adapt to different climatic conditions. There have been great milestones in this laboratory, where the drought and disease resistant varieties of wheat and maize have been produced. Various research works in this laboratory have addressed the challenge of plant diseases that affect small scale farmers in the county. For instance, there has been development of biological control mechanisms against potato diseases.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee also visited a mushroom farm that is run in collaboration with the University of Eldoret with an aim of learning how mushrooms are grown. From the visit, the

Committee learnt various phases in mushroom farming. The phases include composting, fishing of the compost, spawning, casing, pinning and cropping, all of which were explained to committee in details.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that one kilogram of mushrooms cost about one thousand Kenya shillings, implying that mushroom farming really pays well. Our farmers should take up this type of farming for them to diversify the types of crops they grow and also increase their earnings.

The Committee also visited Manor House Agricultural Centre (MHAC), which is situated in Trans Nzoia County. This centre offers training in ‘Grow Bio-intensive’, a low input farming technology offered to resource-poor, small-scale farmers who can hardly afford the alternative expensive conventional farming methods that rely upon external inputs. Graduates are equipped with both theory and practical skills that can easily be adapted to create self-employment and to design their own training programmes for farmers in an effort to improve community livelihoods and enable farmers to produce higher yields from their small parcels of land while eliminating conventional costs. Since it was founded, in 1984, MHAC has provided training and certification in sustainable agriculture, organic farming methods, and ecological farm systems for small-scale farmers. More than 200,000 farmers in Kenya and other parts of the world have been trained in various courses at the centre. The centre has several agricultural sectors including crop, livestock and appropriate technology.

Mr Speaker, crops department has numerous demonstration garden units, which are a vital component of MHAC’s programs in ‘Grow Bio-intensive training’. The department is divided into four sections, field crop, gardens, research, and agro-forestry. The most important principle of Grow Biointensive farming is learning to care for the soil, for the soil to nourish the crops so that the crops can nourish the farmers. Returning to the soil what is taken away results in improved and sustainable soil fertility. The Grow Biointensive farming activities that help small-scale farmers produce more healthy products include:

- a) Recycling and composting of crop residue, animal manure and green ‘manuring’.
- b) Crop rotation, diversity, companion planting, and growing open pollinated crops
- c) Deep soil preparation
- d) Mulching to conserve moisture
- e) Close spacing of plants, enabled by these practices.

There is no use of man-made chemical based fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides. Compost, tea manure and some local plant extracts are used for appropriate purposes in crop production. These farming practices are environmentally friendly and sustainable. The following are images of various sectors of the crop department.

Training on livestock is offered as an integral part of 'Grow Bio-intensive' at the Centre. The animals, farmers and crops enjoy a mutual interrelationship in this sustainable farming system. As the farmers who have adopted the Grow Biointensive technology reap high yields of healthy organic produce, the small livestock utilize crop residues from the organic garden and produce valuable additional products for the family food and income. The animals' waste products are recycled on the farm to boost soil fertility; plant nutrients are therefore recycled through the animal and crop wastes back to the soil for new plants' uptake.

Chicken production is highly valued by over 90% of the farmers groups who attend training at the centre. Poultry farming can be a very important means of providing proteins from eggs and meat, and a source of income to the family. Rabbits can be cheaply kept and easily multiplied to large numbers in a short time as they require little food and their generation interval is short. Rabbits produce good quality meat.

The Committee visited the County Assembly of Uasin-Gishu where the Members met their counterparts. There then followed a tour to the county to visit a number of projects being undertaken by the County's Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, I must mention that our Uasin Gishu counterparts welcomed us in a warm way. They ensured that we were comfortable in the area to the extent that they provided us with lunch. We need therefore to reciprocate such gestures when other teams visit us.

Away from that, the Committee visited two women groups in Langas Ward. We learnt that Uasin Gishu County's Department of Agriculture has an initiative aimed at empowering women and people with disability called 'Inua Mama na Kuku'. In this initiative, the Department provides chicks and chick mash to 15 groups in every ward to the women groups and to people with disability. In addition, the department provides the successful groups with incubators to enhance production. The poultry projects are usually monitored closely by the county officers, as well as the office of the controller of budget in order to enhance sustainability of the projects.

For us, we provide our farmers with incubators but we do not give them chicken feeds. My proposal is that the farmers who have started hatcheries should be provided with chicken feed. Our

incubators can hatch about five hundred chicken but I believe we have smaller incubators for fifty or a hundred chicks. This is what Uasin Gishu has done with the 'inua mama na kuku' initiative. The women are making good money from this initiative and is a good idea if we replicate this in our county. The committee came up with the following recommendations:

1. That the Department of Agriculture, Livestock Development and Fisheries comes up with an effective structure through which distribution of incubators and other agricultural appliances to beneficiaries should be done. Further, the Department should ensure there is efficient monitoring of the progress of the projects.

Mr. Speaker, this is very true. After the farmers are given incubators, we do not have extension officers following up on them. In fact, some of these incubators have problems. We should therefore have a structure to know how the incubators are distributed and how the farmers are identified.

2. The Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries should consider providing start up input for the poultry projects.

The farmers who benefit from the incubators should also be given eggs to start up. This is in addition to chicken feeds.

3. That the County Government should consider sponsoring several youths and women for the various courses offered at the Manor House Agriculture Centre.
4. That the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, should consider collaborating with research institutes in order to enhance crop production, as well as food security.
5. The Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Development should train farmers on mushroom production.
6. The County Government should exploit ATCs to educate farmers on livestock breeds and poultry.
7. Bio-tech laboratory should be set up by the county government. The department should send its officers to learn from the Eldoret bio-tech lab for the benefit of Nyandarua County.
8. Grow-Bio-intensive technology should be encouraged for farming in the county.

In conclusion Mr. Speaker, it is worthwhile noting that Nyandarua County is an Agriculture county. With this in mind, interactive forums should be established with other Agricultural

Counties for exchange of ideas and technologies. The committee did appreciate and became enlightened on the various aspects of farming in Uasin-Gishu and Trans-Nzoia Counties.

The committee wishes that the County Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Development experiences the same since they are the policy makers and implementers in this field. The experience should also extend to our farmers who will in turn reflect on the County's Agricultural Productivity. With those remarks, I call upon Hon. David Ndirangu to second this motion.

Speaker: Yes, County Member from Weru, Hon. David Ndirangu.

Hon. David Ndirangu: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise to second this report whose compilation, I was part of. This is a very important report and we should consider the matters raised in it and also learn from what the Committee found because it directly touches on our people.

Mr. Speaker, Uasin Gishu is a self-sufficient County in terms of Agriculture. They have all the apparatus in place. The committee found out that the County has excellently utilized all the facilities they have for maximum yields in crop production and livestock rearing. I was surprised when our counterparts informed us that we would visit various agricultural facilities in the area. This is because I was wondering where we would take people who would wish to benchmark in our county on agricultural practices because we pride ourselves as, 'the land of milk and potatoes'. Shall we be taking them to that signage written, 'Welcome to Nyandarua – The Land of Milk and Potatoes'? This is very unfortunate because we can only take these people to private property, we have nowhere else we can show them.

We have facilities such as Farmers Training Centres (FTCs) and we should be training our young people. This will ensure that young people are self-reliant. We expect that when we train this people, they will create opportunities for themselves and for others and thereby creating employment in the county. Agriculture is generating a lot of money for young people and we should embrace it in this county. There is a lot of money in that sector. Nyandarua has the potential to lead other counties in food production and the government should allocate sufficient budget for the sector.

As you know, we used to compete with Uasin Gishu County in terms of milk production. Now they have taken the lead. This is also what happened with the education sector where we used to lead this country. Uasin-Gishu County has improved in milk production because of the utilization of their agricultural facilities maximally.

Mr. Speaker, if we take agricultural sector seriously and appreciate that it is affecting all the people in this County, many of us will come back to this Assembly. This is the advice I am giving to these elected members.

Mr Speaker, I don't want to say so much because the report is self-explanatory. Therefore, I second this motion although I think we should not be going outside this county to learn about what others have done in agriculture.

Question proposed

Speaker: Yes, Majority Whip and Member for Shamata, Hon. John Kinyanjui Gachari.

Hon. Kinyanjui Gachari: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I support this motion on the benchmarking visit to Uasin-Gishu County although I was not there. What I have learned is that the benchmarking trip was very fruitful. The sole objective of benchmarking is bringing a report which will benefit our farmers.

We have a problem with the County Executive especially on matters relating to budget because we do not consider farming a business. When it comes to budgetary allocation, we give insufficient funds to this sector yet we know very well that it is the backbone of the economy.

Mr Speaker, the Hon. Members say that they saw how dairy farming is thriving in that county. I tend to believe that we have very good breeds of cattle in this county and they too, can come here to learn what we do. We supply milk to Nairobi and other places but we need to do more in terms of allocating funds to the department. The C.O in charge of Agriculture, Dr. Gikaara, is very knowledgeable and experienced. His efforts are being felt in many wards across this county including Shamata. It is important that we give support to these people. The chairman of this committee has been in the forefront supporting this department and he needs to do more in terms of ensuring that the amount directed towards this department is increased.

Mr. Speaker, farmers are waiting to see how we will support horticultural activities in this county. Greenhouse farming is very promising for most people and we would like the county government to chip in. Potatoes and tomatoes are doing very well in greenhouses from my personal experience. If we only give the farmers a greenhouse, they can earn a modest figure of Kshs. 15,000 per week from tomatoes. This way, we shall have encouraged our people to find new ways of sustaining themselves because I believe we do not have enough industries to create enough employment opportunities for our young people. Agriculture is therefore the hope of our people.

Mr Speaker, we should also devise ways to ensure that our farmers can access enough water. We can create dams from ridges that we have in this County so that the farmers can have enough water for farming.

Mr. Speaker, we can also boost our farmers with capital and see what will become of it. As such, I expect that the next budget will have more funds dedicated to agriculture. I support this motion because agriculture is the only sector that can help our people. Thank you.

Speaker: Yes, Member for Gathanji, Hon. Samuel Thuita.

Hon. Samuel Thuita: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the motion by the Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries. I was indeed among those who visited the two counties and we learnt a lot, chief of which being that we are far more advantaged than any of the two counties. The only difference is that these counties know how to utilize their land quite maximally. Foreign countries like France have invested in poultry farming in Trans-Nzoia. A friend of mine wanted to import a cow from Trans-Nzoia and I asked him, “What is the point of transporting a cow all the way to Nyandarua when the only difference is how we manage our cows?” Why don’t we make use of our ATC lands and make them learning centres for our farmers? We saw it in Trans-Nzoia and it is really working. This is a place where farmers can see the kind of technological advancements we have made. It is from here that our people can be taught on the best kind of seeds to plant, the fertilizers to use and the best kind of pesticides.

Somebody was complaining the other day that Nyandarua is too cold, that we cannot grow tomatoes but the member for Shamata will bear me witness; that there is a farmer in Shamata that is making a kill with his greenhouse tomatoes. Ironically, very few people knew that we grow tomatoes in Shamata. When they realized, they are now coming all the way from Nairobi, twice a week.

I also wish to touch on the issue of markets and state here that we are never short of markets. The only challenge is that buyers do not know that we are producing these produce. What we need is to be connected to the buyers by our extension officers so that we can also sell our produce to other counties. With those remarks, I wish to support.

Speaker: Very well. Yes County Member from Magumu, Hon. Teresia Njoki.

Hon. Teresia Njoki: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. I rise to support the motion although the member for Gathanji has taken all my points. The benchmarking tour to Uasin Gishu and Trans

Nzoia was quite successful and I believe if we implement what we learnt there, our county will go far. We met some women in Uasin Gishu County who had come all the way from Nyahururu and Kinangop where they rear chicken and practice organic farming. Interestingly, organic farming is so easy. At Manor house, they grow indigenous vegetables that can easily grow here like Managu and Terere and I would like to urge the department of Agriculture to initiate such projects here. Thank you Mr. Speaker, I beg to support and call the mover to respond.

Speaker: Yes Mover, the Member for Kaimbaga and Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Development, Hon. Kimani Njiraini

Hon. Kimani Njiraini: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. I wish to first thank the members for their contributions and support. The benchmarking gave us invaluable lessons that we can easily apply here. What I would urge the county government is to increase the budgetary allocation to the Agriculture sector or department because it is the backbone, not just for our county but also the entire country. As I conclude, the members of Uasin Gishu County Assembly expressed an interest in visiting our county and I would like to request your office, when they do come, they be taken to various places so that they can also learn something, especially on potato farming, pyrethrum and trout fish farming. I beg to move. Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Question put and agreed to.

Speaker: Next order.

MOTION

LETTER FROM THE TRANSITION AUTHORITY ON DEVOLVED EDUCATION FUNCTIONS

Speaker: Yes Member for Leshau Pondo, and Chairperson of the Committee on Education, Labour and Social Services, Hon. Joshat Kamau.

Hon. Joshat Kamau: Mr Speaker, I beg to move the following motion:

That this House does adopt the Report of the Committee on Education, Labour and Social Services on a Letter from the Transition Authority on Devolved Education Functions as a report of this House and the recommendations therein as resolutions of this House.

Mr. Speaker, I will start by stating that we derived our mandate from the letter tabled by the then Leader of Majority, Hon. Mwangi Gichuki, on the Transfer of Vocational Training and Early Childhood Functions by the Transition Authority, Letter Dated 27th October 2015, referenced as TA/HRM/15. We were mandated to:

1. Scrutinize and analyze the contents of the letter from the T. A
2. Establish whether the County Government and the National Government had acted on the resolutions made in the letter.
3. Establish what progress had been made by both levels of government in relation to implementation of the letter.
4. Come with a report with recommendations on the way forward for tabling and consideration by the House.

I don't wish to read the entire report but allow me to say that we wish to acknowledge your office for the support you have offered to this committee during the whole exercise. I cannot forget the office of the Clerk for making the entire report writing process successful by offering the technical support through various officers. That is why we have a report today. Mr. Speaker, on the inception of devolution, some functions were devolved to the county governments. In the education sector, ECDE and polytechnics were devolved leaving the primary and secondary education with the national government.

Mr Speaker, the committee wrote to the County Executive Committee Member for Education Culture and Social Services requesting for the following information;

- a) How early childhood education and vocational training has been devolved,
- b) Extent of funding both from the Ministry of Education Science and Technology and County Government
- c) Extent of absorption of Early Childhood Education officers and Youth Polytechnic tutors
- d) Extent of absorption of youth polytechnic instructors under the Economic Stimulus program
- e) Status of remuneration of the youth polytechnic instructors under Economic stimulus program as from 1st of July 2015 to present.

- f) Extent of compliance by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology with the resolutions as stated herein with regard to Nyandarua County Government.

The Committee further invited the Secretary to the County Public Service Board and the County Executive Committee Member for Education, Culture and Social Services to get clarity on matters relating to absorption of youth polytechnic instructors under Economic Stimulus Program and the ECDE teachers whose budget provision was made in the FY 2015/2016. The Meeting was held on the 16th day of June 2016. The Committee sought to know the following from the County Executive Committee Member on Education and the CPSB secretary:

- a. How many youth polytechnic instructors were under Economic Stimulus Program and their qualifications?
- b. How many of the above mentioned have been absorbed on permanent and pensionable basis?
- c. How many have not been absorbed and the reasons thereof.
- d. Has the County Public Service Board recruited the 200 ECDE teachers who were provided for in the FY 2015/2016?

The Committee got information which was used in analysing various issues raised in the letter. It is important to note that the information from the two offices was contradicting yet it should be the same, since these officers work in one government and should work in tandem.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Committee looked at the information submitted by the Department of Education, Culture and Social Services and the Secretary of the County Public Service Board and came up with the following findings and observations; The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology transferred all youth polytechnic projects, assets and liabilities and youth polytechnic instructors both on grant and Economic Stimulus Program to the Counties.

This implies that upon transfer of this function in 2013 vide gazette notice number 116, the responsibility of paying instructors was bestowed upon County Governments. However, the TA mediated a process where the National Government through the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and the County Governments through the Council of Governors, where the national government agreed that they would continue paying youth polytechnics on ESP contract up to June, 2015. Thereafter, the Counties would absorb the youth polytechnic instructors on permanent and pensionable terms from the month of July, 2015.

The agreement on absorption of youth polytechnics instructors is binding to the County Governments as they were signatories to the agreement. I want the members to note this very clearly. The court was very clear that once the County Governments signed the agreement through their representative, the Council of Governors, then it is binding to all the County Governments. The committee observed that it was incumbent on the CPSB and the Department of Education, Labour and Social Services to ensure that the youth polytechnics instructors are absorbed. The issue should be not be about recruitment but that of placement as the recruitment had already been undertaken by the National Government.

There are 29 youth polytechnics instructors in Nyandarua County who formerly were on the Economic Stimulus Program. The said instructors are paid a monthly emolument of Kshs. 15,000. This is the same amount that was being given to them when they were engaged on contractual basis by the National Government, before devolution. It is important to note that the county government had agreed to absorb these instructors as indicated in the letter. ,

Mr. Speaker, the Members will bear me witness that we budgeted for the money required to absorb these instructors. The County Government of Nyandarua should have absorbed the 29 youth polytechnics instructors on permanent and pensionable basis as from the 1st of July, 2015 as per the agreement. During the meeting, the Committee noted that the Department of Education, Culture and Social Services has engaged the 29 youth polytechnics instructors on contract terms to date. They informed the Committee that they will be absorbed on permanent and pensionable basis by the County Government. The Committee however noted that there is no contract signed by the said youth polytechnics instructors spelling out the terms and conditions of engagement.

In a letter dated 24th November, 2015 the Department on Education Culture and Social Services informed the Committee Members that the Department requested all the Youth polytechnics instructors to submit their academic and professional documents for categorization according to their qualifications and the said documents were forwarded to the County Public Service Board for further classification. The Committee was informed by the County Public Service Board that the said Department has not availed the qualifications of the youth polytechnics instructors which made it difficult. Further, the Committee requested the Department to table evidence supporting that they forwarded the said documents. The Department did not avail the said evidence. We realized that in order for the CPSB to recruit, a request must be made by the

relevant department. The Department of Education, Culture and Social Services indicated that they had furnished the board with the relevant documents but the CPSB held its ground that they had not received such documents. Under the County Government Act, the Chief Officer is required to make a request to the CPSB for the Board to make appointments on behalf of the department. The chief officer of the department of Education, Labour and Social Services should have forwarded the documents to CPSB with details of all the instructors including their qualifications and the positions that the officers should be placed. It is important to state that the process should be that of job placement and not recruitment process. This is because the recruitment was conducted by the national government and the County Government agreed that it would absorb the said officers. Under the County Government Act, secondment is allowed and thus the County is required to absorb those officers as agreed.

The Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology does not release subsidized youth polytechnic tuition funds. This fee, referred to as capitation, was initially provided by the national Government to each trainee and was meant to cater for the following; repair, maintenance and improvement of tool and equipment's, purchase of text books , reference books instructions, guides and manuals, instructional materials, nails and timber, exercise books, note books and drawing books, education field trips, utilities-electricity, water and bank charges, stationery-chalk, registers, photocopying papers and other office supplies, local official travel for management and instructors, hire of contracted professional services (accountants, clerks, watchmen and store-keepers), co-curricular activities-internal games and drama and inter-youth polytechnics competitions and internal examinations.

This is currently being catered for through school fees paid by the parents. Since the function is fully devolved it is the responsibility of the County Government to provide the capitation fees. The Department should ensure that the capitation fees are provided in the youth polytechnics for effective learning of the students. The Committee felt that in the coming budget, we will allocate some funds for it. We are almost closing down our polytechnics because the fee charged is barely enough to cater for the overhead costs. In the letter, it was agreed that the national treasury would ensure that capitation funds and grants are released to the Counties. Since this has not happened, it is incumbent for the County Government through the department to follow up on the matter so that the funds are released to the County. During the deliberations, it emerged that

the Department has not followed up on the issue. The responsibility of ensuring that there is capitation cannot be left with the national government as the function of youth polytechnics has been fully devolved.

The youth polytechnics instructors have not been paid their gratuity by the National Government from the 1st of November, 2014 to the 30th day of June, 2015 the period in which their contract was extended. The Department should help the affected persons to follow up on the matter as they are in a better position to liaise with the national government on the matter.

The Department allocated funds for construction of hostels, twin workshops, toilets, purchase of youth polytechnics land, installation of electricity and rehabilitation of 14 youth polytechnics. This shows that the County Government has invested a lot of funds in youth polytechnics. It follows that they should be fully functional and that cannot happen without youth polytechnic instructors. It would be a waste of public resources for the county to equip the youth polytechnics with infrastructure and fail to equip them with the necessary human resource. The cornerstone of any successful organization is in its human resource, thus we should invest in them so that they can deliver.

The Department on Education, Culture and Social Services has engaged 400 preparatory assistants since April, 2015. They receive a salary top up of Ksh.10, 000 per month since January, 2015. The Committee members observed that the current legal regime has not effectively covered this area. Under the Basic Education Act of 2013, the role of the County Government has been restricted to infrastructure provision to ECDE. This has put many counties in limbo as they cannot employ the teachers as the national government has not released resources for the same. Further there is a court case relating to the recruitment of ECDE teachers which have been filed by the Teachers Service Commission challenging the legality of Counties mandate to recruit the ECDE teachers. There is need for reforming the Basic Education Act so that the mandate of ECDE rests wholly with the Counties. The Senate is aware of this and has started the process through the County Early Childhood Education Bill, 2014. However, this is still in the bill stage thus it is not enforceable and The Senate should be urged to fast track the process of its enactment as it will help in amending some of the clauses that are causing conflict of roles.

The Department of Education Culture and Social Services made a budgetary provision of engaging 200 preparatory assistants in the FY 2015/2016. The preparatory assistants have not been

engaged despite identifying the gaps in the various wards of the number of preparatory assistants needed. The Committee noted that the Department of Education, Labour and Social Services through a letter dated 18th December 2015 gave a copy of indents and a summary of ECD data to the County Public Service Board. On 23rd December 2015 the Office of the Chief Officer Department on Education, Culture and Social Services submitted their indents to be used in the process of recruitment. On 29th December 2015 the Department on Education, Culture and Social services gave a further direction requesting the County Public Service Board to await a list of schools to be considered, based on enrolment.

The Committee however noted that such a list had been availed on 18th December, 2015 indicating that there is a deficit of 356 preparatory assistants. The Committee noted that after the directive of 29th December 2015 the department did not give any further directions till 11th March, 2016 when a directive to freeze recruitment of county staff was given. The Committee however noted that the department on Education, Labour and Social Services was not affected as the memo mentioned Department of Tourism, Wildlife, Sports and Youth Affairs and Department of Finance and Economic Planning.

The committee was concerned with the long time that the Department had taken to initiate the recruitment process despite the resources being availed at the beginning of the year. The laxity on the part of the department cannot be excused as the recruitment should have been conducted a long time ago. Secondly, the recruitment freeze should not affect the ECDE teachers as their money was already budgeted for. Since the Department failed to recruit ECDE teachers and the money was in the budget the department should explain if the money is still available and if not how it was utilized. The same case applies to the money meant for the absorption of the polytechnics youth instructors.

The Department of Education, Culture and Social Services had supplied furniture and learning material to 10 ECDE centres as at 25th November 2015. However, the committee was informed that some of the furniture is not child friendly as they are not in tandem with the size and height of the children at the ECDE stage. This has resulted in schools incurring extra costs to make them child friendly. The department should consult the schools' management before procuring such furniture of ECDE materials so as to avoid such situations. It was the committee's opinion that the work of procuring should be left to the school management for efficiency purposes. We

are investing a lot on infrastructure but we are missing on a very important point; when procuring these facilities and furniture, we forget who we are buying the items for.

The Teachers Service Commission and DICECE program officer's association released the following officers to the County Government; Festoh Kamau, Elizabeth W. Ndugo, Joyce W. Maina, and Milka W. Mwangi. The four officers have since been absorbed by the County government and deployed to various stations in the county. However, these officers are earning enormous salaries but they are underutilized. It is similar to employing a clerk and assigning him the duties of a cleaner.

Mr Naftali Kang'oro opted to remain with the Teachers Service Commission and subsequently he was posted to Baringo Teachers Training College and was later absorbed by the County Government as an assistant Director, pre-primary and Childcare, after a competitive recruitment. The committee was concerned that as a county, we preferred to recruit someone who had opted not to work with the County and left out those who had stuck with the county in spite of them having the requisite qualifications and experience. As a matter of human resource management policy, the County should motivate those working in the establishment by promoting them or offering preference when filling new positions instead of recruiting from outside, which demotivates those working within the establishment.

The Department of Education, Culture and Social Services has placed the devolved officers in its payroll effective from 1st July, 2015. This is in line with the agreement between the county government and the TA. The same has helped in the management and synchronization of payroll management, as it is easy for one to establish how many people work for the department. This is important in fighting the wastage of public resources by paying "*ghost workers*" which has been used by many public institutions.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to go to the recommendations now because I can see that the old guards are getting tired. The committee came up with the following recommendations: That the Department of Education, Culture and Social Services shall forward to the County Public Service Board the information on the youth polytechnic instructors who were on ESP programme detailing their education, experience and the suggested job groups as per the organogram of the department.

That the County Public Service Board shall place the said youth polytechnics instructors on permanent and pensionable basis and in the right job groups according to their qualifications and that the youth polytechnic instructors so absorbed shall enjoy permanent and pensionable benefits from July 2015.

That the Department of Education, Culture and Social Services shall provide the information regarding the utilization of funds allocated for recruitment of ECDE teachers in the financial year 2015/16, within 30 days.

That the Department of Education, Culture and Social Services shall ensure the ECDE teachers are recruited so as to fill the gaps in the ECDE sector.

That the Department of Education, Culture and Social Services shall ensure that the furniture and equipment procured for the ECDE classes are child friendly.

That the Department of Education, Culture and Social Services shall follow up on the gratuity of youth polytechnic instructors from the national government.

That the Department on Education, Culture and Social Services should audit the numbers of trainees in the Youth Polytechnics to establish how much should be set aside for capitation fee. Mr. Speaker, I wish to stop there and call upon Hon. Nancy Ng'ang'a to second.

Speaker: Yes County Member from Kipipiri, Hon. Nancy Ng'ang'a.

Hon. Nancy Ng'ang'a: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I wish to second the report moved by my able chair, who is well versed with matters education, especially because he is a teacher by profession. The chair has explained the contents of the report quite elaborately. The reason the report has taken quite some time is because we were trying to get information from people who were not willing to volunteer it. It is quite unfortunate that these polytechnics instructors were seconded from the national government but have not been absorbed yet there was an agreement between the county and the national government that they would be employed on permanent and pensionable basis from, an agreement that was signed by the council of governors. The instructors work in fear. They do not know what will happen to them tomorrow. It is time we stopped the blame game and someone takes responsibility. When I asked the chief officer to furnish the

committee with the documents, they supposedly forwarded to the board, she told me to call the secretary of the board and get it myself. I, the vice- chairperson of the committee on Education, to call the secretary! Mr. Speaker, the disrespect with which she treats the members of this Hon. House is evident, probably because we are yet to do something that will be felt. We are seriously belittled.

There is also the issue of capitation fee that should go to the trainees. I feel it is important, and it should be a recommendation that audit ought to be done on the ground so that we do not have ghost trainees.

For the ECDE, if the county government will not employ the teachers, then all the ECDE centres will be understaffed and hence we shall be compromising the education quality in Nyandarua County. We do not expect to get educated students with the understaffing of teachers in those centres. How then do we expect this county to compete with the rest of the counties and get good results? What would we expect of the young children if we do not give them proper education at the formative stages?

We would like to know how the money that had been budgeted for was utilized. The chief officer for the education department says that the money is there. Within thirty days we would want to know why these ECDE teachers have not been employed. With that I second the report.

Question proposed

Speaker: Yes, the majority whip and the member for Shamata, Hon. John Kinyanjui Gachari.

Hon. Kinyanjui Gachari: Thank you Mr Speaker, I rise to support the motion. This is a very crucial motion by the Committee on Education, Labour, Culture and Social Services.

The Speaker, Hon. Ndegwa Wahome leaves the Chair

Temporary Speaker, Hon. Dorcas Kihara, assumes the Speaker's Chair

We are about to complete our term and we allocated about Kshs. 24 million for the recruitment of the ECDE teachers. Madam Speaker, even those that have been employed are not permanent. They should tell us where they took the money. I do not think they have kept this money. They must have used it for something else.

We told the teachers that they would be employed. They have been bothering us so much, asking when they would be employed but we do not have answers for them. Our role is to approve the budget and we did that. We are hoping that the funds were not used for anything else without our approval and if that is the case, then the money has been lying idle there. If it is the county public service board that is failing they should come out clear and tell us that it is the board. Even if we construct very beautiful ECDE classrooms and there are no teachers all that will be in vain. For the poly techniques the students have been attending classes without instructors. They have no facilities. Some of them have no electricity. The officers sit in the office and never visit them to see what is going on. We cannot see what the department is doing.

Hon. Dorcas Kihara leaves the Chair

The Speaker, Hon. Ndegwa Wahome, resumes the Chair

Let the education department be aware that we have decided to examine what the department has been doing with the money allocated to them. The other departments should also be aware of that. We are the ones that were elected by the community to oversee the executive and to see to it that they are doing the right thing. They were given true information because they could not lie to the country. It is unfair to keep us in the dark. We need information. I support the motion.

Speaker: Yes, County Member from Wanjohi Hon. Jane Mwathe.

Hon. Jane Mwathe: Thank you Mr Speaker, I rise to support the motion moved by the able chairperson of the Committee on Education. The committee has done its work and our county has pumped money into the polytechnics but the education department is failing the poly techniques. When tools are bought for a poly technique that is in Njabini, the instructor has to come all the way to this place to collect those tools.

The allocation for the ECDE teachers was there in the FY 2015/2016 and the chief officer confirmed that the money is still there. We need statements that can help us confirm that the money is still there. We want the chief officer to come and explain what hindered the department from employing the ECDE teachers. The elected members have already given the names of the qualified teachers.

The instructors in the poly techniques are not well catered for. I wonder how they are expected to deliver. I do not know whether we shall be able to go back to where Nyandarua used to lead the whole country in education. With those few remarks I support the motion.

Speaker: Yes, Member for Gathanji Hon. Samuel Thuita.

Hon. Samuel Thuita: Thank you Mr Speaker. The chamber looks so congested I hope that this problem will be solved by the new assembly chamber that has enough space. However, I rise to support the motion on the report as compiled by the Committee on Education. Going through this report, you'll see that the executive leaves a lot to be desired. I would like to make an amendment to the report. On page 22, on recommendations, where it is written 'the ECDE teachers and polytechnics and the same money was budgeted for.'

I would like to make an amendment so that it reads, 'The department of Education Culture and Social Services shall provide information regarding the utilisation of funds allocated for recruitment of ECDE teachers and poly technique tutors in the FY 2015/2016 within thirty days.

I want to make an amendment that we insert the words 'and polytechnics tutors' and before in ...

Speaker: Member for Gathanji, would you consider that it reads 'and absorption of the polytechnics tutors' because they are already recruited according to the report.

Hon. Samuel Thuita: Yes, Mr Speaker, let it read 'an absorption'.

Question on amendment proposed.

Speaker: Yes, Member for Leshau Pondo and the Chairperson of the Committee on Education, Labour, Culture and Social Services, Hon. Josphat Kamau Njoroge.

Hon. Josephat Kamau: I rise to support the amendment that has been proposed by Hon. Samuel Thuita owing to the fact that in the FY 2015/2016 we had an allocation for the recruitment of the ECDE teachers and absorption of the youth poly technique tutors, they had been recruited by the National Government. It has become crystal clear that these people have not been enjoying their enumeration as allocated in the budget of the FY 2015/2016. I support the amendment.

(Question on the amendment put and agreed to)

Speaker: The amendment is allowed. Paragraph 4 of the recommendations will now read ‘The department of Education Culture and Social Services shall provide information regarding the utilisation of funds allocated for recruitment of ECDE teachers and absorption of polytechnics tutors in the FY 2015/2016 within thirty days.’

Member for Gathanji, proceed.

Hon. Samuel Thuita: Thank you Mr Speaker, I support the report. Going through the report you will see that the TA instructed the county governments to absorb the polytechnics instructors. When we called the relevant department and the County Public Service Board, we realised that they had diverted from the instructions and started new recruitments. This is the same thing that happened to DICECE. This is happening because we do not have competent people in the department. There is no one, not even the directors, who have any qualifications of early childhood education.

That is why you see that the tables that were taken to Gathanji ward were three feet high and they brought along the chairs meant for children. They are not complementary because the person doing this does not understand the circumstances of education surrounding a young kid. The same people are not aware of what is happening in the youth polytechnics. That is why they will buy cement that is required for the institutions and keep it in the store to be used for a whole term. How can you store cement for that long? That is why the committee recommended that we have capitation fee. Let the money go to the individual institutions and the instructors will use it depending on the needs of the institution and they be accountable for that money. When you buy things such as nails in bulk and deliver them and tell them to use them for a whole year, that shows lack of seriousness.

In the CSFP, the department brought a need of increasing the preparatory assistants by 200. This is was allocated in the budget. If they did not do this then it beats the objective the CFSP. When we called them to come and explain. They said that the county executive committee sat and froze all the new recruitments. This is ten months after passing the budget and you would ask why did they not do it before the budget? They also say that they had instructed the County Public Service Board to do some things but when we called the secretary to the public service board, he said they have never received any instructions. People are playing hide and seek at the expense of the lives of our children, children of this county.

I support the report and ask that as we make resolutions about this department that is a devolved function, we should ensure that they are effected within the shortest time possible. It is painful to see that a person was seconded from the national government and you are supposed to absorb them in the county and then a person decides that it will not be done and starts new recruitment and absorb those that had absconded their duties and went to Baringo and then you tell us that there is a huge wage bill. If there is a huge wage bill, why not absorb those that are already within the system? I think this House has made a resolution on this issue and it has not been adhered to. Before the County Public Service Board recruits new people to senior positions they should check to see whether among those employed there is one that is qualified.

The Department of Agriculture, Livestock Development and Fisheries is absorbing a lot of money in recurrent expenditure but when we look at service delivery, you find no service. Other departments are complaining that they do not have enough personnel while the people in this department are equally qualified to go and take up those jobs. That is what we should be doing if we have a vision for this county.

With those few remarks I support and call upon the motion mover to respond.

Speaker: Yes, motion mover and the chairperson of the committee on education.

Hon. Josphat Kamau: Thank you Mr Speaker. With your permission, I would like to use a very famous Kiswahili saying that goes, *Fahali wawili wapiganapo, nyasi huumia*. I want to say without fear of contradiction that the reason why we have these problems is because there has been no harmony between the CECM and the chief officer in this department. The County Public Service Board received different instructions from those offices and I think they chose not to act on any of them. Those who felt the pinch are the innocent ECDE teachers who could now be enjoying a little higher salaries than what they are earning today and our children who could be getting a higher quality education and the parents that would have gotten relief from the amount they cough from their pockets. I thank all the members that have contributed to this motion and hope that the resolutions will be adhered to by the county government of Nyandarua.

I beg to move

Question put and agreed to.

Speaker: Without belabouring the points because the report is very clear, I would like to applaud the committee for a very exhaustive and professional report. I cannot see the clerk of the committee even though we had said that the clerk should be here, but I would not be in a position to reprimand him or her because this is one of the best that has been done in terms of grammar and delivery of the communication. The front page of the report is exemplary but the most critical thing that was left out, (these things are for history reference) in the preamble we do not have the list of the members of the committee although they appear in the minutes. It is important that the clerk has the names the members of the committee and the secretariat inserted on the front gages of the report.

The other issue that I would like to talk about and I have done it many times, I really do not understand why an officer who is earning hundreds of thousands of money in salary and allowances would want to condemn our officers in charge of the polytechnics to a salary of Kshs. 15,000 when there is a budget. What that officer was required to do is merely to deliver the academic credentials of these officers to the board for confirmation. Those officers have lost salaries and allowances for a whole year because of the incompetence and I think I will call this ‘immoral’. This actually borders on criminality, that is, to allow people with families to live on a salary of Kshs. 15,000 when they would be earning upward of Kshs. 50,000 and which is provided for in the budget. If this money has not been stolen, it goes back to the county revenue fund. These are things that as a house we cannot compromise.

I want the HANSARD to accompany what will go to the governor over and above me seeing the Governor over this issue. This is a contract that has been signed, the assembly has approved the budget for that. Absorbing these officers cannot take two hours and it has not been done in one year. As a government, we need to start asking questions like ‘what kind of government are we serving?’

Hon. Members, in the case of the preparatory assistants, we knew that we have ECDEs and we identified them that needed help. We provided a budget for 200 of them, then an officer sends idem to the board to recruit in December and then tells the board to suspend that they would give them further information and to date no further information has been given, the 200 teachers were not recruited. We are refusing to build a foundation for our children because of the incompetence of a single officer who is earning hundreds of thousands in salary and allowances.

Actually members, you note that there is an allegation that the recruitment was frozen. If you see the letter that froze recruitment, it did not affect the education sector and if the board would want to recruit tomorrow it would. That was not one of the sectors that was affected by the county executive committee resolutions. I have seen that the committee was able to see that the officer was trying to lie to the committee about the freezing of recruitment and that was not correct.

Another concern is the capitation fee. This money should be paid from the treasury. Our own department of education has not even written a letter to request for the release of this capitation fund. They might not have achieved much but there is no attempt to ensure that this money comes. There is no attempt to ensure that these poly technique tutors get their gratuity. It is very clear, that it is from 1st November 2014 to 30th June 2015. Nothing has been done to help own people to get this gratuity. I know that it is lying somewhere in treasury. It just required to be triggered and this money would come to our people so that they have the motivation to educate our youth who are not advantaged to go to other colleges.

Members, we have to appreciate that those children in the polytechnics are actually the children of Nyandarua. The parents are in the neighbourhood of the institutions and could not be able to take their children elsewhere and then they are given tutors that are demotivated and we think that we are building a county! This is not right.

Accompanying this report and the resolution will be messages and we shall write a first, to the Senate to step in and intervene on this issue of capitation and gratuity of the officers that have not been paid.

Most painfully members, we have a character who just moves the right people but has no patriotism for this county. He was brought to Nyandarua from Baringo but because there are some godfathers here, he is brought to demotivate our officers who are already in the system. Just as we have done with Roads and Agriculture, this is a matter for which I will ask for an emergency meeting with His Excellency the Governor and the Department of Education, Labour, Culture and Social Services because this is not right and it cannot be allowed to continue.

Next order

SUPPLEMENTARY ORDER PAPER

NOTICE OF MOTION

AUDITED FINANCIAL OPERATIONS OF THE NYANDARUA COUNTY EXECUTIVE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2013/2014

Yes, member for Githioro and the chairperson of the Committee on Public Accounts and Investments, Hon. Silvester Kagiri.

Hon. Silvester Kagiri: Thank you Mr Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following motion;

That the house does adopt the report and the addendum thereof by the committee on public investments and accounts on Audited Financial Operations of the Nyandarua County Executive for the period between 1st July 2013 and 30th June 2014 as report of this House and the recommendations there in as resolutions of this House.

Thank you Mr Speaker.

Speaker: The notice of that motion is duly given and Hon. Members, as I had indicated earlier, we have already allocated time for that business in the following sittings of next week: Tuesday afternoon, Wednesday morning and afternoon, and Thursday afternoon. We hope that that business will be completed by the end of those sittings.

Next order.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Members, the business of the House having been exhausted, this House will now adjourn to today, 9th August, 2016 at 2.30p.m.

The House rises at 5.35p.m.