

BARINGO COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THE HANSARD

The House met on Wednesday 23rd November 2022 at 2:47 p.m.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Kimosop) in Chair

PRAYERS

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Kimosop): Clerk!

PAPERS LAID

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Kimosop): Order Majority Leader, in our order paper, there are papers to be laid, Majority Leader you have to wait until you are formerly requested to lay the papers. Proceed!

(Laughter)

Majority Leader (Hon. Kipchumba): Mr. Speaker I am a sharp student that is why I wake up before you give me direction. I rise to lay two reports;

{The following Papers were laid on the Table by the Majority Leader (Hon. Kipchumba)}

1. Report of the Auditor General on Baringo County Community Wildlife Conservation Fund for the year ended 30th June 2021.
2. Report of the Auditor General on Baringo County Micro and Small Enterprise Fund for the year ended 30th June 2021.

Mr. Speaker sir I beg to lay the two documents.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Kimosop): Thank you the two papers after being laid in the House, are committed to PIC/PAC committee for consideration. Next Clerk order!

STATEMENTS

REPLACEMENT OF DECEASED AND RETIRED HEALTH OFFICERS

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Kimosop): We have a new statement 007 of 2022 by Hon. Loice Jepkorir Kipseba MCA Baringo County.

Hon. Tallam: Thank you Mr. Speaker I am standing in for Hon. Loice Kipseba seeking a ministerial statement from the Chairperson health services committee on the following matters of concern;

In 2013, there was a total of 176 public health officers in barinmgo County health department. currently they are 139 public helath officers due to retirements and deaths.

- i. What plans has the County Government put in place to replace the retired public health officers and others lost through natural attrition to ensure public health is not endangered in affected areas of the County?
- ii. Are there modalities to ensure that such replacements are done with due regard to constitutional and legal provisions.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Kimosop): Thank you Hon. Purity Tallam for standing in for Hon. Loice Kipseba. Chairperson or Vice Chair of Health Services to respond.

Hon. Kigen: Thank you Speaker sir, I will bring the answer after recess.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Kimosop): Are you satisfied Hon. Tallam.

Hon. Tallam: Mr. Speaker we will be going for recess in one weeks' time, it is okay.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Kimosop): We commit this to House Business Committee. Next order Clerk!

MOTION

AUDIT, RATIONALIZATION AND REFORMATION OF COUNTY ECDE CENTERS

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Kimosop): Hon. Jacob Cheboiwo MCA Kisanana Ward.

Hon. Cheboiwo: Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me this opportunity to move the following motion;

Aware that the right to education is extensively and specifically spelt out under Article 53 of the Constitution and further reiterates the importance of the child's best interest,

Further aware that, H.E the Governor in his opening address to the County Assembly stated that there is need to improve the standard of structures, welfare of teachers and intensify the closeness of child to teacher,

Noting that Early Childhood Education Development is under the department of Education and that ECDE program officers are responsible for all activities and resources related to ECDE at sub County level,

Concerned that access, equity and quality education services in this sector are constrained by various factors which include insufficient number of trained teachers and caregivers and inadequate number of ECDE teachers,

Cognizant that, whereas other counties have started to implement the scheme of service agreed upon by the senate, council of governors, the teachers services commission and the ministry of education and already submitted to the salaries and remuneration commission for evaluation and grading,

Now therefore, this motion urges the County Government to institute the following raft of measures to streamline ECDE in the County:

- i. Conduct an audit of all ECDE centers with a view to ascertaining whether all of them have facilities, equipment and required number of teachers.
- ii. Rationalizing the teaching fraternity to ensure that all ECDE centers are adequately staffed.
- iii. Make sure that all ECDE facilities in the County meet the required standards and are adequately equipped for conducive learning.
- iv. Put in place the necessary policy, legal, administrative and financial reforms in order to implement the agreed upscale of ECDE teachers' salaries like other progressive counties.

Mr. Speaker recently as we were looking for votes, there was an outcry on the ECDE teachers and also equipping these centres. We need to own this role because it is under County Government functions. These centers do not have enough teachers, no equipment and also some other places do not even have the ECDE centers. Primary schools usually have the ECDE centers attached and it has teachers and equipment but those not near primary schools undergo many problems.

I request members to support this motion to enable the governor to employ more teachers or ascertain whether we have enough teachers so that they can transfer across the ECDEs or they do a census to see which has enough and which has fewer teachers.

Secondly, since we want our learners be the same throughout the County, we should see the centers are equipped. The elected members of this House should budget for the classrooms in their wards for ECDEs to get standardized ECDE management across.

The Bill which we passed last year should also be operationalized so that the management of ECDEs is done from the County level until the village level. We will have upgraded ourselves and the standards of our ECDE children thus making parents take their children to public schools other than private schools.

I urge Hon. Members to pass this motion and urge legal team to address the issue with the Council of Governors with SRC so that they solve salary issue as well as job group and grading. Also Commission on Revenue Allocation to include in budgetary issue.

I move the motion and request Hon. Miriam Katurkana to second it, thank you.

Hon. Katurkana: Thank you Mr. Speaker for allowing me to second the motion. I am grateful for the member in bringing this motion. In his speech during the opening of this Third Assembly, the Governor talked about improvement of ECDE teachers and welfare of our children. These teachers are facing challenges that their salaries are minimal compared to security officers working in our offices. It is sad that our security person earns more than the teacher who taught him Mr. Speaker sir. I urge our Governor to upgrade job groups.

In Uasin Gishu County they have already issued letters to job group K who earn Kshs. 51,000 job group H 33,000- 34,000 job groups G 30,700 job group F 25,400 but in our County ECDE teachers are earning less than 10,000 which is very bad. It is good that the current Governor is the one who employed the ECDE teachers. He is the right person to sort the problems of these teachers. During the time for the Second Governor he had promised to increase the salary to at least 15,000 and he did not fulfill the promise.

Mr. Speaker, I also like to talk about the feeding programmes in schools these children lack food and water. In Tiaty the schools are using water from the dams which is not healthy for the young children also when they get food from the world food programme it belongs to the primary school children and it depend with the head teacher talks with the head of the ECDE section. They are given rice and beans but we need to get porridge for these children and sometimes they bring maize and beans and the small children cannot chew the maize yet their stomachs are empty.

In our area the children don't take lunch or supper, Mr. Speaker you can imagine a child who did not take anything last night then when he comes to school you give him maize. I think it is better for them to be given rice and porridge.

There is a problem with classroom equipment; there are no tables and Chairs. The teacher does not have a table, they use their laps when marking the books. It will be very hard for the teacher to improve on the handwriting because there is no space for the teacher to handle this child.

Mr. Speaker, there is also another problem of lack of toilets so how can the teacher train the learners on toileting when there are no toilets so the children grow knowing that you can just go and help yourself anywhere...

(Loud consultations)

The Deputy Speaker (Hon Kimosop): Hon. Members lets consult on low tones.

Hon. Katurkana: Protect me Mr. Speaker because this is a very sad issue and I really need attention. Mr. Speaker the issue of toilets is a problem our children relive themselves anywhere and if you visit those schools stools are everywhere and the children will not know because there are no toilets.

Mr. Speaker, I want to urge our Governor to employ ward coordinators. Currently we only have Sub County coordinators. The ward will help in case there is anything that is required by the teachers information will reach them.

Mr. Speaker another serious issue is about the ghost workers in the County. I once worked with these teachers and when the governor was Hon. Kiptis when the teachers were complaining about salaries he used to tell them that there are a lot of ghost workers. I want to urge our able Governor Cheboi who employed the teachers to remove the ghost workers so that the teachers to get enough salary.

Mr. Speaker I am urging the committee of Education to the oversight of the ghost workers...

The Deputy Speaker (Hon Kimosop): Majority Leader what is your point of order

Hon. Kipchumba: Mr. Speaker Hon Katurkana is insinuating that there are ghost workers can she substantiate or else withdraw and apologize because these are hearsay and malice.

Hon. Katurkana: I cannot withdraw Mr. Speaker because I am telling you that I was there and there was head count and we were told that there were 200 ghost workers who are ECDE teachers.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon Kimosop): Hon. Katurkana just resume your seat...members this is a House of records and whenever allegations are made its always good to substantiate. I will give leeway to Hon. Katurkana to proceed without talking on the element of ghost workers and if you want to continue you can use the word alleged.

Hon. Katurkana: Thank you Mr. speaker when I have been a teacher there was an allegation that there are 200 ECDE ghost teachers and it is very painful because if they really exist from then that is in 2014 up to now I think Hon. Cheboi will have to work on this.

Mr. Speaker I second the motion,

The Deputy Speaker (Hon Kimosop): Thank you Hon. Katurkana

(Question proposed)

Debate is open

I have seen Hon. Kigen then Tarus and the Minority Leader.

Hon. Kigen: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I stand to support this motion and I thank the Hon. Member for this motion. The ECDE teachers have suffered in this County and it is my wish that the County Government should follow the agreed scheme of service. We should have it in six months' time and it should be up and running and the teachers should be employed in permanent and pensionable terms.

Mr. Speaker, we should also consider teachers who have retired and they have gone home with nothing ; they only depend on the good will of the people who give them gifts like blankets, sheep which is not enough. We can make an effort and backdate that when the scheme of service is implemented they be considered because they have been in service since the inception of County and they have been teaching all trough until their retirement. It is wrong that in the County Government we take tea and we have flowers yet there is someone who works for the County and his salary is below Ksh 10,000 what they get is very minimal. We want to make sure that this is implemented that they get dues like any other staff.

Mr. Speaker in our ECDE centers, if you check on the BQs it is normally stated that we have three doors toilets but it is not as the BQs. I would urge that this Government is implemented because our pupils need toilets and they should not share these facilities.

I agree that ECDE should have a staff room...

The Deputy Speaker (Hon Kimosop): You should be winding up.

Hon. Kigen: Mr. Speaker we should have ward ECDE coordinators who are active because the ones we have at the Sub County are not active in ECDE issues. We also need supply of water in these institutions. Mr. Speaker I support and I urge the members to make sure that the ECDE teachers works for the people. Let those teachers enjoy and earn well because what they are doing is difficult taking care of the young children for the whole day, it is a tough job and I wish that they get their rights.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon Kimosop): Hon. members let us limit ourselves to the five minute rule debate in the floor Hon Kigen you have surpassed that completely and I want our sergeant at

arms to be pointing me to the five minute rule every time we surpass so that all the members can get an opportunity to contribute. Yes Hon Tarus.

Hon. Tarus: Thank you Hon. Speaker for this opportunity to contribute to this Motion, first I want to say that I stand to support the Motion and this Motion brought by the Hon. Cheboiwo as it is has come at the right time to address the four issues that has been raised by the member. First of all when you look at prayer number one; conduct an audit of all ECD centers with a view of ascertaining whether all of them have facilities... Mr. Speaker you will realize that most of our ECD centers do not have the equipment, I remember in the previous Assembly about four ECDs were equipped, the question now is what about the rest because there are so many ECD centers which were build.

Mr. Speaker, a part from ascertaining whether these centers have the facilities and equipment we should also fast track the issue of equipping those facilities and those which don't have we make sure that they have, because how in this 21st century does a pupil sit on stones like what I saw in TV sometimes back and also ECD teachers putting or marking pupils work from their laps, that is not right.

We also have the rationalizing the ECD teachers vis a vis the ECD centers that are available, you realize that some ECD centers especially within the towns have two three teachers whereas there are some ECDE centers maybe within the same town which does not have an ECD teacher, that is being unfair to that particular child in that particular ECDE center.

Mr. Speaker, point number three that seeks to make sure that ECD facilities in the County meet the required standards and are adequately equipped for conducive learning, you realize that most of the ECDE centers apart from lacking the equipment even the way they were built... I was the Chair to the Committee of Education in the previous Assembly and you would go to an ECD center which was built in a very bad way where the door is there and there is a cliff so the children may fall and we should then ensure that this is done.

Number four, seeks to put the necessary policy, legal and administrative financial reforms in order to implement the agreed upscale of ECD teachers. Mr. Speaker actually as most of the members have put you realize that most of the ECD teachers are earning very little amount of money, actually in last Assembly we pushed and they were added Ksh.1, 500 where they were earning Ksh.7, 500 and you will realize that these are people who are doing a lot of good work but the problem is that the pay is meager, we have the half wages which is not commensurate to the amount of work that they are doing.

Mr. Speaker, apart from that we also need to make sure that the monitoring of the learning in this institutions is being done well because you realize that when you go to some of the schools you will find that the Head Teacher says the department is in the County and so he is not in charge, the ECD teacher also teaches the primary school. I am under the County not you... and so this ECD teacher now works on his/ her own and at times they don't even appear to work.

Mr. Speaker, I think on the issue of the Ward coordinators and the Sub-County Coordinators actually is that they are doing nothing, they are just earning salary and not doing anything, so

Mr. Speaker we need to work on it, Hon. Members we need to pass this motion and do the necessary, thank you Hon. Speaker, I support the motion.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Kimosop): Thank you Hon. Tarus, now we are here from the Minority Leader Hon. Tuwit.

Hon. Tuwit: Thank you Mr. Speaker sir, I support this motion, Mr. Speaker sir this motion has come at the right time as we know that Early Childhood Education is a devolved function but it is like it is a neglected function Mr. Speaker, the County Government is doing other things in a better way but it is not doing better to ECDs as it is supposed to be Hon. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker it is too shameful that ECDE is not being taken care of as it should, Mr. Speaker one day I visited a primary School during lunch time and I saw the ECD children being told to go home but the Primary School pupils from grade one to standard eight proceeded for lunch, why? Because ECD is a devolved function and there is no food brought from the County for them it was so bad Mr. Speaker sir that we have a Government, we have money, and resources but we don't use them as it is supposed to be.

Mr. Speaker sir we know Early Childhood Education is very important for children because that is their basic education, we have to take care of our little children. Mr. Speaker sir, how can the National Government take care of the pupils from grade one to standard eight and we fail as County Government to take care of these little ones?

Mr. Speaker sir I support this motion, it is a very important motion Mr. Speaker, we have constructed a lot of ECD classes but they are empty, there are no desks and they are not equipped with anything that promotes learning, children are bringing in stones from outside to the class so that they use stones as Chairs, there are no teaching materials, and to make the matters worse the teachers are paid very low Mr. Speaker sir hence they even don't come to school.

Mr. Speaker sir when I heard Hon. Katurkana's contribution I felt what these teachers are going through, this was so real because Hon. Katurkana was an ECD teacher she has just come straight from the class the other day Mr. Speaker, she is talking with a lot of emotions. Mr. Speaker sir, I support this motion and if there is something that the County Government should do urgently is to equip the ECD classes, have teaching materials and increase the pay for the teachers, thank you Mr. Speaker sir, I support this motion.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Kimosop): Thank you Hon. Minority Leader... I can on this side we have Hon. Sitoi and Hon. Lemlem and we have the Chair of Education, I would have wished if you can preserve a little bit because you are the Chair of that department, we listen to the other members and you can come immediately before the mover, so I can see Hon. Solomon Kuria, so let us take those three and we still limit ourselves to the five-minute rule, we are doing well so far... Hon. Sitoi.

Hon. Sitoi: Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me this opportunity to first support this motion and allow me to thank Hon. Cheboiwo for bringing this motion to this House. Mr. Speaker I think the members who have spoken have really done well, I don't want to repeat but Mr. Speaker allow me to share with you Hon. Members a very sad story...

In 1994, a time I was quite young and I was in class four in Kabata Primary School we used to go to fetch water seven kilometers away from my home and my home is five kilometers to school and because I was not able to fetch water Mr. Speaker I was black listed, there was something called black book in the school, so I am actually in the black book.

(Laughter)

Mr. Speaker, I have realized that in this century our children are still undergoing the same challenges save for getting the ECD teachers to teach our children and having the necessary equipment, Mr. Speaker the issue of water and sanitation is still very key in our learning institutions. Mr. Speaker when you visit my neighbor that is the Ward that is represented by Hon. Tuwit and Hon. Losile and Saimo Soi and myself plus some other ASAL areas members. Mr. Speaker you realize that the challenges that our children are going through is immense and something has to be done.

Apart from getting the ECD teachers which is very important we need to get a good learning environment for our children, and what does the good learning environment entail; one, it has good learning facilities which starts from the class, the Chairs and even the playing ground. Mr. Speaker in my Ward most of the ECDs and I believe this applies to most of our Wards do not have good playing grounds.

Mr. Speaker, I am not a teacher but I know most part of the Early Childhood Education is formed by play, I stand to be corrected but I think that is what forms most part of that part of education, if we cannot give our children the playing ground, if the compound of our EDCs are not fenced Mr. Speaker I want to believe most of the ECD centers even from your Wards are not fenced, they are just free, anybody can come from any Conner.

Mr. Speaker, I also know that we are still safe in those areas but in this sides that are nearing town people are even stealing children, how safe are our children if the institution is not fenced, Mr. Speaker this is a timely motion that we need to debate and see to it that it is implemented thank you Mr. Speaker, I support the Motion.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Kimosop): Thank you Hon. Sitei, let us go as per the order we had, Hon. Lemlem.

Hon. Lemlem: Thank you Hon. Speaker for allowing me to contribute to this motion, I will start by congratulating and thanking the senior Hon. Member for Kisanana Hon. Cheboiwo for bringing this motion, this motion is actually timely if not late. Mr. Speaker, I got an opportunity yesterday to grace one of the closing ceremonies for Marigat Primary ECD and exactly the prayers of the Hon. Member were the prayers of our ECD teachers.

Mr. Speaker because most people have spoken about these issues, I will just paraphrase and first of all I want to congratulate the Hon. Governor for the fact that he actually recognized and even pronounced it in his speech that there is need to revamp and ensure that the ECDE centers are put in to the standards that we need, that is a good spirit, meaning that this motion has the good will from the start, so I want to congratulate the Excellency for recognizing this.

Mr. Speaker these are my points, the first one is to build enough classes County wide for our ECD Children, not only building but the second is that we also need to staff all the ECD classes to the child-teacher ratio without compromising and this is something we can achieve by just budgeting immediately.

Mr. Speaker the other thing is remuneration of the ECD teachers, this has been a pain on the neck, Mr. Speaker any time an ECD teacher goes for retirement guess what, they go home minus and without anything because when we talk of their salaries first it is little, they don't have pension, they don't have gratuity, they just get salary and it ends there like that. Mr. Speaker there is need to increase their remuneration and this include good salary, a pension that is befitting and ECD teacher who has taken care of that child.

Mr. Speaker, above prayers of the motion this is not something that needs to be delayed, this is something that we all need to rise up especially this House and ensure if this cannot be budgeted for it has to in the coming supplementary we let it be budgeted in the next main budget so that we sort out the issue of ECDE once and for all. As I conclude Mr. Speaker, this is a motion that needs to be implemented today evening if not yesterday, thank you Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Kimosop): Thank you Hon. Lemlem, let us now go to Hon. Solomon Kuria the MCA of Majimazuri-Mumberes Ward and the Chairman Finance and Economic Planning.

Hon. Kuria: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I want to join my colleagues this afternoon by first of all supporting this motion, above all saying thank you to Hon. Cheboiwo the senior most member here, Hon. Speaker when all of us were going round campaigning this was one among our agendas in our manifestos because anywhere you go Mr. Speaker sir parents were crying and especially parents of where there are private kindergartens. Mr. Speaker sir in my area, there are around two or three private kindergartens. Those people who are of middle class and well off manage to take their kids there but we have our less fortunate or below the standard parents who cannot afford the private kindergartens.

Mr. Speaker sir early childhood care is very important. The foundation of everything is very important Mr. Speaker sir. As you know that, when you are building such a building, you must do a good foundation. A good foundation of education starts from early childhood and because ECDE is the function of the County Government, I want to join my colleagues here and there their sentiments that one, we need to permanently employ our teachers. Our teachers to be placed under P and P because they right now what they are doing, they don't know there tomorrow.

I think they are employed on contract basis and it can be terminated anytime. So even their morale is very low. Mr. Speaker sir, we need to raise the standard of our early childhood. Number one care giver is a parent. Number two care giver is that teacher and I want to join my colleague Hon. Katurkana and I could share the passion. She demonstrated what kids are going through.

Mr. Speaker sir, I want to really join my colleague by saying, we need to improve the facilities. We need to fence the schools for security purposes of our kids. We need to put recreation

facilities for our kids. As you know Mr. Speaker, it is not only about learning ABCD or Aa Ba Cu Du. Even sports and having those play ground is very important for those small kids.

So Mr. Speaker sir, I want to join Hon. Lemlem by saying that these item must be budgeted and be budgeted well so that when our kids join Grade 1,2 and 3, we will have already laid a good foundation for our kids to develop. So Mr. Speaker sir I want to join my colleagues by saying this Motion is very important at this time and it is even to late, thank you Mr. Speaker sir.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Kimosop): Thank you Hon. Kuria. I think we can now go to the Chief Whip Hon. Ernest Ernest MCA Kabarnet ward and also the Chair Budget and Appropriations Committee.

Hon. Ernest: Thank you Mr. Speaker sir, I rise to support this Motion. Mr. Speaker I want to really congratulate our senior Hon. Cheboiwo for this Motion. Mr. Speaker this motion is very critical. Mr. Speaker ECD is one of our key mandates as Counties. Mr. Speaker to date, we are not near a good ECD infrastructure in each and every village.

Mr. Speaker if you look at what is happening in Baringo, in our Wards and look at the education standards, it is greatly affected by the performances and how we have run ECDs. Mr. Speaker you will find most of the schools nowadays, you will hardly find a child scoring above 300 in most of the schools. Mr. Speaker these are by products of poor Early Childhood Development.

Mr. Speaker the devolution experience that we are now in the third experience, has been tragic for education for our children. Mr. Speaker I think this House need to support this Motion and not only support it but we have an Implementation Committee. Mr. Speaker we have several Motions with similar intentions which have not been acted upon and we will be calling on the implementation Committee to act, Mr. Speaker it is so painful for a Senior Member like Hon. Cheboiwo to come up with such a brilliant Motion and then it just ends here by us saying bye, we pass it and it goes to the dust bin Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker; I have a lot of confidence with His Excellency Governor Cheboi because he is the initiator of this process. Mr. Speaker the ECD teacher is one of the most poorly paid person. Mr. Speaker in our houses we have house helps who handle maybe because of our situation of nuclear family, two kids. Mr. Speaker we are paying them 10,000. Mr. Speaker and here we are paying an ECD teacher, I went to Chemolingot Primary School and they had 300 ECD Pupils. Mr. Speaker...

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Kimosop): You mean, just to set the record straight, you were a student in Chemolingot Primary?

Hon. Ernest: No I visited as a PIC and PAC Member to asses....

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Kimosop): Okay I was trying to...

(Laughter)

Hon. Ernest: Mr. Speaker we went there to assess the situation of ECDs and we realized Mr. Speaker in that school they had 300 ECD pupils under the care of one ECD teacher Mr. Speaker. That is how we have a big discrepancy. It is like we don't want to do what we are supposed to do Mr. Speaker. I agree with our Hon. Member Katurkana. I did not know she was an ECD teacher and she has really painted the picture that the ECD teachers' needs to be paid well.

Mr. Speaker the infrastructure in most of these ECDs are wanting. I want to agree with my colleague here that can you imagine a school that has no fence Mr. Speaker and we are a generation that for some good number of us had a n experience of rural education and we know how disturbing it was when you were in a school where there is no fence. Mr. Speaker our lack was those days, the people who were disturbing were like drunkards and these were old men but nowadays Mr. Speaker you know everybody is drunk in the village.

So you can imagine how confusing it can be to have everybody crisscrossing the school. Some of the school are in security prone areas Mr. Speaker. When we went all the way to Bartabwa in Baringo North, we went all the way to Pokot side, Tugen side and all the way. We realized that some of the projects were abandoned Mr. Speaker because of the security issue.

Mr. Speaker we also want... you know by so doing, this Motion will give us an insight of exactly what is happening. Mr. Speaker how do you built a classroom without furniture? you built a classroom without a toilet. You built a classroom without a fence and all these other things. What is education for a child?

Someone mentioned about play time. Most of these ECD Centre's don't have playgrounds Mr. Speaker. You will find they have books and I don't think a child of three, four years is supposed to be so serious with books. There should be play time. Another thing that you don't find in most of these schools is fencing and we talk about a feeding program Mr. Speaker. That feeding program is key. So we might have to be forced to redefine what we really mean by ECD function in the County Government, Mr. Speaker I support.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Kimosop): Thank you Hon. Ernest. Let's now have the Chair Education Committee Hon. Cherombor who is also the MCA Saimo/Soi Ward and then thereafter we will have the mover making his responses.

Hon. Chebon: Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me this opportunity. First of all, I arise to support the Motion and thank the Member who brought it. I think he brought it at the right time. I think our County has not been really serious about the education matter and I am saying because I saw the Education Bill which was passed in the Second Assembly and up to now it has not been operationalized and I am sure as the Chair of Education and my Committee we are going to make sure this thing is operationalized. We are going to pressurize them and makes sure that this thing works.

Sometimes you find in our Wards, some ECDs have been closed down yet a lot of money was wasted in building the centres. Just because there is no teacher, no food or actually there is nothing even teaching materials. So Members I think this Motion has really come at the right time that we need to support and push it so that the County realizes it's first mandate because the other education side is for the National Government but it is only this one that belongs to the County but it has been overtaken and the Government is not working very seriously.

I don't understand how really the Government would want to get professionals yet they don't even take care of the young children which is very young enough to be a professional in future. So we really need to make sure that our Motion goes through and we see that everything is operationalized.

Another issue that we really need to follow up is the food. When we were sitting in our committee, we had written a letter to the Department of Education requesting that they give food to all the ECDs that are currently operational but unfortunately it is like there is no even single school that has food. So this issue we really need to follow up and as the Chair and the Committee on Education, I am sure Members that we are going to pass the Motion, support it and operationalize the Bill, thank you and I support the Motion.

The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Kimosop): Thank you Hon. Cherombor and the commitment that the committee on Education will follow up on implementation. So I now invite the Hon. Jacob Cheboiwo our Senior Member to make his comments as a way of replying comments as a mover.

Hon. Cheboiwo: Okay thank you Mr. Speaker. First of all, I want to thank the Members for their input to this Motion. I know Mr. Speaker that all of them have gone through these challenges that are being faced by our children at home. Mr. Speaker, I was imagining His Excellency the Governor forming a task force to investigate on the operationalization of a university and forgetting that we need to operationalize from the ECD Centre's and that is our major role Mr. Speaker sir. That is why I was forced to make sure that we inform the Governor and urge him to do the right thing which the County Government are supposed to do.

Mr. Speaker in fact this year alone I was forced to budget for the equipping of about 18 ECDE Centre's because we have been budgeting through the Department of Education some amount of money to equip this ECD Centre's but when we went round, I realized most of our ECDs have nothing that has been done for a very long time and I committed myself as a representative of the people to make sure that most of my ECDs are equipped and that is why Mr. Speaker we need to inform the County to move Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker we need actually to have budgetary allocation for equipping these ECDEs of ours so that we can get a standard which meets the requirement for an educational institution. Mr. Speaker I want now to request all Members to pass this Motion and the Implementation and Education Committee to follow up as we individually from our Wards follow up the

implementation of this Motion Mr. Speaker sir. Therefore Mr. Speaker I beg to move this Motion, thank you Mr. Speaker sir.

(Question put and agreed to)

(Applause)

ADJOURNMENT

Order Members! this House stands adjourned until Tuesday next week the 29th November at 9:30AM.

The House rose at 3:54PM.