

Kitui County Assembly

THE HANSARD

First County Assembly – First Session

Friday, 28th June 2013

The County Assembly met at 2:45pm

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

PRAYERS

(Communication from the Chair)

The Speaker: The business before us today is the issue of the budget estimates for both the County Assembly and the County Executive, and I have already put the question, so it's time now for debate. If you want to contribute to the budget I'll give you the opportunity, because that is what will determine if you approve or you reject the budget.

Remember the implications; approving means there will be money for the County Assembly and the County Executive for the next financial year. Rejecting means there will be no money for both, and there is no Court of Appeal; if you reject, that is the end of the story, until the next financial year which will be 2014/2015. I thought those are things I wanted to make clear before you debate to approve or to reject.

Thank you.

Anybody who wants to contribute to the motion?

Hon. Mutemi: Thank you very much Mr Speaker...

The Speaker: Order Honourable Mutemi!

I'm advised by the Clerk that the easiest way to do it is to, maybe deal with one part of the budget, finish it and then we go to the next one. And I think the easiest would be the County Assembly budget. Isn't it? You have a copy of it? Everybody?

So, let's start with the County Assembly part of the budget, just... Although, basically this is one budget, it is only that it is in two components. It is the Kitui County Government, composed of the Executive and the County assembly. I think the best thing; you can start with the assembly and then go to the executive if you want, if you want to confine yourself to only one part, fair enough. If you want to comment on the assembly; if there

are a few things that you want to say about the assembly budget and then you go to the executive budget; fair enough. At the end of the day I'll only put one question for the entire budget, not two questions. So anybody who wants to contribute, when you stand you can cut across, starting with this one – going to the other one, or you finish with one; the one you want to comment on, then you leave the other, finally I'll only put one question.

Honourable Mutemi.

Hon. Mutemi: Thank you Mr Speaker Sir.

Mr Speaker, as I want to contribute to this budget, Mr speaker, we are here collectively looking at the county and individually taking key interest of the wards which sent us here to represent, in the first and foremost the development of their welfare at their respective places.

Mr Speaker when I look at this budget - at the county budget, the committee has done a good job. But Mr Speaker, as I wish to say whether I propose or oppose, I would wish, because I want to propose the motion with so many amendments, which I want to run through.

Mr Speaker, when you look at the ward offices, which is a very good effort made here, which is on... issue number... I think number 35... yes.

The issue ward office operations, Mr Speaker...

The Speaker: Let me be with you. Where are you?

Hon. Mutemi: I'm on assembly budget.

The Speaker: On assembly budget?

Hon. Mutemi: On assembly budget; I think we have agreed, because first I wanted to... I was trying to seek modalities of contribution, but you clarified it Mr Speaker and thank you for that.

The Speaker: Go on Mr Mutemi.

Hon. Mutemi: This is page six.

The Speaker: Page?

Hon. Mutemi: six.

The Speaker: Are these things numbered?

Hon. Mutemi: Item number 35.

The Speaker: Ward Office Operations?

Hon. Mutemi: Yes, thank you Mr. Speaker.

As I propose this assembly budget, I seek for an amendment. Mr Speaker Ksh 5,000 to rent an office I tend to understand is so little, to some extent some of the members will be faced with some constraints to accommodate and try to serve the ward people. I'm seeking an amendment on that item on rent to be Ksh 10,000 instead of Ksh 5,000.

On item number 42, Purchase of Computers Printers and Other IT Equipment...

The Speaker: Order! I hope Honourable Muthui... where is he? You are taking note of every... what members are saying?

Hon. Muthui: Yes Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Continue...

Hon. Mutemi: Mr Speaker, on that item, on item 2 - 61 laptops for the members at Ksh 70,000. Mr Speaker that's a good effort. But Mr Speaker I'm seeking to have an amendment; because laptops are good, but I know when it will come to printing services, Mr Speaker, why... could we agree... I'm seeking an amendment; instead of having an amendment of Ksh 70,000, we have a computer of Ksh 60,000 and a printer of Ksh 10,000. That one we'll give the ward offices and the secretary to have printing services and everything done within an office and members can have their work done effectively at the ward level.

Mr Speaker on that item on the County assembly budget, I think it is well done, only Mr Speaker, I'm concerned with the kind of the assembly; I've not seen facilities, although there is Ksh 50million proposed for the construction of the facilities - that is the chambers. But Mr Speaker before that, as you can see here we are; we are more less than the nursery school kids, because Mr Speaker, we are placing even our files down. When it comes to this assembly Mr Speaker, as you can see, this budget could have looked at a way out where members can work; we have nowhere to place our documents, the way we are we are congested... Before we have chambers Mr Speaker, indeed we are constrained. And that is one of the aspects I thought we would have the improvement of... I don't know... this facility extended or something of the sort done such that we can have space to operate and this assembly to function. As they have demonstrated Mr Speaker, there is a problem in terms of seeking procurement approval and getting land and design and all that, which may take six to seven months or so. Mr Speaker we are suffering the way we are. And I would seek this budget to take into consideration at least we improve our working conditions here in this assembly.

Mr Speaker, as I go to the second level of the... the second level that is the budget of the... the executive budget. Mr Speaker, on this budget, it has so many things which need to be rectified if we are to approve this budget. Mr Speaker, on page 2 - Recurrent Budget; Agriculture, Water and Irrigation on one, and other items. On item number 304 - Medical Expenses, Insurance. Mr Speaker when I look at that item and other items on insurance, Mr Speaker there is no variation. It is Ksh 13,100,000. I tend to see this budget is ambiguous - in the sense that taking into consideration that every ministry, department cannot have equal members of staff. We could have variations of where these members are. Because here every aspect, you go to that item, you go to... on the other aspect on the other item on same... on Basic Education, the same amount of money, that is recurrent expenditure. On Lands and Infrastructure - the same items - Ksh

13,100,000. Mr Speaker, if that's the trend, I wish to amend the... to seek the amendment that... because it seems this is an issue of lumping of figures, Mr Speaker it is not a need-based budget. And I would seek to propose then they get 50 per cent of whatever they have proposed on insurance on medical expenses.

Mr Speaker, on Basic Education, number two, that is page 6 of 37; Basic Education – Skills and Development, Pre-Primary Education, Casual Labourers, that is teachers. I tend to have this one to be made clear and specific, that is either ECD (Early Childhood Development) or it is the teachers who are current on strike, because we have the teachers who are current on strike right now, and they are striking on salary. So I would suggest that we add ECD or specify which kind of these teachers for the clarity of the budget. Mr Speaker on the same, on item 11, down below, that is page 7 of 37 – tuition fees allowances, Mr Speaker I'm wondering who to be tuitioned, because we are... I tend to understand ours is a... under the constitution schedule four, we have our work well spelt out, so we are dealing with pre-primary education and polytechnics. In this case Mr Speaker, to propose Ksh 12million of tuition, I don't know who is to be given that amount of money...

Point of order Mr Speaker

The Speaker: Just put up your hand and say 'Point of Order'

Yes Honourable Kilonzo?

Hon. Kilonzo: Mr Speaker, thank you Mr Speaker Sir.

Is it in order for the Honourable Member, while he is really quoting the constitution clearly, to mislead this house in asking whether the amount which is lumped up is to pay some casual employees such as teachers on strike, when he knows very clearly the functions of the county My Speaker?

The Speaker: Yes he's in order. Continue.

Hon. Mutemi: Mr Speaker, Thank you.

The Speaker: And while you are on the floor, honourable members, I think... sit down Mr Mutemi.

I think if we allow everybody to speak as much as he wants, the other members will not get time. Isn't it? I think we must limit the time for each member. How much time do you want to contribute?

(Loud consultations)

Order! How much time do we give to each member on the floor?

Honourable Kilei.

Hon. Mwalili: Thank you Mr Speaker.

I think the budget happens once in 12 months. Mr Speaker even if it means for this house to extend to discuss this budget to the maximum, Mr Speaker let members ventilate, and this is my opinion...

County Assembly Debates

The Speaker: Order! Order! Order! You are Mr Kilei!

Every debate in parliament must be limited. There are only one or two budgets which are not limited. Because I remember during my days in parliament, Honourable Shikuku would speak for two weeks. So that is why some members here can speak for another two days and the other members will not. And I am proposing 10 minutes per member; if you are organised, 10 minutes you should have said what you want to say, the rest you'll be repeating yourself.

Can we agree 5, 10 or 20 minutes?

(Varied Suggestions)

The Speaker: I wonder what will you be saying for 20 minutes? Honestly, what will you be saying for 20 minutes? 20 minutes is too much! How many people will think 10 minutes is enough?

Or do I put the question? Let me put the question.

Those who think 10 minutes is enough, can you say AYE!

Members: AYE!

The Speaker: Those who think 10 minutes is not enough, can you say NO!

Members: NO!

The Speaker: The AYES have it! 10 minutes for every member!

Mr Mutemi...

Hon. Mutemi: Thank you...

The Speaker: You have five more minutes to go now; you are lucky.

Hon. Mutemi: Mr Speaker, on the item of roads. Mr Speaker, that is page 9... Mr Speaker I was on basic education – tuition. I was proposing that Ksh 12million to be taken to the infrastructure of the development of the wards, an item under this budget.

Mr Speaker, on the item of roads, we have Purchase of Graders and Purchase of Tractors and Trailers and Purchase of Workshop Tools and Spares and Small Equipment – that is totalling to Ksh 90million. Mr Speaker as I look at these things; these equipment we are purchasing, they are not free in a sense. They are coming with an extra cost in terms of drivers, in terms of servicing, in terms of fuel and all that. Mr Speaker, as we are aware, we have so many graders, so many tractors lying in our county, which have not been easy to run. Mr Speaker as a matter of priority to develop our areas, I wish Mr Speaker we amend that one; the Ksh 90million goes to the wards development.

On another item Mr Speaker; Financial Management Services Mr Speaker, this is page 27 of 37. Mr Speaker, we have accommodation for domestic travel and daily subsistence, under Domestic Travel and Subsistence and Other Transportation Costs. They have costed it at 20...

10million, 20million each for those items. Mr Speaker I would wish this house to amend that one to Ksh 7million each such that we get Ksh 6million, and that one is taken to ward development.

Down there on the same page, Printing, Information, Supplies and Services Mr Speaker – Publishing and Printing Services, it is rated at Ksh 21,500,000, and I would propose, Mr Speaker, amendment of that one to Ksh 10million for printing services; because printing for Ksh 21million is so high, and then we save Ksh 11,500,000. And that one goes to the same kitty of the development.

Mr Speaker on training expenses, they have rated it at... Travel allowances at Ksh 11,900,000. That is the executive budget on page 28 of 37. Mr Speaker we rate it at... I'm proposing an amendment and put it at Ksh 7,900,000 and we get four more million to take to the development of the wards.

Mr Speaker, on Catering Services and Reception Services, I'm still seeking an amendment on each item – that is page 28 of 37. And it is Ksh 4million... Ksh 5million on item Catering, Bonding, Committee... it is insurance. That insurance, because we have another insurance over there, it is all taken we get Ksh 2million there that's an amendment. And then we have... take it to the same kitty.

As I go to conclude Mr Speaker, there is... here we have maintenance... that is page 31 of 37, I'm almost concluding Mr Speaker. And this is on Maintenance of Plant Machinery and Equipment (including lifts) maintenance of civil works rated at Ksh 39million under all that, and then there is Ksh 97million. All that is under management of towns and urban centres. Mr Speaker I'm wondering whether here we have classifications of urban towns and...

Point of Order!

The Speaker: Honourable Kilei...

Hon. Mwalili: The house is not observing its rules. Five minutes are over for the member Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you for drawing my attention to the time though you wanted 20 minutes...

Can you... I give you one minute now to conclude your speech... one minute.

Yes Honourable Mutemi.

Hon. Mutemi: Thank you... Thank you Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: You have one minute!

Hon. Mutemi: Thank you Mr Speaker,

Mr Speaker under Urban Towns and Urban Centres, those two classifications, they have voted Ksh 136million. Mr Speaker, as we have... majority of these towns in Kitui County, they are as well as towns. I would

wish to propose an amendment and we give that one, both combined at a rate of 20 per cent. And Mr Speaker we will have saved Ksh 27,272,000, and then that one is taken to the same kitty. I'm proposing.

Mr Speaker as I conclude, because I can see time is not on our side. Mr Speaker, on the proposed budget on the... we have... this budget of the assembly had been... the construction of the chambers, we had proposed or there was proposal of Ksh 100million which was cut by 50 per cent because of the conditions outlined by the committee. I would also propose Mr Speaker, on the same; the construction of the executive which had been rated at Ksh 80million but was proposed downward to... by Ksh 20million-hived. I would propose still the same 50 per cent because of the same conditions. That is they would get Ksh 40million and the rest of the money taken to the wards' development.

Finally Mr Speaker, as I conclude...

The Speaker: Order! Order! Order! Time up! NEXT!

Time up! Honourable Mutemi sit down!

Nani mwingine? Who else wants to contribute?

Well, if there is nobody else to contribute, I will put the question!

May I put the question?

Honourable Kilonzo.

Hon. Kilonzo: Thank you Mr Speaker Sir.

I first of all want to applaud the budget committee for the good job they have done. We have clearly seen in the papers that some of the budgets done by some counties are quite lavishly indicated. Their budget to me is very balanced, it is not lavish and it is very focused. As must as you'd want many things, I want to put the quotation of the ailing icon of South Africa; (Nelson) Mandela said: "A good head and a good heart is a formidable combination. If you speak to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. But if you speak his language, that goes to the heart."

I don't want to bring a notion that there is a communication barrier because this one brings a lot of figures and many people are miss... you know. But all I want to say; I have gone through the budget and I feel it is very balanced. Thank you the chairman and your team. Maybe to come to it and I want to say this; the Honourable Member - Honourable Mutemi has really quoted things which he says oh issues of offices... I want to say fine, maybe Ksh 5,000 is low, but there is more which has been indicated will be going to his office as stationery. I feel, honourably speaking, where Mutemi comes from, he can even get a house to start with at Ksh 2,000, not even Ksh 5,000. And if he disagrees to this, I want to ask you Mr Speaker, you give us a weekend we go with him to his ward and I will show him an office

County Assembly Debates

of Ksh 2,000 Mr Speaker. So to me, to say Ksh 5,000 is not enough, maybe in some areas, but not where he comes from.

Mr Speaker Sir, the issue of laptops and printers. I want to say Ksh 70,000, honourably starting an office...

The Speaker: Yes Honourable Member for Kanyangi.

Hon. Wambua: Thank you *Bwana* Speaker. Is it in order for that member to say that in the Honourable Mutemi's area he can rent a house at Ksh 2,000 while business is a personal arrangement; you can quote the price you want?

The Speaker: Honourable Member for Kanyangi, you cannot be the authority for Mutemi's area. You are completely out of order!

(Laughter)

The Speaker: If Mutemi wanted to challenge, he's the one to say, not you. You are his advocate are you?

Continue Honourable Kilonzo.

Hon. Kilonzo: Thank you Mr Speaker for coming to my protection. I actually wanted to say that the figures indicated I did not just refer to Honourable Mutemi's - even where I come from, even where he comes from, he knows it.

Mr Speaker I wanted to talk about the issue of the desktop. Ksh 70,000, if we don't want to devolve corruption, if we don't want to have some illegal types of procurement, if we don't want to have every *Kitu Kidogo*. Sorry Mr Speaker on top of what we buy, Ksh 70,000 can even buy him a desktop and can buy him a printer of Ksh 15,000. If he doesn't know where to get these things, he can consult free of charge.

Mr Speaker Sir, he has really touched on some amounts of money which is put in education. We all know that Mandela is quoted again saying: "Education is the only weapon that can conquer the world." Education does not begin when you are in standard one, education starts with what the counties have been given to focus on. Now he says the amount which has been given to basic education to be moved and to be taken to the wards, which he is not even telling us what it will do in the wards. I believe in his ward he has these basic schools which need to have a good beginning of education Mr Speaker. I want to say, with all due respect and dignity and honour of this house, education begins there, and there is a need for this county, we know where we are ranking in education; number 36 or 37 - Honourable Mutemi is unable to see that. I wanted him to open his eyes and know that last year's performance, we were number 36, and basically, it's not because of class 8, it is because we lost our foundation, and this is the foundation we want to build Mr Speaker. We want our children to be able

to swing like the others in academies. We want to have these children being able to interact with the others in a good environment because that is a resource for this county. I want to remind this house, as much as you want to talk about the present, the future of this county is of much more importance.

I know many things have been spoken; take this one to the ward, take that one to the wards. Jesus Christ Himself in the bible, he gave some talents to his... I think to some slaves... it's a parable. It says he gave to one of the slaves one talent, another one was given two, another one was three; one of those went and hid the talent. I want this house to accept this budget as it is, and whatever has been given to the ward, let them go and sow that seed, let that seed germinate so that we are not condemned like that one who went and hid his talent wherever. I still feel, as much as we talk about many things which have not been put into our wards, some of these Honourable Members, including me, if they don't budget well, it will come to the month of April next year, and some of us have that money to go back to the National Government without anything to do with it Mr Speaker. I want to refer to the previous councils; they were being given almost like Ksh 120,000 which was working very well, Ksh 400,000, which was working very well. How come that a quoted figure, Honourable Members are saying it is not enough Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, I think the Honourable Member who has spoken first is clearly operating in a vacuum. And when an Honourable Member talks...

The Speaker: Order! Order! You are out of order!

You cannot impute improper motive of another member! You are completely out of order, can you withdraw that!

Hon. Kilonzo: Mr Speaker I withdraw.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. Kilonzo: Honestly it is very bad to feel that you are alone in this world, anyway, because we have neighbours and even where we are seated we have some people who are seated next to us. You cannot talk as if you are listening to yourself; you talk because the other people are listening. You become a leader because you are leading people. Mr Speaker Sir, when it is a manner which shows either greed or it shows that we are becoming irresponsible in this house...

Hon. Mwalili: Point of order Mr Speaker Sir!

The Speaker: Mr Kilei, let Honourable Kilonzo finish; he has only 10 minutes. Mr Kilei, what is bothering you?

Hon. Mwalili: Thank you Mr Speaker.

Is it in order for the member in order to impute improper motive on members that either we are not listening or we don't understand Mr Speaker. I feel aggrieved.

Thank you Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Honourable Member you have one more minute, but I award you two minutes because they are cutting you short. I'll give you two more minutes.

Hon. Kilonzo: Mr Speaker Sir, the Honourable Member for Chuluni is putting words in my mouth – I did not speak them. I think there are some people who are distracting so that we just waste our 10 minutes and we have very important things to talk Mr Speaker.

We know that resources are always limited, but wants are many. I wanted to say that this county will be paying salaries. This county is going to look into development; this county is going to look into so many other things. It will be unfair Mr Speaker every time we wake up we say “take this one to the ward.” I think... I was even was listening to it to hear what the Honourable Member he had a quote for the ward, because everything in this budget, according to the previous speaker, he wants it to go to the ward. Is that one fair Mr Speaker? With all due respect I want to ask if this house can adopt this budget and we go forward to look for the Appropriations Bill so that we can start working as from Monday Mr Speaker.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you Honourable Kilonzo. I think Honourable Kilonzo has come out for or against the budget clearly. He is for the budget, we approve it we continue with the... that's what I think you should be doing. If you are for, tell us good things about the budget and we approve it. If you are against, tell us something bad about it and we reject. And remember, the amendment of the estimates is not at this stage, it is done at the committee stage when we are doing the Appropriations Bill, not at this stage.

Honourable Kasinga.

Hon. Kasinga: Thank you Mr Speaker Sir. This afternoon, as we continue and as we begin the debate on the budget, I just want to perhaps, as I contribute make a remark. That we are here to move our county forward and not take it back. And in moving the county forward, the issue of the budget becomes a serious matter, it is not a laughing... it is not a joke. We are talking about what will be able to be spent on water, what will be able to be spent on roads and all these other things. I think we should be able to appreciate the situation we are in. The situation we are in is that we have not had actually the right time or the proper time to be able to interrogate this budget as it may be necessary. But we also do appreciate like it has been, that we are in transition, the budget making process is not an easy thing, we all know when it is supposed to begin. And today as we speak here, though we say that we are doing contribution in one way or the

other we know we have got to say this is where we are, we've got to move forward.

I want to make it clear that I am supporting the budget at this stage. But as we look at this budget, it is based on the strategic paper that we were given the other day, and what I want to point out perhaps is - the strategic paper had a few things that I felt were not right. At this particular time, we have agreed that we go forward. I want to mention that on the side of the roads, the allocation that is on the roads and on the strategic paper that was given. It is specified the areas that the areas that the governor will concentrate on, I want to pray that as we continue, perhaps the allocation on roads will also be spent on more roads other than the ones that are mentioned on the strategic paper. When I say this Mr Speaker Sir, it is because I have a road here, just to quote, my road - that is it is within my ward, one road; Kamuwongo-Kalatine that on the strategic paper is indicated to cost Ksh 15million. The road being mentioned is not even a quarter of what will be called a complete road. This is a road that I'm supposed to use to go through my constituency or around my constituency: it moves from Kamuwongo-Kalatine-Ngungani-Thua-Ngaani-Kairia Nza, moving all the way Katama all the way Kasee, then I come back to my ward. I am not able to use that road. Where that money is allocated to reach, it is actually not necessary that way. I would have wished it would have even been used on a longer stretch that will open up an area that I cannot be able to access. I cannot move from Kalatine, Ngungani to Ngaani - it is the nearest route; I have to use a longer route that goes through Kasee, Katama, Kairia Nza, then I go to Ngaani, then I come back. What I'm saying is that as I have pointed out, there will be a need to look at - is what is quoted here really necessary to be that way or we need to look at there are other areas that are more important that need to use the money that is allocated here.

And with that Mr Speaker, I want to say that let's be honest with ourselves, the County Assembly needs to move forward, the County Government needs to move forward. Let us agree to vote for this budget and see what we can be able to do in the later stages.

The Speaker: Honourable Members, what Honourable Kasinga is saying is clearly, he's really speaking for his people. And the way to solve the problem Kalinga and maybe others have, the reason why the constitution says the budget when it is prepared by the executive committee members in charge of finance should be taken to the people, is for the people to give those remarks so that when the executive member comes back he/she will incorporate those views into the budget and we'll not have that kind of contribution Kasinga has. I hope the Honourable Member in charge of finance from the executive department of the County government is here to listen to those sentiments. It is important for the

County Assembly Debates

budget before it is finalised by the executive member in charge of finance to take it to the people so that he is given, or she is given by the people he or she is trying to budget for.

Thank you.

Honourable Kilei.

Hon. Mwalili: Thank you Mr Speaker again for the moment.

Mr Speaker I've traversed through the house, spoken to a few members with varied opinions and I'm slowly feeling the mood of the house that the budget... the spirit of the budget captures the spirit of this house. Mr Speaker I want to move that the Speaker puts the question after we have ventilated. And most of the people airing views Mr Speaker are repeating what other members are saying and we will have more time Mr Speaker so directed Mr Speaker that during the Appropriations Bill, we'll have better moments to talk about this bill and how we are going to spend the money to benefit our people. Therefore Mr Speaker I support the budget. The mood of the house; you saw me Mr Speaker cross twice or thrice across the house to seek opinion from varied... including the member who sought some amendments from this house Mr Speaker, that the spirit of the house is captured properly, that the spirit of the county in the budget is properly captured. Therefore, Mr Speaker this house has more important things to do, and when we agree Mr Speaker, I think we need to agree for the benefit of the county.

Thank you Mr Speaker.

(Applause)

The Speaker: Very well. Are you moving that the mover be called upon to reply before I put the question of what are you saying Mr Kilei?

Hon. Mwalili: So you said Mr Speaker, you just captured my mind. Thank you.

(Laughter)

The Speaker: Well, I have to check what Honourable members are saying.

There is a proposal that the mover be called to reply:

As many as are of that opinion say AYE!

Members: AYE!

The Speaker: And may as many as are of a contrary opinion say NO!

(Silence)

The Speaker: The AYES have it!

County Assembly Debates

Mr Muthui.

Hon. Muthui: thank you very much Mr Speaker...

The Speaker: What is exciting two members there?

(Laughter)

The Speaker: Order!

Hon. Muthui: Mr Speaker I would like to take this opportunity to thank members of this assembly because in their wisdom, they have approved my budget. As one of the members said here; this is the happiest moment in this county because the budget members have approved here will start rolling immediately after 1st of next month. And what I can assure members is that the money that is going to be revolving in this county has never been seen again.

(Applause)

So I want to thank members for passing it very quickly, without asking a lot of questions, although they I know they had ample time to go through it; they have scrutinised the budget. And as we said, it is a well balanced budget; it caters for all sectors of the economy, and if this budget is going to be implemented to the latter, Mr Speaker, I want to tell you this is going to be a different county all together.

And with those remarks I want to say thank you, thank you so much, God bless you. Ahsante.

The Speaker: I don't know, I thought Honourable Muthui you were going to move a small amendment. You seek leave of the house to move that small amendment.

Hon. Muthui: Thank you very much Mr Speaker.

Notice of Motion.

Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to move that this assembly...

The Speaker: Order! Order!

Mr Muthui, I thought you had an additional revenue, and you want to incorporate it into the statement you made this morning? And maybe appropriate accordingly? That's the amendment...

I want you to seek leave from the house to incorporate it into your statement.

Hon. Muthui: Okay. Thank you very much Mr Speaker for correcting me. Honourable Members, as you've read from the strategic plan from the executive that there will be that there will be about Ksh 143,000 unutilised from the previous financial year...

Members: Million!

County Assembly Debates

Hon. Muthui: Million, that's million. I would like to seek your permission that this amount be reallocated to this financial year.

And I beg to move.

The Speaker: Honourable Muthui. Can you allow me one minute to consult with Honourable Muthui? Honourable Muthui can you come up please.

(Loud consultations)

The Speaker: Please, please. Silently! If you have to consult do it silently please!

(Consults with Hon. Muthui)

The Speaker: Order! Order! Honourable Member! Order! Order!
Honourable Muthui.

We are all learning, we are new to this thing; small little problems here, but we'll be patient until we know how to do things and in future there'll be no problem.

Hon. Muthui: Thank you so much Mr Speaker.

Notice of motion.

Mr Speaker Sir I want to move that this assembly approves the reallocation of funds to various accounts voted for the last quarter for the financial year 2012/2013...

The Speaker: Order! Order!

Let me guide my friend. Honourable Muthui, there is money which was not spent this financial year, and we want to re-vote it instead of going back to the treasury, so that we can use it. And all I want him to do is to seek leave – permission of the house to amend his earlier statement to include additional revenue of that amount, and that amount to be applied to the same items that they were; the funds were intended to be applied.

Thank you. Please.

Thank you Mr Speaker for the clarification, we are still learning – This is our first budget.

So, Mr Speaker Sir, I would like to seek leave from this house, that the amount that is remaining from the last financial year...

The Speaker: Amount? How much? Say the figure.

Hon. Muthui: Ksh 143million to be approved by this house that we reallocate it and appropriate it accordingly this financial year 2013/2014 for the purposes in which they were intended.

Thank you Mr Speaker.

County Assembly Debates

The Speaker: Order! We will frame the motion accordingly. Now, the chairman of the budget committee is requesting the leave of the house for the amount he has requested to be re-voted into the next financial year, and to be applied for the purposes it was intended.

I will now propose the question: that the motion be approved as proposed.

As many as are of that opinion say AYE!

Members: AYE!

The Speaker: As many as are of a contrary opinion say NO!

(Silence)

The AYEs have it.

Now honourable members, I will now put the question; that pursuant to the Interim County Assembly Standing Orders number 207 (6), this County Assembly adopts the report of the budget estimates...

Bwana Clerk.

(Consults with the Clerk)

(Members engage in loud consultation)

The Speaker: Order! Order!

I will now put the question; that pursuant to the Interim County Assembly Standing Orders number 207 (6), this County Assembly adopts the report of the report of the Budget and Appropriations Committee on budget estimates for the County Government and the County Assembly tabled in the County Assembly on 30th April 2013.

As many as are of that opinion say AYE!

Members: AYE!

The Speaker: As many as are of a contrary opinion say NO!

(Silence)

The Speaker: The AYEs have it!

(Applause)

The Speaker: Order! Order! Order!

As I told you this morning, because I can see the mood of the house – you're very happy with the budget- that is a credit to our committee on Budget and Appropriation. Now, as I said we can't do the Appropriations Bill now; between now and tomorrow, we can't finish. So we have to authorise for the withdrawal of funds from the County Revenue Fund for the next financial year until we are able to go through the appropriation bill. So I ask Honourable Muthui to move a motion on Vote on Accounts so

County Assembly Debates

that we dispose of this one, because this is just procedural; there's nothing to debate about it. Because you have already approved the budget, you want the money to be spent next year; you have to authorise for the withdrawal for the time being until we pass the Appropriations Bill.

Mr Muthui. Are you ready?

(Loud consultations)

The Speaker: Order! Order! Order! Jane! Honourable Jane! Order!

Hon. Muthui: Thank you Mr Speaker. Notice of a motion.

Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to move; pursuant of Interim County Assembly Standing Order number 214 (2) that this assembly approves a Vote on Account – not more than half the amount included in the estimates of expenditure for both the County Assembly and the County Government of Kitui for the financial year ending 30th June 2014. This is meant to meet the expenditure necessary to carry on the services of the county government and the county assembly during the 2013/2014 financial year until the relevant Appropriations Law is finally passed and assented to.

I beg to move.

The Speaker: Who seconds this?

Hon. Ngwelei: Mr Speaker Sir I beg to second.

The Speaker: I will propose the question; that pursuant to the Interim County Assembly Standing Order number 214 (2) that this assembly approves a Vote on Accounts, not more than not more than half the amount included in the estimates of expenditure for both the County Assembly and the County Government of Kitui for the financial year ending 30th June 2014. This is meant to meet the expenditure necessary to carry on the services of the county government and the county assembly during the 2013/2014 financial year until the relevant Appropriations Law...

Hon. Mwango!

...Until the relevant Appropriation Law is finally passed and assented to.

Now if there is anybody who wants to say one or two things before we put it, you are free to do so.

Honourable Mwango.

Hon. Mwango: thank you very much Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker I'm very happy this afternoon because we have passed the budget for the county. And also I'm very happy Mr Speaker to hear that there is unutilised money amounting to Ksh 143million. Mr Speaker I'm very happy to see that we have passed a motion to say that the money be withdrawn. But Mr Speaker I want to know, whether the money was

budgeted for? Because we authorised the withdrawal of the money, but we don't know whether the money was budgeted for before.

Thank you Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Order! Anybody who wants to make remarks on-the Vote-on-Accounts? Vote on Accounts- we are asking the house to authorise the withdrawal of half of the money we have approved to meet the expenditure of both the assembly and the executive until such a time that we will be able to approve the appropriation law and the governor assents to it. That's all you are being asked to do.

Honourable Mbiti.

Hon. Mbiti: Thank you Mr Speaker, I'm Titus Ndemwa, MCA Nguutani ward. I want to support that this house approves that bill, so that we go ahead and start withdrawing that amount. Simply because Mr Speaker, some of us here, we are very eager to have our budget through, so that we can save ourselves from the agony of our constituents, because they were pushing us so hard Mr Speaker. They were asking us whether we went to Kitui – Headquarters to have our fun there Mr Speaker. So Mr Speaker it is of the earliest opportunity now to have this chance and have the bill passed without any further delay.

Mr Speaker it is not because we have other businesses outside there; we are not contractors, we are not bus drivers or bar tenders Mr Speaker. It is just that we are asking the chair to pass this bill without further delay Mr Speaker.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Yes *Bwana* Kilonzo. No! *Bwana* Kilonzo has spoken. No! No! No! Sit down Mr Kilonzo. Who has not said something? Yes Honourable Member.

Hon. Mativo: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. My name is Robinson Mativo Nzambani Ward. I support this bill because it... sorry. I support this motion of withdrawal to halfway because actually, comparatively to other counties it has been seen as if we are not doing anything, and now if we'll be having capital to operate, I think it will add great value in this county.

Thank you Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

The Speaker: This is just a procedural motion. I now put the question that pursuant to the Interim County Assembly Standing Order number 214 (2) that this assembly approves a Vote on Account, not more than half the amount included in the estimates of expenditure for both the County Assembly and the County Government of Kitui for the financial year ending 30th June 2014. This is meant to meet the expenditure necessary to carry on the services of the county government and the county assembly

County Assembly Debates

during the 2013/2014 financial year until the relevant Appropriations Law is finally passed and assented to:

As many as are of that opinion say AYE!

Members: AYE!

The Speaker: And may as many as are of a contrary opinion say NO!

(Silence)

The Speaker: The AYEs have it. Thank you.

Now, you will allow me one or two minutes to consult with Honourable Muthui again. Quietly; you can consult quietly, but not move around. You can talk quietly – I want to consult with Mr Muthui.

(Consults the Chairman of the Budget and Appropriations Committee as members engage in their own consultations)

The Speaker: Honourable Members! We have some small little business to transact... I think there is a motion by Honourable Ngwele. Can you please move the motion we see whether we can dispose of it.

Hon. Ngwelei: Thank you Mr Speaker Sir. I beg to move that this house approves the reallocation of funds to various vote heads for the last quarter of the financial year 2012/2013, Kitui County Budget as attached herein. I want to table the attachment, Mr Speaker Sir with your kind permission.

Mr Speaker Sir, just to give a small background to Honourable Members on this motion. Mr Speaker, when we were elected to this house in early March this year, and other members of other County Assemblies across the country, money had been appropriated by the National Assembly towards the end of the year 2012, allocated to the Transitional Authority to support various services around the counties – to prepare the counties for transition. And counties were allocated... I believe different amounts – the Government of Kitui was allocated Ksh 273million shillings. And that money because it had been allocated to the Transitional Authority, it came to the County Treasury with an itemised budget; in other words there had been votes decided on by the Transitional Authority that that money was meant to be spent for specific purposes. But when the money came here, there were different needs in various areas. So it became necessary for the County Treasury to reallocate; to rearrange the budget, and they did consult with us in the Budget and Appropriations Committee to seek our advices and blessings that they reallocate the votes of the monies. And that is the money that has been used to run services in this county; to buy our stationery in the assembly, to pay recurrent expenses

like personal emoluments for staff who have been seconded by the Transitional Authority, to refurbish offices and various other small expenditures. And it is the same amount that has a balance of Ksh 143million that I believe the chairman of the budget committee moved that we re-appropriate. We had been very worried at the budget committee that a big chunk of that money was not going to be spent by the end of the financial year, and the normal fear that money that is not spent is returned to the treasury. But we were guided by one of the officers of this assembly that according to the public financial management act, money voted to the Transitional Authority would not lapse, so we had liberty to do as we did this afternoon and the balance of this money will be available. To help run services in the County Government.

So Mr Speaker as I move this motion, I want to share sentiments that were shared by the Budget and Appropriations Committee about how this money was treated when it came to the county government; it came as a block fund allocated to the County Treasury, and as we know this assembly, and indeed all assemblies around the country are autonomous bodies. We were worried that our assembly did not have financial independence, and Mr Speaker we do know that the business of any legislature, as this assembly is a legislature is to be independent – the first business of any legislature is to be independent. And we wanted this legislature to be independent financially. We want to recommend to the County Treasury and also to the National Treasury, that in future allocation of monies like these, assemblies need to be set independent to run their own financial affairs, so that that doctrine of separation of powers that is given so central to our constitution is actually given meaning.

With all those remarks Mr Speaker, I beg to move, and Leader of Opposition - if we still have opposition, the Honourable Hussein Mwandia has agreed to second.

Thank you Mr Speaker.

Hon. Hussein: Thank you Mr Speaker.

Although the Honourable member has said that I'm a leader of opposition, I'm not. I do oppose with reasons. I don't just oppose for the sake. Mr Speaker as you know, we are dispensing the new constitution...

The Speaker: Order! Order! Order! You are out of order! You are out of order! We want an MCA who is going to support the motion to second, and then those who oppose can talk later.

Hon. Hussein: Mr Speaker I'm not opposing, but then...

The Speaker: That is what you said!

Hon. Hussein: No, I was informing my fellow Honourable Member that...

The Speaker: Okay continue.

County Assembly Debates

Hon. Hussein: He should stop calling me an opposition because I oppose with reasons.

(Applause)

Hon. Hussein: Thank you Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Are you seconding the motion?

Hon. Hussein: Yes Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: You have seconded the motion?

Hon. Hussein: Yes Sir, but with the following forwarding; I don't just support, I support with reasons.

The Speaker: Yes, thank you.

Hon. Hussein: Since Mr Speaker we are dispensing the new constitution, Mr Speaker I beg to support the motion. Thank you.

(Laughter)

The Speaker: Order! Order!

I now propose the question, that this assembly approves the reallocation of funds to various vote heads for the last quarter of the financial year 2012/2013, Kitui County Budget as attached herewith.

I now put the question that the assembly approves the reallocation of funds to various vote heads for the last quarter of the financial year 2012/2013, Kitui County Budget as attached herewith.

As many as are of that opinion say AYE!

Members: AYE!

And as many as are of a contrary opinion say NO!

(Silence)

The Speaker: The AYE's have it.

Now, Honourable Members, as your Speaker, I am humbled by the way you have handled a very weighty matter in this house in a very responsible manner because this is budget and we are all here because of the money; for development and for our salaries. And you have handled the matter very effectively, very responsibly, and I'm humbled. I'm very proud to be the Speaker of this kind of a house.

(Applause)

The Speaker: Now, I am very happy – I will sleep a very happy old man today. Because things were getting out of control. I remember yesterday I came to where (Hon.) Muthui and his committee were meeting and I forgot even to greet them. I went straight to what was on my mind, I

County Assembly Debates

went straight, they offered me a cup of tea, I refused; because my head was upside down. But I'm a very happy man. Thank you very much indeed Honourable Members. We can now say we have a budget approved by the assembly and we have a Vote on Account approved by the assembly. And I think, I'm instructing the Clerk of the County Assembly, to see that... yes, I won't finish. So the Clerk will give further instruction after I adjourn the house.

With those few remarks, Honourable Members, can you now stand and we adjourn the house.

The house now stands adjourned until next week Tuesday, the 2nd of July at 2:30pm.

The house stood at 4:57pm