

KITUI COUNTY ASSEMBLY**THIRD ASSEMBLY- THIRD SESSION****OFFICIAL REPORT****(THE HANSARD)****Wednesday, 19th June, 2024***The County Assembly met at 2:51 p. m. in the County Assembly Chambers**[The Speaker (Hon. Kevin K. Katisya)] in the Chair***PRAYERS**

The Speaker: Hon. Members welcome to the afternoon Sitting. We may now proceed with the order of business. Next Order!

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR**A) VISITING STUDENTS FROM ST. MONICA MULUTU GIRLS IN KYANGWITHYA WEST WARD**

Hon. Members I would like to acknowledge the presence of students from St. Monica Mulutu Girls in Kyangwithya West Ward and their teachers namely Mr. Willy Mutie and Madam Mary Muthama in the public gallery during this afternoon sitting. In our tradition of receiving and welcoming visitors to the County Assembly, I extend a warm welcome to them and on behalf of the County Assembly of Kitui and my own behalf, I wish them a fruitful visit. Thank you.

Hon. Members in our normal tradition I would request a few of you to join me in welcoming the students before we proceed. I can see Hon. Grace is ready. Hon. Grace Mulandi.

Hon. Grace Mulandi: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. I am proud because Mulutu Girls is in my home area. I come from Kyangwithya West and my name is Grace Mulandi. I love to see young people. Before I continue, I want to say welcome to the Kitui County Assembly. Just a word of encouragement, you might be small right now, but your future is in your hands. Your future is in your hands solely because when you go to school, you work hard, do your best and that is where you mould yourself for the future. Even us, were in school. I went to St. Angelus Girls, Kitui and we worked on our books very well. I want to encourage you to study hard. Welcome to Kitui County Assembly and learn as much as you may today. Thank you.

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The Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Grace Mulandi. Hon. Deborah Katungwa Mutuku.

Hon. Deborah Mutuku: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. Once more I would like to welcome the beautiful Girls from St. Monica Mulutu Girls. Mr. Speaker during the morning sitting I said that I am guardian to one of the girls at the school and I am proud of that. After the end of the morning sitting we had an interaction with them and they are good girls. I would again encourage them to keep keeping on. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, just for clarification, this is a different group, because they were very many.

Hon. Deborah Mutuku: I am sorry for that.

The Speaker: It is okay. I wanted to clarify. Hon. Peter Mwanza, do you want to add your voice in welcoming the students?

Hon. Peter Mwanza: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir for the golden opportunity you have given me. I just want to welcome the girls of Mulutu Girls to the County Assembly on behalf of the Deputy Speaker who comes from that area and as an interested member from Kitui Central and the incoming MP 2027. I would like to encourage them that, this is where everything lies in this County. Let them feel recognized and behalf of their parents I would like to tell them that they did a good thing to elect the Hon. Member for Kyangwithya West, our able Deputy Speaker, who is not here with us now. With those few remarks, feel at home. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you very much Hon. Peter Mwanza for welcoming the students on behalf of your neighbor, the Deputy Speaker. I am sure he will join us as we proceed. Hon. Joseph Musyoka, are you a guardian or a parent? Hon. Mbuno is insisting... he wants to know whether you are a parent.

Hon. Joseph Mbite: Thank you Mr. Speakers Sir for the opportunity. I am not a guardian nor a parent at St. Monica Mulutu Girls. But I wanted to welcome them in this Chamber – the August House and tell them that... (I don't know which category we are dealing with for the purposes of record but I assume either debate club or form four or form one either way, they will be exiting the system very soon). I want to motivate the students by quoting myself as a real example that today it is possible to set your goals and dreams right and achieve them.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, from my days in Primary School, I never went to famous schools like Hon. Grace Mulandi. From my primary school I was elected as the head boy of the school I attended. For purposes of record, that is Syombuku Primary School. When I proceeded to High School level at Yumbisye Secondary School I was elected as the President in the Year 2013. I was not appointed by the principal, but I was elected through a popular vote by the students. From there, I proceeded to Jaramogi University of Science and Technology, whereby in the same breath I was elected as a student representative Finance – the Treasurer of the University.

(Applause)

I was a custodian of not less than Kshs. 30 million.

(Laughter)

I believed in my dreams and to achieve my dreams and to make them a reality, here I am today at the Kitui County Assembly as the youngest MCA elected by the greatest people of

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Nzambani Ward. So I want to tell my young sisters from St. Monica Mulutu, *inawezekana!* Believe in yourselves, believe in your dreams.

The Hon. Members you are seeing here, Hon. Debora Mutuku, I am sure you have heard of Hon. Kalenga alias “*Muthaisu*” doing presentation in different FM radio stations. They once believed in themselves, so even you from St. Monica Mulutu, believe that you can make it not even in Kitui County Assembly but even in the National Assembly. We are proud of you. From Kyangwithya Ward, you have one able member of the Kitui County Assembly, Hon. Christopher Nzilu Nzioka aka “*Kamwana ka Wia*” who is our Deputy Speaker and a serious member of this Assembly whom we believe in. So *karibuni sana*. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you very much. I think we have given Hon. Musyoka a very good opportunity to tell us his CV from primary school, Secondary school and University.

Hon. Joseph Mbite: Yes.

The Speaker: Congratulations also.

Hon. Joseph Mbite: Thank you Sir.

The Speaker: I think that is a good motivation to our sisters who are with us, that it is now the time for young people. If now *Mheshimiwa* Musyoka is there, debating on behalf of the people of Nzambani, I agree with you that it is possible. So, thank you Hon. Musyoka Mbite, Hon. Deputy Speaker. When Hon. Peter Mwanza was representing you, I learned that you have a very good neighbour. He was there to represent you. I mentioned to him that you were coming because we had spoken, so thank you for bringing the students because I sure you contributed to their coming. Thank you very much. When they are here, they also learn more from us. Welcome and join me in welcoming the students. This is a second group. There was another group in the morning. Please proceed.

Hon. Christopher Nzioka: Thank you very much Hon. Speaker. Firstly, I will thank all the Hon. Members who have welcomed the students and thus making them feel at home and feel that they are not only my guests but guests of the County Assembly of Kitui.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, I will be very brief and may be answer some of the issues Hon. Musyoka Mbite was not aware of. St. Monica Girls Secondary School is located in Kyangwithya West. It is an extra county school. The students who are visiting us are Form Four History students. So, they will be out of school in approximately three months then they join us and proceed for higher education.

So St. Monica students or rather girls and your teacher (and if they are many) teachers, feel the atmosphere, move with us and walk with us today. You were very lucky because last year we had a group from your school and they came during the budget time. Today you have also come at a similar time. So, you are going to learn a lot. Be motivated, be inspired by the Hon. Members you see here. Most of us are not that aged and are not that young. They are somewhere close to your age. *Karibuni sana, karibuni tena na mjisikie nyumbani*. Thank you very much Hon. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Members. I think I have tried to give you a chance to welcome the students. The students from St. Monica, once again welcome and we look forward into motivating you in our today’s business.

**B) VISITING OFFICERS FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND TWO (2)
FORMER MEMBERS OF COUNTY ASSEMBLY (MCA'S)**

Hon. Members, allow me also to issue a communication on visiting officers from the County Executive and some two former colleagues who are here with us and are at the Speaker's Gallery. Because they are very few I will mention them by their names. I have a list here, so when I mention your name you can stand and wave. We have Hon. James Munuve, former MCA Kanziko ward. He came and made sure he got the report from my office. I gave him the budget report. He came straight to my office. He knows where the office of the Speaker is. So thank you. Hon. Munuve for visiting.

We also have Hon. Andrew Lusa, former MCA Kanyangi ward who also received a report of the budget. They are very keen. Hon. Frida I will give you a chance to welcome Hon. Lusa. Thank you Hon. Lusa for joining us in this sitting. It is a very important sitting for the people of Kitui County.

We also have Ben Katungi, Finance Advisor to the Governor. Thank you, *Waziri*. One day *Waziri* told me that, once a minister always a minister. So I should always refer him as minister. I agree with you Minister Katungi. Once a *Mheshimiwa*, always a *Mheshimiwa* and once a minister always a minister. Therefore welcome Mr. Ben Katungi, the Finance Advisor.

We also have Mr. John Makau Kimwele Chief Officer for Finance. Welcome C.O, we rarely interact with you. We always interact with your colleague.

Mr. Patrick Munuve is a very common person especially on matters budgeting. Welcome. You have walked this journey with the Budget Committee since when this process began. I am sure you are here to follow on the discussion.

We also have Mr. Victor Mwangangi, Assistant Director Statistics. Welcome to the County Assembly of Kitui. We also have Mr. Solomon Musembi, Assistant Director monitoring and evaluation and Ms. Linda Musee, Economist. I hope I have not missed anybody else. I think that is all. Thank you very much.

In our tradition, Hon. Members of receiving and welcoming visitors to the County Assembly, I extend a warm welcome to them and on behalf of the County Assembly of Kitui and my own behalf, I wish them a fruitful visit. Thank you.

I also, once again want to give chance to a few of you, who may want to join me in welcoming our colleagues from the executive and our two former colleagues, beginning with Hon. Frida Maua. I saw she wanted to say something in regard to the UDA aspirant for Kanyangi Ward and the former MCA for Kanyangi Hon. Lusa who was my worthy competitor in the speakership.

(Laughter)

Hon. Frida you can begin.

Hon. Frida Maua: Thank Mr. Speaker, Sir. I am grateful to have this chance to welcome Hon. Lusa. Yes he was your competitor in the speakership but the votes were not enough. I also want to encourage him and thank him for his visit. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Frida. Yes, Hon. Kimuli. You know I think last Sunday but one I worshipped with you in your church at Gospel Outreach Church in Yekani and Hon. Munuve was there. I actually remember what the pastor told us that we should always meet the

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people who lead at their point of needs. I remember that powerful sermon. Let me give you a chance to join me in welcoming our visitors.

Hon. Kyalo Kimuli: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir for the opportunity and for allowing me to join you in welcoming our friends there

Hon. Munuve and Hon. Lusa as well as the team from the County Executive, mine is to welcome and wish them a nice time here as they listen to the debate. When Hon. Munuve was elected since 2013, he became a member of the Committee on Budget. So he knows everything concerning the Budget. He has been my close friend since when he was elected. He mentored me well and finally I overturned him...

(Laughter)

But in a friendly way. We do talk, we do chat and we work together as you saw last Sunday.

The Speaker: Yes.

Hon. Kyalo Kimuli: So I welcome them and just to my former MCA that Kanziko is in safe hands with me and all is well with me and I hope I will do better than him as I proceed. Thank you.

The Speaker: Since you have said he mentored you, any teacher may want their students to do better than them. So I am sure Hon. Munuve may want you to do better than him as he continues supporting you. In church he even said that he will continue supporting you. You are also a good member because you are working very well with your worthy competitor. Thank you Hon. Kimuli. The Minority Leader, I know you have good words... I was to force you to join you in welcoming the Members, so thank you for volunteering. So let us listen to our Minority Leader Hon. Alex Ngang

Hon. Alex Nganga: Thank you Hon. Speaker, Sir. Indeed it is a good day and I join you in welcoming our visitors to the County Assembly of Kitui. I know a time like this, two years ago, Hon. Munuve loved this session because he served for a long time as the Vice Chair of the Budget Committee. At the same time Mr. Ben Katungi was also our CECM Finance. It is so good that the two are still working together in the Executive; Hon. Munuve working in the board of KIWASCO and Mr. Ben Katungi continues to give his valuable advice on matters finance and budget making.

To our two Cos, directors John, Victor and others, we welcome you. It is a very important session, I know, for you to realize that today is a big day for the people of Kitui County.

My very good friend Hon. Lusa, the man who also went beyond expectations to contest to be the Speaker of the Kitui County Assembly. And it was not a mean achievement Hon. Speaker getting a proposer and a seconder.

(Laughter)

Again, I wish the proposer and the seconder could stand to tell us what happened after proposing and seconding. So dear friends, dear colleagues, welcome to Kitui County Assembly. We join the Speaker in welcoming you.

Hon. Speaker, you will also allow me to address the students of St. Monica, joining my good friend the Hon. Deputy Speaker in welcoming them. The students we have here only happen to be schooling in a school which is located in Kyangwithya West Ward. But that is an Extra County School. You go there you will find a student from Kyuso and even Kanziko. They are our daughters and indeed it is a very good day for them to come and listen to the budget making

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process. As they exit, some of them who are in Form Four as the Deputy Speaker informed us, we want them to be of good morals, upright morals.

Hon. Speaker, we have seen for the last two days, this is the generation which is driving the agenda for this Country. We have seen what is happening in Parliament, and the people who are there, are age mates of my daughter. So let them borrow from their seniors and also do well for this country. Help us to oversight government and do good to them. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you Majority Leader. In other words you are saying the Gen Zs. Gen Zs are coming up and we encourage them to come up and take over. The older generation should pave way for others when their time is up. At some point they will overtake us because time will be for them. But we should also be motivating them at this stage. Since the Minority Leader has spoken and I can see the Majority Leader microphone is on, may be I can allow the Majority Leader before I proceed. I was being told there is a team from Kyuso, I don't know whether they are still coming. It is good when you motivate schools in your wards to also visit. That is part of representation. Majority Leader.

Hon. Munyoki Mwinzi: Thank you Hon. Speaker, Sir. If they are on their way, they are on their way, they are much welcome. We are here waiting them.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, allow me to take the opportunity once again to join you and the Hon. Members to welcome the visitors up there. We have Hon. Munuve, my very close friend, Hon. Lusa alias "King'auwi". We used to call him "King'auwi". I got an opportunity to work with them, and I can tell this House that Hon. Munuve is a 'guru' of the House business matters. So he understands very well whatever we are talking about here and whatever we are handling. To our COs and directors feel much welcomed. I think this is the first time to see such a big team from the executive coming here. It means the budget we are going to debate today means a lot to them. So feel much welcomed. We are to debate and we hope that whatever we pass here, you will also be free and willing to implement.

To the students up there, feel much welcomed. I believe there, we have presidents, MPs, MCAs, COs and also sort of leaders. Thank you.

The Speaker: We also have speakers of the County Assemblies. Don't fail to mention that.

Hon. Munyoki Mwinzi: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the correction, we have... I can challenge them that in fact in the 47 County Assemblies, we have only one female speaker. I think we can get the second one from up there.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, I welcome worthy competitors from that side. Hon. Majority Whip, please join us in one minute.

Hon. Daniel Ngoima: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. I want to start by saying my name. I am Daniel Ngoima Kimanzi, I represent the good people of Kitui Township, and they call me "Mwene Town". Let me join my colleagues in welcoming the students from St. Monica Mulutu Girls Secondary School, which is located in my area where I was born, Kyangwithya West. I also take the opportunity to welcome the visitors from the executive: the former CECM, the CO for Finance...

The Speaker: Hon. Ngoima, remember I was properly guided that, once a CECM, always a CECM.

Hon. Daniel Ngoima: Oh, sure!

The Speaker: Don't say former.

(Laughter)

Hon. Daniel Ngoima: CECM Katungi and COs who are present, other members of the executive and also the former MCAs for Kanziko and Kanyangi, feel welcomed.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, because, I know, we will be appreciating them as we debate the motion ahead of us, may be and not being selfish, I will ask you as we contribute to the motion, we will have time to appreciate them so that we save more of our time because we all want to say something as we welcome them like everybody else. Thank you

The Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Members. I think I have tried to give you some sufficient time to welcome the visitors. So let us proceed with the order paper as requested the Hon. Majority Whip. I am sure you are eager, this being a government business. And I must thank the two of you the Majority Leader and the Majority Whip, I am sure you have participated in inviting them because I know you are representing the government in the Assembly. That is good and that is the nature of the collaboration which we need between the County Assembly and the County Executive.

Thank you, Hon. Members, for joining me. Next Order!

STATEMENTS

SCHEDULE OF PLENARY BUSINESS AND COMMITTEE SITTINGS FOR THE WEEK ENDING ON 20TH JUNE, 2024

[Designated Member of the House Business Committee, Hon. Harrison Maluki]

(Statement on the Schedule of Business for coming week was laid)

The Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Harrison. Maluki. Hon. Members as you have noted, in the schedule for next week the Committee for House Business which I chair has gone ahead to even schedule the Appropriation Bill. So I think the delegation from the Executive led by the Advisor should take note of that. We are even anticipating the Appropriation Bill so that without further delay, our budget is ready for utilization.

So, the Finance Advisor and your team, take note of that. If the Bill can come by Friday, be assured then by next week on Tuesday, the Committee on Budget and Appropriations, am sure then can work over the weekend. This is a very hardworking committee Hon. Kimuli and the Chair Budget. I know we can arrange for a programme. So, liaise with the minister for Finance and the team. If the Appropriation Bill comes on time, I will give you a programme so that you start working on it. So, liaise with the minister and keep us updated so that by next week I hope we shall be the first County Assembly to approve the budget and also approve the Appropriation Bill. Then if there are any other consultations, we have other supplementary budgets to come.

So, thank you very much the Committee on House Business for scheduling that business in anticipation, and I believe that because we believe in collaboration and consultations, our colleagues in the Executive will try to adhere to that.

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Thank you, Hon. Harrison Maluki, for laying the Schedule for next week and as you can see it is very light. We want to make sure we focus on the Appropriation Bill. If it does not come by Friday, we shall put more business because we can't dictate to them when they can bring it. Thank you very much.

Before we proceed allow me to issue another communication.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

C. VISITING PUPILS FROM KAMALI PRIMARY SCHOOL IN TSEIKURU WARD

Hon. Members, I would like to acknowledge the presence in the public gallery this afternoon, of three pupils and their teacher Mr. Kimathi Kirema from Kamali Primary School in Tseiluru Ward. In our tradition of receiving and welcoming visitors to the County Assembly, I extend a warm welcome to them and on behalf of the County Assembly of Kitui and my own behalf, I wish them a fruitful visit to the Assembly. Thank you.

I don't know whether Hon. Muange is in, I think he has stepped out. Hon. Ndagara, as Hon. Muange comes, can you please join me...? You know that is my neighborhood school. We used to compete in sports when I was in Musavani Primary School. So please join me in welcoming the pupils and the teacher.

Mhesh. Godfrey Ndagara: *Naam, Bw. Spika, kama kawaida, nikiwaongelesha wanafunzi mara nyingi hupenda kuitumia lugha ya Kiswahili. Nachukua fursa hii niungane na wewe kuwaalika wanafunzi wa shule ya Msingi ya Kamali. Mimi nisoma katika shule ya upili ya Tseikuru. Kwa hivyo eneo zima la Tseikuru nina marafiki wengi sana na nilikuwa na marafiki wengi sana kutoka eneo la Kamali. Kwa hivyo kwa mwalimu pamoja na wanafunzi (nawaona wanafunzi wamevaa nadhifu kwelikweli) na wamekaa vizuri kuangalia jinsi sisi kama wawakilishi wa wananchi tunavyongea hapa. Karibuni sana. Mwalimu asante sana kwa kuwaleta wanafuzi. Wanafunzi tieni bidii masomoni. Tunasema sio viongozi wa kesho, ila ni viongozi wa leo. Kama unahitaji kuwa daktari, unakuwa daktari hata hapo shuleni ulipo. Unanza kuitwa doctor, Si kusema hetu, "mpaka nisome kwanza ndio niwe daktari." Lazima uanze kuiga yale mambo ambayo unataka kusomea ukiwa pale shuleni. Kwa hivyo tieni bidii manake wanasema, "Mbwa wa msasi mkali ni wakali pia. Spika wewe ni mkali, MCAs walioko hapa ni wakali na haswa Kamali tuna Mheshimiwa Muange ambaye ni mkali zaidi. Ni guru wa kuongea Kimombo.*

Kwa hivyo mnaporudi kule nyumbani jioneni ni wakali na mtie bidii ndio muweze kubadilisha maisha na hali zenu pale nyumbani na vile vile nchi yetu. Asante sana.

The Speaker: Thank you very much Hon. Ndagara. Hon. Munyoki Mwinzi you want to stand in for your neighbor, Hon. Muange?

Hon. Munyoki Mwinzi: Yes. Thank you Hon. Speaker, Sir. Tseikuru ward is my neighbouring ward. My name is Munyoki Mwinzi representing the great people of Kyuso. I want to take the opportunity to join my colleagues in welcoming pupils from Kamali. Feel much welcomed.

Through the debate we are going to have to, obviously you will learn a lot. Thank you.

Thank You. Next Order!

The Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Munyoki Mwinzi. You have pronounced it very well – Kamali. Thank you very much. We encourage more and more visitors. And very soon Hon. Member I think as a board we said we need to also broadcast whatever we debate here. So very soon we shall be airing live our debates here so that people from outside can know what we are doing. So that when Hon. Mbuno is contributing, people from Endau who are staying in other countries can watch on You Tube and see their member. Very soon we shall do that but in the meantime we also encourage visitors to come and see what we are doing and what we are debating.

So thank you very much Hon. Members. I can see that you are very much eager for the debate before us on budget and I know that members will be given... I will make sure I give you sufficient time to debate on the motion without repeating yourself so that we can present the views of our people.

Thank you. Next Order!

MOTIONS

REPORT BY THE COUNTY BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE ON
CONSIDERATION OF THE COUNTY BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE
FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/2025

{Resumption of debate deferred during the morning Sitting}

Hon. Members, this motion was moved in the morning sitting and the question proposed. We are only resuming to debate the motion. As I have said I will give each Member who wants to say something sufficient time. Sufficient time does not mean you speak for one hour. I will give five minutes and if you convince me to add you a minute or two, I will do so. So I will give each member who want to contribute five minutes. If you want to contribute more, you will seek leave and I will grant if I am convinced that you need more time. If you repeat yourself and want to ask for more time, I may decline.

So please make sure you go point by point. This the moment where you represent the views of your people – the people you represent. If you are nominated, there is a category for the people you represent. If you are elected; the people in your ward. This is the time and I want to thank you Hon. Members because the attendance is very good and I know our people indeed elected able representatives.

Let me give the Chair, Budget who requested me to give him the first chance and any member of the Budget Committee to have the first chance before we open up. This is because you may bring an issue which would have been clarified by a member of the budget Committee. I have chosen to begin with members of the Budget committee first and then open to the other members beginning with the House Leadership who may also want to contribute. But everybody will get a chance to say something. Everybody who wants to say something will be given a chance. I will urge our visitors to be patient as they listen to this very important report in our county government. So Chair Budget, I don't mind you stepping to the front so that the students... Any Member who wants to contribute, I will allow you to use either of the two microphones at the dispatch box so that the students who are up there can see you. You know, especially the Majority and the Minority Leaders from where you are seated you cannot be seen by the visitors so I will be requesting you use the two microphones if you don't mind. Thank you very much.

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Chair Budget, the man of the moment, you are very lucky. Nobody attacked your briefcase. Do you even have any briefcase? We shall discuss that at the board level. Also Advisor Finance make sure your minister has a good briefcase, so that we can know who to target. Thank you very much. Chair Budget, and very soon actually, the way you were proposing, we shall be inviting the colleagues from the Executive to come here and present these documents. So CO Kimwele and your colleagues there very soon you will be appearing before these members and you will be properly grilled. So thank you very much.

Chair Budget Hon. Zacchaues Ivutha Syengo, you may proceed. I can give you ten minutes.

Hon. Zacchaues Syengo: Thank you Hon. Speaker. Just to highlight that, the two days I had a lot of support and security organized by Hon. Ndagara which is something I appreciate because there are people who when they promise you that you are secure you can be sure you are secure. But there are others you can really doubt whether it is real.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to join my colleagues to also welcome both our colleagues from the executive and also the students who have joined us today and to tell them that they are welcome to listen to a very major conversation today in regards to the budget knowing that this is a report that touches on a major part of how we operate.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to share a few pointers. In the morning sitting I had the opportunity session I had an opportunity granted by this House to move a report here that has been a subject of a lot of discussions before we put it together. Since April 30th, when we received the estimates there has been a lot of discussions and all of us have been granted opportunities to share our views.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the report that we laid before the House for discussion is a result of reports coming from sectorial committees, public participation at both levels organized by the executive and the county assembly and also individual feedback from Members of the County Assembly and members of the public. As a committee as we put together the report, we put into consideration those views from all those corners. It also include memoranda developed by different people – from the executive, members of the public sharing particular aspects that they needed to be considered before we prepared the final report.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to point out several areas which I feel there was response by both the Executive and the County Assembly. One is in regard to CLIDP. Today as we speak we have proposed that the cumulative amount for CLIDP should be Ksh.750 million which essentially means the effective amount that goes directly into each ward is more than Ksh. 13.5 million.

We have also suggested that we have 10 kilometres of dozing works basically opening up new roads. We have suggested that we have 60 kilometres of grading. And we know that because of El- Nino roads across the county are dilapidated and they require immediate attention. There has been a substantial amount that has been set aside for major roads basically covering culverts and rehabilitating existing roads by looking at whatever has been destroyed.

An amount has also been set aside for playgrounds because we are focused on growing talents in our county and supporting sports and sports utilities to ensure that those who have got talents can be able to express them using those facilities.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I must also appreciate that there is sufficient amounts including from the estimates and also from the memorandum that were set aside for pharmaceuticals and non-pharmaceuticals. Yesterday I had a very interesting... (I don't know whether to call it interesting or unfortunate) incident where a daughter of the lady who works in my home in Kyamatu had a

snake bite but across all the hospitals from Zombe all the way to KCRH there was no anti-venom and I had to buy it from some other quarters just to make sure that we save that life. So when we talk about pharmaceuticals and non-pharmaceuticals and ensuring that there is sufficient funding for such items, we are looking at, how do we ensure that the people of Kitui County are served well.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, from the bottom of my heart and convinced by listening to my colleagues whom I sit with in the Budget Committee who have sufficiently supported the whole process and have been very active and committed in these discussions, we believe that the document and the report we are discussing today espouses the needs of the people of Kitui County and it is inclusive by all standards. Therefore, even as my colleagues begin debating the report and prepare to take a vote and a decision, I urge all the Members of the County Assembly to support the report and thereafter open the space for the people of Kitui well in the next financial 2024/2025. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you very much Chair, Budget Committee. Of course at the end of the debate I will give you another chance to clarify any issues which would have been raised by the Hon. Members.

Vice Chair Budget you know where to stand. Today we shall all debate from the dispatch box. So it is you to choose to be on the right or on the left. Which side do you prefer. Hon. Kalenga you don't need to answer that before Hon. Katumbi throws a word at you. But if you prefer the right side then please proceed.

Mhesh. Jacquelyne Kalenga: *Asante Bwana Spika. Leo ningependa pia kuongea kwa lugha ya Kiswahili.*

The Speaker: Hon. Kalenga be notified that you will not mix English and Kiswahili.

Mhesh. Jacquelyne Kalenga: *Najua Kabisa!*

The Speaker: Okay. Please proceed.

Mhesh. Jacquelyne Kalenga: *Asante! Nimekuja hapa kumuunga mkono mwenyekiti wa Kamati ya Bajeti na kuwaomba waheshimiwa wenzangu tuiptishe hii bajeti kwa umoja na pamoja. Bajeti ambayo tumetengeneza inajumuisha maslahi yetu sisi wote na wadi zote arobaine za Kaunti ya Kitui.*

Tumeguzia mambo tofauti tofauti wakiwemo walemavu, vijana wetu kupitia vyo vya mafunzo ya kiufundi na stadi, wanawawake na watoto. Kwa hivyo tukiangalia hata tulivyoisoma asubuhi ni bajeti ambayo ni nzuri. Hivyo basi nawaomba tuiunge mkono na tuiptishe kwa pamoja ili Kitui yetu iende mbele. Asante.

(Applause)

The Speaker: Thank you very much our able Vice Chair for Budget. That is the position which was being occupied by Hon. Munuve. Hon. Munuve there is a very able Vice Chair here by the name Jacquelyne Kalenga and the Chair, they have been doing a good job.

I think previously the Chair was Hon. Kilaa Kasina and now the Chair is Zack. So I think the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee have been working very well.

Thank you very much Hon. Kalenga and your Kiswahili is very eloquent. I am sure the young girls there have been seriously motivated. Today you are very smart. Keep it up. Any other member of the Budget Committee before I open up? Hon. Maluki had requested to say something

before he rushes somewhere where I am sending him. Being in the Speaker's panel I have to send him to represent me. Say a word before I send you to represent me elsewhere.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, our able Vice-Chairperson for the Budget Committee. That is the position which was previously held by Hon. Munuve. Hon. Munuve, there is a very able Vice-Chairperson, by the name Hon. Jacquelyne Kalenga and they have been doing a good job. I think previously, the chairperson was Hon. Kilaa Kasina. The current chairperson is Hon. Zacchaeus Syengo.

I think the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson of this Committee have been working very well. So, thank you Hon. Kalenga and your Kiswahili is very eloquent, I am sure the young girls at the public gallery have been seriously motivated. Today, you are very smart, keep it up. Any other member of the Budget Committee before I open up the debate to the other members?

Hon. Paul Maluki had request to say something before he rushes somewhere, where I am sending him and being in the Speakers' panel, I have to send him to represent me. So, say a word before I send you to represent me somewhere.

Hon. Paul Maluki: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I want to support the motion. Actually, it feels good to be in the opposition. I want also to congratulate the Committee for job well done. However, Mr. Speaker, was it not for the fact that, there was additional Ksh.254M which was added to our equitable share, we would be in a very bad scenario because almost all elected MCAs are receiving similar complaints from the electorates.

When you look at what had been allocated to the ministry of roads and transport in terms of the amount allocated for in house grading and road opening, it doesn't make a lot of impact at the ward level. I want to imagine a ward like Athi, which is almost another constituency and then you are given 30km for grading and 5km for dozing.

Mr. Speaker, issues that are affecting our people mostly are from three ministries. I don't want to say that the other ministries don't make a lot of sense but there are three ministries that play a very key role. And when you listen to morning radio shows, you will hear members of the public talking about roads, water and health.

I don't want to say that the ministries don't play a key role but I know the three ministries I have mentioned they are very dear. It is now the high time we put our priorities right, as much as we want to balance the ministries, we must put record straight. I actually want to appreciate the committee because as the report was being tabled, I was going through it with Chairperson, sentence by sentence, word by word.

I now want to ask our good Governor, that once this Assembly approves the budget, he ensures it is implemented. Although, he might have room for a memorandum, I want to believe that the Committee on Budget gave us the best budget for the best interest of the great people of Kitui County. If we start doing politics with this budget, we might start experiencing what is happening at the National Government. Because as we speak right now most of our roads are impassable.

In fact, we should not be talking about 40km, we should be talking about 100km per ward. I am saying that because it is so dear to me and also because I have seen that we are building some other dispensaries. We must ask ourselves this question; Where are our priorities? We are having

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so many dispensaries that were built many years ago and they have not been operationalized. Then, we say that we want to build more dispensaries!

Our priorities would be, let us hire more nurses and open the ones that were already built because they were built using public funds. Mr. Speaker, since I want to give other members an opportunity to say something, I rest my case and I support the motion.

The Speaker: Thank you, Member for Kithumula/Kwa Mutonga ward for adding your voice. Members of the Budget Committee, I think I saw Hon. Mutune, I will give you a chance and then I go to the other members. So, Hon. Mutune, very active member of the budget Committee, I am sure the Chairperson, is very lucky to have a resourceful member like you. Hon. Mutune, please proceed.

Hon. Mary Mutune: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this motion. This is a budget report which we are debating on; the budget for the next financial year. Mr. Speaker, one thing we know about budgets, they are not easy to do because it is a matter of balance.

We have a huge pile of needs but we have limited resources and balancing them is not easy because you can't put in one basket and leave the other baskets. I want to commend the Budget Committee for doing a good job and for having the people of Kitui in their minds as they were working on this budget.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker for giving us the opportunity to work on the budget despite taking quite some time. It was not because we were delaying but because we needed clarity on some things. These are public funds and we have to be prudent on how we administer the funds.

I urge this House to support this motion, we approve this budget and even after we approve, I request the House through our sectoral committee that we do a good oversight so that services can reach to our people at the grassroots. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Mutune for that input. Let me now open the floor for the other members and apart from the Leader of Majority Party and the Leader of Minority Party, you will allow me to look at the seniority in terms of age but everybody will contribute. Of course, if the microphone of the Leader of Majority Party and the Leader of Minority Party are on, I will give them the opportunity first. So, let me see who is older between Hon. Katumbi and Hon. Muange. Of course, Muange is older than Katumbi. Hon. Muange, please proceed and as you start, we have some pupils from Kamale Primary School who have joined us with their teacher. You can also join me in welcoming them as you contribute. Hon. Muange, my very able MCA for Tseikuru Ward, please proceed.

Hon. Daniel Muange: Thank you Mr. Speaker for this chance. I take this opportunity to welcome Kamale pupils together with their teacher. I am sure they know me. I am happy to announce that is only last week that I gave the shopping Center a good "mulika mwizi".

So, I am sure that parents of those pupils are enjoying longer business hours because there is light in Kamali. Kamali shopping Center is about five kilometers from my home and is where I pass everyday whenever I am going home. So, *Mwalimu* with your pupils feel most welcome. You must have seen me around soliciting for votes in Kikamba but when I go to ask for *mulika mwizi* from the Governor, I speak that language I am speaking right now, thank God you understand.

Hon. Speaker, I want to thank the Committee, led by Hon. Zacchaeus for work well done. Particularly, when they tried to balance the projects and the allocations across the wards, that is a good thing to do. Because it is very defeating and makes one feel very hopeless especially when you see one ward getting thirty million or forty million and your ward is getting Ten (10) Million and especially when you are neighbors. It becomes a very big problem because that one of course, will bear strongly on you, your people may feel like you are not working. So, the committee did a very good job to try to balance especially within the regions, if it is Mwingi North, it balances around there, if it is Kitui South, the same thing.

So, we are happy with what the Committee has been able to do and Mr. Speaker, to wind up, I would concentrate on three ministries currently. One of them is roads, actually roads can send all of us home. Because everyone is complaining everywhere that the roads are impassable. So, if there is money in the budget for roads, it is a good thing.

The allocation of forty (40) or sixty (60) kilometers per ward is not enough at all. We need more kilometers because some wards are very vast. For instance, Athi ward and Tseikuru wards. If you are given forty (40) kilometers and you are told, here is Tseikuru sward, you don't know where to begin and where to end.

So, we need to make a progressive report, so that we continue adding these kilometers as we go on. The other ministry Mr. Speaker, is Health. We have so many facilities laying idle across the County that are not useful while people are walking for twenty kilometers. For instance, a place called Katumbi, not the one at Endau/Malani, Katumbi in Tseikuru ward. People walk for around Twenty (20) kilometers to reach the nearest health facility. So, we need these facilities operationalized so that we can progress.

The other one is the Ministry of Education. Mr. Speaker, if can you can remember, there was uproar when over 600 ECDE teachers were sacked and of course, even the facilities were left unattended. I gave an example of a place called “*Nganga Imwe*” where there is a very magnificent ECDE classroom that was build and I also initiated construction of a four-door pit latrine. Now, it has been left because the ECDE teacher was transferred to the nearest primary school.

So, if these ministries can be addressed at the moment, I think we would be nearly there. Mr. Speaker Sir, with those few or many remarks, I support the motion.

The Speaker: Thank very much, Hon. Muange, my very able MCA for Tseikuru Ward. The other one who is next in line is Hon. Mukwaiyu. Today we are giving priority to the seniors in terms of age but of course, the leadership, the Leader of Majority Party, the Deputy Speaker and the Leader of Minority Party. If they want to say a word at any point, they will do so but the rest of us, it will depend with your age. Hon. Mukwaiyu, you have earned that respect, living all those very many years, you deserve to be given some priority. Over to you Hon. Mukwaiyu.

Hon. Alphonse Mukwaiyu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I feel happy because initially you had said that old people should start giving way...

(The Speaker interjected)

The Speaker: I have quickly corrected myself.

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Hon. Alphonse Mukwaiyu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I am saying it on a light note because you are a lawyer and those who crafted the Constitution of Kenya 2010 did not think of age when it comes to people representation and I am happy. I think I am either second or ahead of Hon. Muange in terms of seniority in terms of age.

Mr. Speaker, I want to introduce myself because we have students and pupils at our public gallery. My name is Alphonse Musyimi. I represent a great Ward called Kyome/Thaana ward and I am happy to be here. I went to primary school in early 1960's and I'm still going to school. So, I encourage students to know that going to school has no limit.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here to support the motion and I will dwell on one particular paragraph which is paragraph nine (9) and specifically sub-Paragraph eighteen (18). Mr. Speaker, much of what is covered by that paragraph is what we are all talking about, roads. As many Hon. Members have spoken here, we know actually infrastructure is the backbone of an economy because it is the one that supports the movement of goods and people.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Committee for actually allocating much more money and retaining the proposals from the members. Initially, we were worried when we saw that the grading of roads had been reduced from 70km to 30km and those of dozing from 10km to 5km. That proposal had been made by my committee on LIHUD (*Committee on Lands, Infrastructure and Urban Development*) but now I can see that grading of roads has been increased to 60km and dozing retained at 10km.

Mr. Speaker, I want to highlight on the issue that the ministry of LIHUD faces and especially in roads. Mr. Speaker, we understand and I have always said that infrastructure is the most costly undertaking the government is facing now. Therefore, a lot of economic practices must be exercised. In this financial year which is coming to an end, I would like to speak on the house grading program.

Mr. Speaker, the in-house grading program for this financial year was a bit disturbed because we were dwelling so much on what I can call benevolence, that we were moving very expensive equipment from one far flung ward to another far-flung ward. Like for example, imagine transporting a grader from Athi ward to Tseikuru ward to grade a kilometre or two in order to support a burial!

If we really want to be economical with public funds, you look at the mobilization cost to transport a grader from Athi ward to grade a kilometer or two kilometers in another far-flung ward which cost only twenty-five thousand per kilometer. The loader which transports that grader costs around three thousand per kilometer. Surely, if we really want to be economical, I have tried and I would like our members to realize, should we ever ask for that grading to support those kinds of activities?

Let us be very economical because I have not seen anywhere an allocation for emergency funds. Although, we had recommended establishment of an emergency fund which would support such kind of activities. It is necessary, it is important, if we were to look at the economic aspect of it. Then, when we switch that grader from one Ward to Ward what have we done? We have just discontinued works in one Ward and we may not go back there soon. That, actually puts the MCA

of the Ward where the grader has been removed in jeopardy. That is what I'm trying to say Mr. Speaker.

However, with the little that has been allocated, if we were to be economical, actually with the little funds we can have what we call multiplier effect. For example, I want to urge members, to prioritize what is more necessary when the machine arrives at your Ward. Equally, I request the Hon. Members to supplement these works with the CLIDP (Community Level Infrastructure Projects) do as much as possible with your CLIDP.

Otherwise, Mr. Speaker, in Kyome/Thaana Ward, I would say, we are luck that we are served by 1A3 road (Thika - Garissa road) which is tarmacked. However, we still need three other roads. We have a road which links Migwani Ward through Kyome/Thaana to Mwingi Central and we have another one that links Kiomo/Kyethani with Nguutani. Those are the two major roads that I would like to be given priority because they are inter-Ward roads.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I support the motion and I request that when it comes to the final point, let's pass this budget *nemine contradicente* (without dissent).

The Speaker: Hon. Mukwaiyu, before you sit, the last words you have used are they Latin or Italian?

Hon. Alphonse Mukwaiyu: (*Spoke off-record*)

The Speaker: Switch on your microphone. Thank you. Hon. Katumbi wants to hear.

Hon. Alphonse Mukwaiyu: Yeah, it is called *nemine contradicente* (*if you conduct a meeting and you want to pass a motion without anybody contradicting*) those are the terms used. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, very much, you know, you are using military coded language which I am sure Hon. Nding'o is struggling to understand. Hon. Nding'o, I know now you know. Hon. Mary Ndumbu, I think in terms of seniority, you are the next and we have to appreciate our ranking member, Hon. Ndumbu, has being very invaluable to this House and we appreciate you, our dear mum. To some of us, you are our mum, please add your voice to this budget.

Hon. Mary Ndumbu: Thank you very much Hon. Speaker, I hear some people here bragging of being old but I think, I am the oldest in this house. So, ...

The Speaker: (*laughter*) Nobody can contradict that, thank you.

Hon. Mary Ndumbu: I am happy and proud about it. Let me congratulate the budget committee for the tireless work they have been doing for the last two weeks or more. Although, they have taken a little bit too long, they should learn to do things hurriedly. I have been in budget committee for several years previously with my colleague, Hon. Munuve (*Former MCA for Kanziko ward*) who is seated at the gallery and the longest time we took was not two weeks.

So, I must say it was a serious committee, what worries me is our Own Source Revenue...

(*Hon. Jeremiah Mutua Stood on a point of order*)

The Speaker: Hon. Mary Ndumbu, there is a point of order from Hon. Jeremiah. What is your point of Order Hon. Jeremiah? Remember our ranking member is on her feet.

Hon. Jeremiah Mutua: Mr. Speaker, is the Hon. Member, Hon. Mary Ndumbu in order to say that while they were serving with Hon. Munuve seated at the gallery, in Committee on Budget and Appropriation it was a very serious committee and therefore, it used to take very few days to prepare this report. Now that this committee has taken longer period, is she telling us that the committee is not serious? Is she in order?

Hon. Mary Ndumbu: *(Spoke off-record)*

(Laughter)

The Speaker: Hon. Mary Ndumbu, please switch your microphone on?

Hon. Mary Ndumbu: Hon. Speaker, I am in order, we must get serious in this House. You know, it is a House of young, educated, vibrant people and they must show how they are going to take us home. Otherwise, I will remain here. So ...

(Hon. Jeremiah Mutua stood on a point of order)

The Speaker: Hon. Jeremiah, unfortunately I cannot overrule the ranking member on that one. I will abstain

(Laughter)

Hon. Mary, please proceed.

Hon. Mary Ndumbu: I was saying that I am worried about our Own Source Revenue which we have struggled to increase for years and it is not that we don't have resources. I was surprised when I saw the revenue target for Makueni hitting One Billion! Not because they are richer than us although they have Mombasa road passing through their County but in our County, we see lorries everyday carrying sand taking it to Nairobi.

I wonder, how we do our collection. Is this money collected promptly or what is happening? Are we losing our revenue because we rely on the monies from the National Government and we know what is happening? There isn't enough money and they don't even remit the money to Counties on time which means, we are going to suspend some of the projects we want to do as a County waiting for the money from the exchequer.

Therefore, I urge our officers in the Executive to see how they can push to make sure we are collecting every penny which we are supposed to get as our Own Resource Revenue. We should not be losing any money and that doesn't mean that we are over taxing our people because those people who are taking our raw materials are supposed to pay taxes and pay promptly.

The other thing is whatever little we have, we should use it wisely. We are not saying that some ministries should be closed down. It has to be shared amongst the ministries but some should be given priority like Health, because we have to treat our people. There is no way a sick nation can be working. There is also Roads and Agriculture, all these we have to balance.

So, we hope and pray that our Country is going to get more funds or the economy is going to improve so that we can give our people development. Now that we are going to pass this budget. We urge the executive to use the monies prudently because we are going to oversight and we are going to oversight without jokes.

Let money be used properly. No corruption, people are tired. They want the work to be done, we saw yesterday very young people demonstrating. They are tired, they want to be helped. Today, we were discussing a motion on education concerning vocational centers, whereby we all know that nowadays, there are no employment opportunities and our vocational centers are dying.

I hope the executive is going to revive our vocational centers because this is the only hope we are left with. Where can train our young people because even after going to universities, there are no jobs but they want to be professionals. If they want to be plumbers or beauticians they should be trained properly. We need trained and qualified trainers, who can train our youth. So, that they can train others and do whatever business they want to do with that knowledge and that is why we always import professionals like people who tarmac roads come from China, why don't we train people who can tarmac roads?

There are no jokes anymore Kenyans are tired, we have talked about eradicating corruption, we have to stop it because we the Hon. Members, we are not the very brave ones or cleverest because there are people outside there who can work better than us.

Therefore, I urge members, to do oversight and overlooking the executive doesn't mean that we are fighting them but we have to do our work and do it promptly. With those few remarks, I support the motion. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you very much ranking member, Hon. Ndumbu. Hon. Ngoima I think you are the next in the order of seniority in terms of age. Proceed to the dispatch table. Today we are going to debate from the dispatch table all of us and after you I think Hon. Nding'o will follow. Hon. Grace will have to wait a little bit don't worry. I will give you a chance. Hon. Mbuno, you will be among the last but don't worry. Hon. Ngoima.

Hon. Daniel Ngoima: Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me this opportunity to give my views on the budget. First and foremost, I want to appreciate and congratulate the Budget Committee which did a very commendable job away from the longest time they took as it has been voiced by Hon. Ndumbu. Actually, they did a very commendable job.

Secondly, I want also to congratulate the office of the Speaker for availing them all that time to do this budget estimates report. Further, I want also to congratulate the office of the Clerk. Mr. Speaker, this budget is an awesome budget. It is a budget which speaks volumes and it is very friendly to our County. I took some lengthy hours going through this big and voluminous document overnight and I found that, we have a lot to benefit from this budget of 2024/2025.

Mr. Speaker, as I was going through this document, I saw that we have three or more ministries doing street lighting in our County i.e. Ministry of Trade, Industries & Cooperatives, Ministry Environment, Energy & Mineral Investments and also the Municipality is also doing the same. This means that we are going to a 24hour economy. Actually, we will have many hours to work at night because of the lighting of our towns. Although, the recommendation by the Budget Committee is that, we give the lighting exercise to may be one ministry, which is okay.

Mr. Speaker, having said that it is a good budget, I want to say that there are some of the areas which may have some small problems as we pass this budget. However, these small problems can be improved in the supplementary budget one(I). So, we will not dwell on passing this budget because of one or two small problems since that can be addressed later in supplementary budget 1.

Therefore, Hon. Members, I want also to draw your attention to that whatever is not done in this budget we will still have a room to correct later. I also want to urge the executive to be proactive because we are going to approve this budget for them as I support it. Therefore, it is for them to work for people who brought us to this August House and see our people benefiting.

So, Mr. Speaker, as I finish, I want to plead with this August House that it passes this budget without amendments and let the work of this County continue, Let's give the executive energy to move ahead. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Ngoima, the Majority Party Whip and the MCA for Township Ward. Hon. Alex Nganga (*The Leader of Minority Party*) had request for a chance so that he can rush somewhere. You know where to go, I will give you at most ten minutes and the Leader of Majority Party if he wants to speak I will give him ten minutes but the rest of us, please five minutes. Hon. Alex Nganga, you may proceed. I don't know whether it is working.

Hon. Alex Nganga (*The Leader of Minority Party*): Thank you, Hon. Speaker and thank you very much for accepting my kind request. You know Hon. Speaker, there are so many pupils who are attending music festivals at Kitui Teachers college. I happen to have some from my ward and I just wanted to take them for late lunch and so, that's why I have requested you allow me to make my contribution and I leave.

Hon. Speaker, I am a member of the Budget Committee and when the budget estimates were submitted to this Assembly, we looked at the document, we sought your wisdom because many things in that budget were contentious. As a committee and I want to thank my colleagues in the Budget committee, led by our very able chairperson for the process we have gone through.

Hon. Speaker, I also want to thank his excellence the Governor because of the many consultations he had with you. You have guided the Budget Committee very well and today we have a product we can call a budget for the people of Kitui County. Hon. Speaker, I want to pronounce myself, when it comes to budgeting and because we are allocating resources which will go to our wards. It doesn't matter which political party you were elected on. So, on budget making we don't have a government and opposition because the Governor belongs to all of us and I must embrace that.

Hon. Speaker, I want to thank you immensely as part of the Kitui County Assembly leadership and also thank the Majority Leader on this one. It was not easy. You remember this Assembly had taken through the County Fiscal Strategy Paper. We allocated Ksh. 105M to start a project which I believe is a dear project to our Governor because he has spoken about it many times which is the construction of MCAs' offices at the ward level but in that spirit of give and take Hon. Speaker, and I want to plead to Hon. Members who are not privy to that discussion, through your guidance and leadership through County Assembly Service Board. We agreed this

contentious some of money of Ksh.105M, we should let it go and let the Governor use it for other development projects in our ward.

Hon. Speaker, this is the way to run a County. Consultations and complementing each other between the two arms of the County Government, The executive and the Assembly. When we got the additional allocation 254M coming to our resource envelop. We also sought your wisdom, you sat down with us as leadership, we discussed, yourself, the leader of the Majority Party and many other leaders in the Assembly. And we agreed that this sum of money we should just let the Governor budget it as he wanted for the sake of development of this County.

Hon. Speaker, that is the spirit of give and take. I do not see any other thing more which is contentious in this budget because when we speak about roads, when speak about the CLIDP. Hon. Speaker, we are not the implementers of this budget. It will still be the Governor and the Executive to go and implement these projects.

Hon. Speaker, if there are may be other outstanding issues on this budget I want to still encourage the same spirit of consultations, give and take and we see where our priorities are. I want to plead with The Governor because he gave an undertaking to construct MCAs' offices that he still lives to that promise and as we proceed, he finds resources for the same to be implanted. Hon. Speaker, we are here to complement each other.

The other matter is about implementation of the budget. We have been passing budgets here and I want to challenge my colleagues and myself included as a member of sectoral committees. That we must now go and up our oversight over budget implementation. Hon. Speaker, if we don't do that we will reduce this House to a House of lamentations. This was done but it is us the sectoral committees who are not following up on the implementation of this budget.

We have gone out of our way and I want to speak quoting examples. There are issues we are doing on our budget as an County Assembly; which basically should be done by the County executive and that is the spirit of give and take. If you go to other County Assemblies, you will realize some properties like vehicles are provided by the County Executive. That is the work of County Executive, actually to buy vehicles for the County Assembly.

We are not allowed to purchase any asset but Hon. Speaker, we look at our small budget and say let us not take this to the Executive, let us facilitate ourselves. So, Hon. Speaker, that should be the spirit. Hon. Members, let us pass this budget as the Speaker has said because we are nearing this financial year.

Actually, in a week's time, we will be talking about the end of the financial year and if we don't approve the budget the way it is. Then there will be a stalemate and Hon. Speaker, we are Hon. Members. We came here as Hon. Members, we spend resources to be here and the Governor also did the same but there are people who are employed by this County, who need to get their salaries. They don't have any other source apart from salaries.

So, I plead with his excellence the Governor through the team he has send here and Hon. Speaker. We are supporting you as the leader of this County Assembly. Let us encourage and continue with this spirit of give and take and negotiation so that we can have a budget and we run our County.

We still have a bill, the County Additional Funding Bill. The Governor has also budget for some resources there which as at know we can't say certainly we are going to get them. We are seeing the case which is at the National Assembly, we have seen the speech of the President and the Cabinet Secretary for Finance. That, yes, we drop some of the suggestions we had on the revenue but we have also to get that money from somewhere and with the government we have today, you never know.

The National Government can even decide not to give us those grants. This National Government can even give us money on paper and they fail to give us that money in reality. As we talk, we know that as county governments, we have not received equitable share for the last three months but we are still running. There are issues I must appreciate as a leader and as I lead the oversight on this government and commend it for doing so. We have county governments which have not paid salaries for three or four months because they have not received the equitable share but for us, we are still running as the County Government.

So, that is spirit we should have, that the spirit of getting our priorities right, that is the spirit of negotiating our budget and developing our County. Hon. Speaker, as the head of this Arm of government and his excellence as the head of the Executive Arm and overall, the head of Kitui County Government. We are there to support you so that our County can grow and develop.

Hon. Speaker, with those few remarks, I join my colleagues in saying, I support this budget and if there are issues the same spirit you have and the same spirit the Governor has of give and take. Let us continue with that spirit and in supplementary1 or subsequent any other time. We can always reallocate funds to whatever seems to be our priority at that time. Let us be there for each other, let us be there for our people who elected us, whether specially elected or elected by the electorates of Kitui County. And let us also show solidarity so that we can build confidence in our people, that we are here not to fight but we are here to serve them.

With those remarks Mr. Speaker, you will allow me as I had requested to leave. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Alex Nganga, the Leader of the Minority Party for that input which is well appreciated. Hon. Bernard, you were outside when I said Hon. Nding'o is next. I know you are older than Hon. Nding'o but because I had said he will proceed after Hon. Ngoima let Hon. Nding'o proceed. We will give Hon. Ndagara two minutes and then you will give your views. Don't worry and after you contribute don't leave.

If I know that you will contribute and leave I will not give you a chance. So, you contribute and stay. Like, I'm sure Hon. Nding'o will stay here until the end of the debate. Hon. Nding'o, switch on your microphone. A very serious MCA for Yatta/Kwa Vonza Ward. You may have the floor and I saw very good proposals for your ward in this report and that's why you are smiling. Last time you were not smiling, I remember.

Hon. Mark Nding'o: Thank you Mr. Speaker, first and foremost I take this opportunity to appreciate the visiting students from St, Monica, Muluu Girls, the three pupils from Kamali Primary School and their teacher, feel welcome. I am sure before you leave here you will have learned something.

I also want to welcome the executive team, led by the Chief Officer. Among them I have two voters by the name Katungi and Patrick Munuve. They are very valuable voters from my ward, feel welcomed to this Assembly and I am sure your interest is much more on budget which you have really participated in formulating.

Mr. Speaker Sir, let me appreciate the Committee on Budget for good job. Although, it took some time, I know it was because of the complexity of the report. Budgeting is not something you can rush, it is something you need to negotiate and involve all the stakeholders. They really did a good job for those three or four weeks. So, thank you Mr. Chairperson and your committee members for a good report.

Mr. Speaker Sir, you have said once someone contributes on the motion he/she is not supposed to leave the Chambers but I am happy today seeing Hon. Nganga, The MCA for Matinyani (Hon. Sylvester Munyalo) is not in the Assembly. One thing I am sure is that, they fully support the budget and that is a good gesture from their side. It shows that the budget was well negotiated and they are fully in support of the County Government of Kitui.

Mr. Speaker Sir, there is something which touched me on this budget and it was the additional 254M from the National Government. I know it is little but starting from somewhere is better than having nothing. I also know there has been a conversation between the Senate and National Assembly on how we can have the fully devolved unit being transferred to the counties. One way of doing it is by increasing the equitable share to the counties. So, I want to appreciate the small additional allocation we got from the National Government and I am sure that those monies will boost our budget.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the budget has some allocation for cash on assets and I must say that, that is a good idea. Because it is going to not only help our youth and women in getting some employment opportunities but it is also going to help in implementing some of this budget. For example, if some money will be allocated for bush clearing on some of our roads. It will reduce the pressure we are having from the Ministry of Roads.

Mr. Speaker, you have talked about the dustless town, yes, I am happy today because I am one of the beneficiaries of the dustless program. The 110M which is going to do some little Kilometers in Migwani and Yatta/Kwa-Vonza is welcome because the money was budgeted in the current financial year but it was not implemented due to some financial constraints.

However, I am happy this time round the committee saw it prudent to have the money put in the budget. So, I must say that, this is not money going to help the people of Yatta/Kwa-Vonza because it is going to tarmac one of the Sub-Counties which has not been tarmacked for the last ten years of devolution.

Mr. Speaker, I must say that if it is tarmacked, it will get us some more funding from our development partners like the World Bank, which is really helping those Sub-Counties which have some good infrastructure and one way of developing the Sub-Counties is by tarmacking the towns. So, I am happy to have that program being implemented this coming Financial Year.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I must not forget to mention about the CLIDP. There is some increment on the budget of CLIDP, although, it is very little. However, I must say that it is quite significant looking at the way the CLIDP projects are helping the County. The only visible projects we can

get from the government and which can reach the people at the bottom who are our voters, is the CLIDP projects.

So, that is a good gesture from our Governor and I must thank him for agreeing and I pray that the conversation is going to continue so that we can achieve a better budget of between 800M to 1B for the CLIDP.

Mr. Speaker, the budget is well balanced but I have an issue with implementation. If look at the roads department, every financial year we budget for roads grading and dozing but we don't achieve the kilometers budgeted. For example, on dozing program, we had the program of 10km on this financial and we are approaching the end of the financial year which ending in a weeks' time.

However, most of the Wards have not even gotten the dozing program of 10 km and a good example is my Ward. We have not seeing the dozer. I heard that the dozer had a breakdown and was somewhere in Kisasi ward. So, Mr. Speaker, I urge my fellow colleagues to be vigilant on implementation of this budget because there is no need of allocating monies grading and dozing and then the financial years ends without attaining 90% of that program.

Mr. Speaker, I want to rest my case and with those few remarks I support the motion and request the Hon. Members to fully support the motion and also pass it so that we can give the County Government money to do what is required to be done in terms of development. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Nding'o, the MCA for Yatta/ Kwa Vonza Ward for that input. Hon. Ndagara, MCA for Tharaka Ward and the Deputy Majority Party Whip.

Hon. Muthengi Ndagara: Thank you so much Mr. Speaker for giving me this opportunity to at least have my word on this historical budget.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I really want to appreciate you together with the entire members of this Assembly for showing a lot of solidarity when it comes to issues to do with the budget. You will be one of the leaders that will go down in the history that last time you were the first speaker to have ever led an Assembly that led in passing the budget. I am very sure even today you will always become a speaker and leader of this institution that is historical and we are going even to pass this budget again.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say that this budget is historical in that; previously, people have had a lot of problems and I really want to commend the Budget Committee for a job well done. Our senior Hon. Ndumbu was saying that to some extent was a bit of laxity but I would say that it is good to take time so that you are able to do something which is good and perfect such that all the 40 elected members of this county will look at that budget and see the picture of their people.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the former Member for Kanziku Ward was a part of the Budget committee together with our mother, Madam Ndumbu, and they have said that they had a wonderful committee, but during that time, even the previous government, in fact you could not even realize projects in some of the areas. Dozing was not even done in the entire Mwingi North constituency for the five years. Equal distribution of resources is a very key consideration in budgeting.

I really want to comment our budget for the commendable job they have done although I complained for the delay in tabling this report. I also want to even commend all the sectoral

committees of this Assembly. This is the work as MCAs we were elected to do; to make sure that whenever you go in any sectoral committee, you make sure that you do not represent your Ward but you represent the entire people so that we have a budget whose resources are wholesomely and equitably shared to all parts of the County.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I further want to commend even the executive. I have seen so many memorandums that were done. This budget has been prepared consultatively. Many county assemblies and the executive in different counties are fighting each and every day because of the budget.

I think our governor took a stage lead in making sure that we are able to consult so that we have a budget that to some extent does not have a lot of quarrels. Through the Chief Officer of finance, Bwana Kimwele, kindly pass Assembly greetings to the CECM for these wonderful consultations and memoranda that he was able to give to make sure that at least this budget has come to this far.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the strength that I would want to say is that this budget, although the members of the County Assembly really wanted to have 800 million to 1 billion allocated for CLIDP, at least they have tried by allocating 750 million towards CLIDP projects. This one is a translation of more projects going to the grassroots, and therefore having allocated each Ward 13 .5 million is quite commendable. I think the governor was able to agree with us and said that he is going to add this allocation.

Mr. Speaker Sir, we can see that the department of health has taken about 30% of the budget because health issues are critical to humanity. That is a plus to this budget because this is going to solve so many health problems facing our people. Like my brother said, we have so many hospitals that have been constructed yet they have not been operationalized.

As I agree with that, I would want also to observe that there are some Wards where even a single health facility has not been constructed either through County or CDF funding. A Ward like Tharaka has no hospitals. This budget is capturing one of my areas which is quite critical, Kanyengia/gatoroni village that doesn't have access to any health facility facility and I think this budget is going to address that one. I really appreciate that.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the other issue that is quite important is the issue of security which should be addressed. Although this is a function of the National Government, we agreed as members of this Assembly we will not watch as our people die every day because of the shifters from our neighbouring counties, that is Tanariver and Garissa Counties. As we talk now Mr. Speaker Sir, some people have even been killed in areas around Tseikuru and other areas like. The building of police stations along the borders is quite commendable and I want to thank the governor for that.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the other issue is water. We really want to commend the governor because water has taken around 6% of the budget which is about 714 million.

Mr. Speaker as I conclude, I want to highlight some of the issues that we think maybe should be looked into going forward. The issue of roads in our Wards is quite dire. Following the previous rains, many of the roads are in deplorable conditions. If you can recall, we had a sitting with the governor so that we can address this issue. I would say that allocating inhouse grading 60 kilometers per Ward is quite little considering the damages that have been done to our roads. I

would want to register this one even to the members of the executive present here, go and inform the governor that we need to sit down quite urgently and try to see how we are going to address this issue. Yes, I know that we have been given a grant by the national government, the 445 million that is going to tackle this but we are not even sure if that grant will come.

Mr. Speaker you have been consulting and you have been giving us a lot of hope that it is going to happen. What want to say is that let the MCAs choose the kind of roads to be graded because the list that the executive provided is not friendly to us as MCAs. I would request the executive and the department of roads to give MCAs an opportunity to choose the roads that are supposed to be graded using this fuel levy grant of 445 million.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I also want to comment you. You have been fighting for MCAs. Just imagine that a Ward administrator has a good office in the Ward. The MCA who has been elected by people, whose voice is the voice of God. The power is given to the people more than a person who is employed and therefore having an MCA with an office in a small street next to a bar where voters visit you to address Ward issues is not a good show. Since the Assembly has been supporting the issues of the executive wholeheartedly, it is also good also the executive returns a favour to us by ensuring that they give us dignity by giving us more money to build MCAs offices in this coming financial year.

We had budgeted around 50 million for purchase of land which the executive has not given us but instead promise to allocate each Ward 1.5 acres for construction of the offices. We want to make sure that at the end of the day, we get some additional funds to the 3 million that has been given by the budget so that we acquire larger pieces of land and as well construct the offices.

Mr. Speaker Sir, another highlight that I want to give.....

The Speaker: Try to summarise please.

Hon. Muthengi Ndagara: This is my final remark Mr. Speaker Sir. I want so say that many of the MCAs who have been elected from Tharaka Ward have always been coming to lament in this Assembly for so many years. I want to urge my colleagues, let the people of Tharaka Ward who are minority community in this County never cry again. Through my leadership, I don't want my community to feels as if they are foreigners in their own county.

This budget to some extent I have seen that the county government and the executive have started to employ some people. According to the constitution, at least 30% of the people employed should be coming from the minority communities which is Tharaka and the Muslim Swahili people of this county. Going forward, the executive should show the spirit of implementing the constitution by making sure that the minority communities of this county are able to be considered for Permanent and Pensionable positions. I want to commend the governor because during the appointments, he was able to at least consider us in a big way, but we want to look at this other part of P&P to make sure that at least something happens.

The same thing Mr. Speaker and I think we are in agreement, you said that you are going to make sure that even here at the Assembly, through the County Assembly Service Board, you are going to consider that which is quite important because.....

The Speaker: Hon. Ndagara don't put words into my mouth. I am here I can defend myself. Don't commit on my behalf.

(Laughter)

Hon. Muthengi Ndagara: Thank You Mr. Speaker Sir, I know you hear the cries of the minority and I know you are a considerate person and as the chair of the Board, you will ensure that the cries of Tharaka people is going to be heard and something is going to happen.

Mr. Speaker I am in support of this budget 100% and I urge the executive to implement the budget because the greatest challenge that we have been having, is implementation. If this budget is fully implemented, the people of Kitui will be very happy with the leaders they elected including the Governor. Thank you so much Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Ndagara. I gave you extra minutes because you are also in the House leadership.

Hon. Priscilla when I look at the microphones that are on, you are more senior in terms of age than Hon. Mwamisi and Hon. Jeremiah unless they prove otherwise. So please come and add your voice on this budget report. You look very good. I know there is somewhere I had sent you and I am sure you represented the Assembly very well. Please proceed.

Hon. Priscilla Makumi: Thank sir. Mr. Speaker sir it's true, and allow me to greet you; How are you this evening?

The Speaker: I am fine my dear sister and how are you?

Hon. Priscilla Makumi: I am fine sir, thank you. I am very happy, I came in fresh from Dubai.

The Speaker: Ah...wonderful, girl child power.

Hon. Priscilla Makumi: That is very true. Mr. Speaker sir I don't want to prove my age because it's only today I have just known that Hon. Ndagara is older than me.

(Laughter)

The Speaker: That is very true.

Hon. Priscilla Makumi: He always tells me “*Songa mama*” but now I know. Thank you, Sir.

For the records, and to our visiting students and pupils, my name is Honourable Priscilla Makuni, representing the great party of Wiper in this Assembly of Kitui. I take this opportunity to welcome the students from St. Monica Mulutu, and tell you that you are great ladies and we are ladies representing you in this Assembly. The other students from Kamali Primary School where we get the best men who know how to speak English. So, we congratulate you all and feel most welcome.

On this budget Mr. Speaker, Sir, I don't have much to say, because almost everything has been done, only that when I went through the budget, as I represent women in this Assembly, I was looking on how women are being taken care by the budget. I want to congratulate the committee; they did a great job. They took care of everyone, and they took care of every ministry, and that is what we call equitable share. They shared the money the equitably.

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I am therefore in support of the budget because it was well prepared by our great Committee.

As a nominated member, I have seen the budget takes care of our roads, the water sector, the health sector among other sectors and I am sure the elected members are satisfied.

We are here to support them budget, and we urge the executive to implement the budget for the great County of Kitui. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you very much Honourable Priscilla for that good input to the budget report. Honourable Mwamisi, I think you are older than Honorable Mathew, unless he proves to us otherwise. The great people of Mutha Ward elected a lion, not “*Kamwana ka Wia*”, but a real lion for them. So, Hon. Mwamisi so you can tell us what the people of Mutha are saying. You can use the other microphone which I think is working. And you also look very smart. That suit, is it Italian or...?

Hon. Dominic Mwamisi: Thank you honorable Speaker, and thank you for noticing that. Thank you for the compliments.

Honorable Speaker, I will be very brief. My name is honorable Mwamisi, MCA Ward which is in Kitui South Constituency.

First allow me to welcome our girls from St Monica, Mulutu. They look very sharp and very refreshed, and they are here to come and learn and see what we do for the great people of Kitui County.

Mr. Speaker I also want to take this chance to welcome the three boys and their teachers from Kamali Primary School. I believe it should be comprehensive primary school, which is on the northern part of Kitui County. Mr. Speaker, I welcome them all.

Allow me to briefly indulge myself to this and stand here to support the motion that has been brought here by the great committee that is led by honorable Zack, who is my neighbor from Voo Ward.

If you can read the mood of this House, it is quite okay. This is because the committee did a great job. I can say that the committee has been able to try to equalize and negotiate for each and every other Ward in this County.

The previous budget that is the financial year that is ending, we really had some issues and some hiccups for lack of negotiation and we agreed that going forward, we need to have negotiations and I think that is the spirit that we are carrying on right now and we are in good terms.

Hon. Speaker, just to note, even as I support the budget, if you look at the report that has been brought here especially under the department of environment and mineral resources, you will realise that we only got 114,279 as grants from the ministry of minerals which I believe as a leader in this great county of Kitui which is full of and rich in minerals, that amount is extremely low.

Going forward, we need to relook at that department and make sure that we get all resources whenever the mining is being done so that we get to know how much we can be able to allocate for us to get more money from the national government.

Honorable speaker, I want to thank the committee again for enhancing and capturing the spirit of members of public during the public participation that we had at the Sub-County levels.

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Members of public really complained or really raised issues to do with the roads and CLIDP, and I am grateful to the committee and the executive for doing something. At least 750 Million may not be enough but we are headed somewhere. I know in the coming financial years we will be able to do extra.

Honorable Speaker, on the part of implementation, I think this one has been raised by other honorable members, let us be keen on making sure that this budget, and it is good that we have the advisor on the financial management present in this House, I urge them, and kindly pass the information to the executive, that we would be keen to relook into this to make sure that everything that has been put here is done to ensure that we add value to the great people of Kitui County.

Honorable Speaker, as I finalize, Mutha Ward is one of the Wards bordering the neighboring Tana River County and I really appreciate because the committee and the executive has seen into it to make sure that they budget for the finalization of the police posts that were started as well as allocating monies for the other police posts that had not been allocated money to enhance the security of our people.

I am a witness to this Honorable Speaker, once we constructed Konakaliti police station, even before it is equipped and staffed, you can feel there is some kind of peace in that Ward. So, I can attest that this one is going to help.

On the part of own source revenue, Mr. Speaker, I still feel that 600 million is still low compared to what we should be getting. So, I think also the committee on Finance needs to relook into this in future so that we can maximise on the own source revenue.

With those few remarks, I support this motion Hon. Speaker. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Member, for Mutha Ward and the vice Chair, Committee on administration. I know your Chair is here. I know I have broken the Committee protocol for the vice chair to speak ahead of the chair, but I am following my own protocol of age. Chair for administration you will forgive me. I know that department of administration where CLIDP is oversights, you must be having a lot to say and I will give you a chance.

Let me now allow Hon. Mathew Ngovi Vuthi, member for Chuluni Ward and the Vice-Chair, County Assembly Service Board, to add his voice to this budget. I know Hon. Jeremiah you are keenly waiting to commend on the part of the Assembly. I will give you a chance my brother.

Hon. Mathew Vuthi: Thank You Mr. Speaker Sir. I also take this opportunity to welcome our students from St. Monica Mulutu and the pupils from Kamali primary school.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I also want to welcome the executive side to this House. I don't have much to say. What we are doing today is very important to the people of Kitui. This Budget is very important to the County government of Kitui since it dictates how we are going to run this Government.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I want to appreciate you and the committee on budget especially the chair for Budget, Hon. Zack who happens to be my brother -in-law because I am married from his clan. I want to appreciate him and the members of the budget committee for this good job they have done.

I also want to thank you Mr. Speaker Sir, for leading us in the negotiations especially on the issue of the 33 million for the construction of the MCAs offices. Although that amount is little,

it is a good start and I urge the executive to add more to this allocation so that we can construct good offices in our wards.

Mr. Speaker Sir, although there are a few changes that the Committee has proposed in the budget for both the Executive and the Assembly, I urge the Executive to accept those changes and we can engage on further negotiations in the first supplementary budget.

Mr. Speaker Sir, this is our second main budget we are now doing and the greatest challenge I have observed is on implementation of the budget.

I want to urge the respective chairpersons of the committees to be on toes on the implementation part of this budget. The executive drags so much in terms of implementation of the projects and we need to take our oversight role very serious and be vigilant. We have a mandate of oversight so that our people benefit from the budget.

The other issue is on dozing and grading. That matter touches on every elected member. I know most of them are receiving calls from electorates especially on the issue of roads. I want to appreciate the Committee for adding the allocated kilometers from 40 to 60 but I would opine that it is further raised to 100.

Mr. Speaker Sir, after dozing works are done, if maintenance is not done, then after a year the road turns into a bush again. To handle the issue properly, we need to add more funds towards grading so that the roads can be maintained.

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

The Speaker: Thank you very much Hon. Member for Chuluni Ward and the Vice Chair of the Board.

Hon. Sammy Muniyithya I know by the look of the microphones around, if I judge correctly, you are senior than Hon. Gabriel Mutunga Muniyao. Member for Kivou Ward, please proceed, the floor is yours.

Hon. Sammy Muniyithya: Thank You Mr. Speaker Sir, for this opportunity. Let me also join my colleagues in welcoming welcome our students from Saint Monica and the other pupils from Tseikuru Kamali Primary School.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I am here to just share a few things where I want to at least challenge the chair for budget and his team as I also appreciate the good things they have done. It is always good and I need to appreciate that every time we do any budget, we increase the allocation for roads. As you can hear, every member is talking about roads.

Mr. Speaker Sir, under the 2022 -2023 budget, we had 5 kilometers of dozing per Ward. In 2023 -2024, we had 10 kilometers and now here we are with the 2024 -2025 budget, yet I have never any dozer in Kivou Ward. We have what we call the "Major Roads", which have the box culverts and drifts.

Actually, we have had several kilometers in previous budgets and I will tell you for free that Kivou Ward has never received a single Kilometer. As a matter of fact, we had 70 kilometers for grading.

So far, it's only 50% done and the year is ending. I am passing this challenge to the committee on implementation. I will be bringing a statement into this House to claim my dozing kilometers. After we pass this budget, I will be claiming 25 kilometers of dozing for my Ward and

I believe this is applicable to many other Wards. Yes, we are appreciating the Committee for increasing the allocation towards dozing works, yet some wards are not receiving these services. We need to be very vigilant on that issue.

Mr. Speaker Sir, there is another challenge I am posing to the committee on budget. It is on something that they have repeated and I have to mention it; We have had this Ministry of Culture, Gender, ICT getting a meagre budgetary allocation every time yet we know that they help us to grade some schools' playgrounds especially during holidays, facilities that keep our kids and students busy in sports during holidays.

Mr. Speaker Sir, every time an allocation is done for Kivou Ward, it is reallocated. I have just read in this budget report a recommendation that says, "drop in entirety the proposed additional allocation of 5 million for Kyoani and Kivou stadia". I will plead with Committee that next time you don't remove this allocation because in Kivou Ward, there is nowhere our children can play from and we need at least a field graded for us to have sports activities.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the other issue is about the Department of Tourism. We have had this reptile park in Mutomo getting its allocation reduced every time yet we keep on saying that this project needs to be completed. Why don't we increase allocations for these activities which have lagged behind for some time like this one? In fact, this will help even in getting snake venom from such a near place. I know the distance from the Chairmans place to Mutomo reptile park is short and he won't face problems accessing it. I therefore urge the Committee to consider allocating monies to complete these projects which have been lagging for ages.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I will also mention something on the health docket. We allocate a lot of money to this docket to accomplish many major things across the County and forget very little things. In Kivou Ward, we have six villages and out of the six, only two which are located at the far end of the ward have functional dispensaries. The rest lack these critical facilities. We try so hard to have these factored in the budget but in vain but we will continue to push for the same until it happens.

Mr. Speaker Sir, we really appreciate the work which the committee has done. From the magnitude of the job as it is evident in the report, they even took less time to deliver this report.

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

The Speaker: Thank you, Member for Kivou Ward, I am sure the Chair has heard you. That is why it is important for a member to come and contribute because this is where we make our budgets. So, thank you Hon. Sammy Munyithya for that contribution.

Let me respect the Assembly's leadership protocol and allow the deputy speaker, because I can see his microphone on, to also add his voice before we proceed.

After the Deputy Speaker we will hear Hon. Gabriel, Hon. Peter Mwanza and Hon. Jeremiah in that order.

Hon. Nzilu Nzioka: Thank you very much, Honorable Speaker. I will contribute to this report in few words and in few minutes, but reasonably, impactfully, and so on.

Honorable Speaker, they say before a storm, there is a lot of calmness. When it is calm as it is now, is when it is likely that a mistake can be done.

Honorable Speaker, I will appreciate, commend, and truly thank the Budget Committee which came up with the report as well as the County executive which developed the budget.

When you look into the estimates presented to this Assembly and the report, you will find out that the Committee did its work and came up with a report that will lead Kitui County and steer it forward in a straight line which is impactful to the people of Kitui, and it is not scandalous. That it is morally right, that's what I mean.

Honorable Speaker, owing to the recent heavy rains.....

The Speaker: Hon. Deputy Speaker, you know we have students, let them know the meaning of impactful and scandalous.

Those are heavy words and I know they are heavy words.

Hon. Nzilu Nzioka: Thank you very much Hon. Speaker. Impactful is from the word impact which in this context means, it will change the lives of people.

Scandalous would mean attracting public outcry because it is perceived to have no proper moral backing. It is when a budget comes up and it is planned in a way that monies are channeled in places which are not necessary, are not required or were not captured in public participation. Such a budget would be described as scandalous.

I know the students from St. Monica are learning something from what this Deputy Speaker of the County Assembly, *aka Kamwana ka wia*, is saying today.

Honorable Speaker, considering the estimates which were presented to the Committee and the commitment by the Committee to increase allocations to maintaining and opening our roads, it shows the commitment by this Assembly to assist the executive and the people of Kitui to steer this great County of ours forward.

Honorable Speaker, I was looking at both the estimates which were presented and the report, and I discovered that CLIDP money was also increased upwards. It is worth noting that CLIDP projects have direct impact to the community from the word go, starting from public participation to implementation. The community and the local villagers are fully informed.

Therefore, I support the report as it is. My vote for "yes" will be counted that we can have the budget before June 31st 2024 and we make our Kitui County move forward.

Honorable Speaker, with all honesty, with the spirit of peace, and speaking the truth always, I don't know whether I can be added about two minutes?

The Speaker: Yes, because you are my deputy, I even give you three more minutes.

Hon. Nzilu Nzioka: Thank you very much, Honorable Speaker.

The Speaker: Please proceed my able deputy.

Hon. Nzilu Nzioka: Thank you, our able Speaker. In the spirit of Article 232 of the Constitution, which provides for, among other things, transparency when dealing with public affairs, accountability, and openness, I will direct our members to an annexure from the County Assembly budget, that is annexure four (4). A report that was written by our able acting clerk on behalf of the Assembly. I will not read it, but it captures the issues that were supposed to be resolved.

Honorable Speaker, you may not be aware, but from the party where I and the majority of the members come from, we had a feeling that has been addressed, but for the purposes of Article

232 and the budget moving forward, they had a feeling that in the budget, and where we have a budget for building this office block, it was preferred that Ward offices be constructed first.

Our majority party had done a letter, and I expected to find it attached here, and the reasons that which have been explained to us, also captured here, so that everybody moves in the same wavelength as us in the leadership.

However, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the budget is commendable, and I therefore support it holistically, with all my mind, my conscience, strength, and body, on behalf of the great people of Kyangwithya West Ward.

Thank you, Honorable Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, Member for Kyangwithya West and the Deputy Speaker for that input.

Honorable Gabriel Mutunga Munyao, Member for Kauwi Ward and the Chair of the Committee on Public Investments and Accounts. Please take the floor.

Hon. Gabriel Munyao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity to give my views on the budget that is before this House for the Financial year 2024 -2025. Before St. Monica students leave, I would like to encourage them to work hard, and we invite them again and again to this House to interact with us as we do our live debates.

We also have another school, Mr. Speaker, that I understand is from your hometown. I think three boys or three girls, and a teacher. Mr. Speaker, are they three boys or three girls from your primary school?

The Speaker: I don't know if they are girls or if they are pupils. Three pupils. I am yet to confirm, but why are you interested in their gender? please make sure you see them and explain.

Hon. Gabriel Munyao: Mr. Speaker, I have been a teacher, and funny enough, Mr. Speaker, I have all along taught girls. I have not been in a position to teach in a boys' school. So, if I would have known if they are boys or girls, I would know how to frame my words. But for now, Mr. Speaker, I wish them the best.

The Speaker: Thank you very much.

Hon. Gabriel Munyao: Mr. Speaker, back to our business, I want to make some four observations as I support this budget.

The first one, Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the Budget Committee for noticing the replication of duties and roles in the ministries.

Mr. Speaker, actually, when you look at this budget, as the committee highlighted, we have street lighting carried out by the Ministry of LHIUD, the municipalities, trade and also energy. As the committee recommended, we need to have a uniform BQ and these roles carried out by a single ministry. When this street lighting is distributed in this manner, some Wards may be disadvantaged.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, it is about roads. I would like to commend the Committee on Budget and Appropriations for increasing the dozing program from Five (5) kilometers to Ten (10) kilometers. This one is a plus for this House.

However, the last financial year, Mr. Speaker, we allocated the same. And let me be on record before this House. Some members here in their Wards, the road machinery, have never

stepped in their Wards. There are Wards where grading has not been done, while we gave the budget to the Ministry of Roads to fuel their machines and do the work.

For instance, Mr. Speaker, I think it is member for Kivou Ward, who told this House that he has not seen the dozer in his Ward.

In my Ward, Mr. Speaker, I have never seen the grader and we are still waiting, and it is just two weeks shy to the end of the financial year. We are wondering whether the Ministry of Roads has the capacity to run the dozing and the grading program. Because we doubt their capacity to run this program. The way they run this program, Mr. Speaker, we may have a backlog of a whole year or two years in the near future. So that Ministry, Mr. Speaker, we have serious doubts on whether they are able to run this program.

Thirdly, Mr. Speaker, is about the Education sector. From my own observation, the biggest loser in this budget was the Ministry of Education. Because, Mr. Speaker, the ECD classes are nowhere in this budget. While the Governor was undressing this House, I think the first address by the Governor, he promised our people outdoor play equipment, school feeding program, and so many things for the education sector.

Mr. Speaker, when we interact with the people down there, they are asking us about these things. And because we have an opportunity to interact with these officers and CEOs here, Mr. Speaker, it is very important that they remind our good Governor that these things, our people need them.

Again, Mr. Speaker, there are many ECDE teachers who have retired. And I think if it has not escaped my attention, I have not seen anywhere in this budget where there is an allocation to cater for the replacement of those teachers who are retiring. For example, in my Ward, around four teachers have retired in the last three months and the parents are worried about how to go about replacing the retired teachers from the parents' pockets.

So, Mr. Speaker, we request that the teachers that have retired be replaced because the budget is already there for the salaries of those who are already in service.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the Budget Committee for allocating money towards facelifting of our VTCs because they are in a very pathetic state.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, it's about our County Assembly and you are our good chair and your very able vice-chair has just left.

The Speaker: He has not left; he is directly in front of me.

Hon. Gabriel Munyao: Mr. Speaker, I just want to say this in low tones; that our offices, Mr. Speaker, are in a pathetic state. And sometimes, like in my office, I replaced my official chair with two plastic chairs. I sit on two plastic chairs put together because my chair is too old. When my voters come and find me sitting on that chair, I pity myself. They may not even ask for help, they may give me help, Mr. Speaker.

So, I request that the County Assembly Service Board consider replacing our office furniture. I don't know whether it is in Kauwi alone or it is across all the Wards, but I am speaking for Kauwi Ward, the rest, I think they are okay.

The Speaker: You have begun very well, but you have ended badly off.

Hon. Gabriel Munyao: I can speak for Hon. Mulandi. Yesterday, I visited his office in Mutonguni Ward. I asked his Ward Office assistant if I would be safe sitting on the chair. The assistant told me, "You can sit on that chair, though it had been taken for some welding repairs and the repair was not done properly, its legs are curving inside". So, I was not sure of my safety on that seat. As I sat on the chair, I was informed that the chair underwent the welding repairs at the market.

So, Mr. Speaker, we are having broken furniture in our Ward offices. We are asking that the County Assembly Service Board to do a thorough inspection of our furniture. It is a shame for us to sit in those offices sometimes. We actually don't know how to treat it, Mr. Speaker, but we are just asking that if you can help us on this matter, Mr. Speaker, we will be very happy.

Can I add one more?

The Speaker: Yes, and on that one, I am giving the Vice-Chair a minute to respond. On this end, I can't respond. I give you an additional one more minute.

Hon. Gabriel Munyao: Mr. Speaker, the House is very excited. All members who have spoken have supported this budget just because of one thing; There is money allocated here by the fuel levy maintenance fund of 445 million.

Mr. Speaker, the commission for revenue allocation convinced us that this money is ringfenced for the Counties. But the MPs are salivating for this money. In the unlikely event, that the MPs succeed in taking this money away from us, you will see very sad faces here. Our roads are in a very pathetic state. So, let us pray that the MPs do not succeed in taking away our money. If it so happens, Mr. Speaker, our faces will be so gloomy. We will not have words to tell our people about the roads that are in a dilapidated state.

So, Mr. Speaker, with those very many remarks, I would like to say again that I support this budget. What I have not talked about from this budget, I agree with it in totality. I have only talked about those four items that I did not actually agree, but I support the budget in totality. When we do our supplementary budget, these items can be looked into and factored into our next financial year's budget. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, Member for Kauwi Ward, for such an insightful input, which I think is of good importance in this process.

Honorable Sylvester, we were following seniority of age and I think you qualify to speak ahead of Hon. Peter Mwanza and Hon. Jeremiah. So, please proceed and be brief. Just five minutes. You are a ranking member from Matinyani Ward and also a member of the budget Committee.

Hon. Sylvestre Munyalo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't want to repeat what has been said about the whole budget. I am a member of that budget Committee.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I'm just here on this floor to speak a few things. I will start with the own source revenue. Mr. Speaker Sir, we have Own Source Revenue of 600 million. Surprisingly, out of this 600 million, 359 million is from the hospitals. We are left with 244 million. Out of this 244 million, the NHIF remittances amounting to 150 million have not been budgeted for. We are therefore left with 94 million.

Mr. Speaker Sir, we enacted a sand Bill in this Assembly, yet there is no allocation for its operationalization. Mr. Speaker Sir, we have the Ministry of Trade, which collects money everywhere in this County.

We also have the Ministry of Agriculture, which have allocated money for farm inputs. When I look at all the County Ministries, I see a wise move to budget corruption and that is why the Minister for Finance is not here. My fear for this County is the underbudgeting for Own Source Revenue, so that we can have stealing from that source. Mr. Speaker Sir, it is not easy.....

The Speaker: Hon. Munyalo there is a point of order. Let me allow the deputy majority leader first then the majority whip. In the point of order, I am now following the Assembly leadership protocol.

Hon. Erastus Mbuno: Thank You Mr. Speaker Sir, for this very opportunity. I rise on a point of order No. 87; Responsibility for statement of facts. I have heard my brother talk about figures which I am not privy to.

I request your indulgence Sir, is it in order for the Hon. Member to speak about a projected member without proving facts? Otherwise, he has to withdraw.

The Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Majority chief whip, is it in the same breath?

Hon. Daniel Ngoima: It is not in the same breath. Is it in order for the Minority Chief whip to indicate in this House that the CECM has abstained from coming into this House because of the statements he is raising? Isn't that one going too far?

The Speaker: Thank you. Minority whip I am sure you have heard your colleagues. On the first issue by Honorable Deputy Major Leader on the statement of facts.

Hon. Sylvestre Munyalo: Mr. Speaker, the statements of facts are in budget report. I wish the Honorable Member for Malalani had read the budget very well.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, from the budget report you are holding, it is clearly indicated that Own Source Revenue from hospitals is 359 million. When a member is raising a matter in this Assembly, he/she should do so with facts. I have facts from this budget.

On the issue of Mr. Speaker, I am speaking because I am a member of the Budget Committee. I am also the minority whip of this Assembly and I know our Standing Orders. I am aware of standing order number 87 and there is nothing to substantiate regarding what I am talking about.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I am a member of the Budget Committee and we allocated money, if the honorable member doesn't know, to build courts but it is not indicated how much Own Source Revenue the courts will generate. In this budget, it is not projecting how much revenue will be generated from the Sand Act.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I am talking about the finance Bill which we passed in this Assembly and if the Hon. Member doesn't have a copy, I urge him to download one.

As I finish Mr. Speaker Sir,

The Speaker: Hon. Sylvestre just a minute. Let us hear the Hon. Member. Maybe he wants to make his point of order clearer. Go ahead Hon. Mbuno.

Hon. Erastus Mbuno: Mr. Speaker, I want to know whether Honorable Sylvester is talking about financial year 2023-2024 or it is 2024 -2025, so that we get the facts right.

The Speaker: Definitely, I can even say on his behalf, it is 2023-2024 which is now the report which has been given for the Own Source Revenue. We are yet to receive the report for 2024-2025.

Hon. Erastus Mbuno: I am trying to imagine which budget we discussing today. Is it budget for 2023 -2024 or is it budget for 2024-2025.

The Speaker: Hon. Mbuno, the member is referring to the annexures in the report as submitted, so I think he is in order. If I may go to Standing Order No. 87 (2), I am satisfied with his response because if it is clearly provided that in the previous report on Own Source Revenue, that is how it was and I am sure he is laying his argument on that, not the next financial year. So, he is referring us to the previous financial year on how Own Source Revenue was achieved. So, I think the Hon. Member is in order.

The other part by Hon. Ngoima, I am sure you have heard the political intervention by the Majority Whip Hon. Sylvestre. Please respond to that.

Hon. Sylvestre Munyalo: Mr. Speaker, I will respond by saying this; the Chief Officer for finance is here and is taking notes of what we are saying. Mr. Speaker Sir, we are not opposing the budget. Members may be having that misconception. This budget is not for my home but for the people of Kitui people and the finance bill which we enacted in this Assembly, should also be part of the budget making process. The budget making process starts in September. I will sit down the member and take him through the whole process.

The Speaker: Please proceed without provoking your colleagues.

Hon. Sylvestre Munyalo: As I continue, Mr. Speaker, what we are talking about is the money to build our Kitui. How we can get the money. Mr. Speaker, we are talking about supporting the budget and increasing our Own Source Revenue to around 800 or 900 million because it is possible.

As I wind up Mr. Speaker Sir, there is another area I suppose we should get Money to build our County. We know we have one of the best governors, a governor who has something in between his ears.

We also have a finance minister who is very sharp. We have Assembly Members who are very sharp. So, when we are talking about the Finance Bill and increment of Own Source Revenue, we are talking about more roads, more hospitals, more water, drilling of more boreholes, more sand dams, we are talking about serving our people better.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I am in full support of this report. I appended my signature on the report because the budget is good. The Hon. Member for Kauwi has said very many wise words about this budget.

Finally, Mr. Speaker Sir, we need to see the implementation Committee doing its job. We need to see them following up on the implementation of the budget we want to feel its impact on the ground.

With those remarks Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to rest my case and urge the Hon. Members to support the report and also support the Committee on implementation in ensuring full implementation of this budget we are passing by the executive. I also urge the Chief Officer for finance to be keen on revenue collection.

As I retire to my seat Hon. Speaker, I urge the Hon. Member and friend from the other side of Kitui who is a medic to sit down with me because I am good in accounts and economics so that I can teach him budgeting. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you very much Hon. Sylvestre. You are very smart; you have chosen to throw a missile while you are leaving. Hon. Mbuno has no option but to...

(Hon. Erastus Mbuno Spoke off-mic)

Hon. Erastus Mbuno: I will have my time.

The Speaker: You will have your time, yes. I hope you will not leave so that you can also respond.

Hon. Bernard Mwangangi Munyasya, you stepped out at some point, so you have to wait. Let's hear Hon. Peter Mwanza.

Hon. Majority leader you will speak last if you don't mind so that you wrap up everything. So, after Peter Mwanza, because he has been very patient, and Hon. Jeremiah, then Hon. Benard Munyasya you will take the floor. I have stopped using age in terms of a protocol, I will now look at the members who have been persistently waiting to contribute so that I also motivate them.

Hon. Peter Mwanza, Member for Mulango Ward, and the Chair for Committee on Administration, the floor is yours.

Hon. Peter Mwanza: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to contribute on this second main budget. Mr. Speaker, as the Chairperson, Committee on Administration & Coordination of County Affairs. I would like to dwell more on the issue of CLIDP because that is where it is domiciled. Although, I am also member of the finance and Economic Planning Committee. I remember through the CIDP (County Fiscal Strategy Paper) we had projected CLIDP to be allocated around 800M.

Mr. Speaker, as the Chairperson, Committee on Administration and Coordination of County Affairs, I am a bit satisfied because we had aimed at going to the sun but we landed at the moon. Having an allocation of 750M is a bit fair, CLIDP touches lives of common wananchi like the word of God or the gospel. As the Hon. Member for Matinyani has put it because once we do the public participation on CLIDP. It doesn't take a lot of time to be implemented and how I wish that in future we can increase allocation for CLIDP to around 1B.

However, Mr. Speaker, I know the Committee on Budget has done a lot. Although last week we were complaining about adding them additional extra days to do their job but they did a good job which is commendable. Also, Mr. Speaker, Hon. Mary Ndumbu and Hon. Sylvester Munyalo, they have raised issue about own source revenue. We need to ask ourselves what is Makeni County to doing to collect own source revenue of 1B that we as Kitui County we are not doing.

Mr. Speaker, that shows you direct that, there are loopholes that the Ministry of Finance needs to seal and since one of the representatives from the Ministry of Finance is around...

(The Speaker interjected)

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The Speaker: The Chief officer for Finance and Economic Planning is around, Mr. Patrick Munuve.

Hon. Peter Mwanza: Mr. Speaker, there is something I proposed in the Committee on Finance and Economic Planning and it was taken seriously, of having a County court so that we take offenders to that County court instead of taking them to the police station hence increasing our Own Source Revenue.

Mr. Speaker, the Chief Officer for Finance and Economic Planning needs to make sure that the following things are adhered to; we should not stop what we call automation of revenue collection, it should continue. Secondly, we should have 100% cashless in all the streams and another point, in order to increase our own source revenue. The ministry of Finance should consider mapping all the tax payers by conducting business censuses. So, that we can get what is right for our County.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, is correcting what we call existing daily payment and embracing monthly payment for major revenues. I have grown up in one of the towns in Uasin Gishu, where most of my businesses are located and I like the way they collect their revenue.

Mr. Speaker, we usually pay for car parking, most of the Counties you pay daily. There are people paying 100, there are people who pay 2700 monthly. These are what we are calling the major revenues where they collect a lot of money, so the Chief Officer should also consider that mode of payment.

Mr. Speaker, if you can add me one more minute, I am also interested in the full disclosure of what the committee on budget projected. Article 201 of the Constitution of Kenya, states that we have openness and accountability of the project listing.

Mr. Speaker, that one is yet to be done and it is upon this Assembly which plays the role of oversight, representation and legislation. At least in the next budget, we make sure every ministry has what we call project listing. So, that we can know the projects to be done in each Ward.

For example, Mr. Speaker, I am concerned about the Ministry of Trade because we are doing a lot of market shades but if you go to most of our wards, they have become a shelter for dogs, donkeys and cows and the purpose of constructing market shades is for people to do business there.

Mr. Speaker, according to me, that is wastage of public resources. Instead of doing the market shades let us drill boreholes and most of the Hon. Members have said something similar. Our roads are very pathetic and that is the reality, we can't run away from it. How I wish that most of the money allocated to the ministry of roads could have been allocated to CLIDP.

So, that it can be around Ksh. 1B because it will go directly to *mwananchi*. I also urge the committee of LIHUD that they still have a lot to be done because the 10km done in my ward (road opening and heavy grading) looks pathetic. So, the committee of LIHUD, you have a lot to do before we start doing the other 10km of road opening and grading.

With those few remarks, I would like to say that since I have come from a funeral in Mulango Ward and I have requested my people to give me time to come and support the budget

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and I don't want to fail them and I also want development projects to be done in my ward. For the sake of their respect, I fully support this budget so that the executive can do their part and the County Assembly can do their oversight role. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, MCA for Mulango and Chairperson, Committee on Administration and Coordination of County Affairs. Hon. Jeremiah, the Deputy Minority Party Leader and then Hon. Katumbi, the Deputy Minority Party Whip in that order. Let's try to be brief members, so that we don't need to extend our sitting because we are supposed to end at 6:30 p.m. Hon. Jeremiah, five minutes.

Hon. Jeremiah Mutua: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker before I commend on whether to support or oppose. Allow me to say the following, annex No. 11 provides for views and proposals which were given by the members of the public during the public participation. And therefore, for any budget either from the national government or by the County governments. Should reflect the proposals of the people.

Mr. Speaker, I did a very good summary when I was reading this report. and I have driven all the way from Sosoma to this place to debate on behalf of the good people of Nguni Ward.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Kitui County talked about issues to do with health, food and security, road network and also touching issues to do with education. Mr. Speaker, I want to go straight to page No. 45 on the trade show, where the committee reduced the allocation with Ksh. 3.042M. Mr. Speaker, in my own view on this matter, I want to ask myself a question and also ask ourselves a question. We had a trade show last year and this year we have a trade show and I can see also, there is a big budget allocated for the same exercise.

Mr. Speaker, what is the impact of this trade show to the people of Kitui County? Right now, as we speak our people have grown green grams and water melon but they are selling them at a throw away price. What is the impact of this function that every year we must finance it through our County budget? It is a question which is supposed to be answered as we move forward.

Mr. Speaker, one of the proposals which was given by the people and the MCA for Kauwi has said it is that people want improvement on ECDE education and infrastructure in these schools. It is very unfortunate that this year we have no allocation for ECDE classes in the entire County.

Mr. Speaker, it must also be noted that some ECDE teachers have retired and others left the service because of qualifications. Our people were asking us some questions; what is the rationale, what is the plan to have this number replaced?

Mr. Speaker, in my Ward I have eight ECDE centers which were closed. The ECDE teachers were moved to major, big primary schools leaving other ECDE centers without teachers. Therefore, parents have to pay from their own pockets. It is a budget where the education sector in this County has lost enormously from what I am seeing in this budget.

Mr. Speaker, Hon. Member for Matinyani has talked about Own Source Revenue and in this budget it is capped at Ksh. 600M. We are comparing ourselves with other Counties. It is in social media that Makueni County reported to have collected up to a tune of Ksh.1B in terms of Own Source Revenue.

Mr. Speaker, the Minority Party Whip has clearly stated...and I want to be convinced that we have a big problem in terms of revenue collection in this County. Mr. Speaker, let me give an example of a market called Tseikuru in Tseikuru Ward.

(The Speaker interjected)

The Speaker: Where I come from...

Hon. Jeremiah Mutua: Where you come from Mr. Speaker, on average when they are having a market day. This market would collect to a tune of 400,000.

(The Speaker interjected)

The Speaker: I agree with you.

Hon. Jeremiah Mutua: Mr. Speaker, the MCA for Matinyani has also talked about the sand bill and I am a member of the Committee on Environment. We have a sand bill which is being enforced and from the supplementary which just passed there was allocation for funds to make sure the same is operationalized for us to start collecting revenue.

Mr. Speaker, there is also hospital collection, there are so many lorries that are doing business. Cutting across Kanyonyoo, along Garissa road at Kithyoko and all of them are paying money. Our question will remain, is this money which is been paid received in wholly? I am not saying that we have corruption but I want to say that there is a lot of revenue collection leakages in this County.

I therefore, propose going forward that this committee on Budget and Appropriation to be serious on proposing a serious automation in terms of collection of our revenue.

Mr. Speaker, there was a report which was tabled here by the committee on Trade where revenue officers were collecting on cash basis. A revenue officer was saying he had to go all the way to Mwingi town to bank the money. What happens between the point of collection and the banking area, is God and himself who knows. That is what we are calling revenue leakages and in simple terms is the Hon. Member, called a corrupted budget which is been made but with a lot of leakages for us lose money.

Mr. Speaker, finally, I want to mention on behalf of the people of Nguni Ward on the the thorny issue that is touching on all of us across the County is the issue of road network. Mr. Speaker right now as we speak...

(Hon. Sylvester Munyalo stood to give information)

The Speaker: Hon. Deputy Minority Party Leader, do you want to be informed by your Whip?

Hon. Jeremiah Mutua: Mr. Speaker, my whip is very wise. He can inform me.

The Speaker: Okay thank you, you can proceed.

Hon. Sylvester Munyalo: Thank you Mr. Speaker, thank you Hon. Jeremiah Mutua. I am giving you the information that I read in the recommendations from the ministry of Health and the Chairperson is here Hon. Bernard Munyasya, representing the people of Mwingi Central...

(Hon. Bernard Munyasya rose in his place)

He is standing Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: He is respecting your wisdom.

Hon. Sylvester Munyalo: Mr. Speaker and Hon. Members, there is something we need to note after they went around during the inspection exercise and according to the report which they presented to this House. Kitui County Referral Hospital (KCRH), collects Ksh.21M per month, Mwingi level IV collects Ksh. 12M per month, Kauwi Hospital collects Ksh.1M, Zombe Health center Ksh. 1M, Tseikuru Health center, Kyuso Health Centre Ksh.1M, Katulani Health Centre Ksh 1M and Mutito Ksh. 1M. Those are recommendations which were brought to this House and that information is in the public domain.

Mr. Speaker, the Ministry of Health alone apart from what has been presented here, collects per year Ksh. 468M. So, in this County, we are able to collect Ksh.1B. Thank you for the opportunity to give you that information. Thank you. Hon. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, you can see how your Whip is thanking you. You are also very wise for giving your Whip a chance to speak.

Hon. Jeremiah Mutua: Thank you, very much Mr. Speaker. I want to appreciate the Minority Party Whip for the kind informative information that he has given to us and the people of Kitui County. I was saying that something must be done, and our committee on Budget and Appropriations must take this one very seriously. We are no longer going to take a projection of Ksh.600M in terms Own Source Revenue.

Kitui County is richer than Makueni County. Kitui County is very vast, very enormous and with a lot of resources and if revenue from these resources are collected very well, we can even collect up to Ksh.1.5B of own source revenue.

Mr. Speaker, for how long are we going to relay on the exchequer when we can collect more? This narrative that we have a government, let us see where we have loopholes. I want to be on record that some of these programs which the County executive makes, create loopholes for people to make money. One is revenue collection and the other one is the trade shows.

Mr. Speaker, these trade shows if they can't make impact to the people of Kitui County in terms of production and in terms of filling our crops with viable prices then the entire thing becomes a scam for all of us.

(The Speaker interjected)

The Speaker: Do you want to end by saying 'for lack of a better word', because you will be told to justify?

Hon. Jeremiah Mutua: Mr. Speaker, let me finish...

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(The Speaker interjected)

The Speaker: No! I am still on you. Is it a scam or not for lack of a better word?

Hon. Jeremiah Mutua: Mr. Speaker, it is scandalous

(Laughter)

The Speaker: You have tricked me but please proceed.

Hon. Jeremiah Mutua: Mr. Speaker, if you allow me, kindly add me two more minutes?

The Speaker: I will add you one minute.

Hon. Jeremiah Mutua: Mr. Speaker, this issue on cash for assets and I want to advice our good Committee which is led by Hon. Zacchaeus Syengo. There is a lot of unemployment in our County, since when we were elected including the governor. Mr. Speaker, you can bear me witness that Kitui County government has not employed anyone. There is high rate of unemployment within the County.

Mr. Speaker, I would advise the committee on Budget and Appropriations that anything that touches on Cash For Assets, let that allocation remain unchanged because it will create jobs for our people. I have seen reduction elsewhere for an allocation on Cash For Assets.

Mr. Speaker, finally, within my one minute is the issue about sports, as County Assembly and County Executive. We are becoming too unfair to our boys and girls who are interested in sports.

Mr. Speaker, during the Governor's manifesto...

(The Speaker interjected)

The Speaker: Please, let's be fair to the other colleagues who have not talked.

Hon. Jeremiah Mutua: Mr. Speaker, I am finishing, I was talking about the Governor's cup and this Governor's cup...

(The Speaker interjected)

The Speaker: Please, wait until Hon. Mbuno speaks.

Hon. Jeremiah Mutua: We are waiting for it like never before. Finally, about the earth dams, medium dams, large dams and wells dams. All of them were promised during the launching of the manifesto. We want to see them in this budget. Mr. Speaker, I have not said whether I am supporting the report or opposing.

The Speaker: Yes.

Hon. Jeremiah Mutua: Mr. Speaker, I am supporting the report on the basis that the committee where I belong (the Committee on Public Accounts and Investments) have a job to

interrogate the budget absorption for the last three years that we have given money to the executive. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I support the report.

The Speaker: Thank you. Deputy Majority Leader, strictly three minutes. I have reduced the minutes. Three minutes Benard. Katumbi I see you. The Majority Leader, we have to finish in the next ten minutes. I am sure he wants to add a few items which have been spoken but continue.

Hon. Dr. Erastus Mbuno: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. I think due to time factor, I support the motion and donate my time to my leader, the Leader of the Majority Party, Sir. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you very much. You are a loyal deputy. Hon. Katumbi. Hon. Bernard, I am coming to you.

Hon. Boniface Katumbi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

(Silence)

The Speaker: Please proceed Hon. Member for Kyangwithya East, you are representing your people you deserve to be heard.

Hon. Boniface Katumbi: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Because of the interest of time, I will summarize and I support the motion on for conditions.

(Laughter)

One; I support because the CLIP allocation has been increased from Ksh. 675 million to Ksh. 750 million even though it is not enough. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the second point is about road opening...

The Speaker: So, Hon. Katumbi, what is the condition now? In CLIDP...

Hon. Boniface Katumbi: Yes. My condition now to support...

The Speaker: Yes.

Hon. Boniface Katumbi: That is what is making me support this report, in simple language.

The Speaker: Okay.

Hon. Boniface Katumbi: Second reason for supporting is the Ministry for Roads. They have allocated some amount for 10 kilometers for road opening and 60 Kilometres for grading. Although the 10 Kilometers for road opening per ward (because I have tried this in my ward – Kyangwithya East), is not enough because you cannot open and leave the road the way it is. So I request the relevant committee to this ministry to ensure that after opening the 10 Kilometres, let grading be done immediately so that it can be helpful to our people.

On the issue of grading of 60 Kilometres, although they have put 60 Kilometres in the Financial Year 2023/2024, they had promised us to grade 75 Kilometres which they have not done.

I also urge the committee to follow up for those wards which did not benefit in this Financial Year 2023/2024. As the Hon. Member for Kauwi has said, I did not also benefit. That is, my people for Kyangwithya East did not benefit. Now it comes to 135 Kilometres. I will record somewhere so that I will push the Hon. Member for Kyome/Thaana who is the Chair for the committee which oversees the ministry to follow up for the ministry to do grading for Kyangwithya East and all other wards which have not benefited.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the other reason is about the Ministries of Trade and Urban Development. They have allocated funds for installation of solar lights. I am one of those who have benefited from those solar lights especially in the upcoming urban areas giving an example of Museve where when there is blackout, the business people cannot enjoy doing business at night. So, I support because if more solar lights will be put in place our people enjoy more and will...

The Speaker: Thank you! Thank you! Try to summarize, your time is up.

Hon. Boniface Katumbi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I told you I had four reasons. Lastly, is about culture. They have put an additional allocation for purchase of assistive devices for people living with disabilities. As I support, we also want the Committee on Culture to give us a formula on how to identify the people who will benefit from the assistive devices.

Mr. Speaker, Sir I conclude with two points. One; committee members to ensure that what the ministries have budgeted is timely implemented. Two, avoid delays in implementing CLIDP projects.

The Speaker: Thank you!

Hon. Boniface Katumbi: With those few remarks, I support.

The Speaker: Thank you! Thank you very much Hon. Katumbi. Hon. Bernard Mwangangi Munyasya, Member for Mwingi Central Ward and Chair Health Committee which is...

Hon. Bernard Munyasya: Thank you Mr. Speaker for this opportunity and I want to appreciate you because whenever you have been mentioning me, you have been quoting me as a ranking member.

The Speaker: That is true and I respect that.

Hon. Bernard Munyasya: I must appreciate that one.

The Speaker: Yes.

Hon. Bernard Munyasya: Mr. Speaker...

The Speaker: I want to encourage the first timers like *Mheshimiwa* Mbuno to work hard so that they come back again so that they can also become ranking members. I don't know... Hon. Jeremiah, I want to encourage the first timers like you guys so that we come back again. Hon...

Hon. Bernard Munyasya: Thank you Mr. Speaker...

The Speaker: Yes.

Hon. Bernard Munyasya: I wanted to add my voice on the budget process which started sometimes back.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am convinced that I have all the reasons to support the budget because one; the budget process is a collective responsibility for both arms of the County Government. We have been cooperating and so far we have been talking.

Secondly, I believe the budget making process is a negotiated process. We have been negotiating. That is why I am supporting it and also our people need to be served. If at all we fail to pass the budget our people will not be served well.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I conclude, I want to congratulate the committee but I want to request you to move to page nineteen.

The Speaker: Page Nineteen (19)?

Hon. Bernard Munyasya: Yes, page Nineteen. You know when a committee fails, your office Mr. Speaker also fails. And I want to lay the blame squarely to you as the head of this arm.

If you look at page 19, then you move to page 20, to where Mwingi Town Administration is... Page 20. Hope you are there Mr. Speaker?

The Speaker: Yes, I am there Hon. Bernard. There is a variance of Ksh. 105 million. I see it.

Hon. Bernard Munyasya: I think those figures are not correct and that should not be the case especially when we are dealing...

(Hon. Zacchaeus Syengo stood on a point of information)

The Speaker: Chair, please wait. Let the Hon. Member finish, you will also... No, don't just inform but also clarify because I have noted the error. So please...

Hon. Bernard Munyasya: So I was saying, this is not expected here because when Mwingi people come across this table they might feel that the Mwingi Town Administration has a very big allocation. And at this point I might not need any information because I did not expect this.

(Laughter)

The Speaker: Thank you for rejecting the information. It has saved us time. Majority Leader, please proceed. Try to be brief please so that we are not overtaken by... you know we have seven minutes

Hon. Munyoki Mwinzi: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I will be very brief. I will start by congratulating your office for facilitating the Committee on Budget. I will also congratulate the Committee for the job they have done.

It came to a point whereby they had to plead with this House to give them more time. They had a very rough time. I also pleaded with the Hon. Members to give them more time.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, allow me to also thank His Excellency the Governor through his team. They did a good job by drafting the budget.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want also to thank the Hon. Members. I have seen the mood of the House. All Members are in concurrence. They are supporting the budget. The only issue that was contentious and which has been addressed by a lot of Hon. Members is the issue on the increment of the CLIDP, the increment of grading Kilometers of road. Although six Kilometers is too little. When for instance you give Kyuso Ward 60 Kilometers that is not even worthy one road. You wonder where to start and where to end.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to urge the Executive arm of the County Government, when this House adopts this budget let them support it and bring the Appropriation Bill so that we can proceed and give our people to proceed with the development. I therefore, support and urge Hon. Members to support. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Majority Leader. It is not your duty to put the question.

(Laughter)

I can see you are being pushed. But you can say something. You wanted to say something.

(Prolonged Laughter)

Now have to protect my duty.

Hon. Munyoki Mwinzi: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. You know they are my employers.

The Speaker: Yes.

Hon. Munyoki Mwinzi: They are my bosses.

The Speaker: Yes.

Hon. Munyoki Mwinzi: So they have requested me to plead with you so that you can put the question because the mood of the House is that they are all agreeing with the motion. Thank you Hon. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you. But allow me to give the Chair of the Budget just one minute. He is the author of this report. You can speak from there so that you make any remarks.

Hon. Zacchaesus Syengo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think what I have heard from this House is a hundred percent support. We really appreciate that. We could also want to appreciate your office because you have given us a lot of support during the preparation of this report. I will not forget to mention the team that has been assigned to us. As a technical team they have really been very supportive. Mulandi, Chris, Nyaga and Mbuko. We appreciate for their technical advice. On two items...

The Speaker: Don't forget the Hansard Officer who accompanied your committee.

Hon. Zacchaesus Syengo: Yes, and Maluu the Hansard Officer.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to comment just two things. One, is that there has been a lot of comments in regard to implementation and I believe this is an issue of the sectorial committees playing their part and the implementation team. I hear this so many times that, "I was assigned a playground and it was not implemented." And I think this is something we need to take more seriously from the sectorial committees.

Hon. Munyithya's comments on Kivou Stadium, I think there were two allocations. As a committee we considered one allocation would be sufficient as we proceed with future developments for the same.

Lastly, on the cash for assets, you would notice that where there is a very clear structured way for implementing cash for asset and especially with the roads, we allowed it to stay. But where it was not clear how money would be given to a contractor who has already been allocated money for trenches, we felt as a committee that there was a grey area and it was not prudent for us to allow money for Cash for Assets for that department.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to appreciate the Members of the Assembly for the support and I would like to request when you put the question they support and then we pass the report. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you. I think I tried to give every member a chance. I think... Hon. Kimuli you stepped out and came back. Hope you are satisfied? You have been represented by your Chair. I can give you thirty seconds.

Hon. Kyalo Kimuli: Yes Hon. Speaker I am satisfied and I do thank Members for supporting our work. What I can urge them is to be keen on what is going their wards so that they ensure it is implemented to the letter.

The Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Members allow me now put the question.

(Question Put and Agreed to)

(Applause)

Hon. Members allow me to thank you most sincerely for the job well done. Special thanks to the County Committee on Budget and Appropriations and the technical team for their efforts in making us achieve this budget report which we have unanimously passed as a House.

I deliberately gave every member a chance to say something so that that voice can be on Hansard. I know there were some concerns which many of you have raised. Budget making is a continuous process. So every statutory document that we make, please be keen. I was talking to the Chair Budget and he was telling me, "You know there are some things which we may want as Members but we failed to consider them in the ADP or in the CFSP." And if we fail to consider them in the CIDP, then we can't even discuss about them. Wait for 2027-2032. So it is a process which we have to look into all these statutory documents.

So I want to thank you and continue encourage you to actively participate in the assembly programmes. I also want to thank you for your patience today. You have been here for almost four hours from 2:30 pm to 6:30 pm. So I think it shows a lot of commitment; indeed our people elected and nominated the best representatives.

I want to assure you that I will lead from the front and ensure that we fully implement this budget. My challenge is to the County Executive. Majority Leader you are here, you are able to represent the Assembly on that Government side. Let the County Executive respect the wish of our people because the voice of the Hon. Members is the voice of the people of Kitui County.

We respect our County Executive but they should also respect us. When we approve a budget like this one, then it is not implemented (because truth be told the previous main budget was not fully implemented). Actually in Supplementary Budget 1 of the previous budget was a complete overhaul of the main budget which we passed last time. This time round Members, the tireless effort which you have done, should be respected. And I will lead in negotiating with the governor and asking him to respect the wish of our people which has been expressed through the elected and the nominated members.

So Hon. Chair for Implementation, be in the forefront on the fully implementation of this Assembly report. It must be fully implemented. Chair Budget, you have a duty to have the budget fully implemented. In Supplementary 1, let us discuss reallocation, no removing money where it has been appropriated because that is against the will of the people. So we have to be very firm. Let us not shy away from saying the truth. We should say what our people tell us. Before Hon. Paul left said very important things. The needs of our people – health, roads and water.

I know these other things Hon. Jeremiah you have said very correctly about – culture, sports but really can you play or do culture and sports with no hospitals.

Hon. Masaku, there is a very nice Reptile Park in Mutomo. Are there enough anti-venoms in Mutomo Level IV Hospital? The answer will be a big no! So members as we push for programmes and projects let us also try to push for full implementation.

With regards to the Assembly budget again, thank you very much and I want to assure you that the work of the Assembly Service Board is to take care welfare of Members and to facilitate you. So Chair PIAC, I heard you and at the board level we shall ensure members are comfortable and we shall do this in consultations with all Hon. Members.

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For the Executive Budget, governor should consult with Members, for the Assembly budget I also have to consult with you so that we ensure the budget is there for all of us and it helping us do our work.

But I want to assure you that money will not be enough. So with the little we have, I know we would like to have more money for CLIDP, more money for health, more money for what but with what we have I am sure, we can use it well.

So Members I want to thank you once again. God bless you for your resilience and for your efforts. The County Executive members who are here, thank you once again. The students who came, thank you very much.

We are waiting for the Appropriation Bill. If it comes (And the Acting Clerk make sure that by tomorrow noon the report has been forwarded to the County Executive). The report of the budget so that they would have no excuse in delaying bringing the Appropriation Bill. Chair Budget, follow up with the Minister for Finance so that we have the Bill. I will organize a programme for your committee to look into it quickly, and I am sure by Tuesday, we will have a report to table. And that is the spirit of these members. Every member who has spoken here, want this budget passed immediately and implemented. I will support that initiative to ensure we fully implement our budget. So, members let me not talk much. Mine is to say thank you very much. God bless you and what you have done today is something which our people will be very happy of. *Asanteni sana!*

Allow me before we conclude, and this will be part of the conclusion of our sitting, inform you that, Makueni County Assembly has lost one of the Hon. Members, that is Hon. Magdalene Kalembe, a nominated MCA under Maendeleo Chap Chap party. I think the report I receive from the Vice Chair for the board is that she fell ill for just for a short time and she passed on. She is one of us and we have to really condole with Makueni County Assembly and her family. This is the wife to the late Kalembe Ndile if I am not wrong. When we call our colleagues from Makueni County, let us condole with them and let us continue praying and thanking God for good health. When you wake up and come here don't take it for granted. Thank God every day when you wake up, you come here, you are okay, please thank God.

For those many remarks let us now be upstanding as we observe one minute of silence in honour of our departed colleague before we adjourn the House.

(A minute of silence was observed)

Thank you, Members, for honouring the late Magdalene Kalembe. May her soul rest in eternal peace.

ADJOURNMENT

This House stands adjourned until Tuesday the 25th Day of June 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

The House rose at 6:34 p.m.

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