

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KITUI
SECOND COUNTY ASSEMBLY- SECOND SESSION
OFFICIAL REPORT
(THE HANSARD)

Wednesday 3rd April 2019

The County Assembly met at **9.50 a.m.**

[The Speaker (Hon. George Ndotto) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

The Speaker: Honourable Members, Article 43(1) (b) of the Constitution as read together with Section 103(b) of the County Government Act, sets a Legal and Constitutional framework on the right to housing in Kenya.

Honourable Members, the formation of a Housing Policy marks an important milestone in Kitui County Government's strive towards the fulfilment, respect, observance, promotion and protection of the right to housing.

Honourable Members, the County Government of Kitui adopted a highly consultative approach in the development of the policy conscious that the success and credibility of the undertaking largely depends on the broad support it receives from all sectors of residents of the County.

Honourable Members, I hereby commit this policy framework to the Committee on Lands, Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development for consideration.

The Speaker: Next order

PAPERS

REPORT BY THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS ON CONSIDERATION OF THE KITUI
COUNTY SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2018/2019

The Speaker: Is the Chairperson around? Next order

MOTIONS AND BILLS

Disclaimer: *The electronic version of the Official Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor, through the Clerk, County Assembly of Kitui.*

MOTION ON ADOPTION OF THE REPORT BY THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES ON COUNTY PROJECTS INSPECTION EXERCISE AND SERVICE DELIVERY ACROSS THE COUNTY FUNDED BY COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(Hon.Emiritus Kasee- Chairperson, Liaison Committee)

The Speaker: Deputy Speaker

Hon.Kasee (Deputy Speaker): Thank you Mr.Speaker.With your permission I rise to move the following motion; Motion on adoption of the Report by the County Assembly Committees on County Inspection Exercise on Projects funded by County Government of Kitui and Service Delivery across the County. **THAT**, Pursuant to the provision of article 185(3) of the Constitution of Kenya, Section 8 and 9 of the County Government Act 2012 and the Provision of Standing Order No.179(6),this Assembly hereby adopts the Report by the County Assembly Committees on County Inspection Exercise on Projects funded by County Government of Kitui and Service Delivery across the County laid on the table of the Assembly on Tuesday 2nd April 2019.With your permission Hon Speaker ,I will go direct to the Report and if you allow me, I will start reading from the preamble.

Mr. Speaker, It is my honour and privilege to present to this House, the findings/observations and the recommendations by the Assembly sectoral Committees following the conducted county inspection tour which was carried out from 20th February -2nd March, 2019.

Committees' Mandate

Mr. Speaker,the Assembly Sectoral Committees derive their mandates from the provisions of Standing Order No. 190(5) and the second schedule to the Standing Orders, which define the functions of the committee as follows;

- a. Investigate, inquire into and report on all matters relating to the mandate, management, activities, administration, operation and estimates of the assigned department;
- b. Study programs and policy objectives of departments and the effectiveness of the implementation;
- c. Study and review all county legislation referred to it;
- d. Study, assess and analyse the relative success of departments as measured by the results obtained as compared with their stated objectives;
- e. Investigate and inquire into all matters relating to the assigned departments as they may deem necessary, and as may be referred to them by the County Assembly;
- f. To vet and report on all appointments where the constitution or any law requires the County Assembly to approve, except those under Standing Order 185 (Committee Appointments); and
- g. Make reports and recommendations to the county assembly as often as possible, including recommendation of proposed legislation.

The Assembly Sectoral Committees conducted projects inspection and service delivery across the county within the provisions of Article 185 (3) of the Constitution which states that; -**"A County Assembly, while respecting the principle of the separation of powers, may exercise oversight over the County Executive Committee and any other County Executive organs.**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mr. Speaker, this report was made possible by the selfless commitment of numerous individuals who contributed expertise and diverse human resource to see this assignment come to completion. Without their invaluable input, this publication would have been ineffectual.

Mr. Speaker, I also express reflective gratitude to various Sectoral Committees for their stamina and secretariat for his technical support in the entire exercise. It is through their enthusiasm, tireless hard work and commitment that we credit the accomplishment of this very imperative mission.

Mr. Speaker, finally, Special mention must go to Office of the Speaker and that of the Clerk for the facilitation accorded to all sectoral committees in the fulfilment of the oversight mandates.

COMMITTEES GENERAL OBSERVATIONS, FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1.0 COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION, TRAINING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT.

COMMITTEE GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND FINDINGS.

- i. The Committee noted that the County Government is putting a lot of attention and emphasizes on educational programs and projects which are not devolved at the expense of devolved functions.
- ii. The Committee established that several projects under the sector had stalled.
- iii. Committee noted a serious under staffing in both ECDEs Centres and Vocational training Centres. Further, the committee established that many Vocational Training Centres are being run by instructors with very basic grade test qualifications which put to question their capacity to impart relevant knowledge and skills to the concerned trainees.
- iv. Committee further noted that increased enrollment rate in some vocational training Centres has resulted in congestion in workshops and dormitories. Further, some structures in the Centres are in a state of despair. For instance, the roof of a water tank and the ceiling of one of the dormitories in Kyuso Vocational training Centre is almost collapsing.
- v. The Committee also established that many ECDEs and Vocational Training Centres are not equipped and furnished and lacked teaching and learning material.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.

- I. The Committee recommends that in reference to the Governors manifesto pillar number three on Education and Youth empowerment, the ministry must redesign its performance targets accordingly. For instance, the pro-poor program should be fully managed by the line Ministry to improve on equitable distribution, efficiency and effectiveness.
- II. The Committee recommends immediate completion and operationalization of all stalled projects and institutions. Further the County Government should make budgetary allocations towards investment and expansion of physical infrastructure and secure all the

- Vocational training Centre through proper documentation of land ownership, registration, survey and fencing.
- III. Committee recommends that the County Government should recruit more instructors, ECDEs teachers and other personnel and equip them with relevant knowledge and skills that matches the current job market demand. There should be continuous in-service training to the instructors and ECDEs teachers as well as establishment of a comprehensive scheme of service.
 - IV. Committee recommends that in the subsequent financial budgets estimates, the County Government should increase funding to the education Sector to establish a feeding program, facilitate equipping and furnishing of ECDE's Centres, purchase of teaching and learning material, outdoor playing equipment, construction of sanitary facilities and provision of clean and adequate water to all learning institutions .
 - V. The Committee recommends establishment of a proper organizational structure of the directorate of the ICT Department and devolving ICT function to all Sub-County and Ward offices for efficiency and effective service delivery.

2.0 COMMITTEE ON LANDS, INFRASTRUCTURE AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

COMMITTEE GENERAL FINDINGS:-

The committee noted the following general findings which cut across the entire county;-

- i. There are so many stalled projects especially ward administrators' office blocks.
- ii. Roads are graded without developing furniture resulting to the poor roads network during and after rain fall. This compromises value for public money being unrealistic.
- iii. The bush clearing exercise is done earlier than grading of roads, leading to the bushes growing back before grading takes place.

COMMITTEE GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

Mr. Speaker Sir, the following are the general recommendations for action to be taken by the County Executive Committee Member whose portfolio falls under:

- i. Stalled projects should be reconsidered for funding in the next financial year to serve the purpose they were intended to.
- ii. Whenever roads are evaluated the required furniture should be considered for installation to increase road sustainability.
- iii. The CECM Ministry of LIHUD should provide quarterly reports on a timely basis.
- iv. In the spirit of consultation and cooperation, the CECM Ministry of LIHUD should keep the Committee updated on all policies, plans and programs ongoing and upcoming.
- v. The Ministry should establish county lands in every village for provision of village administrators' office blocks.
- vi. Whenever there is a development of a new road, bush clearing should go hand in hand with grading, this is to avoid growing back of bushes before grading takes place leading to wastage of public resources.

3.0 COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ECONOMIC PLANNING

COMMITTEE FINDINGS

The Committee established the following, that;

- i. The approved Finance Bill has not yet been put to effect since it was approved by this Assembly.
- ii. Some progress has been made regarding automation of revenue collection. The committee discovered that at least some revenue collection clerks had been issued with POS Machines as earlier recommended by the committee during its previous assessment of revenue collection in the county carried out from in January 2018.
- iii. Cash Handling is still being practiced despite the efforts made in automation of revenue collection.
- iv. There are complains of delayed payment of allowances to revenue collection officers within the County.
- v. There were reported cases of rampant encroachment at Zombe and Waita Markets leading to limited trading space.
- vi. Street lights had been installed at various markets but lighting was not enough for the entire market. For Example in Ikutha and Mutomo Markets.
- vii. Parking for traders' and visitors vehicles at Kitui and Mwingi town was inadequate and also posed a risk to road users as vehicles are parked haphazardly.
- viii. Traders at Tseikuru, Mutomo, Waita and Nthangani markets were apathetic in paying levies citing the unhygienic conditions of toilets which they say go for days without cleaning with the cleaners having deserted duty due to delays in payment of their allowances. The delay had eroded their zest to work.
- ix. The work of revenue clerks at Kitui East Sub- County is hampered by lack of a vehicle to facilitate their movement to various collection points. To worsen the matter, the clerks had not been paid for a period of three months when the committee went calling; a situation the committee noted demotivates them.
- x. Most Revenue offices and Cess Points are not connected to electricity posing a security threat to the monies collected and also a challenge to charging of the POS machines.
- xi. At Ikutha market, traders have declined to use the newly constructed market sheds on argument that the views were not incorporated during the public participation on the development of (BoQs) the Bills of Quantities; hence the sheds were not put up as per their expectations.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Hon. Speaker, to achieve efficiency and optimize in revenue collection and management, the County Government should;

Come up with appropriate policies to streamline the administrative system. This should include modernizing its financial system to achieve the following;

- i. Providing citizens with convenient and secure payment options for different services provided by the county.

- ii. Providing the County the ability to monitor revenue collection from several sources on real time basis
- iii. To minimize cash handling by revenue clerks with a view to curbing corruption.
- iv. Integrate e-government technology will increase efficiency as more clients will be able to access more services without necessarily going to government premises thus boosting revenue collection.
- v. Speedy implementation of the Finance Bill and further that this House through the Committees on Finance and Planning and that of Implementation do follow up the said matter.
- vi. There is need to expand the collection booths/offices through making them permanent and spacious to give revenue clerks enough space and comfort for work and installation of key working tools including computers, electricity, CCTV Cameras, safes for keeping vital documents and security equipment storage compartments.
- vii. Address the problem of inexperienced and unqualified personnel by exposing them to training facilities and opportunities (continuous capacity building to enhance their ability and experience in revenue collection and accountability.
- viii. Ensure that taxpayers are fully consulted before any new taxes, levies and charges are introduced.

4.0 COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION

COMMITTEE FINDINGS AND OBSERVATIONS

Mr. Speaker Sir,

- i. The committee observed that the ward administration officers are faced with facilitation challenges both Logistical and communication, for instance the ward officer informed the committee that they attended the launching of Artificial Insemination programmes and no reimbursement having coming from far end of the county.
- ii. The committee also observed that all the ward Administration blocks are incomplete with around 65% of the construction work having stalled, pit latrine sunken posing a health and hygiene hazard.
- iii. Political interference in the office chain of command in that relaying of information may not be adhered to due to political inclination.
- iv. The Committee noted that all the ward administration office are not fully Equipped with work station, office stationaries and lacks the technical staff with requisite skills.
- v. The committee noted that there was communication disconnect and dissemination of the information from ward office to the village. In most cases non – staff who are politically aligned usurp the powers of the administrators.

COMMITTEES RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Speaker Sir, in respect to the findings and observation, the Committee on Public Service and Administration makes the following recommendations:-

- i. There be availed funds to complete all stalled ward administration offices, by funding contractor and ensuring timely disbursement of funds.
- ii. Career progression and retention of ward officers on basis of performance, personal academic credentials and qualifications this will motivate the officers hence high productivity.
- iii. Creation of a ward office kitty to facilitate the ward operationalization to enhance efficient and service delivery.
- iv. Casual staff to be sourced by line ministry and be engaged on a renewable contract basis of at least one year.
- v. Provision of one vehicle at each sub county headquarters to ease the administration officers the burden of traversing their vast areas of service.

5.0 COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE

FINDINGS AND OBSERVATIONS

The Committee made the following findings, THAT:

- i. The health facilities visited are understaffed which affects health service delivery in Kitui County as health staff are overworked. Further some dispensaries are closed when the medical officers are out on official duties.
- ii. The health facilities visited do not have staff quarters and where available, are insufficient. Further, others are dilapidated and in need of renovation.
- iii. Casuals engaged in the Kitui County public service are working in unfavourable conditions, characterized by irregular payments, lack of tools of work, payments below the minimum wage, haphazard termination of their contracts, among others.
- iv. The youth polytechnics visited do not have sufficient instructors, despite others being centres of excellence.
- v. Issues affecting employees and casuals apply across all ministries and departments in Kitui. Further, promotions and annual salary increments have been major issues affecting employees.
- vi. The County Government has engaged KCHIC registration clerks on contract and are stationed at Financial Services Associations (FSAs) offices. However, at one office visited, there were assertions of unfavourable working conditions including: irregular payments, inadequate facilitation to execute their duties like using their own funds to travel to and from Kitui without reimbursement and their contracts being terminated and renewed haphazardly.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommended THAT:

- i. Budgetary allocations should be made towards recruitment of staff in the hospitals, dispensaries, and health centres visited, and any other departments that have staffing needs. This will lead to improved service delivery in Kitui County.

- ii. Budgetary allocations should be made towards promotion and annual increments for deserving employees which will improve their motivation leading to better service delivery.
- iii. The working conditions of casuals should be improved including timely payment, provision of working tools, amongst others. Further a policy on engagement of casuals should be drafted. Minimum wage should also be adhered. All pending payments due to casuals should also be made within thirty (30) days after adoption of this report.
- iv. More market cleaners should be employed for Kitui County markets. This will improve hygiene standards and at the same provide employment opportunities. Further, once their contracts are terminated, they should be paid all their dues to ensure that they are not disadvantaged.

6.0 COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND MINERAL INVESTMENT DEVELOPMENT

COMMITTEE FINDINGS

Mr. Speaker Sir, during the County tour the Committee observed the following;

- i. Under - utilization of transformer; the committee noted that most transformers installed in town across the County are under-utilized.
- ii. Use of diesel powered generators; the Committee identified that a good number of boreholes use diesel powered generators to pump water from the intake points to the reservoir tanks.
- iii. Non-functioning solar floodlights and street lights; the committee observed with great concern that very many solar flood light and street lights installed by the County Government across the county are not functioning.
- iv. Un-energized power lines; the Committee observed that many power lines constructed by the County Government have not been energized.
- v. Damaged transformers; the Committee noticed that many transformers across the County have blown out and not replaced the necessary authorities.
- vi. Climate Change; the Committee observed that the climate in kitui county has drastically changed due to deforestation and other acts associated with deforestation such as charcoal burning.
- vii. Stalled projects; the Committee observed that there are many projects that were started by the County Government and stalled somewhere in the process of their implementation.
- viii. Lack of drainage systems; the Committee observed that most of the developing town across the County have well established drainage systems.
- ix. Lack of tree nurseries; the Committee observed there are no tree nurseries managed by any organized groups across the County despite the County Government putting effort and budgeting for this program from one financial year to another.
- x. Falling powerlines; the Committee observed that after the December rain season many electric poles started falling and there is no intervention by the any relevant authorities.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

- i. The Committee recommends that Ngomeni Rock Catchment be connected with a 3- Phase power line to pump water that serves a 5Km kilometre radius. The committee further recommends that the people living around the dam be empowered to form community based organisations that will see them in income earning activities such as tree nursery business.
- ii. The Committee recommends that the ministry to consider repairing broken power gadgets and tighten sagging wires that are a threat to the students and the entire environment.
- iii. After learning that residents of Kazui in Kivou Ward suffer from water shortage due to inadequate funds to buy diesel for the generator, the Committee recommends that Kanzui borehole should be budgeted for a solar panel plant to pump water to the reservoir tank that will ensure continuous water supply.
- iv. The committee recommends that Kamulewa borehole that was left incomplete be retendered to complete it. The Committee further recommends that a solar power plant be installed to pump water and ensure a continuous power supply.
- v. Being a growing busy town, the Committee recommends for a well-established drainage system in Nuu town that will reduce contamination of surface water and river water.
- vi. After visiting Syou Youth Polytechnic in Mutito/ Kaliku Ward the Committee recommends that the ministry to consider supplying the institution with electricity in order to make it easy for the students who will be learning courses such as welding.
- vii. The Committee recommends that the ministry should budget to connect Zombe level IV hospital with electricity so as to support operations that require energy supply such as refrigeration, lighting and other machinery that have been scuttled.
- viii. The Committee recommends for a solar panel plant at Thua - Kyamatu water project to substitute the generator and ensure a 24 hour water supply.
- ix. Being the only health facility in Kanziko town that has not been connected to electricity despite a power line within the institution, the Committee recommends that the ministry be connected power to support operations that require energy supply such as refrigeration.
- x. The Committee recommends for upgrading of the single phase powerline to 3 - phase in Mutomo Llevel IV hospital to support the heavy medical equipment that have been installed in the hospital by the County Government. The Committee further recommends for a well-established drainage system within the hospital.
- xi. The Committee recommends that Kangweni borehole that serves the three Wards; Mbitini, Nzambani and Chuluni Wards be installed with a solar power plant that will ensure a continuous water supply.
- xii. After visiting the Kangukangu water project in Kanyangi Ward, the committee observed that the single phase power line installed at the water intake point is not sufficient to pump water and therefore recommends that the Committee should consider Upgrading to 3 – phase powerline.
- xiii. The Committee recommends that the Ministry should organise a clean-up of the Kalundu Eco Park that has been heavily littered with plastic bottles. Despite the County Government effort to provide litter bins.

7.0 THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE, INDUSTRY, I.C.T & CO-OPERATIVES

GENERAL COMMITTEE'S FINDINGS

The Committee noted the following;

Most markets do not have market cleaners. On enquiry, it was noted that most of the market cleaners were on strike since they had not been paid their wages for several months while some markets did not have any cleaners assigned to them.

Most of the markets lacked proper infrastructures such as modern toilets, flood lights, fences, water tanks, livestock ramps and sheds. Traders in some areas did not pay market rates since the revenue collectors don't demand it from them. The crusher site project at Kyusani, Kwa Vonza is yet to kick off could not ascertain the ownership of the site land.

The KICOTEC Centre was established and continues to operate without a legal framework nor a policy document. There is no existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between KICOTEC and Trendy Technical and Vocational Training Centre which should set out the framework of cooperation, coordination, and collaboration. The KICOTEC centre lacks a spacious storage area for their finished products. The center expects to increase production in future therefore the current store will not be sufficient.

There's inconsistency in timely delivery of materials used in production such as buttons, threads, clothing materials etc. This inconsistency greatly affects production.

Workers Welfare – the workers are not provided with health insurance, transport to and from the center, accommodation or housing allowance. This poses a major challenge to the employees. The canteen in the center is finished yet not functional. The workers go to eat outside.

The workers are currently working without a contract- their previous contract expired on 19th January, 2019.

The Centre does not have an assigned vehicle for doing deliveries of the finished products.

COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

- i. The county revenue department should ensure its officers collect revenue from the market traders to avoid losses incurred from non-collection of revenue.
- ii. The County Ministry of Trade, Co-operatives and Investments should focus on renovating the existing markets by installing livestock ramps, modern toilets, flood lights, water tanks and fences.
- iii. There is need for an ultra-modern market in Kyuso town since it is a sub county headquarter. Kyuso Town Market is strategically positioned as a central market hub for other markets such as, Katse, Tharaka, Ngomeni, Tseikuru, Nguni, Kamuwongo and Mwingi.
- iv. The County Government should employ more market cleaners to ensure each market within the county is appropriately cleaned and maintained. The market cleaners should also be paid on time to avoid the numerous strikes currently being experienced.
- v. The crusher site at Yatta Kwa vonza Ward should be operationalized as soon as possible.
- vi. There is need for creating a marketing team/department to help in marketing the KICOTEC Centre both within and outside the county. Additionally, this team can be tasked with the

responsibility of making follow ups on orders done to ensure that individuals/institutions collect their orders in time.

- vii. Within the park, the Committee recommends for more litter bins around the park.

8.0 COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND SANITATION

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

The Committee having been able to visit various health facilities across the County made the following general observations;

- i. There are serious staffing challenges faced by different health facilities in the County which hinder quality, and optimal service delivery across the County.
- ii. Many health facilities are faced with inadequate and/or no structures suitable for proper service delivery across the County.
- iii. The County has invested substantial amounts of monies to put up new structures in various health facilities across the county, however the majority of these structures are not in use due to incompleteness, and/or lack of basic features for suitable use due to poor workmanship.
- iv. In some cases, the contractors did the work awarded without close consultation with the facility administration which led to poor quality of work and consequently rendering the projects unsuitable for use.
- v. The offices of public health and public works are not empowered to offer professional supervisory role on the works done in many facilities. As a result, these works fall short of the required specific ideal standards for special structures such as theatre rooms, and maternity rooms.
- vi. In rare cases, some incomplete projects were approved for full payments indicating possible collusion between the concerned officials and the contractors.
- vii. Some complete projects were yet to be handed over to the facility administrations hence remaining idle though completed.
- viii. In some health facilities, projects were not awarded based on the facility's priority of needs.
- ix. The issue of ambulances was a big mess ranging from misuse by the users, breakages taking too long to address, the security of the ambulances (some were stolen from the facilities compound) without due diligence being employed.
- x. In all the facilities, the new Health Facilities Management Act passed was yet to be implemented hence denying the facilities the benefits of this new ACT.
- xi. The County allocation given to many of the health facilities was based on their earlier status, and not the current one therefore, the allocations are not in tandem with the current financial needs of the facilities.
- xii. The drug supplies from KEMSA are fairly regular and consistent, however proper arrangements need to be put in place to address the issue of reagents used in labs which were left to be procured by the facilities.
- xiii. The K-CHIC program has kicked off in all the level IV hospital across the county and services are absolutely free for all patients using the K-CHIC card however, it is worth noting that none of the hospitals has received their reimbursement claims since the inception of this program.

COMMITTEE'S GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee hereby recommends that:-

- i. The County Ministry on Health and Sanitation should address the staffing needs in various facilities through urgent staffing.
- ii. The structural needs of different facilities should be addressed in order to optimize the service delivery in these facilities.
- iii. There should be proper consultation before awarding of projects and during project implementation to ensure facility needs are addressed in order of priority and high quality of works.
- iv. Before payments are made to contractors proper consultation and approvals should be sought to ensure payments are made to those who deserve.
- v. Clear policies and guidelines should be provided to govern the use of ambulances across the county.
- vi. The new Health Facilities Management Act enacted should be implemented immediately to boost the management level in all facilities.
- vii. The County Ministry on Health and Sanitation should fast track handing over of all complete projects for immediate use.
- viii. Efforts to ensure prompt supply of drugs and have buffer stocks to ensure smooth supply should be employed at the county headquarters.
- ix. The County Ministry on Health and Sanitation should revise its revenue allocations to all health facilities to match the current status and needs.
- x. Projects should be constructed under the professional supervision of the offices of public health and public works to ensure that all structures meet the specific ideal standards of special structures such as theatre rooms and maternity.
- xi. Timely disbursement of funds and reimbursements of monies on costs incurred as a result extra workload from the K-CHIC program should be streamlined to avert a looming financial crisis in the level four hospitals across the County.

9.0 COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, SPORTS AND CULTURE

REPORT ON PROJECT INSPECTION EXERCISE

COMMITTEE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Speaker Sir, the Committee on Tourism, Sports and Culture during the recent County inspection exercise, inspected several projects under the line ministry and made the following findings; THAT: Most projects have stalled especially those that were initiated by the former regime. An example of such projects are the Lower Eastern Culture and Heritage Centre in Tseikuru ward.

The Kalundu Eco-Park project is a viable one and the site is very ideal for an eco-park which will act as a recreation centre for the Kitui citizenry.

Both Mutitu and Mumoni forest are gazzeted as important bird areas (IBAs) by the County Ministry of Tourism, Sports and Culture in conjunction with Nature-Kenya. The two forest reserves are home to Hinde's babbler - a species of bird in the leiothrichidae family.

Disclaimer: *The electronic version of the Official Hansard Report is for information purposes only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor, through the Clerk, County Assembly of Kitui.*

That the Ministry during the Financial Year 2017-2018, embarked on the construction of the Main entrance gate with a sentry house, a boundary wall and a car park at Mutomo Hills Plant Sanctuary. The boundary wall is complete but the main gate and car park both have stalled.

Mr. Speaker Sir, after the committee inspected the said projects, it came up with the following recommendations, THAT;-the Ministry should apportion adequate funds for the completion of the stalled Lower Eastern Culture and Heritage Centre and any other stalled projects. The Ministry should come up with a policy paper and guidelines detailing the development of the Kalundu Eco-Park and Mutomo Reptile Park respectively.

Since Kalundu Eco-Park is landmark project for the ministry, the County Government should allocate adequate funds to enable the line ministry carry out her planned project activities at the Park in order to operationalize it. The Ministry should take advantage of the gazetement of both Mutitu and Mumoni forests as Important Bird Areas and develop as birds' tourists attraction sites. Facilitate creation of cut-lines within the forest reserves to curb rapid spread of fire in case of fire outbreak.

The Ministry should formulate relevant legislation with a view to protect the important tourist sites from encroachment by illegal herders.

Pre-qualify the Site Support Groups (SSGs) for supply of tree seedlings to interested parties. This should be done on continuous basis with an aim to empower these groups economically.

The Tourism sector should hasten the process of establishing a snake park at Mutomo sanctuary to ensure snakes are well caged and confined in one area thus minimizing snake bites which has been rampant in Kitui south.

The Ministry should consider upgrading at least two playgrounds in each ward in an attempt to promote and develop sports from grassroots level. In addition, the ministry should promote sports through youth tournaments at all ward levels and provision of sports equipment.

The Ministry should embark in an aggressive marketing campaign to highlight Kitui County as a fascinating tourism destination through use of both local and international platforms to display the county's unique tourist attractions sites like Mwingi North Game Reserve, South Kitui Game Reserve and the anticipated Reptile Park at Mutomo Sanctuary respectively. Further, the bizarre myth linked to the unique Nzambani rock that if one goes round it seven times, they have their gender changed, can also play a significant role in attracting both local and foreign tourists to Kitui county if featured at such forums.

That the Ministry should consider building partnerships with private investors with a view to privatize some tourist sites. Similarly, in the case of Kalundu Eco-Park, the ministry should embrace the Public Private Partnership initiative as a way encouraging investors in hospitality sector.

10.0 COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, WATER AND IRRIGATION

GENERAL COMMITTEE FINDINGS AND OBSERVATIONS UNDER AGRICULTURE AND WATER SECTOR IN KITUI COUNTY

In her inspection exercise, the Committee was able to establish a number of findings and observations as discussed below;

- i. The Committee observed that provision of water has not been addressed to satisfaction considering the budgetary allocation given to the sector since inception of devolution.

- ii. The Committee observed that most of the implemented water points are left open exposing both human and animals to physical injuries, drowning and contamination making it unfit for domestic use.
- iii. This Committee observed that many water projects had stalled while others had been left halfway done. This implies that the projects have not been able to benefit the residents in those areas, a clear indication of improper use of public funds.
- iv. Further, the Committee observed that the M&E department was not doing its work professionally and effectively in ensuring quality work is delivered by contractors before they hand over projects to the beneficiaries and before payment for the same is completed.
- v. The Committee established that public participation has been carried out in various parts of Kitui County but the Committee realized that what has been missing is the consideration of the public ideas and priorities in the planning documents such as the Kitui County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) and the Annual Development Plan (ADP).
- vi. In addition, the Committee observed that most of the water sources were being run by generator power, an operation that has proved to be very expensive due to frequent purchase of diesel and constant breakdowns which require repairs. This has often led to shortage of water supply to the people.
- vii. Further, the Committee established that Kitui County has a potential of being a water secure County. This was based on the existing water harvesting projects if well extended through piping this water can be supplied to many areas surrounding the water catchment.

COMMITTEE'S GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- i. This Committee recommends that in order to completely solve the challenges of water in Kitui County there should be an approved County Water Strategy Paper. All water resource management issues will be handled by this strategy paper including maintenance, rehabilitation pricing of water across the County among other challenges facing the water systems.
- ii. This Committee strongly recommends specific standards of constructing Earth dams and Boreholes.
- iii. Full stakeholder's involvement must be allowed in line with the principles of citizen participation which is provided in Article 201 (a) of the Constitution of Kenya and Section 87 of the County Government Act. This will allow the members of the public an opportunity to prioritize their needs and in addition enhance the sense of ownership.
- iv. Further, in the sector of Agriculture the Committee recommends that the county government should include "promotion of alternative drought resistant crops" considering that not all areas in the County would support similar crops.
- v. That there is need for mapping of farmers of various crops and livestock so as to enhance strategy formulation especially on productivity of the same.
- vi. That there is need to come up with expression of interest policy so as to enhance offtake of the already implemented and the proposed programs /projects.
- vii. The Committee strongly recommends scooping of mega earth dams in all the wards because the wards have huge catchments. This will ensure the commitment that the

- government of the day made is achieved and thus this will greatly improve the livelihoods of the Kitui County residents together with that of the livestock.
- viii. Provision of skilled manpower as well as well-structured technical team like engineers especially where there are huge projects, heavy piping and all other projects which require advanced technology in order to give advisory skills and technology needed in particular water programs/projects. This will ensure prudence in the use of public finances as provided for in Article 201 (d) of the Constitution of Kenya.
 - ix. This Committee recommends fencing of all the water points so as to prevent contamination of water, siltation of earth dams and protect human and animal lives.
 - x. Training and equipping of individuals with skills and basic knowledge to manage the systems after the infrastructure are handed over to the community.
 - xi. Feasibility study and scientific tests should be done before investing into huge projects. This will ensure prudence in the use of public resources.
 - xii. Procurement and tendering laws should be adhered to in order to ensure qualified contractors are awarded the works aimed at ensuring proper workmanship is realized.
 - xiii. Non-performing contractors should be identified, blacklisted and denied the opportunity to handle county jobs for breach of contracts.
 - xiv. Further, the Committee recommends employment of green energy in water pumping because it is cost effective and reliable. This should go hand in hand with holding the Sub-County engineers accountable for the failed water projects in the entire County.
 - xv. Local leaders who are the community representatives must collectively be involved that is respective Members of County Assembly, Ward development committees, Ward administrators etc.
 - xvi. The County technical staff responsible for project implementations must be fully utilized to achieve quality service delivery.
 - xvii. Need for service agreement with the contractors in that maintenance, servicing and repairs of water infrastructures are done by the contractor for a certain period of time after completion of the projects to ensure quality workmanship.

11.0 CONCLUSION

Mr. Speaker, the inspection tour was worthwhile for it accorded the Sectoral Committees an opportunity to get the facts as they are on the ground hence coming up with useful findings and recommendations. Honourable members were able to meet with the general public to get their feelings on general service delivery by the County Government.

In conclusion, I urge this House to continue playing its oversight role as the County pursues the full realization of the objectives and principles of devolved units as enshrined in Article 174 of the Constitution 2010.

Mr. Speaker, the County Government should implement the above recommendations to the latter for this County to realize the five Development Pillars in Her Excellency the Governor's Manifesto. Hon. Speaker that brings me to the end of that report which shows a summary of the findings and recommendations of various Sectoral Committees. I want to take this opportunity to thank all members who participated during that exercise and before I call upon Hon.Thuvi to second that motion .I wish to say that this was a good opportunity, very strategic for the Members

to see for themselves and have a feel of all the Forty wards in terms of their Mandate because when you look at various legislation including The County Government Act Section 104, County Governments are supposed to base any development on planning. The inspection exercise we did-although we did it in our second year-was a great opportunity for the members to interact with the members of public so that as they plan, they do it from an informed position and from that all the planning documents including the CIDP, ADP and other budgetary plans will be clear right from the Assembly's various Committees and the Executive so that we plan things on the basis of what the people want because when we are here as the Second Assembly, we represent the people under Article 1. Given an opportunity in the next Assembly, I would suggest that when Hon. Members come and are quite new in the Assembly, then going round the wards should be the first exercise they should undertake.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Deputy Speaker there is something you have not done. You have asked the executive to implement these recommendations but you have not asked the house to adopt this report.

Hon. Kasee: Sorry Hon. Speaker, It's just an overlook. Mr. Speaker Sir, I humbly request this House to adopt this report. If you look at this report, with all the findings and the recommendations coming from various sectoral Committees, if all the input is adopted by this House and the executive goes ahead to implement, we will be able to see proper usage of resources, the executive redesigning their planning documents going forward.

With those few remarks, I ask Hon. Thuvi to second the motion.

Hon. Thuvi: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir for the opportunity. I stand to second the motion.

Mr. Speaker Sir, we must thank the House Leadership including the office of the Speaker for giving us the opportunity to go on the ground and get in touch with the realities of what our people are going through.

Mr. Speaker Sir, this is a very nice report, with very good recommendations. We were able to see for ourselves the challenges of water that our people are facing, especially the larger Mwingi which has acute water shortage. I remember when we visited Kamuthale water project where the contractor who had been already paid after doing a very shoddy job. The contractor even went to ascent to a bigger office in the government. Such kind of contractors that we were able to find on the ground....

(Hon. Bakari rose on a point of order)

Hon. Bakari: Mr. Speaker Sir, can the Hon. Member from Kithumula/Kwa Mutonga substantiate because he says the contractor who is now our women rep has been paid for that job.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Thuvi did you really say that?

Hon. Thuvi: Mr. Speaker Sir, I think the Honourable Member may have had rested his eyes and may not have heard what I said. I did not mention any name nor position of anyone. So I don't know where he is getting the women rep from.

(Laughter)

Hon. Speaker: Maybe he had rested his eyes....continue.

Hon. Thuvi: Mr. Speaker what I was simply saying is that we were able to see what our contractors have been able to do on the ground. Some of them have actually done very good work as we witnessed in some areas.

Mr. Speaker Sir, it was therefore a good opportunity for this House and come up with these recommendations.

Mr. Speaker Sir, you remember when we visited the Syokimau dam, the embankment was almost being swept away. That visit necessitated a very quick action from the government. On hearing that the speaker and all the MCAs visited the dam, machines were dispatched the following day to repair the dam. Were it not for that visit, maybe those machines could not have been dispatched. I therefore believe good things will come out of this report.

Mr. Speaker Sir, when we look at the situation as witnessed from our visit, there was a very clear message from the electorates that proper public participation was not conducted prior to commissioning of majority of the projects. That is the reason you have heard several ministries and sectors reporting that our crusher machines are still lying somewhere on the road side when the government has not yet secured the land.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the recommendations in this report are very important and I want to request the sectoral committees to scrutinize the respective ministries that they oversee. For instance, the bush clearing exercise, under the ministry of lands was done some three or four months ago and now the grading is yet to be completed. I can report here that in my ward, the 50KM grader has not reached the ground. The bushes have grown back yet we are talking about grading. Bush clearing should go hand in hand with the grading so that we don't waste public funds.

This report contains various recommendations from various committees and as the chairman of the implementation Committee, we are going to look at this report very closely and single out some specific areas. The report is quite big and we may not look at everything at once but we will look at specific things and action them immediately so that we take it up with the ministries. But notwithstanding Mr. Speaker, I will also kindly request the chairpersons of various sectoral committees to also do their part and actualize this report.

Mr. Speaker Sir, when we say in the report that the County Government needs to implement this report to the latter through the various sectoral Committees.

In conclusion Mr. Speaker Sir, I must say it was a very good visit where we were able to interact with our people. There was very little that came out of the ground on the "Ndengu revolution". It was not very clear as we got very scanty information on the same. The citizens did not seem to have much information about "Ndengu". But all in all, the report is good and I urge the Honourable Members to adopt the report so that we can take up the implementation of the same with various Ministries.

Mr. Speaker with those few remarks, I beg to second the motion. Thank you.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Katumo: Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you once more for organizing this trip. As I support this report, I can make it very clear that this report is not biased in any way and if at all this County Government is going to implement the recommendations in this report, this County will be transformed.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I want to emphasise on the Ward offices report. It is a matter of great concern that all the Offices are incomplete. The County is incurring a lot of expenses when renting offices for ward operations as well as for village administrators. If we mean well, there is no need for this county government to continue renting offices for the ward and village administrators. I think it will be prudent if the County Government allocates monies towards completion of these offices.

(The Speaker (Hon. Ndotto) left the chair)

(Hon. Nthuri took the chair)

Mr. Speaker Sir, in my Kyangwithya west ward, the ward office block is 75% complete and whatever is remaining, I think is only furniture and fittings. The remaining 25% is much less compared to paying rent for five years. This situation cuts across the 40 wards.

Mr. Speaker Sir, we also witnessed how these officers are suffering in terms of moving across the Wards of operation to execute their mandates. It will be very important if the County Government can consider purchasing motorbikes for each ward office to facilitate efficient movement of these officers. Some wards are geographically large and walking through is an uphill and a very strenuous exercise for the ward and village administrators. Some are forced to use their own means yet they get no refunds from the County Government.

On the issue of water Mr. Speaker Sir, I have noted with a grave concern that most of the bore holes are depending on diesel generators for power. These generators are not economical. I beg to persuade the County Government to change and install solar panels instead since their cost of maintenance is very low.

On bush clearing Mr. Speaker Sir, the exercise was carried out in December last year. Long rains followed thereafter and the roads are now impassable. The graders cannot even access those roads. As the chair of the LIUD Committee, I want to assure this House that bush clearing is going to be done hand in hand with grading so that we can see desirable results.

With those few remarks Mr. Speaker, I support the motion. Thank you.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Nthuri): I want to call upon Hon. Alex Wambua to take the floor and submit his contribution.

Hon. Wambua: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. As you have heard, this is one of the best reports. I would like to urge this Hon. House to hold the implementers accountable. Since we now have the real picture of our County, and I have the recommendations from each Committee, Mr. Speaker, I think these recommendations should be adopted and implemented to the latter. This will be realised if only the respective sectoral Committees hold the executive accountable and do a follow up. I would like to ask the chair, Committee on implementation, to take full responsibility to ensure that this report is fully implemented.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to comment on the Ministry of LIUD. This issue of bush clearing is turning to be an intimidation to Honourable Members at their respective wards. The exercise was carried out without any consultation. It is only prudent if proper consultation is done before some of these projects are implemented unless there is a hidden agenda behind their implementation. When we are aware of the projects, we will be in a better position to carry out our oversight role properly.

Mr. Speaker Sir, for the stalled projects like ward office blocks, I would recommend we ensure the upcoming financial year's budget takes care of them. If all the recommendations in this report are implemented, we may even never need supplementary budgets.

Mr. Speaker Sir, without much ado, I beg to support the motion and request that this House rises to the occasion and ensure that the recommendations in this report are implemented. Thank you.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Nthuri): Well done. Hon. Kiruru

Hon. Kiruru (MCA Nguni Ward): Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir, for granting me the airtime to contribute on this memorable motion. Mr. Speaker, let me say that I stand to support the adoption of this report. Mr. Speaker, I want to start by saying that we executed this tour against a theoretical narrative by the County Government on the performance indicator and service to Kitui people.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I want to say that it is a credit to all the members of the Assembly and I want to appreciate and congratulate the sectoral Committees who made a lot of effort. Mr. Speaker Sir, this report gave us a special moment and experience and of course exposure. We were able to go to places we have never visited in this county. We were also able to make special interactions with the public, electorates. We listened and Mr. Speaker bearing in mind that two financial years are gone. That is 2017/2018 and 2018/2019. This can be viewed as a medium term oversight report for the performance of Kitui County Government.

Mr. Speaker Sir, our score card is below average and Mr. Speaker if we are serious about the business we are transacting in this county, this must be considered as a very fundamental element and instrument in trying to review and take stock of what we have done Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I want to believe that this report will not only be made for the walls of this house but it will also be extended and ideas, recommendations and findings of the various committees. Of course the CECs, the organograms of the ministries in this county will be able to get time to have a serious interrogation of this report. Because Mr. Speaker what I believe is that the executive may not spare such a time to go round and face the reality on the ground.

Mr. Speaker Sir, what we were able to note is that 90 to 95 per cent of the projects we inspected were actually initiated by the former regime. Mr. Speaker Sir, it is a pity that we are not even at a stage where we can be talking about projects that have been initiated by the current regime. We are still struggling about stalled and uncompleted projects and operationalized institutions and so forth Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I don't know where the disconnect is because every time we come up with very important reports in this House, we approve but I think they only end up into the archives where they gather dust and it is business as usual. So Mr. Speaker Sir, it is about paradigm shift from the way we are handling things. Listening to the 'Musangis of this County so that Mr. Speaker we can get our priorities right.

Mr. Speaker, most of the projects we visited are about water which is actually a pillar number one in the development agenda of Her Excellency the Governor. These projects are in the intensive care unit. They have never been repaired, they have been neglected and our people are suffering. In health, the same case Mr. Speaker. So Mr. Speaker Sir, we have failed round and it

is very important that we realize that time is going and we should actually try to change and redesign our approach on how we can be able to actually address the issues affecting our people.

Mr. Speaker Sir, as I summarize my application I want to believe that when we look at issue of equitation, fair distribution of resources and services in this county is still very wanting Mr. Speaker. When we talk about the periphery nation is a reality. When we went to Tharaka Mr. Speaker and some wards even now the 30 kilometer road have not been graded. Mr. Speaker this is a reality and sometimes I wonder why we should be employing such injustices to our people. The essence, philosophy and the design of the devolved County Government is actually to address the critical issue and try to address the issue of historical injustices and marginalization that has been implemented by the previous national governments. History will judge us harshly Mr. Speaker if the same status quo we continue while we are in this government and we are not able to address our people.

This report is very important Mr. Speaker which should be considered by any logical person who wishes good for Kitui people. It is my humble request that as much as we discuss about it, as much as we approve, as much as we support, the resources that we are made, were not meant for waste. Mr. Speaker it was a gainful course and it would be very important that this report will reach the right people. I don't think this report is meant for this assembly Mr. Speaker. This report will make sense if it will shared, considered and put into consideration by the executive and with those few remarks, I support the motion.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Nthuri): Very well Hon. Kiruru. We go to Ishmael (Referring to Hon. M/s Regina)

Hon. (Ms.) Regina: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir for giving me the opportunity. I want to start by thanking the whole house for the work we did on going round the entire county which was not easy. So I stand to support the report. It was very recommendable to go round the county and see for ourselves what is on the ground in terms of development. Mr. Speaker I am a member of Health and sanitation committee and I realized that there are some facilities being served by one casual and one nurse. This means that when that nurse is sick, nothing that can go on. So I propose that those facilities should have an additional nurse. This is because when patients go there, like in the case of Kathome health center where I come from, when that nurse is sick, there is no one to attend to the patients visiting the health facility. Therefore, in such cases, there is need for another nurse.

My second observation is on vocational training centres which are all over from Mwingi to every other part of this County. These centres were meant to cater for form four leavers who fail to proceed to colleges where they get technical skills. Therefore, these centres needs to be adequately funded to help our youth in those centres. However, Rome was not built in a day. I would like to point out that the government of the day has done some work on the same. Mr. Speaker Sir, when I came into this assembly, the Health committee was the first one to conduct an inspection exercise in the county. So this was my third time to go round the county inspecting projects. We had some construction works at Katse Health Centre and the construction works is almost over. Therefore, I can say the government is working. Mr. Speaker Sir, I want to assure this

house that more will be done if we do what is required of us. With those few remarks Mr. Speaker Sir, I stand to support the report.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Nthuri): Very well. Let us listen to Hon. Mwalali.

Hon. Mwalimu (MCA Ikutha Ward): Thank you Mr. Speaker for according me this opportunity to contribute to this motion. First of all I thank the members who went round the county to inspect the project.

Mr. Speaker Sir, before I contribute I have an issue. If you look at this report for agriculture, water and irrigation, the last page, I don't think whether these are the residents from Nuus because we talked of the images last time. I don't know whether the Hon. Member from Nuus ward can confirm whether these are the residents from his ward fetching water, I don't know what to say or what to make out of this.

Having said that Mr. Speaker Sir, the county tour was an eye opener. It gave us a general view of Kitui County. The recommendations from this report Mr. Speaker if they can be taken and considered, I can tell you this county will move forward. If you look at the report, there are so many stalled projects from the vocational centres to the ward offices, boreholes, name it Mr. Speaker. I am worried and if we continue with this kind of trend, because the report is very clear that additional funding to be allocated to complete these project. Otherwise Kitui County will become like Gede ruins if we go by that trend.

Mr. Speaker, if you look at the ministry of LIUD, I am worried. In the 2018/2019 Financial Year, actually there is very little going on. Most of these roads and I want to caution the hon. Members whereby the grading process has not started in their wards, to be extra careful because they are doing roads and leaving them half way done. If you do a road a leave it half way, you know what you can expect from the residents from the other end because they will always be complaining. If the road is to be done, let it be done from point A to point Z, the whole of it. But when you do it from point A and then you leave it at point B, what becomes of the residents from the other end? Let us try to avoid unnecessary fights from our residents.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I am worried. This 2018/2019 financial year Development in Kitui County is worrying. I do not know what the Government side has to say because there is no sign to show 2018/2019 Financial Year and this County will go down in history as having done nothing .

Mr. Speaker Sir, I do not what to repeat what has been said but we have talked of market centers whereby the residents are not even willing to pay taxes because the hygiene in those market centres is very worrying. There are no toilets, some of the market centres have got no floodlights yet the residents are paying. They are meeting their obligations, but what about the services delivery.

We talked of the utility vehicles. Mr. Speaker Sir, I do not understand how you can tell a worker to use his or her own money to discharge the duty yet there is no reimbursement I do not know what to make of that. But from the recommendations, if the executive can adopt the recommendations of this house, some of these issues will be sorted out. I have a case whereby you talk of ...you know medical practitioners sometimes they are required in court to testify in cases of murder. Somebody leaves Ikutha in the morning to attend a court case in Kitui. That full day is

wasted because you are using public transport. If utility vehicles can be procured for those workers, then they will make their work a bit easier.

You talk of most of health centres having no electricity, yet they are not even connected to the national grid, yet the post just stands at the market center. Please if we can fast track some of these things, I think we will be moving in the right direction and Kitui will move forward. I do not want to repeat on what has been said but when you look at this report and if the executive can implement it, then I do not think whether we will have any problem in Kitui County and we will be moving forward. With those few remarks, I support the report and thank you very much Mr. Speaker.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Nthuri): Very well. Hon. Kyene

Hon. (Ms.) Kyene (MCA Nzambani Ward): Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir for the opportunity. I stand to support this report which was done during our oversight tour. Mr. Speaker this is a wonderful report which touches on all areas that matters for our people and we can only go by this report and the executive can only implement this in order to take this county where we want it to be.

Mr. Speaker I sit in the implementation committee and I will urge through our chair that this committee looks into all these reports to ensure that whatever was put down on paper is put into action. This report is right on paper and we want it to translate into action and it can only be done through the executive being committed to do the right thing.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I will not touch on all the ministries but I want to be very specific on the ministry of water and Agriculture. There are committee reports which goes without debates and we know that the main pillar and the main agenda for this government is to provide water and sort out water issues once and for all in this county. Therefore we are looking forward to have this report implemented fully so that we can sort out our water issues as a county.

We have talked of power back up for our boreholes and dams. We have talked of mega dams. These are the basics and the things that will help us sort out water issues and therefore we are looking forward to see full implementation of that. We have a budget and we understand that from the budget committee that the County Government will be spending over Ksh 2 billion on water. We will be really grateful as a house to see these Ksh 2 billion trickling down to the lowest level and sorting out water issues.

Mr. Speaker as I go to committee on education, basic training, Youth and ICT where I sit as the vice chair. We have had several motions in this house. I remember the Kanandu motion which was passed by this house and we have had several other recommendations from the committee and we have been really concerned about how the county government has been putting more attention on issues that are not really devolved. Even as we support schools and education, we need to put more efforts on ECDE which lays the foundations of our education in our county. So we are looking forward to seeing full attention given to ECD centres, full employment of ECDE teachers on permanent and pensionable basis so that we can move forward.

I am certainly sure that the report on roads is attached to each and every one of us because it has been a real issue. We are looking forward to seeing this ministry doing the right thing and we have talked more of contractors something which is actually a big issue. Mr. Speaker Sir, one

thing during our oversight as a team we agreed unanimously that we cannot accept shoddy work by contractors because this is public money and we need it utilized accordingly. Therefore we will be all eyes to see that our roads are repaired and done to the best acceptable standards so that we realize our full mandate of oversight.

Mr. Speaker, in my ward, Nzambani, which is within the Kitui Municipality, I am looking forward to seeing all roads being repaired. We don't expect to have impassable roads in Nzambani and other municipality roads because we even have extra funding from the World Bank. Therefore, Mr. Speaker I look forward to this Ministry really giving out the services that ought to give us. We have the issue of the dozer and the backhoe which have been a real fight in this house because we have I think one or two and from the recommendations, I can see that Mr. Speaker Sir, we really want this ministry to put more attention on that on hiring more machinery which can do that work. Otherwise with all that input from my side, I strongly and fully support this report. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Nthuri): Very well, I hope we are about to exhaust the motion. I will call upon two Hon. Members to contribute on the motion, starting with Hon. Mbili.

Hon. Mbili: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir for this opportunity. I will be quick because much has been said.

First and foremost I want to thank the leadership of this House, the Management and all the Hon. Members, for this important move of going round the forty Wards of this County. Mr. Speaker all of us now know the geographic and the terrain of Kitui County. I used to hear of a Ward called Mutha and one advantage I now have is, when Hon. Antony John stands here to speak about Mutha and I can mirror that place and maybe I might agree with him based on the fact that I have been there. So it is a very good move.

The other point I have is that, this County tour has equipped the relevant Committees with information concerning what is happening on the ground and when we will go back to the respective committees. We will be able to know where to focus because it was an eye opener for every committee.

Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of issues heightened here but I want to sample a few because some have been said. The main one which is very serious is the public funds because it involves public funds which are laying down. Some years back those stalled projects were referred to as "white elephants" and we used to have "white of the whitest" if you remember and they are across the board.

If you go to the Ministry of LIUD, Health, Environment and Water, there are issues of stalled projects. So it is across all the Ministries and it is a serious matter because we sow only a few I believe there must be very many of them.

Mr. Speaker, we have other issues like non-payment of contractors. When the County engages people or contractors they commit some money to pay for those services. So I don't know what is happening because we know even the current cleaners and those who are doing bush clearing have not being paid. That is an issue which should be taken serious by this County because when people work, they need to be paid.

We have other issues like K-CHIC, we are hearing that hospitals have not being reimbursed what they spend. I don't know how they are operating. We have also other issues like, something has been brought here which is very important, like the docket of education. The feeling of the committee is that docket is underfunded and we know how important that docket is because if you think education is expensive, you try ignorance.

Mr. Speaker, fencing of dams is very important because our people get drown in these dams. So it's good to secure them. My main emphasis is that this report has come at the right time. We are now in the budget making cycle, therefore since this report will be forwarded to the Executive. I am recommending that while forwarding this report, we urge them that they need to look at this report and where possible to try as much as possible to incorporate these recommendations because there is wastage of public money.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, I am very passionate as I support this report because I know when we pass it we must abide by the recommendations and whatever is written here. Among the recommendation, there is a dangerous one on the Nzambani Rock. Once we adopt this report, I request Hon. Kyene to lead the House to Nzambani Rock. We rotate the rock seven times and then the male will become female and the female will become male and see what will happen because it is recommended in this report.

(Hon. Kyene stood in her place on a point of order)

Hon. Kyene: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Is it in order for Hon. Mbili keep on talking about Nzambani rock in this house while we know that it is a private property and this house has not been able to repossess that rock back to the County Government, thank you?

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Nthuri): Hon. Mbili.

Hon. Mbili: Mr. Speaker, I am going by this report. Even I remember the liaison Committee Chairman indicated very clearly about going round the rock. It is not about the ownership, thank you Mr. Speaker. So with those few remarks I beg to support.

Temporary Speaker (Hon. Nthuri): Well we come to Hon. Dr. Mutua.

Hon. Dr. Grace: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise to support this very important and I think one of very important reports we ever heard in this house. I say it's important because, whatever has been discussed here is evidence based since we were able to see what is happening in our County. Again it cuts across all the departments in our very extensive County.

I take this opportunity to thank all the members that were able to spend the two weeks in very hot conditions to see what is going on out there. The Hon. Members Mr. Speaker, were able to experience what our citizens go through in their day to day lives, the challenges and opportunities. We heard voices across this County, we heard the cry and the need. We were able to see our mothers sitting in the hot sun selling vegetables and other goods.

We were able to see Wards where children's who have never stepped out of those Wards and they have no idea what a good school looks like. They no idea what it looks like to have water out of a tap. They have no idea what tarmac road looks like. They have no idea the things

we take for granted every day, what those things look like and yet we have billions of shillings in this County in terms of devolved governments that should be trickling down to our people.

The mothers that are selling salt are paying Taxes and yet they have no water, they have to wait for long queues to fetch water. They spend a whole day with Jerricans just to get water. So that they can prepare a meal for their children's, wash clothes, bathing when they have period and yet they have no water for their basic hygiene.

Mr. Speaker, that is very bad and this is one the best report we have ever done, to be able to experience and to step into our people shoes and see the suffering that our people go through and how things we take for granted are not for granted.

We were able to see how our development money is being spent. Shoddy work, incomplete projects, failed projects and a good example is the Kyuso Polytechnic that we visited. Really, honesty who among us can take her child in that polytechnic? And yet that is where we expect our people to take their children's to and that is investment for our County. Really what are we doing for ourselves, Hon. Members?

We were also able to see a few good projects but very few like specks on the sky. So I think this is a wakening moment for all of us. It has opened our eyes to see for instance a need to vet contractors, essentially for major and high cost projects that are going on within our County. So that we don't waste the public funds. I hear a lot of people saying "it is not your mother's money" it is our mothers' money. Anybody who tells you that this "*hii pesa si ya mama yako*" (this is not your mother's money), just think about it. It is your mother's money.

When that woman from your ward is seated there, paying taxes but she doesn't get services that she require. What do you feel? That is your mother and you should feel the pain and guilty when things that should be done to our people are not being done because of just a few people that are taking advantage and corrupting our systems.

(Hon. Speaker takes the chair while the Temporary Speaker leaves the podium)

Mr. Speaker as I said earlier since the problem cut across all departments, it also shows the need to use cost effective technology for sustainability of the projects that are applying in our County. For instance on boreholes we have talked about use solar energy. Why can't we have that since we have so much sun, we are roasting in it every day. Why do we subject our people to buying gas so that they can run their borehole that they can stay for five days because there is no petrol to run the generators?

What is wrong with that system? Why aren't we innovative enough? The systems are already in place. We don't have to come up with any new system. We just need to implement what will be the best for our people.

Again Mr. Speaker, for the stalled projects. How do we justify the use of public funds? It's like cooking rice and hanging it in our house while the children are hungry and just let it sit there because you could lit the fire a little bit to make sure that your children are fed. We saw hospitals that are climbing, we saw hospitals that are completely done and only one little thing

left like drainage system. We saw machinery equipment's in the hospitals that are just waiting to be installed.

We saw hospitals and dispensaries without electricity, what is going on and yet we are passing budgets every year! We are allocating funds for these projects annually but why is there a gap between implementation and budgeting? What is going on with the Executive?

I urge the Hon. Members, to be more vigilant. Let us all be more vigilant, let this report be an eye opener so that we are able to do proper oversight to ensure that our people get the services that are required. It also shows the need for standardization of systems in our County because things are done whichever way. This leads me to an issue we have been discussing Hon. Members for the last two years. The issue of guidelines and policies to ensure that things are done in a consistent way, things are done properly.

So let's push for these policies, let's push for change and let's not forget about those cries, voices and things that we saw as we continue with our work. Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me the opportunity to give my views, it is an evidence based report. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Munyalo.

Hon. Munyalo: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir for giving me this opportunity. This is a well versed and one of the best thing that we deed, is going round the County to know what's ailing our County. As leaders we were elected by the people because they believed in us that we know the way, we will go the way and we will show them the way.

Mr. Speake I will start with education, which is a devolved function in terms of vocational institution and early childhood development (E.C.D)...

(Hon. Thuvi stood in his place on a point of Order)

Hon. Speaker: Yes Hon. Thuvi.

Hon. Thuvi: Mr. Speaker, is Hon. Munyalo in order to mislead the House that we went to find out what is ailing our County, is that the reason as to why we went on County tour?

Hon. Speaker: Order! Hon... you are right and wrong but you continue unless... May be the language is the one Hon. Thuvi doesn't want. What you are saying is exactly what we went to find out.

Hon. Munyalo: (Spoke off record)

Hon. Speaker: Okay.

Hon. Munyalo: Thank you Mr Speaker. We know that English is a foreign language, so let us forget and continue. In terms of education we have the artisans. We have what is called Jua Kali sector which needs to be looked into. I don't think for you to be considered as educated you only need to have the degree and diploma certificates. The Committee on Education, Youth and ICT need to visit the Jua Kali artisans. We need to train and award them certificates. These are people are able to dismantle your malfunctioning car engine and make it work yet we are told they are not learned. We need to do something about this. According to me talent pays more than education.

On the ECDE issue, we need to nurture our children and enhance them to grow healthy. In most schools you will find that the ECDE pupils share the same latrines with the other pupils. I have visited most of the schools in my ward – Matinyani and whatever I see there isn't good for the younger kids. We need to formulate a policy whereby IN each Primary School where there are ECDE centres they have an ambulation facility for the learners.

On the health Sector, it is worth noting that, a health nation is a wealth nation. Although we were not able to visit Kitui West, we have Matinyani Health Centre which is serving around 252 people a day. The facility was built in 1952 by the colonial government, its walls are nearly collapsing, the roof top is almost falling down. We need to put more emphasizes on the health sector, so that we have a health county. The Committee on Health needs to look at the Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) so that we have them in the villages.

On Agriculture, I would like to say this: Since when I was young, Agriculture has been the back of this country. However, we are not putting more emphasis in terms of farming technologies, knowledge and so forth yet we know a nation without food is a dead one. Our hunger situation has not reached that of Turkana (which has been in the news) but if we fail to check we will go that way soon.

Water is life. But we are not talking too much about the water sector. We are focusing so much on water searching instead of water harvesting. Activities of drilling boreholes among other works of searching for water are an expensive affair. If we are keen on becoming a water secure county, we have to focus on water harvesting. The in our rivers which flows downstream all the way to the Indian Ocean can sustain this county for up to over 30 years. We need to build rock catchments, earth dams. When you are moving along Mombasa Road in Makueni County, you will see some of the means of harvesting water such as earth-dams which also improves the water table level.

I will finalize with the Sports, Culture and Social Services Committee where I am the Vice Chairman. It's funny! It should not be happening that in Kitui County there is no stadium. What we have all over across the entire county are playfields. We have youth from Kasyala and Kauma areas in my ward that are good in football but they are all training in Machakos. They have been registered as coming from Machakos meaning Machakos County is benefiting from our own talent. We need to look into this matter. I have said it before and I would like to repeat it; talent pays more than education. Education is good, but a nation which doesn't focus on its own youth in terms of talent is a dead nation. We have Mutomo Snake Park yet we all take our children to Kilifi County for them to watch the snakes while we have the same at Mutomo. That sanctuary needs to be completed as soon as possible. As the Vice-Chair of the committee I will push the matter to the end to ensure the county government implements this. This is because the essence of leadership is all about turning a vision to reality and if we cannot turn our vision to a reality, we will be going nowhere. We need to push and demand for things to be done because a coward leader is worse than a dictator. We need to stand up and say, this is what we need to do to our people for the sake of development in Kitui and leave a legacy in terms of how it would have developed during our time. I support the report. Thank you Mr Speaker.

(Hon. Katana stood in his place)

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Katana

Hon. Katana: Thank you Mr. Speaker for this opportunity. I will only use two or three minutes because I know we don't have time...

Hon. Speaker: Why when someone on this side is speaking the machines are working but when on the other side, they just... it's funny

(Laughter)

Hon. Katana: I think the ICT department needs to be trained.

Hon. Speaker: Continue Hon. Katana.

Hon. Katana: Thank you Mr Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: It is respecting the government side. Isn't it?

Hon. Katana: I will not talk about more issues in the ministries but first before I begin I want to correct one of the Members who has said we contaminate disease. As a medic I want to say we don't contaminate disease we contract diseases while else we contaminate the food that we take or the water that we drink. Thank you.

When we adjourned the House to conduct the county tour, we said the tour was made for the whole county. There are parts of the county which we didn't visit and it is important to note it would have been necessary for the Hon. Members to visit Mwingi West and see what exactly what the county government has done. If this report is going to be handed over to the implementers without Mwingi West being in the document, after implementation you will find our area – Nguutani Ward where I represent as the MCA will be left out.

Hon. Speaker: Order! Hon. Katana I have assured you in the past and I want to assure you that before all is done and finished the Assembly will tour Mwingi West and Kitui West so that the outcome of that tour will come under the report to the Executive.

Hon. Katana: Thank you Mr Speaker for that. I will only touch on health Committee where I am the Vice-Chair. When we went around we witnessed how our own people are suffering in terms of service delivery. The county government needs to know some components in the health docket. We have service delivery, health financing, and infrastructure, medical products and other things which are combined together so as to see the results of the combination. You cannot say we have a running institution which is offering medication to our people when one of the components is not implemented. The important thing here is service delivery – how people are getting treated when they visit health centres. There are a few things which members have said and I don't want to repeat them. There are health facilities where there is no water connection, yet you all know you cannot have a health facility without water. You will there are health facilities with a maternity wing yet there is no water supply. Imagine a mother going to deliver in a facility with no water! Yet that place should be clean. There are areas which need to be sterilized yet there is no water. It is surprising and astonishing indeed. We need those facilities to have supply of enough water so that our people will get good health services so that we can talk of health services being delivered to our people.

Mr. Speaker, we have talked of contractors so much and there are some of them who are not doing a good job and they need to be blacklisted. But when we visited Tharaka, Tseikuru and other wards, contractors are using their own money. You see when tenders are awarded, contractors are using their own money from the banks and at the end of the day, and it takes long time to pay them. When the government visits those areas, they will talk of: "We have a class somewhere" and people will clap. "We have a borehole somewhere" and people will clap. You

are saying you are doing things in the county, but the people who are paying for those services, people who are trying to work on behalf of the county are not paid. Before you blacklist the contractors, they need first to be treated well. Our contractors need to be paid. I know of a contractor whose properties were auctioned. I think that one should be taken in a very serious manner. Can you imagine of someone going to a bank to get a loan of over Kshs 2 million to work for the county government by trying to build a maternity somewhere and the county government will be proud of building maternity while the contractor is subjected to auctioning by the bank and they are forgotten. We need those contractors to be considered, we need them to be paid. We know before the work is awarded there is money allocated for it. Only to hear the county government claiming there is no money to pay contractors. Why are we giving them the work?

Because of time I wouldn't talk about K-CHIC which is becoming something hard to explain to the community. But since I belong to the Committee on Health and Sanitation and we went around the county and brought a report which we were requested, we have done enough and compiled a good report about K-CHIC which we will bring to the House. Thank you Mr Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Nobody wants to say something? Do we approve the report?

Hon. Members: Yes.

Hon. Speaker: You want to approve the report now?

Hon. Members: Yes.

Hon. Speaker: Well, good.

(Question put and agreed to)

I think that is the end of what is in the Order Paper today. I can see Hon. Anthony John struggling to stand up. Unless you want us to talk about your motion for a few minutes, I think we are running short of time. We have only about 30 minutes and I think your motion is very important; can we push it to this afternoon?

Hon. Members: Yes.

Hon. Speaker: Instead of just touching and leaving it. Is that okay Hon. John?

(Hon. Anthony John speaks off record)

Sorry!

(Hon. Anthony John speaks off record)

And you have been requested to come on time. We should have dealt with your motion yesterday but you were... I think you got a bit mixed up somewhere on the way.

Hon. Members let us adjourn the House. Before we adjourn there is a short meeting of the House Business Committee in the Board room at 12 noon. Please, let all the members of the House Business Committee go to the Boardroom at 12 O' clock. It is an urgent short meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The House now stands adjourned until this afternoon at 2.30 pm.

The House rose at 11:48 a.m.