

Wednesday 26th February 2014

County Government of Nyandarua

OFFICIAL REPORT

Nyandarua County Assembly (First Assembly, Third Session)

Assembly Debates

Hon. Deputy Speaker in the Chair

The House met at 2.30 PM

Prayers

Motion on Adoption of ECDs by Hon. Samuel Mwangi Thuita (Gathanji) on behalf of Education Committee Chairman Hon. Josphat Njoroge (Leshau-Pondo)

Hon. Thuita emphasized on the importance of Early Childhood Education (ECD) after presenting the report in the House. Thuita said that ECD should be taken seriously to ensure proper development of a child, physically, mentally and spiritually into an all round adult. He urged the Executive to implement all the recommendations made by the Committee in its report.

Hon. Rebecca Nyangati (Nominated) seconded the motion and appreciated the work done by the committee. She raised concern over a requirement that ECD teachers currently being hired by the Executive to have five (5) years experience as carried in an advertisement in the Daily Nation on 7th, February 2014 terming it prohibitive that would lock out many potential candidates.

However, **Hon Paul Mwangi Maina (Central)** on a point of information told her that the Executive had withdrawn the requirement.

Speaker proposed the Question that the House adopt the motion on adoption of the report on ECDs.

Hon Maina: In supporting the adoption of the report, Maina congratulated the committee for doing a commendable job. He said education is the lifeline of achieving development anywhere in the World and Nyandarua County is no exception. He stressed that ECD is the foundation to acquire basic knowledge that propelled one to his /her preferred profession such as doctors. He lamented that Nyandarua County used to be a performer in education in the past years but today was lagging behind and called for a reversal of the trend to return it to its past glory. Maina regretted that ECD institutions in the County are muddy and urged the Executive to build permanent structures.

He called for adequate remuneration of ECD teachers noting that some are paid Ksh 1,500 that he noted demotivated and demoralized them leading to poor services. He called for the starting of school feeding programmes in ECD institutions noting that many parents are very poor to cater for their children needs.

He asked the Executive to formulate a policy to govern ECD saying it relied on primary school policy formulated by the National Government. He urged the Executive to implement all resolutions passed by the Assembly.

Hon. Mwicigi (Nominated): Supported the adoption of the report and emphasized on the importance of ECD saying it is critical in molding children to responsible people in the future. He echoed Hon Maina to start school feeding programme to cushion children from malnutrition. He called for ECD institutions to be well equipped and urged the County Government o waiver fees in public ECD institutions.

He said ECD teachers should be well compensated to motivate them and urged the Executive to immediately employ the 400 teachers to gap the ratio of teachers to children, which stood at 1:26. Mwicigi said the Executive should ensure transition from nursery to primary is 100 per cent.

Hon Kirumba (Kipipiri): He raised concern that public ECD institutions had no Title Deeds, a vice that spread across the board. He said Public ECD institutions are in a pathetic state, muddy and some build next to toilets. He called for construction of modern classrooms for children. He was concern that the pupil teacher ratio was very high. He urged parents construction of ECD institutions should be in Public primary schools to enable parents reap benefits from the free education programme. He warned the Executive against employing ECD teachers and putting them in ramshackle.

Hon. Njiraini (Kaimbaga): He commended the committee for doing a good work and coming up with a report noting that ECD is the foundation of a child. He called for the employment of ECD teachers to reduce the pupil-teacher ratio. He said the three days given to candidates to apply for teaching vacancies in ECDs was not enough. He claimed that the sixteen who applied in his ward were not from that ward. He urged the Committee on Budget to increase more funds to ECDs as a devolved function. Njiraini asked Member of County Assembly (MCA) to identify schools where modern ECDs should be constructed.

Njiraini urged the Executive to ensure proper supervision of ECD teachers to understand exactly what they are doing. He pointed out that there is need to establish special classes for children with special needs and a rehabilitation centre to cater for street children. He supported the starting of school feeding programmes adding that he had many IDPs in his ward who could not cater for their children due to poverty. He asked the Executive to implement all recommendations made in the report by the implementation committee.

Hon. Dorcas (Nominated) : In supporting the adoption of the report, and was concerned over the supervision of ECD teachers that she termed as ineffective. She complained that 845 ECD in the centres in the County, with one supervisor in each of the five sub-counties. She added that the supervisors are

not facilitated with transport and roads are poor. She urged the County Government to employ more supervisors. Hon Dorcas stressed that for ECD teachers to do facilitation and supervision should be enhanced.

She was concerned that ECD children were learning in muddy classes while standard eight pupils were in concrete floors. She suggested that the situation should be reversed and ECD pupils be learn in concrete floors and standard eight in dusty floor adding that ECD pupils were more vulnerable than standard eight learners were.

She urged the Executive to build modern ECD classes in the coming fiscal year 2014/2015.

Hon. Nancy Wambui Nga'ng'a (Nominated) : In her contributions to support the adoption of the report, Nancy noted that ECDs is a devolved function and urged the County Government to motivate ECD teachers through reasonable payment. She said a child brains develops during this stage and should be well catered for. She called for strict age certification before a child is enrolled to a ECD class noting that some parents are dumping their kids in them. She emphasized on the need for parents to produce birth certificates to ascertain the actual birth date of a child.

Hon. Ndirangu (Milangine) : He supported the adoption of the report and urged the Executive to consider all wards when employing ECD teachers adding that every ward should be allocated its share. He then called on the mover to respond.

Hon. Thuita: He thanked members for their contributions in supporting adoption of the report and noted that members were very passionate about ECDs. He urged the Executive to implement all the recommendations made by the Committee on Education in the report.

Deputy Speaker: He put the question that the report on ECDs be adopted as a report of the House.

He ruled that the "Ayes" have it and there was no "Nay". He directed that the adoption of the report to be communicated to the Executive through the Cabinet Secretary in-charge of Education to address concerns raised by members in their deliberations. He said after adoption of the report, the Executive is supposed to give a report to the House within sixty (60) days.

There being no other business, the House adjourned at 4.15 Pm to Thursday 27/2/2014 at 2.30 PM.

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