

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KISUMU



COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KISUMU

THE HANSARD

Official Report

THIRD ASSEMBLY – THIRD SESSION

Tuesday 02nd July, 2024

House met in the Main Chamber at 02:30 p.m.

(The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Seth Okumu) in the Chair)

PRAYER

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Okumu, MCA, East Seme): Madam Clerk take us through the Order Paper of today.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Okumu, MCA, East Seme): Next order!!

PAPERS LAID

REPORT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF PROJECTS
APPROVED IN THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2022/2023

BY

HON. HENRIETTA BODO, NOMINATED MEMBER

(CHAIRPERSON, SELECT COMMITTEE ON IMPLEMENTATION)

(Moved by Hon. Were on behalf of Hon. Henrietta)

BENCHMARKING EXERCISE TO NAIROBI CITY COUNTY ASSEMBLY BY THE
STANDING COMMITTEE OF ADMINISTRATION OF LAW, JUSTICE,
CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, GOOD GOVERNANCE AND SECURITY

BY

HON. MOSES OCHELE, MCA, EAST KANO/WAWIDHI

(CHAIRPERSON, ADMINISTRATION OF LAW, JUSTICE, CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS,
GOOD GOVERNANCE AND SECURITY)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Okumu, MCA, East Seme): Yes, Chairperson Select Committee on Implementation. What is Member for Nyalenda B.

Hon. Were (MCA, Nyalenda “B”): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Allow me to lay this paper on behalf the Chairperson.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Okumu, MCA, East Seme): Proceed Honourable Member.

Hon. Were (MCA, Nyalenda “B”): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 182 (6) of the Kisumu County Assembly Standing Orders, I wish to table today Tuesday 02nd July, 2024, a Report by the Implementation Committee on the implementation Status of Projects Approved in the FY 2022/2023. Thank you.

(Hon. Were lays the report before the House for consideration)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Okumu, MCA, East Seme): Next is Hon. Moses Ochele. Proceed Honourable Member then we will acknowledge the Papers at once.

Hon. Ochele (MCA, East Kano Wawidhi): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 182 (6) of the Kisumu County Assembly Standing Orders, I wish to table today Tuesday 2nd July, 2024, a Report of the Standing Committee of Administration of Law, justice, Constitutional Affairs, Good Governance and Security on the Benchmarking Exercise to Nairobi City County Assembly. Thank you.

(Hon. Ochele lays the report before the House for consideration)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Okumu, MCA, East Seme): Thank you Honourable Members. Allow me to acknowledge the receipt of a Report of Administration of Law, Justice, Constitutional Affairs, Good Governance and Security on the Benchmarking Exercise with Nairobi City County Assembly and also a report from Select Committee on Implementation on the Implementation Status of Projects Approved in the FY 2022/2023. Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Okumu, MCA, East Seme): Next order!!

NOTICES OF MOTION

REPORT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF PROJECTS
APPROVED IN THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2022/2023

BY

HON. HENRIETTA BODO, NOMINATED MEMBER

(CHAIRPERSON, IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE)

(Notice of Motion given by Hon. Were on behalf of Hon. Henrietta)

BENCHMARKING EXERCISE TO NAIROBI CITY COUNTY ASSEMBLY BY THE
STANDING COMMITTEE OF ADMINISTRATION OF LAW, JUSTICE,
CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, GOOD GOVERNANCE AND SECURITY

BY

HON. MOSES OCHELE, MCA, EAST KANO WAWIDHI

(CHAIRPERSON, ADMINISTRATION OF LAW, JUSTICE, CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS,
GOOD GOVERNANCE AND SECURITY)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Okumu, MCA, East Seme): Yes, Chairperson Select Committee on Implementation.

Hon. Were (MCA, Nyalenda “B”): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 45 (1) of the Standing Orders, this House adopts the report by the Implementation Committee on the Implementation Status of Projects Approved in the FY 2022/2023.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Okumu, MCA, East Seme): Yes, Hon. Moses Ochele.

Hon. Ochele (MCA, East Kano Wawidhi): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 45 (1) of the Standing Orders, this House adopts the Report of Administration of Law, justice, Constitutional Affairs, Good Governance and Security on the Benchmarking Exercise to Nairobi City County Assembly.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Okumu, MCA, East Seme): Next order!!

STATEMENT

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Okumu, MCA, East Seme): The Deputy Leader of Majority.

Hon. Lumumba (MCA, South East Nyakach): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Standing Order No. 42 (2) (c), which mandates me in my capacity as the County Assembly Deputy Leader of the Majority to present and lay on the table a Statement informing the Assembly on the business coming before the House on the following week.

Mr. Speaker, this is therefore to bring to attention of the Members and the County Assembly that for the week commencing Wednesday 03rd July to Tuesday 06th August, 2024, the House Business Committee in its last sitting approved the following Tentative Businesses to appear in Order Paper as follows;

Wednesday 03rd July, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

SUBSTANTIVE BUSINESS FOR THE DAY,

Administration of Oath, Hon. Lawino Opar will take oath as the Vice Chairperson of the General Oversight Committee.

The MCA for Chemelil Tamu Ward, Hon. Fredrick Adonija, will seek Statement to the Chairperson of the Sectoral Committee on Infrastructure, Energy and Public Work on the matter of construction of Akothe lod Road, in Chemelil Tamu Ward Muhoroni Sub County.

SUBSTANTIVE BUSINESS FOR THE DAY

The Chairperson Sectoral Committee on Administration of law, justice, constitutional affairs, good governance and security committee, Hon. Moses Ochele will move a Motion for adoption of a Report on the benchmarking exercise to Nairobi City County Assembly.

Wednesday 3rd July, 2024 at 02:30 p.m.,

PAPERS TO BE LAID

1. The vice Chairperson of Procedure and Rules Committee, Hon. Pamela Oyoo will table a Report on the amendments to the Standing Orders.
2. The Leader of Majority, Hon. Kennedy Ooko, will lay on the table of the County Assembly the nomination of Miss Lorna Gladys Omodo, to the position of County Executive Committee Member for Water, Environment Natural Resources and Climate Change

NOTICES OF MOTION.

The chairperson of Procedure and Rules Committee, Hon. Pamela Oyoo, will give a Notice of Motion that this House adopts a Report by Procedure and Rules Committee on the amendments to the Standing Orders.

SUBSTANTIVE BUSINESS FOR THE DAY.

The Chairperson of Select Committee and Implementation Hon. Henrietta Bodo, will move a Motion for the adoption of the Committee Report, on the Implementation status of projects approved in the year 2022/2023.

Thursday 04th July, 2024 at 02:30 p.m.,

SUBSTANTIVE BUSINESS FOR THE DAY

1. The Vice Chairperson of Procedure and Rules Committee Hon. Pamela Oyoo, will move a Motion for adoption of a Report of Procedure and Rules Committee on the amendments to the Standing Orders.
2. The Leader of Majority Hon. Kennedy Ooko, will move a Motion for adjournment of County Assembly Seating for long recess pursuant to Gazette Notice No. 5804, Orders No. 26 paragraph No. 3 of the Standing Order, read together with the House resolutions of Thursday 22nd February, 2024 until Tuesday 6th August, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

Friday 05th July, from 09:00 a.m. to 03:00 p.m.

KISUMU COUNTY ASSEMBLY OPEN DAY.

Tuesday 06th August, 2024 at 2:30 p.m.

STATEMENTS.

The leader of Majority, will issue a Statement pursuant to Orders No. 41(2)(c), on the businesses coming before the County Assembly for the week commencing Wednesday 07th August, 2024. That is all Mr. Speaker and thanks you very much.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Okumu, MCA, East Seme): Hon. Members we are on Statements.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Okumu, MCA, East Seme): Next Order Madam Clerk.

MOTION

APPROVAL OF A MOTION SEEKING TO COMPEL THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC PLANNING TO PRIORITIZE TIMELY REQUISITION OF THE EDUCATION FUND

(PRIVATE MEMBER'S MOTION)

BY

HON. ZACHARIA OKOYO, MCA, CENTRAL KISUMU

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Okumu, MCA, East Seme): Hon. Zachary Okoyo.

Hon. Okoyo (MCA, Central Kisumu): Thank you Mr. Speaker,

AWARE THAT, education is a fundamental right and a critical driver for personal county and national development and that the Kisumu County Government pursuant to the Kisumu County Education Act of 2016 established the Education Fund to facilitate universal access to education and to fulfill its obligations in the right to education.

FURTHER AWARE THAT, the provision of Bursaries and Scholarships plays a crucial role in ensuring that students from financial disadvantaged background have access to quality education.

NOTING THAT, the Education Fund continues to face a myriad of challenges which is caused by late disbursements and it is yet to meet the full extent of its intentions.

ACKNOWLEDGING THAT, the consistent delays in the disbursement of these funds have created significant disruptions in the educational pursuits of many students leading to;

- a) Interrupted Learning: This is where students are compelled to miss classes or drop out of schools due to the lack of timely disbursements of financial support.
- b) Emotional and Psychological Stress: The uncertainty and financial strains placed on these students and their families caused and adduced affecting their academic performance and their overall wellbeing.

- c) Inadequate Education: Delays in funding disproportionately affects students from the low income families which exacerbates the educational inequalities.

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING THAT, to adequately address these perennial challenges and ensure that each and every student beneficiaries has the equal opportunity to pursue their education without delays and interruptions. It is therefore imperative that, the Kisumu County Education Fund of 2016 be accorded priority in the County Financials Planning and disbursement process.

NOW THEREFORE, I pray that this County Assembly compels the Department of Finance and Economic Planning together with the Department of Education, Vocational Training and Social Services to;

- a) Make the requisition for the Kisumu County Education Fund the first item for requisition in each and every financial year.
- b) Ensure that, the disbursement of Bursaries and Scholarships is completed within the First Quarter of every financial year.
- c) Implement a Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism to track the timely disbursement and utilization of the Kisumu County Education Fund. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, May I now request the Hon. Samuel Dede to second. Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Okumu, MCA East Seme): Yes, Hon. Samuel Dede.

(Hon. Dede bows)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Okumu, MCA East Seme): Thank you Honourable Members. A Motion has been moved by Hon. Zachary Okoyo Seeking to Compel the Department of Finance and Economic Planning to Prioritize Timely Requisition of Education Funds, this Motion has been seconded by North Kisumu MCA, Hon Dede. I therefore, wish to propose a question that this Motion is now open for debate.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Okumu, MCA East Seme): Yes, Hon Dede

Hon Dede (MCA, North Kisumu): Thank you Mr. Speaker. First, according to Education Act that was passed in 2016 which approved funds for Education, it is imperative that our students should benefit from such funds. Considering the fact that learning for these students have been interrupted during learning sessions by being sent home quite often. Therefore, it is important to consider this matter. Secondly, even parents feel the psychological stress whenever their children are sent home for lack of fees. It happens that Honourable Members are affected because parents visit their homes to request for fees.

Mr. Speaker, on disbursement, I want to say that once budget has been approved, a special account should be established. Any amount requested for should be placed in the special purpose account so that when the schools open, students can access the money. Last week, this House

approved the Kisumu County Appropriations Bill, 2024, it is prudent that upon the first requisition in the new financial year, let us have the money for bursaries factored in to help our children as they resume for school.

Mr. Speaker, on quarter disbursements, we know that the first quarter ends in September. Let Education Funds be directed to the Special Purpose Account. Delays in disbursement of bursaries causes a lot of commotion and it does not help at all. Remember that parents applied for bursaries in December and up to date we are now in a new financial year yet our students have not benefited. This results in loss of at least Kshs. ten million (Kshs. 10,000,000), approximately. Remember that some schools insist that school fee is paid between the first and second terms. If this is the situation, what becomes of the Form Fours students who were in second term at the time of bursary application? The money will not be refunded and as such, it would be a loss.

Mr. Speaker, money should to be submitted latest beginning of the second quarter, if not the first quarter. It will avoid wastage of funds because sometimes disbursements are made when students have already completed fee payment yet the same funds cannot be re-allocated to assist other students.

Mr. Speaker, aside from late disbursement of bursaries, let us have a legal provision that will ensure increase in allocation. We disburse about Kshs. 3,000,000 to secondary schools and Kshs. 5,000,000 to colleges. Let us increase what we disburse because most parents are vulnerable. I know that the money is helpful but we can consider an increase to allow a secondary school student get at least Kshs. 5,000. As elected leaders in this House, Mr. Speaker, we get it very tough with the residents because Members of Parliament disburse theirs as early as January. Currently, they are now considering disbursing fees for the second phase, yet ours are disbursed late. Mr. Speaker, let us put the Department of Finance to task to at least ensure that we get money and our children benefit at the right time. Mr. Speaker, I support this Motion. Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Okumu, MCA East Seme): Yes, Hon Were.

Hon Were (MCA, Nyalenda “B”): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, bursaries and scholarships play a major role in supporting education in Kisumu County. Additionally, we know that it significantly contributes to our education system. This results in accessibility and equity in different ways. Mr. Speaker, without bursary, access to education become a challenge. If we go some years back, before the introduction of free education in primary and partial education in secondary, several families had their children stay at home, without going to school to access education. As such, several counties domesticated laws and regulations that could help support their children, and Kisumu County is one of them.

Mr. Speaker, we are finding challenges in having our children sent home for fees. I know that whatever we give could be little, but that little is much for some parents. Mr. Speaker, some pupils and students who have academic excellence in different talents are also faced with

challenges; because they are at home when others are in studying. They thus lack an opportunity of exhibiting their talents.

Mr. Speaker, we know that bursary cures the rate of dropping out from school and currently, I represent a Ward which is an informal settlement and has the biggest slum within Kisumu County. Most of the people that I represent live below a dollar a day. It is a challenge for them because majority of the children cannot go to school because we failed to ensure that bursaries are sent to schools in good time. Mr. Speaker, instead of preventing children from dropping out of school, we are committing an offence of making them drop out of school. Mr. Speaker, with those few remarks, I feel that we must compel the Department of Finance to ensure that money is made available for the Department of Education so that we can have timely disbursement of bursary to our children. Mr. Speaker, we are in July, just a few months to the end of the year, but not even a coin has been sent to our form ones, twos, threes and fours, apart from the scholarships that we offer. Mr. Speaker, it is therefore prudent for us to rise to this occasion as legislators and ensure that we stamp our authority for our voices to be heard and that we stand in solidarity with our people. This is to ensure that bursaries are released in good time. Let us also learn from the best practices from other counties. Whatever they are doing better than us, let us borrow a leaf from them so that we ensure that by the end of April, all bursaries are paid. I so support Mr. Speaker, thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Okumu, MCA East Seme): Yes, Hon. Benson Adeg.

Hon. Adeg (MCA, Kajulu): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to contribute on the motion before the House. Mr. Speaker, foremost, I want to thank my colleague for bringing this motion before the House. The process of applying for bursary was done late last year, but up to date, the students have not received their bursaries. Today I received a call from my secretary in the ward office, and more than 20 parents were there asking to know when they will receive their bursaries. The students are at home, and remember they are almost sitting for their examination. Mr. Speaker, last weekend when we were at home, parents flocked my house requesting to know when they will receive the bursaries. We request this House to kindly, approve this motion and let the bursaries be dispatched by the Department of Finance. It is not right Mr. Speaker. Again, remember that this bursary is just the same as 'give direct' on the ground. If our people are benefitting from this thing then that is very important. The Department should even stop fuelling their vehicles before disbursing the bursaries.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday one lady came to me and informed me that the neighbouring counties have already disbursed their bursaries, but what is wrong with Kisumu County. Let the Department of Finance disburse the bursaries on time. I support the motion Mr. Speaker, thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Okumu, MCA East Seme): Yes, Hon. Deputy Leader of Majority.

The Deputy Leader of Majority (Hon. Lumumba, MCA, South East Nyakach): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Much as I stand to support the motion, let me first applaud my fellow colleague Hon. Okoyo, for a very timely though belated, to have brought this Statement to the House.

Mr. Speaker, it is very absurd that the County Government came up with a very noble idea of cushioning parents against the cost of education. However, having done that, they have put us in a precarious situation where this money is not being disbursed in good time; hence the burden is left in the hands of elected Members. These people do not know anyone known as County Executive Committee Member, they know the MCAs and the Governor, and according to them it is the MCAs and the Governor who have refused to disburse the bursaries.

Mr. Speaker, I therefore implore this House that even if there is a regulation that needs to be put in place, it should be done so that the money for bursary be given first priority. This means it should happen in first term of the year because it is costing our students a lot in terms of underperformance because they are often sent back home to go and bring school fees. Parents might have budgeted with this money from the County Government of Kisumu and therefore they do not pay fees expecting the County Government of Kisumu to remit. Mr. Speaker, it is not a good practice that we wanted to support our children to get quality education and we are now contributing towards poor quality education by not remitting our dues on good time.

Mr. Speaker, as other Members have said, the other Counties, for example Homabay County, and it is in the public domain that the Governor of Homabay was distributing cheques to schools for bursaries. What is wrong with our bursary fund? It is the same exchequer that gives money to the Counties. Is it that ours is not remitted or not? I asked the County Executive Committee Member for Finance to give explanation why our bursaries are delayed. Allow me therefore Mr. Speaker to propose that if they cannot give money in time, there is Own Source Revenue, which should be given priority to cushion for bursaries in the first term of every year. Mr. Speaker, I support the statement, thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Okumu, MCA East Seme): Yes, the Member representing Kaloleni/Shaurimoyo Ward.

Hon. Carren Ajwang' (MCA, Kaloleni/Shaurimoyo): Thank you, Hon. Speaker, judging by the mood of the House, may I call the mover to reply.

(Loud murmurs)

Hon. Carren Ajwang' (MCA, Kaloleni/Shaurimoyo): I am sorry but Mr. Speaker, by the time I was standing, there was no one standing to contribute.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Okumu, MCA East Seme): Let me give Hon. Fredrick Odari.

Hon. Odari (MCA, Chemelil- Tamu): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, first I want to appreciate the Honourable Member who thought it wise to bring this motion for us today. I can remember in December last year, is when the students applied for the bursaries but up to now, the bursaries have not been paid to the schools. It has brought a lot of problems to us MCAs because each and every time we are being asked about the bursaries. Mr. Speaker, last week there was a Statement

that was sought before this House, and the Leader of Majority promised us that we should give him one week then after that week, the students will receive the bursaries. To date, no bursary has been paid. Mr. Speaker, it is very absurd that our County has not paid the bursary since students applied. I therefore support the motion and would urge other members to support the motion, thank you Mr. Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Okumu): Hon. Member for West Kisumu Ward.

Hon. Ouko (MCA, West Kisumu): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I beg to support the motion and one of the House Committees which has done so well in the County Assembly of Kisumu is Education Committee. We have handled a lot of Bills which are very relevant to the plight of our people and we commend the committee for that. However, at times you would be scoring nine out of ten but, the moment we fail is on one issue which is the disbursement of bursaries, the bad one will always water down the good things you have achieved and this is coming down to Members of the County Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, it is quite unfortunate that we are representing people here. We have been donated the delegated powers given to us by the electorates. The moment we fail them on the matters such as bursary and that is part of our accountability, the oversight role; it is quite unfortunate. Also, it is shameful to Members of the County Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, you understand that many of our voters have come to our homes and demanding to know when the bursaries will be disbursed. We appreciate that Scholarships have been dealt with. But, this is just a small number of people. For instance, in my ward, may be from the time I got into the Assembly, they are only ten students who benefited from these scholarships. That is a small number which cannot change. Mr. Speaker, it is high time we stand up and be counted. We must stand and oversight the County Executive. The moment we fail to do our work, the blame will lie squarely on us as a House.

Mr. Speaker, as we speak, we are currently facing a very big threat from another generation. That is because, these people are seeing that we are not doing our work. And surely, we are not doing kind of a work because we are given the opportunity to summon these people; the County Executive to answer into these matters. We should not wait until we are chased out of this Assembly is when we will be acting on matters like we saw the President doing the other time. It is our duty to serve the people accordingly and our role is oversight. If we cannot stand up as fellow Members, if we cannot stand up on our own, we will be accused that the County Executive has completely captured this House. Let us stand up and defend our people or else we won't find it so easy even back at home. So, it is quite bad for us to stay within one financial year without disbursement of the bursary which was done at the start of that same financial year.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot blame the Department of Education. We know what is happening. The problem starts with the Department of Finance and these people, I believe that they are aware that they have taken the House for granted. If we cannot stand up to be counted, now let us expect something else. But, Mr. Speaker, you know that when we go home, you will also go home as the Speaker. So, this problem is ours. Members of the County Assembly, we have to

stand up to be counted. With these people, we have to oversight them and that is our role. No one will send us away because we are oversighting. Let us be courageous, let us face these things head on; the monster which is trying to actually interfere with our work and by extension, the plight of the people we are representing back home. Otherwise Mr. Speaker, I support the motion, thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Okumu MCA, East Seme): Yes Hon. Ochele.

Hon. Ochele (MCA, East Kano Wawidhi): Thank you Mr. Speaker, allow me to also add my voice to the sentiments echoed by my colleagues. May I start by commending Hon. Adonija Odari who raised a statement about a week ago on the same matter? Even though what Hon. Leader of Majority promised has not come to pass and we are hoping that if at all the Member was here, I could have highlighted on it. I also expected the Deputy Leader of Majority who shares with him the same office to have informed this House on the Status of Disbursement of Bursary. However, Mr. Speaker, it is on the wisdom of Hon. Okoyo to bring a substantive motion on the matter and I believe that, Member have dwelt much onto it.

Mr. Speaker it is not lost in our memory that the Schedule IV of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 enumerated all the functions assigned or devolved into County Governments. Besides, it is worth noting that education was to a small extent devolved. The only section which was devolved is ECD and Vocational Training. The bigger chunk of education matters is left with the National Government. That notwithstanding, we live in a society that we understand to well. We appreciate the extent which in the national government has been contributing to the education of our boys and girls. Mr. Speaker if we are allowed to sympathize with the very nature of our society then, we will say that however much the National Government is trying; the gap is still very wide in terms of fee payment. With that, in the First Assembly, since the burden was real life and was at our shoulders, we have been getting money into your own pocket to supplement fee payment, it was in the wisdom of this House that is the First Assembly to come up with a way of cushioning our boys and girls from dropping out of school.

Mr. Speaker, those days, the main subject matter in our offices was not the roads. It was not about hospitals. Everybody who visited our offices was talking about fee payment and fee payments came from the pockets of elected MCAs. That is because those were the only leaders available to them on the ground then. Mr. Speaker, this House moved a motion successfully and came up with the Kisumu County Education Fund Act. That is the act that created the bursary. Besides, you are very much aware that that is not our function. Mr. Speaker, the human being that we serve, the human being that I serve as an MCA is not different from the human being that any representative from the National Government serves.

Mr. Speaker, if there is a shortage in their life, it calls upon any elected leader or any leader of good standing to come in and assist. That is what gave birth to this fund we are discussing today. Therefore Mr. Speaker, it started well, it started well and became a tradition that Kisumu County Government gives money to bright and needy students of high schools and colleges. The public there appreciates the effort of this Assembly to date. Nevertheless Mr. Speaker, it has become

common knowledge to the memory of all of them that Kisumu County Government gives bursary better than the National Government in terms of coverage.

Mr. Speaker, during the term of the First Assembly, it was done for two Financial Years, very successful and remittance was done in time both scholarship and bursary. In the Second Assembly, I want to believe the same progress was sustained. But, I am wondering what has become of us today because when I was elected for the Third Assembly in the year 2002, I found a big budget for the County Government. Where the National Government disburses a lot of money to the County as opposed to what we used to collect then...

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Okumu MCA, East Seme): Order!! Hon. Member. Did you say 2002?

Hon. Ochele (MCA, East Kano Wawidhi): Hon. Chair, I cannot remember well what I said but, there was a two at the end.

Laughter

For that Mr. Speaker, may I say 2022. Mr. Speaker, when the money for the counties was meagre, the progress was massive. Now that we have a lot of money, it beats logic that our government moreso the County Executive are very thirsty consuming monies for Monitoring and Evaluation and they consume monies ion the Monitoring and Evaluation without actually monitoring and evaluating the progress of key indicators for development.

Mr. Speaker, the number one key indicators of development is how many students we have supported in education, how many roads have we as a County done and how best have we done what we are supposed to do. Mr. Speaker, but these monies are consumed and to our Executive M&E becomes a first charge but, the intentions of creating the M&E Unit is to aid in monitoring how works are done and monitoring the progress of what I term as key indicators. Mr. Speaker, today, the fiscal year has just ended as we apportion blame to the National Government to have failed in remitting funds in time, but have they failed in totality to remit funds? Have they remitted less than half that we expect from them? No!! The National Government has remitted more than three quarters that they are expected to remit to us.

Mr. Speaker, this account for the Education Fund is ever with us. Why can it not be in the wisdom of the County Executive to be allocating a small percentage anytime we get disbursement from the Exchequer so that, by the time Bursary Forms are released and done with atleast something is in that account. Mr. Speaker, these Honourable Members plus there vary able House Committees down in the wards, did there work and they did that to the best of their knowledge. Mr. Speaker, by December these forms were done, all the valuations were done and the lists were out and the financial year for 2023/2024 commenced in July, 2024. Mr. Speaker, if these department was keen on education, immediately the form are out, I want to believe that monies should have been released to schools. Mr. Speaker, I don't believe that is so difficult. Mr. Speaker, why are we turning our County Government as consumers of free money than initiators of progress in terms of development?

Mr. Speaker, some of us grew in rural areas and we grew up in very hard and dire conditions. I went to nursery school for one year, where I learnt under a tree and I was taught by a nursery teacher who used to benefit from payment in kind and supplemented by the then County Councils. Mr. Speaker, by then our parents used to supplement in kind by millet, fish, eggs, firewood and I learnt for one year. Mr. Speaker, even if the County Council was not supplementing, I don't believe that I would have dropped at that stage because my parents could still afford to supplement and this is because firewood was readily available during that time because it was the main component. Mr. Speaker, when we went to primary school, some of us used to seat on stones, because personally, I sat on stones and that was up to class four and this never interfered with my IQ and I don't blame myself to have done what I did because I used to sit on stones. My IQ remained intact and there was no fee payment except payment for activities and Watchmen. Mr. Speaker, I struggled with that until I reached class eight. Mr. Speaker, having done so well in class eight, with all the hardships that anyone can encounter I could not go to form one because here my parents had to cough real money. Mr. Speaker that is the fees. So, I don't expect any moral human being to compare the hardship in high school with that of the one we encountered in ECD. Mr. Speaker, whichever way any student in ECD will excel he/she will, do so in primary. Mr. Speaker, any student who excels in in primary, will do so in secondary. Mr. Speaker, is it automatic? That, anybody in secondary will do KCSE? It is not. This is because, now, there are a lot of things that have changed. Fees must be paid and this where elected leaders come in handy.

Mr. Speaker, we must assist our people by assisting them pay fees. Mr. Speaker, as we speak, the Gen-Zs are now out in the streets....

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Okumu MCA, East Seme): Order!! Order!! Honourable Member, I believe that you are aware that we have limitation on debate and it was resolved that you don't exceed five minutes and I believe that you are passed the five minutes. So, please conclude.

Hon. Ochele (MCA, East Kano Wawidhi): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I oblige. Mr. Speaker, as we speak, the Gen-Zs are now on the streets and the only issue that they have against Kisumu County which I must state because they are saying it, because they are talking about anything else, they are talking of our failure to release bursaries to schools. Mr. Speaker, that implies that it is a major concern not only to the Member who moved the motion, but it is a key concern to the consumers and to those who had consumed it earlier and who know the importance of bursary. Mr. Speaker, if we don't act on time, and we keep on supporting the County Executive on their failures and weaknesses, then, we will fall with them in the same trap. If these people come to us because we failed to discuss bursary, it will not be Hon. Okoyo or the Speaker but, it will be all of us together with the County Executive. Mr. Speaker, so, I beg this House that we must stand up and speak the truth and face whoever is an obstacle in the disbursement of these bursaries. Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Okumu MCA, East Seme): Hon. Okoyo who is the mover of the motion can now reply.

Hon. Warindu (MCA, Miwani): Mr. Speaker, I am here standing.

(Laughter)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Okumu MCA, East Seme): Honourable Members, I believe that when Hon. Carren was calling upon the mover reply, it was only Hon. Ouko, Hon. Odari and Hon. Ochele that rose on their feet and wanted to contribute. It is my belief that, they have captured your aspirations in their contributions. So, just allow Hon. Okoyo to respond.

Hon. Warindu (MCA, Miwani): Mr. Speaker, kindly allow me to contribute to this matter?

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Okumu MCA, East Seme): Hon. Warindu, please allow Hon. Okoyo to respond.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Okumu MCA, East Seme): Yes Hon. Zachary Okoyo.

Hon. Okoyo (MCA, Central Kisumu): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Please allow me to commence with appreciating all the Honourable Members who have contributed to this motion. It has now become to be the attention of this House that, this motion has been a thorn in the flesh.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to start with sentiments that were raised by Hon. Dede who really confirmed to us that the stress that I mentioned in the motion, not only goes to the parents or students, the stress cuts-across and in fact it is huge to our colleagues who are Honourable Members who are in most cases parents rush to them for support because this is something that they have been waiting to receive bursary from the County Government of Kisumu. Mr. Speaker, I want to state that that at some point that it is true because it makes those students in form four suffer and it becomes a great drawback when their results are out. Mr. Speaker, it is my belief that all of us are aware that when you are sent home in regular times, you end up missing a lot in school and I want to say that its true Honourable Members have witnessed these occurrences and we need to act on this ASAP.

Mr. Speaker, again, allow me to appreciate Hon. James Were who contributed to this because the Member is one of the Honourable Members who represents one of the largest informal settlement where most of our parents who make less than a dollar a day and I want to say that, this is where the rubber meets the road and I totally agree because the Member has mentioned the reasons as to why this motion was moved in this House. Mr. Speaker, the Member equally attributed to us to enable us borrow on the best practices from other countries to enable us see where we need improvement on the bursary issues.

Mr. Speaker, Hon. Adegga similarly appreciated my move towards bringing this motion and I want to reinforce by stating that Hon. Adegga was stating that it is long overdue so that we see how to make bursary of compel the department...

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Okumu MCA, East Seme): Order!! Honourable Member. I am referring you to Honourable Member because this is a House of rules and procedures this is because I have heard you refer to a Member as Mr. Adegga. Honourable Members, is the Member you are making reference to a Member of this House and that did he contribute?

Hon. Okoyo (MCA, Central Kisumu): Mr. Speaker, I believe that I corrected the statement of Hon. Adegga, the Member is a friend and sometimes most people mistake me to be Hon. Adegga when we are along the streets but I hope the Member is Hon. Adegga. Mr. Speaker, Hon. Adegga stated that it is long overdue for the department to act swiftly regarding the disbursement of bursaries to schools.

Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Leader of Majority, Hon. Owade, emphasized the urgency of this matter, highlighting that the burden of delayed bursaries often falls on Honourable Members. The Member pointed out that the County Executive might not fully grasp the impact of students being sent home, but as Honourable Members sometimes has to contribute personally to help parents while waiting for the bursaries.

Again, the Deputy Leader of Majority, Hon. Owade stressed the need for prompt action to ensure students receive their bursaries on time, preventing them from being sent back home. The Member also suggested exploring the use of locally collected revenue as a contingency if there are delays in disbursements from the exchequer.

Mr. Speaker, I also commend Hon. Odari, who had previously raised this issue and reminded this House that the Leader of the Majority had promised the Members that the bursary disbursement would be resolved by the end of this week...a promise that remains unfulfilled. This situation highlights the Members' frustration with the current delay in bursary disbursements. Hon. Odari attributed the delay not to the Department of Education, but rather to the Department of Finance, suggesting possible laxity within that department.

Hon. Ouko also applauded my efforts in bringing this motion forward, clearly stating that the responsibility does not lie with the Department of Education. The Member emphasized that the real issue is within the Department of Finance. Therefore, we must act swiftly to address this problem and support the students who are suffering as a result. Similarly, the Member reminded us of our oversight mandate, underscoring the need to fulfill our constitutional duty more effectively. It is evident that we sometimes fall short in this regard, and it is crucial that we improve our oversight efforts.

Mr. Speaker, to move as quickly as possible, I recall that Hon. Ouko referred to the bursary issue as a monster that needs to be dealt with.

Hon. Ochele echoed these sentiments, sharing his own experience and emphasizing the significant impact bursaries had on him during his secondary school years compared to his time in ECD or primary school. He highlighted the importance of addressing the needs of the current generation (Gen Zs), who are increasingly influential and whose primary complaint to the County Government of Kisumu pertains to bursaries.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that addressing this issue promptly will help us mitigate the pressure from Gen-Zs. Given their growing influence in the county, disbursing the bursaries as fast as possible is crucial.

Mr. Speaker, I acknowledge that the Kisumu County Government provides both scholarships and bursaries and has been commendable in disbursing funds for scholarships. As a result, most of our sponsored students from form one to form four have not been sent home due to unpaid fees. However, it is imperative to note that while scholarships benefit a few, a significantly larger number of students rely on bursaries. We cannot focus all our efforts on scholarships and neglect the majority of students who depend on the Kisumu County bursary to supplement their school fees and avoid being sent home. Mr. Speaker you know very well...

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Okumu (MCA, East Seme): Order!! Hon. Okoyo You are saying very good things that you would have said while moving the motion and your time to reply is not a time to respond to every contribution of every Honourable Members. Please be guided.

Hon. Okoyo (MCA, Central Kisumu): Mr. Speaker, what I am saying is that as you are all aware that we need to handle the plight of the Leader of Majority in a better way than just thinking of the minority who are scholars. Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Okumu (MCA, East Seme): Honourable Members, a motion has been moved by Hon. Okoyo seeking to Compel the Department of Finance and Economic Planning to Prioritize Timely Requisition of Education Fund, seconded and debated upon. I therefore want to put a question on the adoption of the same.

(Question put and agreed to)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Okumu (MCA, East Seme): Honourable Member, the Motion seeking to Compel the Department of Finance and Economic Planning to Prioritize Timely Requisition of Education Fund is hereby adopted today Tuesday, 02nd July, 2024 at 1552 hours.

I direct that the recommendations in this motion be sent to the Department of Finance, Economic Planning and ICT for action especially for the preceding budget for FY 2024/2025. Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Okumu (MCA, East Seme): Next Order!!

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Okumu (MCA, East Seme): Honourable Members there being no any other business to transact, the House stands adjourned to Wednesday, 03rd July, 2024 at 09.00 a.m.

(House rose at 03.53 p.m.)

Addendum**Hansard Team**

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