

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
UASIN GISHU COUNTY ASSEMBLY
THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 26th June, 2018
The House Met at 2:41 PM

[Mr. Speaker (Hon. David Kiplagat) in the Chair]

PRAYER

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Members, welcome once again to this sitting of Tuesday in the afternoon of 26th June of 2018. We wish you healthy deliberations. *Karibuni sana*. I have around two communications to make from the Chair.

THE SENATE SENIOR MANAGEMENT BOARD AND THE PLANNING COMMITTEE OFFICIAL VISIT
TO UASIN GISHU COUNTY ASSEMBLY

Mr. Speaker: One is that, honourable members, we are privileged to have the Senate staff visit our County assembly. The Senate senior management board together with the planning committee led by their able Clerk Jeremiah M. Nyegenye clerk of the senate. The purpose of the visit is to assess the state of our readiness to host the Senate sittings which will be scheduled for September 24th to 28th 2018. I want at this juncture let us give them a parliamentary clap. Thank you so much. *Karibuni sana*.

MOTION

THE FIRST REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SOCIAL SERVICES ON
THE SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME

(Hon. Noah Kemboi- Chairperson Education, Culture and Social Services Committee)

(Resumption of Debate interrupted 14.6.2018)

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Members, as you are aware during our last debate, there was a Motion that was being discussed and was interrupted in the middle for purposes of attending to other duties that were urgent then, as per standing order number 29, which I want to state as follows on resumptions of interrupted business, ‘any debate interrupted under this part shall on coming again before the County Assembly or the committee, be resumed at the point where it was interrupted and any member whose speech was so interrupted shall have the right to speak on such resumptions for the remainder of the time available to him or her but if such member does not avail himself or herself of this right, his or her speech shall be deemed to have been concluded,’ and I have been made aware that the honourable member Ngetich was on the Floor of the House. So given that he is not here today, for purposes of another

official visit which he is undertaking, maybe from there we open the debate and any member who is ready can continue contributing on that Motion.

The Motion was by honourable Kemboi for purposes of adoption of their first report. Honourable Gorreti.

Hon. Boroswa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. I want to support the Motion of the report given by honourable Kemboi on feeding programme that we did a Benchmarking in Kilifi County and when we went to that County, we realised that the County government of Kilifi had a programme on feeding their children by giving milk to the ECDE pupils. We also looked at the poverty level that is found in Kilifi; it is actually higher than Uasin Gishu County and therefore because we had gone to do a benchmarking and we wanted to check on the best practices they are doing on feeding programme for the ECDE.

We actually came to realize is that if the County government of Kilifi was able to do that in its ECDE schools, why not us in Uasin Gishu County where we are the source of all foods including the milk that Kilifi people are taking; some of it comes from Uasin Gishu County.

Therefore, we are urging that these Honourable Members support the report so that we are able to begin the same programme in Uasin Gishu County to be able to actually give a feeding programme to our pupils, our small children in ECDE centres. As you are all aware that when you go to school with an empty stomach and the teachers are there to teach you, you will not be able to even concentrate and therefore these young children also have a very low concentration level when they are not well fed.

I want to concur with the Chair of Education, who is the mover of this Motion, that we do support it and we begin a programme relevant to that of Kilifi. Maybe we can see how we can improve ours.

I therefore stand to support fully and I urge Honourable Members seated in this House today to be able to stand and support this Motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much, honourable Gorette. Honourable Hillary from Kipkenyo Ward.

Hon. Rono: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to the Motion that is before us, report from the able committee of Education.

I stand to support this report and first of all, I want to commend the work done by the committee. Benchmarking is actually a practice that we are supposed to encourage because whenever you go somewhere and you find some advancement on the matters that you are looking for, it will give you that motivation, morale boosting so that you can do it on your own area.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say like in my place Kipkenyo, there are so many many young children who are not going to school and the reason is the family or the mother cannot

provide a dish for that particular child and in this programme, if we are going to provide our children with this food, that one will bring more children to school and that is one of the recommendations that we are saying we must recommend to be done in this County government.

We are advancing always. These Counties came into being because our people were somewhere and are supposed to be somewhere up or upgraded. So I support this Motion. Let the relevant department make sure that they ensure that these very important programmes which are here are done in this County government. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much, honourable Rono. honourable Bundotich!

Hon. Bundotich: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for giving me this chance to contribute in support of this Motion. I have gone through this report by the committee of Education and first and foremost, allow me to congratulate the Chairman and the entire team for a good fact-finding concerning the issue of school feeding programme. This report is a wake-up call to the County of Uasin Gishu. I have tried to peruse this report and I am satisfied that if Kilifi alone, whose poverty index my fellow Honourable Member said higher than us, why don't we implement this?

I want to actually say that I am supporting this report with some amendments. I know I should have actually given you a notice but allow me to say this.

(Point of Order)

Mr. Speaker: What is the Point of order, honourable Rono!

Hon. Rono: Mr. Speaker Sir, is the Honourable Member in order to propose an amendment and normally we know according to the rules of this House, you are supposed to have write to the Speaker before this Motion? Is he in order, Mr. Speaker and yet he is an Honourable Member who was here in the last regime and he is still here and he cannot...? Mr. Speaker, is he in order? Thank you.

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker: This is something we have ruled from the Chair and, maybe for the benefit of the honourable member, I can restate again the relevant standing order. As per our standing order number 52, all the amendments are to be in writing. Standing order number 52, 'the proposer of an amendment to a Motion shall, before moving it, hand the proposed amendments in writing, signed by the proposer, to the Clerk at least two hours before the order is read.' So you are well advised, honourable Bundotich. You can proceed.

Hon. Bundotich: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that it is only that this Honourable Member doesn't understand issues. I was suggesting that I was to do some amendments but because I did not do it in writing, It has been a tradition of this House for Honourable Members especially him not to listen before an Honourable Member finishes his sentiments.

Mr. Speaker, this report is so good. What we want to tell the executive, who are the implementers of this report if it is going to see the light of the day, is that actually they should move with speed with a minimum delay to implement this report. This report is very, very good.

I want to challenge again the executive - because again you can see even that as we in the process of doing the budget of 2018/ 2019 - the money or the resources that are being pumped into ECDE are not adequate. For this programme to succeed we ought to have good facilities, a proper ECDE centre with toilets, with where we are going to make these foods - I mean, Mr. Speaker - let us also encourage and challenge the executive that, as we are going to implement very good programmes like this feeding programme, let the executive put enough money to our ECDE centres for the proper implementation of this programme.

Otherwise I want to congratulate the mover of this Motion and the Honourable Members who have spoken before or who spoke before this Motion was interrupted there before. I urge all these Honourable Members to support this very noble Motion and report.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much, honourable Bundotich.

Honourable Maraswa!

Hon. Korir, E. K: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity. From the onset, I stand to support this report. This report is timely. If you go to my area, that is, Simat/ Kapseret Ward and try to compare the public and the private you will find that the private sector has taken the lead. If you go to a private academy or primary school, you will find that there is a good feeding programme for children and it doesn't require a lot. That is why I want to join hands with this committee of education in urging our County, our executive team that they should try and roll out a programme for feeding to our children and it doesn't require much; it requires even mobilising resources from the parents. That is how other private sector does - they mobilise resources, that is, food from the parents and we can go the same way, which it doesn't require a lot.

If you compare the population in the two sectors, you will find that the population in public schools is always dropping because if a pupil or a child is encouraged to go to school, automatically he will pick the private sector because he or she knows that if he goes there, he will actually have something to eat in the other part and we want to encourage, make our public schools to stay there and be on the lead.

So I join hands with this department and I want to congratulate Chair to this committee for choosing Kilifi, because we know Kilifi, if we compare with Uasin Gishu, you will find several differences and if the other part they can do, why not Uasin Gishu.

I want to urge the relevant department of Education that they should come up with a stipulated formula to implement this.

Mr. Speaker, I stand to support. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much, honourable Maraswa. Honourable Jane Too!

Hon. Jebet: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. I rise to support this Motion. ECDE is the backbone of the educational system. Children who receive a good foundation in terms of education as is stipulated in the report, often tend to go on to excel in high school and further to university. By adopting the feeding programme, we are not only feeding children at ECDE levels, but we are actually opening up the educational system to those members of our society who, for some reason or the other, may have been unable to go to school. For me, Sir, that is a truly honourable task that lies ahead of those in Uasin Gishu.

To remunerate teachers as well as is stipulated in the report ..., often those teachers who tend to be who stir or have stirred or have impacted all of us in our lives, are often not considered when it comes to education. Sir, by offering them remuneration or by giving them an incentive, it means that they are quicker to and more motivated to help the children.

And finally the absenteeism in ECDE, many of us come from rural areas and when we go back home, we tend to find the children that are supposed to be in the ECDE educational platforms are normally around at home or with their parents, ordinarily because maybe parents cannot afford school fees but more importantly because parents are unable to feed their children. This is taking a burden off the society and off the parents of Uasin Gishu and allowing these children to go to school and, judging from what the committee has stated in the report, it also encourages to know that the absentee levels in schools like in Kilifi are next to none because children are comfortable and satisfied.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker Sir, I certainly support this Motion. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much, honourable Jane Too. honourable Korir!

Hon. Korir, K: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also rise to support this report brought before this House by the Chairman of Education and his team that went to Kilifi for a benchmarking or make a feasibility study and see what those sides of that County are doing, bearing in mind that ECDE is a core mandate of County government.

if you see the report that has been brought by the Education committee on feeding programme, a programme that was there before sometimes maybe 70s, there was a feeding programme in primary schools which it went far and now as a County government, I want to say that let us take this programme very seriously, let us have this programme, let us feed our children because when a small child is taken care of at a time when she is very young, even education wise he will come up properly.

Also when we feed children in the ECDE level, we will have all the children coming to school. Maybe because of challenges you will find that some children maybe the parents are not able to bring the children to school but now this programme is another way of motivating the children and also the parents to agree to bring the children to the school.

So, I stand to support this programme and we want to say that also, as we support the programme, we need also to bear in mind that we need to erect our classes to be very clean. We also have very small children that are in ECDE with physical challenges and they don't have very good facilities. These are the areas we want to see as a County so that we provide a very good environment for our children, for our students in school.

Secondly, we also have some buildings - because as I have gone round this time - when you go to some other ECDE schools, you find the children that have problem, have physical challenges, such as leprosy problem and these children, even in their desks, they don't sit like the rest; they need their desks to be modified. So as we want to take this programme - and we are asking the other part to implement this issue as passed in this House, because I believe all of us are going to agree to pass this programme that was brought by the department of Education, it is a good programme and we need to take care of our children.

So I stand to support, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much, honourable Korir. Honourable Amos.

Hon. Kiptanui: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. I rise maybe to give my contrary opinion on this report and that is I want to oppose this report and the reason is that:

One this report is a product of benchmarking between Uasin Gishu County and Kilifi County. What this report did not indicate is the reason why Kilifi is doing free school-feeding programme by providing milk. There is a very big difference between Kilifi County and Uasin Gishu County. One, when you look at the poverty level in Kilifi we are not the same.

Uasin Gishu is a bit more endowed with resources than Kilifi because of the factors that we all understand.

Secondly, it is the amount. The national shareable revenue that Kilifi County receives is different from what we receive as Uasin Gishu County, and in fact as per the recently released CARRA Act Uasin Gishu, is going to receive Kshs 5.9 Billion in the Budget that we are going to approve, with Kilifi County receiving Kshs 10 Billion. You can imagine that! So, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to Uasin Gishu to me it is not a priority, because we need to appreciate what God has given us. Uasin Gishu is the bread basket of this country.

One we have a lot of milk around and if you do the statistics, this milk ... Mr. Speaker, I will seek for protection.

(Point of Order)

Mr. Speaker: What is the point of order, honourable Gorette.

Hon. Boroswa: Mr. Speaker Sir, the point of order that I want to give is that, as much as the Honourable Member who is on the Floor is saying that Uasin Gishu we are very stable in terms of food, he should be aware that there are families who go minus a meal in a day. Let us go for example a school like Vumilia in Uasin Gishu County; children come to school

without food. I was a teacher and I know the experiences these learners are going through. I was a head teacher of a school and therefore...

(Mr. Speaker interjected)

Mr. Speaker: Mheshimiwa, what is the point of order?

Hon. Boroswa: Is not in order to say that we have sufficient food in our families, since not all families have food. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Amos! Thank you very much, honourable Goretti.

Hon. Kiptanui: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In fact I didn't say. I said that you cannot compare Kilifi with Uasin Gishu and in fact it is in public knowledge that North Rift, and to be specific Uasin Gishu, is the bread basket of this country; that one is in public domain. So I want to inform the member that the issue of Vumilia and wherever could be the negligence of the parents from her area of representation and she should do something about that.

I was trying to say that when you look at the national shareable revenue, Kilifi is going to receive Kshs 10 Billion, Uasin Gishu Kshs 5.9 Billion. You can imagine that difference! So, Mr. Speaker, I am seeking for your protection.

(Point of Order)

Mr. Speaker: What is the point of order, honourable Goretti?

Hon. Boroswa: Mr. Speaker Sir, it is not relevant for the honourable member who is on the floor to refer the children from Vumilia to my area, we are not discussing an area in this programme, we are talking as Uasin Gishu County as a whole. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Maybe you can clarify, honourable Amos, and you proceed.

Hon. Kiptanui: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You see even the name Vumilia (*Laughter*) will make you ask yourself a lot of questions. So I have nothing to elaborate on that but allow me to proceed.

Mr. Speaker, our priorities as Uasin Gishu should be on other things like the issue of roads; there are no roads at the moment. We have other infrastructural facilities like health facilities. Those are some of the things that we need to give priority.

Another point that I want to use to build my case is that this element of free things in this country, as much as we want to seem to be popular, I know these members are politicians. They want to be popular in 2022 though maybe they have found an opportunity of making themselves popular by saying, we succeeded in providing free milk, but every decision that we make has consequences. Free things have consequences. Like now the issue of free education, these members can confirm that even with the free education...

(Point of Order)

Mr. Speaker: What is the point of order, honourable Menjo?

Hon. Sambai: The member on the Floor, we did not say we want free feeding programme and it is not anywhere in that document, so you cannot say we need free things. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, honourable Menjo. Maybe honourable Amos, you can try to clarify so that at least you have all the members on board.

Hon. Kiptanui: Mr. Speaker Sir, in this report I didn't see anywhere where they have indicated the cost of this programme, so I want to believe this is free and she can challenge me. So I want to say one, this kind of culture of free things.

(Point of order)

Mr. Speaker: What is the point of order, Chair education?

Hon. Sambai: Sorry...

Hon. Kemboi, N: To clarify a few things, Mr. Speaker, because seemingly the member...

Mr. Speaker: The point of order not...

Hon. Kemboi, N: The point of order, Mr. Speaker, is that the Honourable Member here is alluding free primary and yet we are talking about free ECDE. I hope that he gets the correct thing. We are talking about ECDE; we are not talking about free primary.

Mr. Speaker: Okay continue, honourable Amos.

Hon. Kiptanui: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I really want to request my colleagues to be good listeners. I was building my case. I have said the culture of free things in the societies that we are, is not really working well. Even with the free education that we have today, I can tell you there is no big difference in terms of enrolment and in fact it is becoming a problem because you find most of the school going children, just waste a lot of time because they are just going to school without knowing the reason they are going there.

I am very sure even in the report that they have indicated that there is high level of enrolment. I want to believe that one is just because of food; otherwise the end product of it is not being achieved. So I want us to say, one, the cost implication of this and, above all, we are in the process of approving the project and that one has not been provided in the CIDP, it has not also been captured in the CFSP. So I am seeing this is an exercise in futility and it would not work. Let us give priorities to other things in this County and let us be very careful, Mr. Speaker. While we are doing some benchmarking, let us also be realistic, let us understand why they are doing this and we are not doing this and we need to adopt the best practices

I want to say so that we salvage this situation and we give priority to roads, health and water. Let us oppose this Motion in totality because it will bring unnecessary cost to this County and I oppose. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much, honourable Amos for that healthy discussion. Honourable Chief Whip!

Hon. Singoei: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, for according me the opportunity to also make my presentation in regard to this report that is before us. I want to congratulate the Members for going all the way to Kilifi just to discover that they just provide milk, which we do daily in Uasin Gishu.

(Laughter)

Honourable Speaker, I just want to say categorically that I oppose this report. There is no empirical verification of what has been stated here. If you say the milk reduces the drop-out rate and ensures better learning outcome, there is no prove. What was happening before this milk was provided is not given in this report because we must be convinced beyond reasonable doubt before we spend any money on an issue or matter like this.

Honourable Speaker, in this report these are the Committee findings, ‘the Committee found that school feeding programme is highly significant as it increases enrollment.’ What was the enrolment before milk was introduced? It is not indicated this report, so that is a statement which is false or it is half baked report or statement because there should have been some sort of information that this Committee should have gathered from their bench-marking and historic visit to Kilifi, so that for those of us who did not get the opportunity to be in Kilifi, to look at and say yes, there was really a significant improvement or an increase in enrolment because of milk. If milk is what makes people go to school, we have a lot of milk in Uasin Gishu. We ask parents to bring milk to school so that children can find their milk there instead of staying at home and drinking milk. I think that is the essence of what this report is talking about...

(Point of Order)

Mr. Speaker: What is the Point of order, Honourable Gorreti?

Hon. Boroswa: Mr. Speaker Sir, it is not in order for the Honourable Member who has just been on the Floor to say that parents should bring their milk to school for their children to take the milk. Not all parents have milk and again hygienically it is not recommended. We need to have milk that has been actually processed for our children. We are not talking in terms of milk only; feeding programme does not mean that Uasin Gishu should give milk to their children. When we talk of feeding programme it is a programme that is supposed to roll out in our schools and it can be even supported by the parents alone. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Continue, Honourable Singoei.

Hon. Singoei: Honourable Speaker, this is the problem of producing a report ... there is so much that this Committee knows that is not in this report. We arguing our argument based on what is provided because, in the supposed interview tool that was used, if you look at bullet number five: overview of school-feeding programme, that is, number five one and five two, ‘for how long has your school been implementing school feeding programme? It says four, so

I do not know whether this is four what? Four years? Four decades? Four what? I do not know.

‘How many meals are offered?’ Just one meal and then here is what they provide: ‘milk on Monday, on Tuesday there is no milk, Wednesday milk, Thursday no milk, Friday milk’. What else is there?

This is... I cannot even call this a feeding programme because they are just providing milk which our children get every day. I think Honourable Kiptanui, when he spoke here earlier on, said that we have other major activities that we need to do around the ECD, not even talking about road, infrastructure, health facilities and so forth but even only on the ECD - we do not have good schools, and we do not have good schools and classes.

If you look at what we have done in terms of trying to develop this early childhood in terms of providing facilities, we have not provided what is adequate. There is just a class which that was built, we do not have even desks and we do not have even a room for these small children to rest while they are in school. So we cannot compare Kilifi with Uasin Gishu in terms of this milk or feeding programme. I wanted to believe that this is something that could have even been done over a phone call; ‘what do you do there?’ ‘We just give milk,’ and we do it, if that is what we want to do - we just give milk. We did not have to go all the way to discuss that this is what they do. When they say they spend a 100 million in this feeding programme, that sh100 million in Uasin Gishu can do a lot in terms of improving the infrastructure of the ECDs and also even building the satellite ECDs. We have a lot of school children in that age of ECD who are still travelling for a long distance and we need to allow them to just go maybe a half a kilometre or less.

If I can recall, where I represent we have 26 schools - we have only built 16; we still have 10 and now, if I was given any extra money, I would not spend it on milk; I would use it on building other ECDs that we call satellite, so that our children may not travel very far just to attend classes. Then we have not even paid the ECD teachers properly; we pay them like a token of sh10, 000. We need to improve on that so that these teachers who teach these ECD classes actually feel they are part and parcel of Uasin Gishu. When we bring a report that touches on money, we must go beyond reasonable doubt to prove that there is actually need for us to do it. What passes in this House is almost Law and let us not send a wrong signal to the executive that the County Assembly has passed and said such and such, because if this Motion is taken, the executive will take it as law and it will take it as a direction that we want to take. It will be very wrong for us at this juncture, for us at this early stage of devolution to say that we really want to feed our children and we do not want them to be in good classes. That is a total disregard of what is priority as it was stated by a Member that we should have our priorities set correctly because when we bring a Report of this nature and this House actually buries its head in the sand and decides to approve it, what the executive will do is to put this in the budget and is it really our priority?

Have we actually given our teachers what they deserve? Have we built enough ECDs in this county? Do we have sufficient road network? Do we have even health like medicine for the same children? What we are saying, what we are telling the public and what we are telling the executive is that our children are malnourished, that they actually need to be fed and we are sending the wrong signal.

I want to say and humbly request the Members of this Assembly to reject this report so that the County of Uasin Gishu will embark on what is a priority to us. This may come at a later time when we will even have a reason to believe that by us taking milk to school our children will go there.

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I strongly stand to oppose this Motion. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much, the Whip. Honourable Sang.

Hon. Sang, K: Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker. I fail to understand the Member who was on the Floor because I do not know if he is opposing the project of feeding the children or he is opposing the report. The Members who went to Kilifi, went with a single purpose to benchmark because there were reports that Kilifi County was running a school feeding programme. The purpose of our visit to Kilifi was such that we analyze and see if it is worth giving our children that investment that my brother has just said that they have invested 100 million.

Investing sh100 million in our young people, the future of this country! I do not know. I fail to understand where my brother is coming from because if we invest sh100 million in the children who in turn are going to make billions and billions in future, it is not rocket science.

So I fail to understand if we are going to reject this report we are saying it is not important to give our children food in our schools. He has talked about giving milk. Although we are a milk-producing County it is not enough just to give milk; there is so much to it and we need to supplement this food. Our children have been given food which is deprived of the essential minerals, so this report is much wider than what Honourable Singoei is opposing.

I wish that our Honourable Members will see the sense and appreciate the fact that if we invest in our young children, we are investing in the brains; those little brains which are so fragile at their formative age so that in future we have very bright children. We have a workforce that reflects the challenges that we have in our country.

So I wish to ask Honourable Members to support this report so that going forward... Honourable Singoei is a senior Member in this House and he knows that, as we pass this report, it will not be implemented just like that; it will go through public participation. We will also participate and also the members of public will participate in trying to see what other food we can give to our children.

What we wanted to do in going to Kilifi was trying to standardize. In our County we have school feeding programmes in various schools; others are giving porridge, others are giving

plain tea, others are giving tea and a snack but we want to have a standard for this County going forward.

Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker. I support.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much, Honourable Sang.

Honourable Dr. Catherine!

Hon. Dr. Barmao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity. First of all I want to say I am a beneficiary of Nyayo milk and I remember very well that I used to really enjoy going to school. I enjoyed and I even finished my Primary school when I was drinking that milk. According to Maslow's hierarchy of needs, food is a basic need and for our children to complete pre-school, they need this food so that they are able to be in school throughout, meaning there will be minimal drop-out rate and there will be high transition rate from...

(Point of Order)

Mr. Speaker: What is the point of order, Honourable Amos?

Hon. Kiptanui: Is it in order for the Member who is just contributing to mislead this House that the reason that we have children in school is because of milk? I want to inform her that even without milk we have children attending ECDs as usual.

Mr. Speaker: Continue, Dr. Catherine.

Hon. Dr. Barmao: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, please protect me. The other day on 20th the whole parliament approved the school feeding programme, so I do not know why Members should be really really opposing this. This thing is a very good initiative. This one will assist our children to transit from the pre-school to PP1 (Pre-Primary One) and in fact being a teacher, I know it will assist the teachers to complete syllabus coverage because all the children will be there. I totally support this report. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much, Honourable Catherine.

Honourable Chomba!

Hon. Chomba: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. I also rise to oppose this report. We have been told that the reason the committee went to Kilifi was to know more about the ECD milk programme and one of the Members just said maybe in the future they will be going to another county to see what else can be given to the children, maybe meat.

Mr. Speaker: What is the point of information, Honourable...

Hon. Chomba: I do not need your information; I am well informed.

(Laughter)

Mr. Speaker: What is the point of information, Honourable Gorreti?

Hon. Chomba: I do not need her information, Mr. Speaker Sir.

Hon. Boroswa: No! It has already been allowed by the Speaker.

Hon. Chomba: No! No! I do not need your information. It is me you are informing.

Hon. Boroswa: Kindly to the Honourable Members, to the House.

Hon. No! No! It is through me.

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Chomba, maybe give the Honourable Member time.

Hon. Boroswa: Thank you, thank you, Mr. Speaker, for protecting me. The point of information that I want to give to this House We were not going there only for feeding programme; we were going there to benchmark on ECD programme as a whole. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much, Honourable Gorreti. Honourable Chomba, you can continue.

Hon. Chomba: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. We have a very big questionnaire talking about milk, so that is the main thing that took you there. So for now you cannot change the goals. Something else took you to that place because the reason that everybody is talking about is here is the milk programme. So it is unfortunate to say that the children in Kilifi are stronger than the children in Uasin Gishu because the same milk being offered on the other side, that money, we should not invest any single penny in any milk in the school programmes right now. We need to put ECDs up. We have classes - like in my ward one of the classes has more than 60 children in one classroom but if we had that money you are talking about sh100million, it would help me. So it is good the Members of the Committee, with a very able Chairman, went to Kilifi but in the future we would also want to know how we can be able to put up more ECD classrooms in Uasin Gishu County.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much, Honourable Chomba.

Honourable Keitany!

Hon. Keitany: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir, for this opportunity although most of things that I wanted to contribute on have already been said by most of the Members.

First of all I want to say that I support this Motion. Most of the Honourable Members who are opposing this Motion remind me of those years in Secondary School when there was a book called *Kusadikika*, in which most of the people used to be sent somewhere to other countries to go and find out what other countries were doing and when they came back with the report, instead of appreciating what they had come up with, most of them were even put in cells.

(Applause)

I want to say that let us pray that, that is not going to happen in this House, that is not going to happen in this County and I support this Motion... protect me...

(Point of Order)

Mr. Speaker: What is the point of order, Honourable Chomba?

Hon. Chomba: Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to remind the Member on the Floor that we do not deal with prayers in this House; it is facts!

Mr. Speaker: Continue, Honourable Keitany.

Hon. Keitany: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir, and you know we believe in God and still, the way I have been told by Honourable Members, it is good at least I have noted that but I know outside this House we will still pray that all things go well.

So I want to appreciate the Committee of Education especially there is ... apart from the school feeding programme, there is a finding in which they have just clearly stated that among the things that they saw in Kilifi is that those teachers who teach in Kilifi ECD classes are well paid. Those who have a certificate are paid sh19,000 and Diploma is sh27,000 and I want to say that if Uasin Gishu County can implement this and, as per their recommendation I have seen the Committee has recommended that they should be paid around sh30,000 which is good.

I know some of the teachers who are being paid by County government; most of them are paid not more than sh10, 000 and we all understand what sh10, 000 can do to someone in Uasin Gishu. It is not something that we can talk about. That is just a little amount of money and I want to say that let this report by the Committee of Education be implemented and be implemented immediately.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you so much, Honourable Keitany.

Honourable Kesumo!

Hon. Kesumo: Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker, for giving me this chance to support the report. I want to say I rise to support and first I want to thank the committee through the Chair Mr. Kemboi for coming up with a good report.

(Applause)

One, food is paramount to children especially to the small ones, food is a basic need. It is better we give food or milk than bringing up those buildings we have. We have buildings. We want to argue and to say that we want to finish but it is important that we feed the children. The other day I was the head teacher at St. Patrick. I did not have children in the ECD – I had only 13 but when the feeding programme came in Mary's meals I had children in Primary and I had children in the ECD. We cannot wait for the foreigners to come and assist us feed our children as we sit back and we say we have milk in our houses. We have milk but we do not want to give, we are not...

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker: What is the point of information, Honourable Rono?

Hon. Rono, H: The Honourable Member, Yes!

(Laughter)

Hon. Kesumo: Yeah, we need to feed these children and even the milk we have ... Amos has or the Whip, it is good you give us that milk and it goes to school. After all here in Uasin Gishu we have plenty of milk and the County government can buy the milk from the farmers and we take it to the children. What we want to say here is we want to save these children from Langas, we want to save these children from Huruma, we want to save these children from Munyaka. We have small children here who do not eat.

The other day I was the head teacher in Langas. Children were not eating; they were not eating and the teachers could not even take tea because we were giving it to them. We were giving milk, we were giving tea and we were giving porridge! Here we are saying we want milk to supplement! We want milk to serve as porridge, serve as food, serve as everything and I want to tell you that a child between three and six needs a lot of food only to listen. You cannot teach a child on an empty stomach. Never! And we want to say if we begin giving these children the milk we are actually preparing...

(Applause)

(Point of Order)

Mr. Speaker: What is the point of order, Whip?

Hon. Singoei: Honourable Speaker, is it in order, this is the Chair... Honourable Kesumo is the vice Chair of this Committee. If it is already being done why are we doing a report? It is not in order for the Honourable Member to yell at us and even point at the Honourable Whip but if it is already being done in Uasin Gishu and it is working, why are we bringing it as a report? Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: What is the point of information, Honourable Gorreti?

Hon. Boroswa: The point of information is this: the Honourable Member who has just been on the Floor said must we wait for the foreigners to feed our children yet we have the capacity and the ability to feed our own children. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much, Honourable Gorreti. Honourable Maraswa, you had another point of information?

Hon. Korir E. K: Mr. Speaker, I want to inform the Honourable Member, Chief Whip, that Honourable Sambai has signed the report as the vice Chair to this committee and not Honourable Kesumo. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Okay thank you very much. Honourable Kesumo, you can proceed.

Hon. Kesumo: Thank you very much for giving me the information. I want to continue and say we need to implement this report and we need to approve it as a House because all of us have children. The fact that we are here and we are able to feed our own children, let us remember the communities, let us remember our friends, our colleagues or those ones who have children and they cannot feed them.

I know the Vice Chair education here Mrs. Menjo has always been feeding the children - giving milk, giving food in her own house and I wonder you did not mention. So we want to say here that let us support children who are without and we do not have the feeding programmes. We have only the Mary's Meals who have come in to support because they saw how Langas was suffering, Huruma School was suffering, Munyaka school was suffering and this one went to the ECDs and as at now they are giving free porridge and I want to say if we can supplement with milk and Uasin Gishu has plenty of milk. So let us...

(Point of Order)

Mr. Speaker: What is the point of order, Honourable Chomba? Honourable Maria, there is a point of order from Honourable Chomba. What is the Point of Order, Honourable Chomba?

Hon. Chomba: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. Is the Member on the Floor trying to tell us all the 30 Wards in the County of Uasin Gishu to be going to Honourable Menjo's house to eat there?

(Laughter)

Hon. Kesumo: Thank you so much. It can be possible and I want to support Keitany by saying even here we know it is God that is able and Menjo can feed everybody even tomorrow because God can provide. So thank you so much. I stand to support this Report.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much, Honourable Misoi.

Hon. Misoi: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I stand to support this report. First of all, food is a basic need. Children will concentrate in class very well when they have eaten and thirdly there is a high chance of transition rate from pre-school to PPI...

(Point of Order)

Mr. Speaker: What is the point of order, Honourable Jenny Too?

Hon. Jebet: Point of order, Mr. Speaker Sir. I believe the Honourable Member is reading and it is not a statement.

Mr. Speaker: Continue, Honourable Misoi.

Hon. Misoi: Honourable Speaker, I am not reading but I am reading the Report. I do not know...

(Laughter)

I want to say and I want to urge this Honourable House to support this report and I stand to support this Report. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much for such healthy discussions. I want at this juncture to give the Chair for Education and Social Services the right of reply.

Hon. Kemboi, N: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have liked the kind of debate that has risen in this House. I want to thank the Members for having interrogated this Report and I am happy and wish to highlight a few issues.

One of them is that there is need, emanating from this Report, that we should have a scheme of service for the teachers who are teaching in these ECDs. The Report, as it has been edited and as it is in the CIDP, the CIDP being a document that can be taken to court, the CIDP being a document that is for the people and since the Constitution so says that it is the Constitution for the people by the people' and I want to reiterate here that the scheme of service which our teachers today are suffering from, should have come even yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, we want to tell the County government of Uasin Gishu that by now they are supposed to have implemented this scheme of service because the teachers are getting very little motivation.

Mr. Speaker, another thing I want to highlight here is ... I have heard Members talking about a milk feeding programme. We went to Kilifi not for a milk feeding programme but for a feeding programme not (*Inaudible 1:03:15*). And it is written there. I wonder if people are reading and I have heard it from even the Members who have been here for a very long time and I have wondered if staying here for a long time will make you not look at some of the things which are here. In the annex here it is written very clearly 'school feeding programme benchmarking in Kilifi'; it is not milk! So I wanted to correct that.

Another thing I wanted to add here is that recently in the national government there was a resolution which is in the Second Reading that we have in this country a feeding programme. So already the national government is already in the top gear towards this, but here we are only talking about a feeding programme which is affordable and which is equitable in the whole county.

I want to humbly urge my colleagues that without education and I was worried when Members were equating education with houses, I was worried! I was worried when Honourable Members are equating education to the roads. Then I wondered where we are going. I want to say that without education we are destined and there is an old adage which says that if you want to destroy a country destroy the education. I want to say because I have been a scholar and thank my Honourable Member of my Committee – Dr. Catherine who has ably said that for you to have learning going, on you must have a very conducive environment and one of the conducive environments is to ensure that the children are fed with something at least so that, that will increase their alertness.

I want to end by saying and request this Honourable House that our teachers outside there are suffering. It was just the other day when Members came to me requesting that they wanted to know why our teachers are earning a paltry of sh8, 000 same as what the house helps are earning in Kenya. I am wondering why again they are deviating from the same thing. I want to say that for us to continue, for us to move forward in this County, this is a very richly endowed county and I want to urge that we pass this Motion. We adopt this Report for the benefit of our children and, for us not to be judged harshly in future, I want to urge this Honourable House this evening that we pass this Report without amendment.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I want to thank all the Members for contributing.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much, Honourable Members. Having no further contributions to this Motion, I want now to put the question;

(Question put and agreed to)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

UASIN GISHU COUNTY BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE YEAR 2018/2019

Mr. Speaker: Before we adjourn there was another communication and I want to make it now. We are in receipt from the County government of Uasin Gishu, the County Treasury, office of the County executive Finance and Economic Planning to the Clerk Uasin Gishu County Assembly. The subject is proposed Uasin Gishu County Budget Estimates for the Year 2018/2019 and I want to commit the same to the Committee on Budget and Appropriation Committee for consideration together with the budget that is in process for purposes of facilitating on the same.

GROUP PHOTOGRAPH WITH VISITORS FROM THE SENATE

Secondly is, I thought we could have a group photo with our visitors from the Senate. I will find out if it is possible we can do a group photo outside there, but if it is not possible maybe we can do it tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Speaker: So at this juncture having no any other business, the House is hereby adjourned to tomorrow at 9:30 AM that is on 27th June 2018.

The House rose at 3:50PM