

11th December 2013

Nyandarua County Assembly

Assembly debates (First Assembly, Second Session)

Official report

The House met at 2.30 PM

Hon Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers

Procedural Motion on development of guidelines for bursary allocation in the County by Hon. Mwangi Gichuki

Thank you Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to move the following Motion.

That, aware that Education forms a critical pillar of future developments in our county, further aware that we have very bright children whose parents are unable to financially support them in school, Aware that Our County Assembly in its own wisdom did set aside money for that purpose in the 2013-2014 budget to assist the bright but needy Scholars: Concerned that our county does not Have regulations to /and or recommendations to govern the disbursement of the bursary funds and further concerned that the total amount of money to be set aside in future for the scheme is not well articulated, noting that Article 53 of the Constitution provides for compulsory Basic Education, I urge this House to come up with regulations and/ or recommendations to determine the equivalent amount of money in percentage of the county Government total allocation in the docket of Education, Labour and Trade Unions, Youth and Children Affairs to go into the bursary fund. I further urge that the House to come up with a legislation to determine the procedure and rules to govern the disbursement of the funds.

Mr. Speaker, the issue of bursary is one contentious matter and especially to elected leaderships of the various wards Mr. Speaker. This Mr. Speaker is a fund that is necessary to enable a poor and talented child to attend the school while otherwise would not be able to afford school fees Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker then, this is a matter that is of great necessity and this is a matter Mr. Speaker that requires clarity on how it is going to be dispensed with. Mr. Speaker the most important thing is to be able to define about how much money are we accounting and setting aside for the purposes of planning the bursary funds.

Mr. Speaker you will note for example that in the current situation where this Assembly did sit in its wisdom and did make an allocation of Kshs 2 million to be disbursed as bursaries for each and every ward.

However, Mr. Speaker, the current information is that, the Executive Mr. Speaker has set aside Kshs 300,000 for each ward. This is why Mr. Speaker as an Assembly, we need to define and put a law that is going to define the specific money in percentage. It can be borrowed from other areas Mr. Speaker like the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) where specific percentage is given for the specific amount that is to go to the bursaries at any given time.

Further Mr. Speaker, the other concern is that we also need to be able to define the specific minimum because Mr. Speaker, we are not able to put a percentage based on the total amount that the County Government is receiving. We are pegging this percentage on the total allocation that is going to be allocated to the Ministry of Education, Labour and Trade Unions, Youth and Children Affairs.

Mr. Speaker, this Assembly in its wisdom and whoever is going to judge and emulate this law should have clarity on the minimum amount of money each ward Mr. Speaker can be able to disperse. Then this particular amount Mr. Speaker will require regulations. Like now Mr. Speaker, I understand that the 2

bursaries are actually supposed to be worked upon but they are being worked upon which regulations? Mr. Speaker we require regulations that are going to define which committees will be responsible for the disbursement of these funds.

Mr. Speaker we need regulations which are going to indicate the composition of that committee, we need to understand Mr. Speaker, this fund will be paid from what account Mr. Speaker, will this money be paid from a central position or will it be disbursed from each ward Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker we need a regulation that is going to govern the specifics of this particular disbursement Mr. Speaker.

The other critical issue because Mr. Speaker we have been involved in these bursaries, as a county we should not repeat what is currently happening. The biggest problem that we have Mr. Speaker with disbursements of bursaries currently is where we do not have equality. You find that it is possible in a single ward Mr. Speaker one student being awarded bursaries from three different levels. But, in the same ward there is that needy case that has not benefited at all with bursary.

So as we do with regulation of this law Mr. Speaker, there must be a law that is going to be put that is going to ensure that no one is going to be able to get bursary from more than one level. And Mr. Speaker even if it is going to ensuring that the problem of duplication where we have one person awarded more than one time, even if it means coming up with something like a bursary management system Mr. Speaker, which is going to ensure all the children that have gotten bursaries have specific data which have been put and any other person even if it is a well-wisher who would want to assist a student at any given time probably using the internet at any given time you can be able to extract a list and be able to know within this year these are the number of students who have been able to benefit from the bursary fund.

Further Mr. Speaker, there is another major issue where the bursary schemes we have been offering and which as a county we need to deviate from, a situation where we are giving bursaries that is inadequate. You are giving a student a total

fee who is having a balance have fifteen thousand and you giving him /her Kshs 2,000. We need to come up with a regulation that Mr. Speaker is going to ensure that the total amount that can be disbursed to a child within the percentage of the fees is in such a manner that, that particular child or the parent or the guardian is able to gap the balance that this child have, because Mr. Speaker a lot of bursaries have been wasted. We have given a child five thousand shillings but the fees balance was in excess of Thirty Thousand shillings, so that child goes again to that school for one term and goes home again and cannot return to school.

So we are saying as we are doing this regulation, let us be able to define and specifically show the total amount we would classify as adequate to be able to give in relation to bursaries. Mr. Speaker, because I believe that other members have specific inputs because it is an important matter.

The only other thing I would urge you through the office of clerk is that this be treated as a matter of utmost urgency, that the Executive be compelled and be notified that as we disburse the bursaries which we are about to do probably in January/ February, Mr. Speaker, we will not agree to give this particular facility without clear rules and regulations which are going to govern this Mr. Speaker.

Therefore Mr. Speaker, I would wish to add that as a county because there is the uniqueness of everything that we do, the bursary issue is being talked of everywhere.

As a county we should consider other methods of teachers recruitment Mr. Speaker As a county the biggest burden that most of this schools are having Mr. Speaker, is inadequate staffing that of teachers Mr. Speaker. As a county we should reconsider and see whether it is practicable to gap in the vacancies that are there, accruing because of teachers who are employed by the board.

Mr. Speaker, because I know you have been a board member for quite a number of schools, you will agree with me that the standard school fees set by the National government through the parents/ government engagement, where in secondary schools the government is giving free secondary education in subsidy, you will realize that even after the government giving those standards, the other thing that is happening is that the schools employ BOG teachers. Out of the salaries that the BOG teachers are required to be paid Mr. Speaker, it makes the fees escalate and go at very high levels making it completely impossible for the parents who would not have enough money to be able to pay for their fees.

As a way of reducing the number of beneficiaries of bursary fund, the county government should consider taking into account whether it can agree in the meantime before the national government could consider to employ, to take charge of the teachers who are employed by the board so that it can ease the fees burden for all the other members.

Mr. Speaker, I do believe that the other honourable members are able to add to the contents of this, but it is my hope that this is a matter that is going to be given the seriousness it deserves and most importantly be given the professional, legal framework of its disbursement and on that Mr. Speaker I would wish to call upon Hon. Joyce to second the motion.

Hon. Joyce

Thank you Mr. Speaker I second the motion and I urge honourable members to support it. I understand that the Executive want to include private schools to get bursaries. That is not good. I think we are not giving the people the right information because, I believe those who are in private schools, at least they are able parents. Therefore, I second the motion and urge other members to debate on that part.

Speaker: Thank you Honourable members and I now propose the question

That, aware that Education forms a critical pillar of future developments in our county, further aware that we have very bright children whose parents are unable to financially support them in school, Aware that Our County Assembly in its own wisdom did set aside money for that purpose in the 2013-2014 budget to assist the bright but needy Scholars: Concerned that our county does not Have regulations to /and or recommendations to govern the disbursement of the bursary funds and further concerned that the total amount of money to be set aside in future for the scheme is not well articulated, noting that Article 53 of the Constitution provides for compulsory Basic Education, I urge therefore this House to come up with regulations and/ or recommendations to determine the equivalent amount of money in percentage of the county Government total allocation in the docket of Education, Labour and Trade Unions, Youth and Children Affairs to go into the bursary fund. I further urge the House to come up with a legislation to determine the procedure and rules to govern the disbursement of the funds.

Speaker: Member for Central

Hon. Kagwe: Thank you for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this motion on disbursement of bursary funds. Mr. Speaker, it is quite clear that this is the time we need to give our children the best as the Constitution of Kenya states Article 53 that each and every child has a right to a free and compulsory (basic) education Mr. Speaker.

So Mr. Speaker when it comes to education, we are supposed to look all the way from Early Childhood Education (ECD) level Mr. Speaker, up to University level Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker when I look at this motion I fail to understand why the budget was brought to this House Mr. Speaker and these honourable members passed two million (Shillings) for the bursary Mr. Speaker. When we are getting information that, the Executive Member for education that they are trying to tell the honourable members that they are only able to give (Kshs) 300,000 for

bursary in each and every ward, Mr. Speaker that is not the way to go.

They need to know that this Assembly passed the budget of two million Kshs and they brought it back stating that they do not have money Mr. Speaker Sir. So Mr. Speaker we would like that one to be looked at Mr. Speaker.

On the issue of percentage Mr. Speaker, we do understand we are not looking at all the money coming to the County government but we are asking for money that is coming to the docket of Education Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker if we can look at this time there are no regulations, which are guiding us on how this money is to be, disbursed Mr. Speaker. What we may be doing at this time, we are doing irregularly Mr. Speaker. So we need to have a regulation and we have the guideline on how that money is supposed to be distributed Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker once we look at what the Executive is doing, it is really carrying us to what used to be in the other government. Mr. Speaker where maybe a councilor could come, get a form, go, and fill at home. Mr. Speaker and are urging Mr. Speaker through your office to make sure that the form is signed from the ward and not through the Executive Mr. Speaker.

We are the elected people Mr. Speaker. We are representing those people and we are the ones who know their problems. Mr. Speaker we are not going to be subjected to be coming to collect form from the Executive office to our wards. Let the parents come to our office, we have the committee there, they take the form from there and they fill Mr. Speaker.

There is no way we are going to accept that. As I wind up Mr. Speaker, there is this issue of private education and already a report has come out to the public domain. And Mr. Speaker when I hear that an Executive member of Education is trying to state that the money will be given in ratio, that there is a ratio for the private schools, Mr. Speaker I do feel like what Hon. Joyce has stated, if I am able to bring my kid in a private institution, I am able to pay Mr. Speaker.

But there are other people back in the rural area who cannot afford to take their kids to nursery schools. We need to focus Mr. Speaker back to a parent who cannot afford shillings three hundred for a nursery school Mr. Speaker to make sure those people who cannot be able to take their kids to nursery school, they are facilitated or given those bursary funds, to make sure that those kids transit from nursery schools to university without any problems Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker as I wide up I want to state categorically that let us have the good guidelines Mr. Speaker and let us be allowed to operate that bursary as the Member of Parliament does with the CDF. There is no way we are going to be subjected that somebody else is looking at it and he is the one who is managing that fund.

Let it be managed by these honourable Members because they are the ones who are duly elected. Thank you Mr. Speaker and I support this motion.

Speaker: Member for Karau

Hon. Kamau Ngotho: Mr. Speaker Sir, I also stand to support the motion and I will speak as the vice chairman with authority though my chairman has not arrived. I am the vice chairman of Education committee and also as a stakeholder in this industry that deals in education.

Mr. Speaker Sir, some of the sentiments that are aired, I do not want to anticipate debate because we had the Executive member in charge of education coming to our committee and having some of these guidelines. He is making a policy and he wanted us involved, maybe that is where the two hon. Joyce and Kagwe got some of this information which are not correct.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the categories were boarding schools given some amount of money, day schools given some amount of money, day can be secondary or boarding schools, colleges and under boarding also can be children with special

Needs. That will come at a time when Mr. Speaker Sir, this motion takes a proper course.

Mr. Speaker, the issue at hand here is the financial year is ending in June next year. We have six months left and out there, we promised our people that by January we will be giving them bursaries that would be pay for the arrears. First term, we were writing directly to the principals and I got a letter from the Speaker's office so that one of the schools could be compelled not to send children home. But we might be seen as liars it can if come January children go back with other letters coming from us asking them to be given more time.

Mr. Speaker what we got from the Executive member stated that they would be issuing Kshs 300,000 per ward come January. Then we had allocated Kshs 2 million in our budget allocation. That leaves the question. Between February and June, will we have issued Kshs 1.7 million? That is the biggest question.

Mr. Speaker I want to state categorically and that is outside here and I stated during the committee that when children are indentified we ensure that if you have taken a child who is in form one, give them bursaries in form one, there is no way you would deny them when in other classes, form Two, Three and form Four.

And that is something that is in the policy paper. What has been happening in the previous regime, a politician wants to make a name of himself. This year, he gives thirty (Kshs 30,000) and next year he denies the same. What happens to the previous thirty (Children) they drop out of school. All this money becomes useless and I will borrow a leaf from Engineer, former MP for OI Kalou and current Senator, who stated that I want to have children who are a product of CDF bursary. He funded them from form one to form four.

But in previous regimes and others, you see that most children who are beneficiaries of bursaries are either one term or two terms and the they drop out of school. Maybe that should be a policy and that is what I have stated that when

you earmark children that are needy, you support them from Form One to Form Four.

I will just touch on the issue of private schools; I said I am a stakeholder. Not all children in private schools come from a rich family. That is a poor notion.

Private schools support children who are poor and bright. In addition, that is why there would be a committee that is sitting to determine who are eligible to earn these bursaries. And that is why I say immediately we give bursaries to children, in my ward office I will have their pictures and their background so that when parent who feel he was left out comes and reads so and so has been given, they will say 'yes' this child deserves bursary.

Thank you I support but I think the Executive was also planning on the same.

Speaker: Member for Kaimbaga

Hon. Njiraini: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir and I thank the leader of Majority for coming up with this contentious motion. This motion has come at the right time Mr. Speaker Sir because we understand that we have elected positions in our areas of our jurisdiction Sir, and I understand that having the bursary allocations for every ward I think that is essential because we have poor but bright children and who need education Mr. Speaker Sir.

I understand that Mr. Speaker the previous regime, there was a time that they were disbursing bursaries to the needy children but I understand that this money is not timely. You find that the money is being allocated to the needy children during the vacation Mr. Speaker. And you find that those needy children when they go back to classes, that child is sent away from school because of lack of this bursary fund.

When disbursing bursary to that Child it is already late Mr. Speaker. So timely allocation and disbursement of bursaries to the children is very important Mr. Speaker.

Another area Mr. Speaker I understand that we usually allocate money to the needy children that are orphans, single and from poor parents Mr. Speaker. I understand there was time that this group was not allocated that money. It is only for the boarding schools. We might find that some of these students who are in the day schools, they do not have enough money and opted to join day schools Mr. Speaker.

So Mr. Speaker it is always good to consider all those areas when coming up with good policies to disburse this money. I know we elected Honourable Members from different wards, I know you will come up with good policies and modalities to disburse this money to all the needy children will benefit out of it Mr. Speaker.

I also understand Mr. Speaker; we need to come up with a board, which will disburse this money Mr. Speaker. We understand in the previous regime the needy children who do not have Kshs 5,000 was called to those offices and I quote “ and instead of being awarded that five thousand that the parent needs, may be they were told to come up with a certain amount for bribing so that they can be given this money.”

We need as we said integrity is very important so that we have a very good board member that will work prudently for the service of our people down there. So Mr. Speaker when sitting down to come up with that modality, honourable members we know the geographical map of our wards and I know you will come up with a good board member who will enable our people to benefit from this.

So honourable members I do support this and Mr. Speaker I do support this. Let us support our children outside there and our students there Mr. Speaker, Thank you and I do support.

Speaker: Member for Mirangine

Hon. Ndirangu: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I rise also to support this and say that it has come at the right time.

Mr. Speaker this is a very sensitive issue bearing in mind that it only through bursaries that we would be seen by our people down there working. Mr. Speaker apart from the bursaries, it's roads. That is where leaders are being recognized actually and truly working for the people as working.

Mr. Speaker I therefore wish to support this though it is abate late. It would have come earlier. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Member for North Kinangop

Hon. Kagiri: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I stand to support this motion brought by the leader of the majority and it is timely.

Mr. Speaker I am a member of the committee on Education and Mr. Speaker we had a meeting with the Executive member in charge and we had a draft policy regarding how bursary would be disbursed. Mr. Speaker, as the vice chair of the committee was complaining, he said it is only Kshs 300,000 that was going to be released by January.

It is only six months remaining before the end of the financial year 2013/ 2014. Does Kshs 1.7 million be available by the end of this financial year? That is our worry. This is something that should be considered Mr. Speaker so that the Executive will be told clearly that they give priority as they give to roads that this money should be released as they come in so that by the end of the financial year this money has been released.

The fear that I have is on legislation. I hear Hon. Joyce talking about private schools. To me I understand that whoever is supposed to be given bursary is a child who is bright and needy. It does not matter whether he/she is in a private or public school, but is a citizen of this county Mr. Speaker.

As this motion stipulates in At 53, Education is a fundamental right to each citizen of this County Mr. Speaker. So that one can be looked into that modality and policy Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker another issue that should be put in that policy is the ratio on how this money should be disbursed because we understand that we have national schools, county secondary schools, tertiary institutions, special schools.

The policy that will come up in this House should consider all these things Mr. Speaker. The last fear that I have is that, I think today is the end of this session and I do not know whether we will have time for us to sit with the Executive member and try to moderate on that issue of the legislation Mr. Speaker. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Member for Gathara

Hon. Daniel Kibebo

Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir I rise to support the motion and is our concern as the Assembly that this money for bursaries be released. I support the members who have raised concern over the short time left before the end of this financial year.

In this year's budget, we had allocated Kshs two million for the bursaries. Mr. Speaker Sir. I think this should be our worry. How will the rest of the money are released. We have heard from the Executive that it is releasing only Kshs 300,000.

Mr. Speaker we should also appreciate when one does well, I have been with the Executive member and he gave me the format of the form that is going to release the money. We should appreciate that if one is doing well, let's appreciate.

My worry is or my request is the committee on Education calls the Executive member so that they can release the document, the policy, the format of the form so that they bring to us. If there is an amendment, we can surely amend it. But we should also appreciate good work done by everyone. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Leader of Minority

Hon Ngumba

Thank you Mr. Speaker, I stand to support the motion and I thank member for Engineer for having brought it at the right time.

Mr. Speaker Sir, as the first line of this Statement (Motion) shows the importance of Education in reference to development of this country. Mr. Speaker Sir Education in this Country has been taken as a rich man's activity.

Why do I say this Mr. Speaker? This morning I commented something that most Kenyans live below a dollar per day. These same parents are supposed to take their children through Education that today is a very expensive exercise.

Mr. Speaker if I were to suggest the system of education I would like in this Country, I would say that is something, which should be done by the national government. It should not be seen as an individual project. Why do I say this Mr. Speaker? Whenever you take a child to school, from standard one to university we pay a lot of money but the returns goes to the Country. Therefore, the returns do not belong to the person who took the child to school but the Country.

I would also suggest that basic education should not be termed as from standard one to standard Eight should be extended to Form Mr. Speaker I know that is a policy that should go to the national government but is worthy quoting.

Mr. Speaker Sir, bursaries are very important to our people. They are there to subsidize those families and bursaries should not be taken as an exercise of the Executive. Policies are supposed to be ratified by this Honourable House. I therefore as the Executive not to implement those policies without first passing through this Assembly Mr. Speaker because we are the representatives of the people down there at the ward level.

As devolved government that is place today, I believe all powers belong to the people and should be asked how to administrate any policy that comes today and in the future. Mr. Speaker Sir, I therefore support this motion and say it should be implemented fast. Thank you.

Speaker: Hon. Mwicigi (Nominated)

Hon. Mwicigi: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. Looking keenly at this motion, I think the motion is challenging the members of this House to come up with a regulation and let me quote “Article 53 of the Constitution provides for compulsory Basic Education, I urge this House to come up with regulations and/ or recommendations to determine the equivalent amount of money in percentage of the county Government total allocation in the docket of Education”. The mover is basically throwing the ball to us honourable members.

As we go for recess we have to site each and every member in capacity and see how we can come up with a regulation and probably have a bill or regulation how the money shall be distributed. Instead of blaming the Executive, I think this motion is putting the ball back to us.

We have to sit as members of this Assembly and see the best regulations that we can come up with. We have been given powers and mandate to come up with regulation. I have listened to several members saying that they appropriated Kshs 2 million for every ward. For us to ensure that in a certain time frame, it is better to come up with a regulation, time frame to ensure in each financial year rather than having the money distributed at the end of the financial year. It may not help the student. The student may not be at school and we are giving him bursary at the end of the year. What happens if they were out of school for the last two terms?

A lot of time is wasted. What we should ensure is that we come up with a regulation and let us ensure that the money is distributed continuously and within a timeframe that shall ensure that this money is able to help the student.

I have also listened to the leader of the majority saying that the county government should take a role in paying the board teachers in our public schools. I think if we were to do that the county government would be biting more than

We can chew. The most important thing is to ensure that our students are in school throughout.

I have also listened to Hon. Joyce saying that students in private schools should not be added bursary. They are part of this county and we know that some of the students in private schools are there on humanitarian grounds and I being a stakeholder in the same and I know this usually happens.

What we should do is not to categorize private and public schools but look at the student whether he deserves bursary or not. We have seen cases in the past where able students were awarded bursaries and deserving cases not considered.

I support this motion and urge the members to think as members of this Assembly and come up with a legislation that will see the distribution of funds in the ground. Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir.

Speaker: Member for Githabai

Hon. Kairu: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir Mine is to support the motion because as you know there are many problems in our localities particularly to the children that are well educated.

In my Githabai ward I have quite a number of children that are not able (pay school fees). In fact, last time I paid for some because they are bright and have no one to pay for them.

I urge the House to come up particularly during the first term, is a term when a lot of money should be disbursed that should take care to children going to form one.

I do support the Hon. Member who has been talking that money should be given and earlier the better. During the first term is when children are going back to school and are charged a lot of money and many of them they are wasted at home when they do have anybody to support them.

Honourable members let us treat this matter with great urgency and when the schools are opening bursary should be ready and instead of being given Kshs 300,000, may it be considered to be multiplied three times because in our budget we said we should be getting Kshs 2 million and is a pity when that money can be returned to the treasury not after being utilized and there are children at home lacking school fees.

We can go into the book of Guinness to say our children are suffering and we return money to the treasury. Let that be considered in the right way. The budget committee should consider this seriously. I fully support the motion.

Thanks You.

Speaker: Member for Githioro

Speaker: The chairman of budget, I don't think I am seeing right because I thought you are still in the meeting. I think that is why he is not catching the Speaker's eye.

Hon Kagiri: Thank you Mr. Speaker for catching your eye. This has been long overdue; the mover of the motion has brought it at the right time.

Mr. Speaker Sir, our children, our students needs to be educated and since the national government gives education the first priority, we should also in the county give it the first priority. We have in our budget and the Budget committee chairman bear this in mind and bear me witness, we have two million for this financial year.

We have six months that we have spent now this financial year. We are remaining six months that means it's one term and a half. It is my humble request to this House that the first disbursement of this bursary should be at least Kshs one million, half of the amount that was allocated to each ward so that the bursary can be actually felt at the ground.

There is this issue of private schools; I don't understand we have so many private secondary schools, I don't know whether members are talking of private primary schools because as a matter of policy, the bursaries are issued to secondary schools primary education, tertiary and the universities not the primary schools. Maybe the Assembly should come up with legislation so that these private primary schools are issued with bursaries.

Hon Gachomba on a point of information

Speaker: Do you need information

Hon Kagiri: Not now, So what I was saying is that the issue of private schools should not arise here since we have very few private secondary schools here.

Finally Mr. Speaker Sir, I am still emphasizing that this honourable House to have a resolution that the first disbursement should not be Kshs 300,000. It should be Kshs one million. Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir.

Speaker: Hon. Nancy

Hon Nancy: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir, I stand to support this motion brought by the leader of majority at the right time. I think this is the time our children need money and we all know that education is the pillar of development to any nation.

Now I want to talk about the bursaries for the private schools. It is well-understood only secondary schools, tertiary institutions benefit from these bursaries. We all know that in our country the primary school level, education is free and compulsory; no children in primary schools should get bursaries.

But we have children with special needs. In special schools, there is some money set aside by the government to cater for these children. Now, this is where I want to come in. When we talk of special children, children with special needs we only look at these children who are physically different, who are intellectually challenged and maybe visually challenged.

There is a category of children who are also special and in most cases they are never understood and you come across these children in so many instances. These children are called Gifted and Talented Children (GTC). Who are these children?

These are the children; maybe you have come across these children when you were in school. The teacher gives a child an assignment in class and the child completes the assignment so fast and scores ten out of ten, maybe within ten minutes. And what happens to this child after the assignment? The child starts playing and the teacher starts complaining, maybe she does not understand. It is true not many people understand these children so the teacher will complain there is a very naughty child in class. The child is punished, the child is frustrated.

What happens after this? The child runs away from school. Where does he go to? He goes to the streets and joins the bad company and the child is lost. This child was gifted and talented. They produce leaders and the very important people (in Society)

In private schools, the child is made to skip. If the child was going to standard class three, the child is taken to class five because he can handle class five courses. The child may go through the primary level within five years. If we say we do not want bursaries in private schools, we may lose very important people in our society who can be leaders who can be very helpful to the society.

Not all parents who are rich take their children to private schools and they are taxpayers. If I have a gifted and talented child and I have nobody to assist me, the child will be lost in the society who could be very helpful.

Looking at the bursary lets also put into consideration the special needs children the mentally, physically challenged, the visually challenged, let's look at this category of the GTC. Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir.

Speaker: Member for Kipipiri

Hon Kirumba: Thank you very much Mr. Speaker for catching your eye. First, the budget committee was outside somewhere and we really went out of our way to make sure we come here after we finish our business because we thought, using the Order Paper, this motion is coming up and we went our way to come and have our input, as it is a very important motion.

Having said that I support this motion, Mr. Speaker the mandate of county government on Early Childhood Education (ECDs) and polytechnics. That notwithstanding, it is meant to reduce the transitional rate, all the way to the college and also Mr. Speaker Sir we should not lose sight that the former county councils were giving our students these bursaries.

If that gap was not filled, it could have created very serious lacunae. This motion in my opinion is the right thing to go because if you supplement this with CDF and the three cash transfers that national government is devolving through the Elderly, the Orphans and the Disabled, we are likely to reduce most of our children going into the drain.

My issue with this motion is only the kind of money we are trying to dispense before the end of the financial year. I am aware that we had Kshs two million allocated for bursaries. First year and particularly January and we are aware is the most difficult particularly for form ones. In my opinion, we could have even dispensed seventy-five per cent because after that we only have one term left. I am requesting that money be raised to Kshs one million plus Mr. Speaker.

This to me will have members of this Assembly's stump their presence at the grassroots by reducing the transition rate as I said earlier on. Having said that and as I read the mood of this House (*Murmurs*). Mr. Speaker I have not finished, I am not saying I have read the mood; all I am is another statement, which is not well taken Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Chairman Budget

Hon. Gachomba: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to second the mover of this motion by Hon. Mwangi Gichuki because it has touched on a critical area where we have the future of our students.

Mr. Speaker I do not believe there is anywhere in the World where an economy can grow without a proper education. Mr. Speaker Sir, this motion has come at the right time. We do remember that we have so many students still lying idle in their homesteads because of lack of this basic commodity, which is the bursary plan.

Mr. Speaker you remember we allocated Kshs two million in every ward in our budget for every member of this County Assembly disbursement in their wards and to my amazement I am hearing from other voices that the Executive is only giving Kshs 7.5 million out of the Kshs 50 million we allocated for the same purpose.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I thought it is wise and prudent if the Executive can first give out the Kshs one million..

Point of Order Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: What is it member for Gatimu

Hon. Kieru: Mr. Speaker I really want to understand and get your guidance what is that is so official before this House that proves that the Executive is releasing Kshs 300,000 in relationship to, I have heard 300,000 frequently and Mr. Speaker I do not remember any report coming to this House from the Executive for the same.

Speaker: I think the member for Gatimu is actually in order but I privy to some information, actually the Executive member for Education was called to an Education session and I attended that session and I will give the chairman of

Education chance after the member for Njabini.

Hon. Gachomba: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir, for your wise guidance. I was trying to state clearly what I heard from the chairman Education that, although I had heard the executive that they were to give out Kshs7.5 million and the chair of Budget was also concerned because it I who did the allocation of that money.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I was trying to say for that disbursement, they should have disbursed Kshs one million so that every member in this House can be able give bursary to students in January. The last One million should be disbursed within the rest of the fiscal year because this fiscal year is ending in June next year.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I would also wish if the recommendations that when we are trying to disburse the funds we must have committees that will be of integrity because we have witnessed earlier on that some of the students do not benefit from this crucial commodity because maybe of other interested parties that come over.

Mr. Speaker I was emphasizing that when we come to disburse these funds we should have proper people in the field, in the villages that would be able to disburse the money to the rightful students.

Mr. Speaker I would also like to highlight on the private schools as one of our member highlighted that if a student is needy and from a private secondary school, he should benefit because he also fails from that ward/ constituency. The parents are also taxpayers in our county. I beg to second the mover of this motion and if we consolidate the CDF money, the ministry money I can see there is light at the end of the tunnel Mr. Speaker Sir, Thank you.

Speaker: Chairman of Education committee

Hon. Njoroge: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir, I stand to support the motion as has been moved by the leader of Majority and I am proud to be associated

With the same docket of Education, Youth, Culture and Social services.

Mr. Speaker, it is true that Education was not devolved per say but actually Mr. Speaker; we found that the county government was only trusted with ECDs and Youth Polytechnics. But on the same Mr. Speaker, the Constitution is very clear on Chapter 11 Article 187 whereby it gives a leeway and I quote “a function or power of a government at one level maybe transferred to a government at the other level by agreement between the government if the clauses follows by”.

Mr. Speaker, in our budget we had set about Kshs 50 million meant for bursaries for bright and needy children. On the same, it has taken so long Mr. Speaker for the same money to be released for the respective members of the Assembly to agree and formulate policies on how to issue the same bursaries. But, as we stand now Mr. Speaker, I may say the money for bursaries is now ripe and would be released soon or later.

Actually what I am hearing from members is that only Kshs 300,000 will be released per ward. That was not the case, when we had an interactive session with the Executive in -charge of the same docket he had the sentiment that during the last month out of the money released by the national government 7.5 million was set aside as bursaries. That is during the month of November.

This month once, we get more disbursement from the National government the Executive had agreed that once again they would set aside Kshs 7.5 million for the same bursaries. Then come January the same amount would be set aside, meaning cumulatively meaning the bursaries would be released in January 2014 because already the first and second term are gone.

Mr. Speaker I tend to think by the time we come to formulate these policies, we as members we should put in mind that is there Kshs two million and we have two terms before the end of the financial year.

That being the case Mr. Speaker the first disbursement should be Kshs million

Come the next academic year for our children.

On the same Mr. Speaker, we called a committee meeting we had invited some members to make their inputs on the same and that is where maybe they got the wrong information as to the Kshs 300,000 that is being debated in this House. It is untrue those were not the deliberations neither was the agreed amount that was going to be disbursed come the next academic year.

On the same, I would wish to make it clear that education is now evolving. It is not even a basic need but right. Every child has a right to education irrespective of his parent's ability to pay fees, whether in private secondary schools or private universities.

First, I want to take the attention of these members that the sectors of education that were devolved and especially the ECDs, surely we hardly give these bursaries. But on the same, I would request these members to do, once somebody joins a youth polytechnic and is really in need of bursaries, let us consider them. It does not matter what course he takes. He will come back and start supporting our county.

The other thing Mr. Speaker, on policies as a committee we had tried to come up with a single policy, that the money we are going to get to disperse to our people as bursaries should be issued on a 3:2:1 ratio. What do I mean by this Mr. Speaker? Those students who are in day schools who are in our local areas should get the biggest share, followed closely those in our local area who are needy and bright in boarding schools and lastly those students who are in universities both public and private universities. Because, as much as we say there is a difference between public and private universities you find that you cannot differentiate. Look at it, most of the universities and particularly those public universities, nowadays they are offering parallel degrees. A parallel degree is a course offered by public universities in a private capacity. Those students are to pay heavily in order to obtain that degree. Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker I request honourable members to support those who are taking private degree courses be entitled to bursaries. On the same Mr. Speaker, we have one national school in our county and the school charges slightly higher school fees than the rest in our county. That being the case Mr. Speaker if one happens to learn in the national school that we have, let us consider she is in a boarding school but a boarding school unique in all ways, in that it is a national school charging a little higher fees than others. Let us offer our daughters in this school a slightly higher amount than others in other boarding schools in our county do.

Mr. Speaker, it is true that bursaries were there even before the coming of the county governments. They were there in the defunct Nyandarua county council and other councils nationally. Our people have been questioning whether we are going to have these bursaries and members I believe have been promising them the same. So Mr. Speaker, it is now the high time that we as members we have to show difference between the bursaries dispersed by the defunct Nyandarua county council and the new County government of Nyandarua.

We have the committees previously awarded bursaries that were insufficient to educate needy children all over the wards. We have to come up with policies that would allow if we are to give a student bursary, let's give that student sufficient money that will take him or her through education instead of giving insufficient money and the child is sent away.

I am requesting these members as we make these policies, lets advocate that if a student is needy, lets ensure he/she gets a bursary that will take a full term instead of issuing so many bursaries to so many students and eventually end up being sent home to look for more.

The other issue is that of disabilities being it physical or any other disability. Most of our children are studying outside the county and especially those who have disabilities, they need special units. Let us consider them. Let us give them bursaries. These are people in their own capacities; they are people we ought to

give bursaries and especially if he is orphaned and disabled whether single or double orphaned. Let us members ensure we give these bursaries so that in future we are encouraging those hiding disabled children to come out openly to be assisted. The kid will not suffer from illiteracy, as is evident today as parents shy away from exposing their disabled children to the society. That Mr. Speaker we will encourage other children with disabilities to go to learning institutions.

I now request that because the committees will be formed, let members come clearly and agree on the content of the committee that will oversee the disbursement of these bursaries so that we do not leave a loophole, either as it has been previously. We have been awarding bursaries to those people who supported us politically. When it comes to bursaries let us keep our political interests aside. Why Mr. Speaker? Because somebody might not have assisted you politically but he is needy. Does it mean he will not be awarded bursary because that society did not support you?

He or she should. Mr. Speaker with that few remarks I request these members as they go for recess, let us agree on the content of the bursary committee, a committee that will ensure only the needy and bright students get bursaries Mr. Speaker. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Member for Weru

Hon. Kimani: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I stand to support the motion brought by the leader of Majority on bursary. I believe I may not be very sure it is a timely thing because we are running out of time. I was to ask though the chairman has answered on that because they have said the Kshs 300,000 was to be disbursed but I have the answer for that because I was to ask how if it was 300,000 and we have only six months to go, I just wanted to know the formula that was to be used in order to make sure that the whole amount was going to be disbursed.

Mr. Speaker Sir. I would like this House to note that it does not matter the formular the committee will come up with because will need to disburse this money to the needy community but there is something more crucial to that because as the Constitution is whenever a law needs to be implemented or passed in this House needs to be taken to the public.

It is the same public yet we are representatives of the same public and 70-80 per cent is aware of the issues that we are facing. The people on the ground know much more of the people that are worth of bursary.

Therefore, the formular that will come from the draft need to clarify and show the process that will be used to disburse this money. I may be faithful to it, I may be focused, I may be a visionary leader. But we are not the same. So the formular that will be used in every ward must be a process that is transparent and be actual in a manner that, who will be worth for bursary would be seconded by the community. Is it the community that will come together with the committee in order for you to release the bursary as a county representative, you need to have the validation by the community.

I would request the committee in charge of this to make sure they bring the format to see how they have drawn the guidelines but the formular must be clear and it must be as by the expectations of the public.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I do not have much to say but I may quote a very personal issue whereby I came for a scenario when campaigning I came across all those issues of bursaries and we gave bursaries out of our own pocket to pay school fees. I can across a family that that had a dispute and the girl had passed standard eight class and she had not attended secondary school for two years. I sympathized with that lady and I had to take full responsibility for her fees. I thank God I have sponsored her and is now going to form two and I feel proud for that. But the issue is, this is the work of the government and I am doing the work that I am supposed to take money for that purpose.

The government is the sponsor of education but I do not feel I have wasted my money, still I know she will be a beneficiary of the bursary. In addition, the same issue when I was elected I came across the same scenario in my homestead where everybody knows about the molo crashes. I came across a lady who is orphaned, she said her brother went to different directions and she was accommodated by my neighbour. It reached a point that the neighbour felt the girl was becoming a burden to her and she had to chase the girl away.

I felt that it was not right to do this but I want to tell this House that today I am a parent of that lady and I talked with my mum and told her to accommodate her. She is now my sister, my brother and I am sponsoring the lady to form four and I am responsible for whatever she needs. So therefore, these are the issues that the Government should take over and these are the issues the bursary funds should address.

Then when the two millions was proposed at the budget level it was one million but according to my vision I felt that one million was not enough and I proposed to the budget that it was not right to give bursaries for political reasons. We need to bring a society that is forthright. I always give an example where I always say that leaders should not come only from able families; engineers should not only come from able families. We should be able to bring equalization of wealth in the society. I felt that this two million bursary was necessary to take poor children to institutions of higher learning.

So, Mr. Speaker I would like members to see bursaries as avenues to earn political mileage but also to bring up society to a level where we change the political and mental game will be easy because we see that even the way people are not knowledgeable on the ground, the political reasoning is so poor. So when we bring up a knowledgeable society, we change their political thinking. That will change the economy of his country.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker I support we give bursaries to secondary, colleges, universities and guardians of orphans. As the chairman has insinuated we should

take full board, or we should fully sponsor bursaries, he is entitled to his opinion but I was thinking we should accommodate both sides. To my side I was thinking that those parents without finances or any way to gain finances, they should be sponsored fully. Like anybody, out there, who is stuck Mr. Speaker, we may sponsor her/him for two terms and then he can be left on his own. So Mr. Speaker we can accommodate all of them according to the wishes of the wards representative. Mr. Speaker Sir, bursary is very important to us. So I support this motion.

Speaker: Member for Rurii.

Hon. Kamoche : Mr. Speaker Sir, I support this motion and note that when passing the appropriation Bill we gave Kshs 152 million as capital projects where I believe that was in the Ministry of Education in the County Government where I believe that part of the bursary was there. On the other side, we gave Kshs 142 million for other purposes and services for that ministry. I can find no excuse where one is saying we do not have money and yet we have passed the appropriation Bill.

I am not complaining but I think we have gone slowly because there is no law in place and anybody can do what he/ she thinks because it is in this Assembly where laws are passed and originate. Mr. Speaker it is very serious because I can say even in private schools, there are children who cannot be accepted in public schools. I raise a case to support Hon. Kimani because I went to a private school, met an orphan, and requested them to admit him because there was nowhere to go. I am educating him there but his mother is dumb. The boy repeated class eight, I took him to Nyandarua High and out of 240 students, he was number four. The boy was not in school up to 30th May.

There are other cases where children come from very economically challenged backgrounds and I believe gentlemen do not care when entering those homes in the night but during the day you cannot get them.

That is a burden you have to carry and I believe Mr. Speaker as we are looking into this matter, and if we leave this issue of bursary to the Executive is the same as putting a rope around our necks. Because when we let people sit and decide for us, they will do everything. We have seen cases where bursaries have been given to children of chiefs and other employed people leaving out the poor.

It is my humble request that we legislate a law and we leave this matter to the ward level so that a county representative can have a hand and a say. We pass appropriation Bill and we just beg Mr. Speaker to have that tractor on your roads because there is somebody who is dealing with that and does not care who you are and that function is not devolved at the ward level.

You can see a grader at your gate Mr. Speaker and you are not aware because somebody else is responsible for that function. We are in two parallel lines, the Executive and the County Assembly. The only way we can do is to hold these people to account by the law. Let us legislate a law that would make these people to account.

We cannot give people money and what they do is irreversible. Mr. Speaker I would urge this House to put a law that will regulate this matter and not even bursaries but for the developments that are being done in the wards. We voted for executive members and we are their employers. Mr. Speaker we have three major problems in this County, Roads, Health and education and if we do not open our eyes to those areas, my friends we are sending ourselves home come 2017. You are giving somebody a job and becomes senior than you and somebody becomes your boss and you are the employer.

I urge this House to legislate a law and let us catch one person and that person will know that there is a law that has been articulated. Let us give direction to where we are heading. What matters now is not where we are but where we are heading.

Speaker: What is member for Gatimu

Hon. Kieru: Mr. Speaker I think the member has started repeating himself because the submissions he is making he had made them during his earlier statements. So Mr. Speaker I need your guidance on that.

Speaker: The debate is repetitive so member for Rurii conclude your debate.

Hon Kamoche: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I was not repeating myself because I can see Hon. Kieru does not hear easily. Anyway, I conclude that the final analysis of this is to legislate a law that will guide us and bide us in the legal framework. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Member for Murungaru

Hon. Kariuki Muchiri: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker I rise to support this motion and wish to highlight a few points.

Mr. Speaker my take is that we should not only consider the government schools, I think we should also consider the private schools because what should be the guiding principle is whether our students are needy. You may find a student who is very needy and cannot access a government school because of one reason or the other; possibly, there are some subsidies in private schools. Therefore Mr. Speaker I do support that we look at that principle whether the child is needy and not look at whether a child goes to a private or government school.

Mr. Speaker with the experience that I have on bursaries because I happened to sit at CDF, the defunct county council and even the Ministry of Education, the issue of bursaries is tricky because you cannot give everybody. You cannot give every institution for example it is not practical to give pupils in primary schools bursaries because they are just too many and the reason why the government does not give primary schools bursaries is because primary education is free.

Mr. Speaker, if we consider the issue of giving bursaries to institutions like the you

Polytechnics actually that money might not be enough for the polytechnics alone because all those trainees in the polytechnics are poor. But I would suggest that we give to the secondary schools, colleges and the universities and we emphasis on the bright and needy students of course the orphans. This is very important because if we do not give orphans who will cater for them? I think the orphans who do not have able guardians and this is an issue that should be looked into seriously at the policy level.

Mr. Speaker, I am worried when I hear that this bursary shall be disbursed twice or thrice a year, Mr. Speaker you see is going to be very expensive because these bursaries from experience and tradition is actually to give bursaries once per year. It becomes manageable because when you give two or three times it means there are other expenses like sitting allowances for these committees and they shall be eating into accounts of bursary money. I would propose that if the County Government can accumulate this money, the two millions, I think you can be able to manage very well but if you take three hundred thousand with this enlarged wards, this is not a lot of money. This is very little money. That is my humble prayer that this bursaries be disbursed once per year.

The other issue that I would wish to raise is a concern that was raised by an honourable Member here that once we start giving out the bursaries, the beneficiaries are taken through their education lifespan. Mr. Speaker there is danger in that because if we have two millions and you give fifty students and continue with the same trend in the second year you will only give the Fifty. In the third year, you only give the Fifty. However, that is not practical. Every year you will receive new applicants, if we continue that way you will find that when you get to the fourth year you will require Kshs Eight million. Mr. Speaker is that sustainable. I do not think it is sustainable.

On that issue, I would say this money would never be enough. It can never be enough, Let us be guided by the number of applicants because not everybody will

apply.

Finally, Mr. Spear as I conclude the only way to exonerate the Honourable members of this House from blame in terms of disbursement of this money is to involve the public. If we involve the public at the ward level and because the public know, who is needy and who is not. If you call a bursaries public meeting they will tell you this member is, needy give him. This member is pretending. The public will just tell you who is needy and who is not. That way Mr. Speaker no Honourable Member will have a blemish in terms of disbursement of those funds.

I pray when we enact a law on this, to govern the disbursement of his funds let us give this a chance and I know it will work because no member of the public will give a person who is not needy.

Mr. Speaker reading the mood of this House, Mr. Speaker you can see most of the seats are empty, the mood is that this debate has been exhausted and with your permission I will call the mover of the motion to respond. I do support Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Mwangi Gichuki: Thank you Mr. Speaker and may I take this opportunity to thank the members for supporting the motion and I believe that this will be communicated to the Executive and immediately work on this. I beg to move.

Speaker: Question put

The 'Ayes' have it. This motion has been adopted as a Motion of this House and it will be communicated to the office of the Governor and the Executive Member in charge of Education in the County and in view of this motion the Committee on Education to be called upon as the House works round to prepare the necessary legal framework and the regulation that will go with the legal framework, some arrangements can be worked where members of this Assembly will have a say on how these disbursements will be made to the ward levels.

I think those were the sentiments of the members of this House and I think the Hansard will accompany that communication of passage of this Motion so that the Executive can be able to work on it. Honourable Members I do not want to emphasize that the issue of bursary goes to the very heart of representation at the ward level and without it, there is not much that you can convince people you are doing anything.

Disclaimer: The electronic version of the Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified copy of this version can be obtained from the Hansard Editor.