

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF BUNGOMA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY DEBATES

THE DAILY HANSARD

TUESDAY 13TH JUNE, 2023

Afternoon Sitting

3rd County Assembly

2nd Session

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COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA

HANSARD OFFICIAL REPORT

TUESDAY 13TH JUNE, 2023

The House met at 2:30 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker (Hon. Stephen Wamalwa) in Chair

PRAYER

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Honourable Members, I have some two or three communications to make

1. THE HON. SPEAKER AWAY ON OFFICIAL DUTY

The Honourable Speaker is out of the station on official duty in the Senate of Kenya in Nairobi on matters of this great House and we believe that God is going to be with him and the team.

2. PLENARY ATTENDANCE

I want to request those of you who have not been logging in using your cards, kindly make sure you have your card and log in using it because it has come to my attention that even if you are registering physically, but then the Hansard is capturing you as absent and we don't want to enter into some issues in the future with several agents of the government; you understand what I am talking about .So kindly make haste and ensure you recover your card and please keep it. It is a very important document to you Honourable Members; it is important than your ATM because it generates very important records than your ATM card. So please for those who have misplaced their cards, kindly ensure that you hasten and replace.

3. HONORABLE MEMBERS' DINNER INVITATION FROM THE FAMILY BANK OF KENYA

The next one is about an invite by the Family Bank of Kenya- Bungoma branch. They are inviting all the Honourable Members to a corporate dinner which will be held at Jadelica Hotel in Kanduyi on Friday 23rd June, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. Honourable Members you are invited by the bank that you can dine with them. Don't ask me what we will be eating, just reach there and you will understand what they will be offering.

4. VISITING DELEGATION

We have visitors in the Speaker's Gallery. When I call out their names, kindly be upstanding. We have;

Ms. Eunice Imbwenya - the Acting Director of Education

Mr. John Otido - The Deputy Director of Education Support Scheme
Ms. Agnes Wepukhulu - Vocational Training Officer;

And two Liaison Officers

Honourable Members, we can give them a round of applause.

(Applause)

Thank you so much, you can get sited.

Lastly, I have a communication originating from the CECM Roads, the Hon. Chengek who has requested that we give a change of date for him to appear in this House from the date that we had given which was on 13th and take it to the 27th day of June, 2023; and therefore to that effect, I will step down the question and the statement at the appropriate time so that it is postponed to 27th of June, 2023 at 2:30 p.m. So the Clerks at the Table ensure that is complied with accordingly.

PAPERS

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Well the Hon. James Mukhongo, you can lay both the Papers.

Hon. James Mukhongo: Thank you Hon. Speaker. Allow me to lay on the Table of this Honourable House the following four documents;

1. Report by the Auditor General on the financial statements of Nzoia Water Services Company Limited for the year ending 30th June, 2019
2. Report by the Auditor General on the financial statements of Nzoia Water Services Company Limited for the year ended 30th June, 2020
3. Report by the Auditor General on the financial statements of Nzoia Water Services Company Limited for the year ended 30th June, 2021
4. Report on the Auditor General on Bungoma County Disaster Management and Emergency Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2022

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you Hon. Barasa Mukhongo. Honourable Members the Papers having been laid in a procedural manner; they become the property of this Assembly and stand committed to the Committee on PAIC which will have to work on them and bring a proper feedback. Next is the Hon. Chairperson for Health or any Member?

5. REPORT BY THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH SERVICES ON THE BUNGOMA COUNTY GOVERNMENT NINE MONTH FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31ST MARCH, 2023

Hon. Dorcus Ndasaba: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I rise to table the report by the Committee on Health Services on the Bungoma County Government nine month financial statements for the period ending 31st March, 2023.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you the Hon. Dorcus Ndasaba Nakhumicha; you know we have a CECM called Nakhumicha in the Ministry of Health. Honourable Members, the report by the Committee on Health having been laid is now the property of this Honourable House.

NOTICE OF MOTION

1. REPORT BY THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH SERVICES ON THE BUNGOMA COUNTY GOVERNMENT NINE MONTH FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31ST MARCH, 2023

Hon. Dorcas Ndasaba: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I rise to give a notice of motion that this House adopts the report by the Sectoral Committee on Health Services on the Bungoma County Government nine month financial statements for the year 2022/2023 in respect to the Department of Health and Sanitation.

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you the Hon. Nakhumicha of Health. Honourable Members a notice of motion having been issued, I first direct that it be circulated to all Honourable Members of this House for their consumption and in depth analysis so that it forms part of Business that will be considered by this House.

STATEMENTS

1. RESPONSE BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER FOR AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, FISHERIES, IRRIGATION AND COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT TO THE QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE HON. ALFRED MUKHANYA OF NDIVISI WARD REGARDING THE STATUS OF MAGEMO DAM

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Honourable Members at this point we allow the CECM in charge of Agriculture to be brought in the plenary so that we can start on that Order number. The orderlies of the Assembly, are we having the CECM around?

(The CECM, Agriculture is ushered into the chambers by the Serjeant- at- arms)

The CECM Agriculture Madam Monica Fedha you are welcome to the plenary this afternoon so that you give responses to the questions raised by the Hon. Mukhanya of Ndivisi Ward regarding the status of the dam. I want to give guidelines and guidance that kindly, let us adhere to the questions and the issues raised by the Hon. Mukhanya. Let us not go into any other issue; we strictly stick to the issues raised by the owner of the statement who is the Hon. Mukhanya and therefore at this moment, I want to ask if you are ready so that you can take the dispatch, the Hon. Monica Fedha.

Ms. Monica Fedha (CECM, Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Irrigation and Cooperative Development): Thank you Hon. Speaker, Honourable Members. I am here to give additional response on Magemo Dam. This response is in addition to what I had given earlier, then the Speaker ruled that I will be send the HANSARD report so that from it, I am able to pull out issues that need additional consideration. So I have this response that I will read through.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Honourable CECM, I want to ask you that you give responses up to issue number four which is purely on Makemo and maybe you could go through the questions so that Members can get refreshed; or if you don't have them, I can ask our Clerks at Table to take us through.

Ms. Monica Fedha (CECM, Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Irrigation and Cooperative Development): Thank you Hon. Speaker and Honourable Members. I wish to report that I have the questions and the issues and my response is as follows;

The area under irrigation and drainage in Bungoma is approximately 400 hectares and 15,000 hectares respectively spread across the County. Several irrigation schemes do exist, though there is need for improvement, they include; Kamusinga/Kamtiong, Chepkuy and Chepkarai/Chepkutuny. Drainage projects developed for crop production includes Sitila/Nalondo, Siritanyi and Matisi.

Individual farmers do carry out small irrigation along water bodies. Several dams and water pans have been identified for construction and rehabilitation to enhance water storage for irrigated agriculture. More investment is therefore required to develop irrigation and infrastructure technology transfer and extension services and this is according to the draft CIDP 2023/ 2027. Several issues were raised on Magemo dam and were responded to as outlined below on the floor of the House.

Issue Number One

Why the department has neglected the said dam, posing a risk to human life and other environmental and health risks to the residents of Ndivisi Ward?

My response was as follows;

Bungoma County has more than 85 dams spread across the county. An assessment of the dam has found that most of the dams have silted and are in dire need of rehabilitation to serve the intended objective and to avoid being a risk to their respective residents. Magemo dam is one of the largest dams in the county with a capacity of over 100,000m³ of water. The dam has a huge potential for irrigation and fisheries development as well as recreation. In spite of the dam being an important resource, it has been neglected because the local leadership and the community have not given it priority, while choosing projects to be funded by the County Government just like in the case of other dams and water plants across the county.

Issue Number Two

The reasons as to why there has been little effort to rehabilitate the dam.

Response;

Owing to its large capacity, it falls under the Department of Water. This is because the Department of irrigation which is under the County Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, Irrigation and Cooperatives is only allowed to rehabilitate water pumps and small dams of capacity of less than 20,000m³. Additionally, it is estimated that the dam will require around Kshs 75 million for effective rehabilitation. This amount is enormous and hence requires proper planning and resource mobilisation similar to what happened to Kapkara dam which is being rehabilitated by the National Agriculture and Rural Inclusive and Growth Project (NAGRIP).

Issue Number Three

The steps the Executive is taking to re implement the recommendations of PAIC report done in financial year 2014/ 2015 in respect of rehabilitation of the dam.

Response;

The issue of the third report and its implementation can only be clarified by the County Secretary who was there at the same time and the Implementation Committee of the First County Assembly. This is because the implementation of the reports has a timeframe and is dependent on the due diligence that is done by the Executive on issues raised in PAIC reports. This is more so in cases where the PIAC reports of the County Assembly are not based on Auditor General's report.

Issue number four

What the department is doing to have the dam repaired in a better manner.

Response;

The department in its planning framework, the draft Sectoral plan 2023 /2032 and the draft County Integrated Development Plan 2023/ 2027 has planned to rehabilitate dams across the County to increase water storage capacity and availability for increased agricultural and fisheries productivity. It is also recommended that the dam can be rehabilitated in phases due to limited funds that are allocated to the department. The Department of Water can also be requested to plan in the budget for the rehabilitation of the Magemo dam.

Hon. Speaker, Honourable Members that was the initial response that I had given then; the Speaker gave a ruling that I would be sent the HANSARD so that I could give additional response with your permission. Hon. Speaker, I could give the additional response that is really a good way forward.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Honourable CECM, I will be giving you that chance to proceed and give the additional responses as you wish, but as you do that, I want to pose a question that you know when you say that Water is not in your docket; of course you will rehabilitate up to 20,000m³ in this CIDP. I don't know if Magemo will be part of what you think you can rehabilitate or not, because from your response on issue number four is where the question oscillates; but you can proceed and give the additional responses to the benefit of Members.

Ms. Monica Fedha (CECM, Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Irrigation and Cooperative Development): Hon. Speaker, Honourable Members, in my initial response and that is why it happened and that it was not maybe sufficient. I went back and did more research. We have over 85 dams, small dams and water pans. You know I am not really a professional in that area. So I went and also sought more advice. I am really sorry that I gave this opinion. It was actually an opinion that was not really well researched but the position is, the Department of Agriculture can actually rehabilitate dams even up to 200,000m³ and so that is the position. For the additional response, thank you for giving me the chance so that I can continue. According to the official HANSARD report for Tuesday, 4th April, 2023, Members sought for further clarification and I hereby respond as follows.

I have several points, and these points are based on what each Member had risen to seek clarification on. Hon. Mukhanya reiterated that the community residing near the dam is willing to support the government in ensuring that the dam is rehabilitated. The Speaker ruled that his were comments and not questions.

Hon. Miliah Masungu in a response to her question, only Magemo dam has been earmarked for rehabilitation in the 2023/2024 financial year. Under NAGRIP two dams have been constructed or rehabilitated. That is Kapkara at a cost of Kshs. 50 million and Wabukhonyi in Siboti Ward at a cost of Kshs. 25 million. The issue of dams being a risk to people's lives can be solved by concerted effort between the community and the government so that the government can fence the dams while the community adheres to their obligation of ensuring that those who have access to the dams are cautioned about the lurking danger.

Then Hon. Wambulwa suggested that emergency funds be utilized to repair the dams. This option was considered in light of the seriousness of this issue. But the challenge is the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) that stipulates what emergencies are; and so we have projects

that may require emergency intervention. But we are restricted Hon. Speaker by the fact that there is a definition of what an emergency is, as per the PFMA...

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. CECM I am happy that you have captured the desires of the Hon. Masungu's question and the Hon. Wambulwa's question during that time, but the Hon. Mukhanya when he talked about the community; because in your statement, you remember you have responded by saying that the community around the dam is not supportive or they are not giving it priority. So when you say that on their behalf, and look at your response about the Hon. Mukhanya... When the Speaker ruled that his were comments and not questions, but as an officer in charge of this docket, what is your response in relation to your first response of leaders, not giving the Makemo a priority

Ms. Monica Fedha (CECM, Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Irrigation and Cooperative Development): Thank you Hon. Speaker and I am really thankful that you are keen on my first response where I had said that maybe the community is not giving sufficient priority to this dam. But on that, Hon. Mukhanya reiterated that the community residing near the dam was willing to support the government. You know what I meant by the community not giving it a priority, because you know, we are encouraging what we call bottom up approach to project identification. Because when communities can suggest that such a project should be implemented through the Honourable representatives, the Ward representatives who are MCAs, then we are able as a department to put these projects in the budget and the beauty is that the issue of dams is captured in the CIDP; but when it comes to prioritization, Honourable Members, sometimes maybe people being proactive because we are talking about 85 dams. How do we prioritize? It is about the community saying that let us have this project maybe before this one. So that is what I really meant was in good faith.

The fourth one, Hon. Meshack raised the issue deaths as a result of drowning in the dam. He made it clear that rehabilitation of the dam should be prioritized and funds should be allocated and, you know, like the way it is captured, these issues are as per the HANSARD. I had to read through the HANSARD because I was sent the HANSARD and I was told, can you now look through the captured issues which MCAs addressed; and so it was really fair that I read carefully the HANSARD and really bring out what each and every Member had raised.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Honourable CECM, when you go through the HANSARD and get hold of the requirements through questioning by the Honourable Members, when you come, make sure you come with sufficient responses in relation to what they have asked. For example, what about that issue that was raised by Hon. Meshack of people drowning in the dams? What is your take on that because we cannot see anything? You captured the question, yes. So about that, what is it? We are not seeing anything?

Ms. Monica Fedha (CECM, Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Irrigation and Cooperative Development): Good, and I think you will see it at the end of the report Hon. Speaker... because I am just reading through and at the end of it all, we have good news.

(Applause)

Thank you Speaker for your indulgence... So Hon. Meshack actually raised the issue of people drowning in the dam. He made it clear that the rehabilitation of the dam should be prioritized and money should be allocated. I didn't want to pre-empt what I will be saying at the end, so, Hon. Kikechi suggested that since the dam required Kshs. 75 million, it can be rehabilitated in phases and this was a good idea. So Hon. Machani said the dam should be budgeted for by the department. This has been done in the forward budget of 2023/2024 financial year. Hon. Mukhongo asked for dams that had been captured in the CIDP, the position is there was generalization with no list of dams; and to this point of Hon. Mukhongo about the dams the CIDP it is generalized; but I actually talked to the Director for Irrigation, who gave me a draft report on all the dams that had been inventoried. This report is talking about 73 dams, although we have almost 85. If you could allow me Hon. Speaker, I don't know if I can go through the list of the dams.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: No! I will allow you go through what you have started because you have reached Hon. Mukhongo. So we still have Hon. Wanyama, Hon. Sudi and others up to number 15. I think so complete that first.

Ms. Monica Fedha (CECM, Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Irrigation and Cooperative Development): Exactly! But what I was saying now as per this number seven, we are...

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Because we are waiting for the good news at the end, so proceed and complete so that you bring us good news.

Ms. Monica Fedha (CECM, Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Irrigation and Cooperative Development): Hon. Ken Wanyama reiterated that it is important to prioritize projects and implement in phases, which I agree with him. The Hon. Isaiah Sudi raised the issue of networking with the national government because the Kshs. 75 million needed for the dam is little money. He said many dams had silted, yet they were sitting on large pieces of land and that the water in the dams can be used by the communities. So for this issue of networking with national government, I actually wrote a letter to the State Department of Agriculture, asking for their expertise so that they could help us do survey and come up with designs for the dams that are existing in our county.

then Hon. Nangulu advised that The agriculture department to write proposals for the dams to be handled by national government and here also the good news is the NVCDP (National Value Chain Development Project) that is a successor to the NAGRIP will actually be rehabilitating and they understand all the dams that are in our county and I think they are over 100. We are still continuing with the inventor taking and so we have been told that once we inventorize and this project comes on board, they intend to at least rehabilitate most of these dams. So it is good that Hon. Nangulu had that advice.

Hon. Edwin Opwora hinted that some dams like Mt. Elgon, Nabuyole and Namasanda had been identified for construction by the national government. A background check found that only the identification was done, but was done but pre-feasibility studies are yet to be carried out. So this is something that I am still following up on. Because pre-feasibility studies have not been done, but there were officers from the national government who visited these dams, but nothing has come out of it so far.

Hon. Chemion suggested that funds be allocated to this dam by the Agriculture department. Since the CEF Fund has a low allocation, it can be done in phases. Then Hon. Caleb Wanjala wanted to know if funds had been previously allocated to Magemo dam. The answer is yes; from Irrigation department. We have no records of fingerlings taken to Magemo dam. I was also not able to find the records at the time of compiling the report.

Hon. Job Mukoyandali asked that an inventory of all dams in the county be done and documented. To this end, I have attached a list of 65 out of the over 87 dams from the county inventory.

Hon. Violet Makhanu gave advice about the way forward which included visiting the dam in question and having a work plan on how it should be rehabilitated. So this work plan is in place, although I have not attached it. So that is in the way forward and implementation framework.

So here is the good news, the department has allocated 12 million on Magemo dam in the 2023/2024 financial year!

(Applause)

A public participation *Baraza* (forum) will be held with all key stakeholders coming on board to prepare for the dam in July. You know we are learning from past mistakes because this is a dam that had been allocated some funds in 2014/ 2015, but because they were insufficient, the work that was done seemed to be so shoddy; even the 12 million shillings is not enough Honourable Members. In the first supplementary budget that will be presented maybe in September, we shall be asking for more money to be allocated to this dam because Kshs. 12 million is very little.

Then survey design and preparation of bills of quantities for the dam is on-going. We also want to do this work very early so that come July, we can actually advertise for the rehabilitation of this dam and it is done in good time, then it will be beneficial to the community. We shall also do tender advertisement evaluation, award of tender and site handover to the successful bidder. So the Kshs.12 million is what is in the budget and this is the money that will go a long way in ensuring that we fence off the dam and then we shall put vital facilities to ensure that this dam is no longer a risk to the communities in Ndivisi Ward. Hon. Speaker, I don't know whether I can now read the list of the 65 dams in the county...

Mr. Deputy Speaker: You can take your seat. First of all *Waziri* (CECM), the question was Hon. Mukhanya's; and at this moment, it is important that we get his views of whether he is satisfied or not; so that we can see the way forward. The Hon. Mukhanya, I want to give you an opportunity so that you tell the House what you feel about the response.

Hon. Alfred Mukhanya: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think from what *Waziri* has said, and what he has read here, I am really satisfied. Now that we are starting and the good news like she has put, that after July there is going to be more money somewhere in the first supplementary that comes in September; which I feel would be good for us and my people are ready to work. Even if you say tomorrow, they are ready to work on the dam. So I am satisfied and I say thank you for that good response.

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Honourable Members, given the satisfaction by the owner of the question, I will give only two members to make auxiliary questions, submissions or remarks on the same. I will begin with the Chairperson of Agriculture, Hon. Wafula Waiti then we shall finish with Hon. Barasa Mukhongo. Let us hear the Chair Agriculture and Irrigation under whose docket the dam falls.

Hon. Waiti Wafula: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I just have one concern. As much as I want to applaud *Waziri* (CECM) over her effort about the Makemo dam, as the Chair of the department, I wish to know, now that we have *Waziri* here, I do not think I missed something during the one time she was here. She mentioned that she had allocated Kshs. 20 million to the dam which I captured in one of the meetings with the department and the same sentiment was followed by the CECM Finance when he presented the budget estimates; which is yet to be discussed in this Honourable House. Now, we are getting to know of Kshs. 12 million; so which is which, so that as the Chair I should have concrete information.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: That is a very good concern by the Chair and I know *Waziri* you can note that down so that I bring Hon. Mukhongo then you respond on both questions so that we can move on another with other Business.

Hon. Barasa Mukhongo: Hon. Speaker, I am riding on what the owner of the statement has just reiterated. He is very much satisfied with the response from the CECM however, the CECM was giving a comprehensive report of the dams that we have in the County, but the good news she has only concentrated on Magemo dam and so I am left to wonder what will happen to these other dams because we should not sit and wait to ask questions for it is when the Executive can come up and do something in our various Wards because similar issues that affect Magemo cut across.

That is my concern Hon. *Waziri*, otherwise when you started, I was following, I had no pen but you said some of the issues were handled by the Implementation Committee that was there at the time. You know you have assumed an office and anything that is in that office must be on your fingertips. So we should not run away from issues raised by the Honourable Members. You only give what you know and what you have planned or what you are planning for the future; because we are looking at this Government and we want to support it. I like how you have responded.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you Hon. Mukhongo James Barasa. Because of my volition, I will give Hon. Tony Barasa Khaoya. I made a ruling, but I have the discretion to reverse it.

(Applause)

Hon. Tony Barasa: Thank you Hon. Speaker. I also wish to applaud my senior Hon. Mukhanya for his satisfaction and maybe for the purposes of guidance, the owner has confirmed that the CECM has stated that additional funds will be availed by September. I want to be on record that it will be her proposal, but the ultimate mandate will be with this House because it is not automatic that by end of September we will have money here. So if the CECM will make a proposal in the first supplementary, I wish to urge this House that we stand with that proposal so that it can see the light of the day. *Ikienda tu hivyo*, (if it does not work), sorry.

(Laughter)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you Hon. Khaoya. Now the CECM, there are some questions raised by the Chair who oversees you Hon. Waiti Wafula Waiti, can you clarify to this House!

Ms. Monica Fedha (CECM, Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Irrigation and Cooperative Development): Thank you Hon. Speaker and Honourable Members. Maybe before I respond to these questions I would really seek your indulgence, maybe just listen to me for two or three minutes. I remember when I had been told that I need to come and give additional response, I was away on official duty and I wrote a letter explaining because I had called the Hon. Speaker telling him that I was away on official duty and I will not be able to come and give this additional response. I wrote a letter and attached the additional response and also attached a letter informing the House that I was away on official duty; but when I did not appear it happened that Members were not informed about my absence and were not happy with me; they signed an impeachment schedule.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Honourable CECM! That is a territory that you should not go.

Ms. Monica Fedha (CECM, Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Irrigation and Cooperative Development): Hon. Speaker, I have asked for your indulgence please!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I gave you that not knowing that that is the direction you want to take.

(Laughter)

Ms. Monica Fedha (CECM, Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Irrigation and Cooperative Development): I am sorry Hon. Speaker. Let me respond to issues.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: That one elicits a lot of issues and it is not proper.

(Loud Consultations)

Courtesy of that, resume your seat first because there are Honourable Members who would want to... Hon. Linda Kharakha then Ipara, what is it?

Hon. Linda Kharakha: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I almost raised what you wanted to say. The Hon. CECM is yet to answer questions that you have cited to her directly, not matters that are still strange to this House. When answering she should desist on touching matters that we are not aware about.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Very well.

(Applause)

She stands guided by the Honourable Member Linda Kharakha who is a lawyer with good standing....let me not go further than that...

Hon. Johnston Ipara: Hon. Speaker, I was also shocked when the Hon. CECM, a respected person of the Government who also holds the office of the County Secretary comes here and spreads misinformation on the basis of hearsay. I think that is misleading, demeaning and we least expected that from the person of the CECM; let her withdraw, where did this information come from? Because we believe this is a House of rules... where did she get that information from? Who informed her? I rest my case.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you Hon. Ipara Okasida. Hon. CECM, that is not in order and you have to withdraw and apologize to this House.

Ms. Monica Fedha (CECM, Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Irrigation and Cooperative Development): Hon. Speaker, I stand guided and I humbly withdraw my remarks.

(Applause)

Now I will go to the issue. The first concern of the allocation of Kshs. 20 million as asked by Hon. Wafula Waiti... It is very true that Kshs. 20 million had been allocated. That was in the draft program based budget. You know budgeting is a process; usually we have a draft then a final budget so the Kshs. 20 million had been suggested in the draft budget.

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order members!

Ms. Monica Fedha (CECM, Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Irrigation and Cooperative Development): But the final budget now arrived with Kshs. 12 million because we realized money had to be allocated to other areas and that is why I am saying during the first supplementary that might come in September...

I am really very happy that Hon. Tony Barasa has requested that when we bring those proposals, kindly support us because once we have passed the budget and after we have prepared the procurement plan, we are able to re-allocate money or move money from this item to another; and that is why I am hoping that we shall add some funds to Magemo dam because Kshs. 12 million is still very little. When a dam is being rehabilitated, when you excavate one meter cubic of soil and cart it away, it costs Kshs. 243. So if you calculate that with a capacity of about 140m³, you will realize that we require over Kshs 60 million and then when you add auxiliary structures then the money could go up to Kshs. 90 million.

We are hoping that during the first supplementary we will check our budget within our allocation. We are not really asking for money from other departments but we shall re-allocate just within the departmental budget.

Hon. Mukhongo has talked about other dams. We have over 100 dams in our County and the other good news is that we have National Value Chain Development project that is coming after NARIGP; and so the Director, Irrigation, the one who is also in the NARIGP project recently told me that we need to go and make an inventory of more dams, put them in a document like what I have carried here so that there is a proposal that the NVCDP project will actually rehabilitate almost 80 % of the dams and that is also good news Honourable Members. Those were the issues.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. CECM, are you thinking or you are sure?

Ms. Monica Fedha (CECM, Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Irrigation and Cooperative Development): Before it's actualized I am really thinking that it is the truth... that all dams will be considered.

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: You can take your seat. Thank you so much Ms. Monica Salano Fedha CECM, Agriculture, Irrigation, Livestock and very many other departments there in.

Therefore, there being no other question directed at the CECM... Before the CECM leaves, we want to task the Committee on Agriculture that touching on Hon. Mukhongo's question about the other dams and also riding on the statement by the CECM that we have more than 80 dams, we want to task the Committee to create time, go out across the County and establish the exact number of dams that this County has so that you come and present before the House with very concrete and sufficient recommendations with the way forward.

That is communicated. So we step down the CECM. We wish you well as you undertake your duties. This House awaits you in case you are required.

(Applause)

(The CECM, Agriculture is escorted out of the chambers by the Serjeant - at- Arms)

Next is CECM Education and Vocational training Dr. Wamamili. The orderlies of the Assembly!

(The CECM, Education and Vocational Training is ushered into the chambers by the Serjeant-at- Arms)

Welcome Dr. Wamamili, the CECM in charge of Education and Vocational Training. I am reliably informed that you are in the company of your Chief Officer in the department. You are welcome!

Dr. Wamamili and the Chief Officer you are welcome before this session in the plenary to respond to the concerns raised by Honourable Members touching on your department. Without taking much time, I want to ask the Clerks at Table to read the concerns from the respective Honourable Members who sought your response for the benefit of the Assembly.

2. A STATEMENT SOUGHT FROM THE CECM - EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING BY HON. KENNEDY WANYAMA IN RELATION TO MUYAYI VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE

The CECM to respond to the following;

1. When the centre was commissioned?
2. Why the greatly marketable courses like masonry, plumbing and electrical are not being offered at the institution?
3. Why the centre offers only tailoring, food and beverages courses and only one tutor has been posted there?

4. What the department is doing to have the VTC well equipped of both personnel and various courses for trainings so as to attract more students.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. I want to believe that the CECM is aware of the questions and therefore I wish to welcome you to the dispatch so that you can give responses as requested by the Hon. John Kennedy Wanyama. As you respond Hon. CECM, you are at liberty, if there is anything that you feel that the Chief Officer can give additional information, you can pass over to him. You are welcome.

Dr. David Wamamili (CECM, Education and Vocational Training): Thank you Hon. Speaker and Members. The issues have been raised and I wish to respond thus;

1. When was the centre commissioned?

Muyayi VTC is located in Bukembe West Ward was started in the year 2016 on a 0.45 hectares of land.

2. Why marketable courses are not offered in the VTC

I respond thus...

Mr. Deputy Speaker: You can use your mic very well such that the HANSARD can capture you properly.

Dr. David Wamamili (CECM, Education and Vocational Training): Thank you. The facility offers courses which have instructors and they are; tailoring, hairdressing, plumbing, Food and beverage and masonry.

Masonry and plumbing are licensed and marketable but no student had enrolled by the time we had this document on our desk. Electrical course is not offered because of lack of electricity; the VCT is not connected to the National Kenya power grid,

Currently, no students have been enrolled in plumbing, masonry, food and beverage while tailoring and hairdressing have 12 and 6 students respectively as indicated in the table. Tailoring has 12, hair dressing has 6 and the rest are in plumbing, food and beverage and masonry. Despite the fact that they are offered, no student has enrolled.

3. Why the centre offers only tailoring, food and beverages courses and has only one tutor.

The centre does not offer the aforementioned courses. Other courses I have mentioned up there are also offered.

4. What the Department is doing to have the VTC well equipped.

The Department will allocate students bursaries, of which the school management will use part to equip the centre. Thank you that is my response.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Very well. That is the response, CECM, maybe before you take your seat kindly just at the dispatch, I do not know if you are riding on the fact that the VTC is not connected to the power grid and that is why there is no qualified instructor in electrical courses; because you have skipped that question. Can that be the reason or you have another reason for the benefit of the Honourable Members and the House.

Dr. David Wamamili (CECM, Education and Vocational Training): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Electrical course can only be offered where there is power; consequently there is no power, therefore electrical is not offered and that is the position for now.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: So we do not have instructors from that area because we can have an instructor there who is not qualified? What can you say about that?

Dr. David Wamamili (CECM, Education and Vocational Training): we do not have an instructor or the electricity.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Fine, you can take your seat. The owner of the statement Hon. John Ken Wanyama!

Hon. John Kennedy Wanyama: Thank you Mr. Speaker. First of all, I want to thank the CECM; the response is very detailed and on point, but it has generated a few concerns which I want to go through.

The first issue is what you have just touched on, the issue of the VTC not being connected to the national grid. This VTC was launched in 2016 and I am certain that is not the only VTC that is not connected to the national grid. It is my advice to the Executive that as they plan to build these VTCs, they ensure that as part of the scope of works, these institutions are connected to the national grid so that a very critical course like electrical engineering can be offered.

Still on the second response on the matter of the courses offered, out of the five, you can see that the boy child is greatly disadvantaged. Of course out of 10 tailors, you can get two boys; out of ten hairdressers you can get two or three boys.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Or none...

Hon. John Kennedy Wanyama: Or none and what I am trying to bring out is that I think as a County Government, we really need to put a lot of focus on our core mandate and one of them is VTCs; because if we have all these courses and when you look at number three response, they are actually saying that we have instructors for plumbing, food and beverage and masonry; yet there are no students. Again when you look at value for money, and to me, why should you have instructors and you do not have students.

My assumption is that there could be another VTC that has students for plumbing and they do not have instructors. So I just want to urge the department that they really need to be hands on and do a very critical analysis of these VTCs to ascertain the actual needs of both personnel and equipment for these VTCs. Maybe the CECM can just comment on how many instructors are actually at this VTC.

Finally, this surprised me a little; I had asked what the department is doing...

(Loud consultations)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order Members! Hon. Mukhongo!

Hon. John Kennedy Wanyama: I had asked what the department is doing to have the VTC well equipped and the department is saying that they will allocate student bursaries, of which the school management will use part of it to equip the centre. I am a bit lost. I thought bursary is a grant to support needy students; so maybe just some clarification on that.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you so much Hon. Ken John Wanyama. Yes our CECM Education, bursary and equipping of the institutions or I will stand you down. First of all let us have auxiliary questions as you capture Hon. Wanyama's concerns. Kindly we may have at least two auxiliary questions or concerns from any other member if any, if not we proceed with the CECM. We have Hon. Kharakha and Makari.

Hon. Linda Kharakha: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Maybe from what Hon. Ken has said regarding the courses being offered at Muyayi VCT, I stand to be guided; currently I think there is no course that belongs to either gender. If he says the boy child is disadvantaged....

(Applause)

If Hon. Ken says a boy child is disadvantaged, I stand guided because I think if a course is offered and the person has the ability, they can always venture in it. I have seen boys doing hair dressing, girls doing plumbing and boys doing food and beverage. So I think it is a good venture that Muyayi is considering... may be he would have asked to be given if there are more boys not venturing in this and maybe to just encourage them venture into these courses.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Very well put by Hon. Linda Kharakha Mukhanya. Hons. Makari, Barasa Mukhongo, Edwin Opwora then we move to the next item. Proceed Hon. Makari Wasike

Hon. George Makari: Thank you Hon. Speaker. I would also like to appreciate Hon. Ken Wanyama for asking about Muyayi. Muyayi is in Kanduyi, I happened at one time to be the CDF Chair; I used to fund these things across Kanduyi Constituency and so I know where this is. However, the way Hon. Linda is saying, I want to agree with her because the department cannot move in villages arresting boys to take to hairdressing courses.

Once there is advert for application, it is open to either gender to apply for a course in hairdressing or tailoring; and so I want to say at this point the CECM might be right because he cannot force anyone to apply for either course. However, you said about an auxiliary question and what I want to ask is...

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Proceed!

Hon. George Makari: Hon. Speaker perhaps the Department as is represented here by the CECM and Chief Officer, we passed a motion last week about bursaries and we gave a timeline of the 15th of this month. Maybe...

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Wasike, you are an Honourable Member that I so much cherish and respect...so that auxiliary question should be related to the VTC not outside VTCs. Kindly stand guided.

(Laughter)

And you know I respect you so much, stick to the auxiliary questions on this issue.

Hon. George Makari: Thank you Hon. Speaker but the CECM has heard me.

(Laughter)

I would wish to say over the same issue on Muyayi VTC; the issue of 30% allocation to VTCs which Muyayi is also one of the beneficiaries' maybe you can enlighten us on that one. How you have done your homework so well that Muyayi would also benefit on the 30% allocated bursaries on VTCs.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you Hon. Wasike. He is Chairperson, Committee on Health and a Member whom I respect. Now, let us have Hons. Barasa Mukhongo then Opwora and we finish with the Chair of Education.

Hon. James Mukhongo: Hon. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity. One, let me appreciate the owner of the statement and two, I extend my appreciation to the CECM Education. However, I have listened very carefully on the responses from the CECM. It means that as a County we are not doing well with Vocational Training Centres and I am urging you, it is not a question that you do an assessment of all the Vocational Training Centres that we have in our County and the courses we offer. Do we have learners or not, because it looks as if in the Muyayi case, they are paying an instructor and he is doing nothing and yet you will find another vocational Training Centre with a huge number of learners and do not have an instructor.

Secondly, I want to believe that Muyayi will not even benefit from the 30% as my colleagues are indicating because how will they benefit and yet they do not have learners there; because you do not just give money without learners.

Finally, what measures are you putting in place to ensure we have conducive environment in most of our VTCs in the County.

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Those are concerns from the veteran, Hon. Barasa Mukhongo. Let us have remarks from Hon. Edwin Opwora, Member for Luuya/Bwake.

Hon. Edwin Opwora: Thank you Mr. Speaker. First of all, I want to appreciate Hon. Ken's question which prompted our CECM to give an elaborate response and also to appreciate the answers that he has brought. He detailed the courses which are being offered at Muyayi and that that is what is contributing to this debate. I just want to say that the courses perceived to be for the girl child actually are being done better by our boys and I am sure when you look at Hon. Kharakha and Florence's heads, I am sure that there was a man's touch on the hair and they will appreciate a male working on their hair than a female.

(Applause)

This perception that we are neglecting the boy child should not be there. Let us as Honourable Members, encourage our boys and girls who are idle in the villages to embrace and go to these VTCs. There is a perception in the villages that when you go to the VTCs you are a failure, yet when you look in the first world countries, some of these technical and hands on jobs are the ones which are paying better. When we look in Kenya right now, if we are to push our youth towards self-employment, the VTCs are the key institutions to help us equip the necessary skills to our young people so that we can promote self-employment.

Right now, when you walk in some of the institutions even within the County as we are looking forward to this affordable housing, you will find that we do not have masons, carpenters or plumbers who are qualified. We have to go outside the County to bring qualified people. So let us encourage our youth and maybe what Hon. Makari was saying in regard to the scholarship, we should probably increase and bring more awareness to our people in the villages that with these scholarships, we are going to cater for the needs of the VTCs more than secondary schools.

I believe through that we shall encourage our people to use the VTCs more than what is being done now. Otherwise, thank you *Waziri* for that job and I believe if there are those idle tutors in other VTCs; in Bwake/ Luuya I have four VTCs and I need those tutors in my Ward.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Opwora was trying to lobby.

(Laughter)

Now before we come to the Chair of Education, on my left I had not seen Hon. Mukoyandali. I want to give him a chance. He has gotten my attention. Kindly Honourable Members let us give

him chance to air his remarks. Honourable Mukoyandali! The name is very long, you can proceed!

Hon. Job Mukoyandali: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I think also by size I am a little bit small and that is why you are not able to see me, but there is no problem. Let me first thank the owner of the statement and also thank Waziri for having come here to respond to that statement and responded to it in a very good way. All the same, VTCs are so important in our community today. I would like to give a challenge to the department that let us take these vocational training institutions in a very serious way. I was just trying to go through the allocation of what the department gave to the VTCs recently; a case study of my Ward, I have two, one received Kshs. 113,000 another one Kshs. 113,000.

Then you look at the vote heads that have been given, unto which that money is supposed to be spent and you realize these VTCs lack motivation and that is why we might not even get students in those institutions. They totally lack motivation, there is no money for development for them, and there is nothing on development from the department directly to those institutions.

As we talk about Muyayi, we are looking at the number of students who have been enrolled in that institution, I am sure it is so surprising. We are talking of a course not being offered and these courses are the ones which are helping our young men in the village; those ones who have dropped out of school and even those ones who have finished form 4 but were not so much successful to join university and that is where they belong. But look at how many are able to join those institutions, look at the enrollment around those institutions, you will realize in the first place, these institutions do not have tutors, you will go and you only get two or three in the whole institution. Those ones are not able to manage and handle all the courses that are being offered in those particular institutions. My humble opinion to the department now that a question has been raised on the same line of the VTCs, that the department sits down and comes up with a proper structure, maybe you can do a meeting with those tutors in those particular institutions so that they can also give their advice depending on the experience they have gotten while tutoring in those institutions.

Otherwise, we will continue crying as a county for not producing good plumbers, talented people who can do proper welding, but the problem is not with them but us who are supposed to put programmes in place in those particular institutions to help them.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you Hon. Mukoyandali, now let us have the final input by the Chair of Committee on Education and Vocational Training, Hon. Benjamin Jeremiah Otsiula

Hon. Benjamin Otsiula: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I also wish to join the rest of the Honorable Members in lauding and appreciating the CECM, Education and Vocational Training who has been escorted to this House by our newly sworn in Chief Officer. He has joined the Department of Education and I must remind him that this is a department that he must put down his two feet

and join the forces; otherwise it is now a matter of County importance, we don't know what awaits them and I don't want to preempt.

Secondly, I think when the CECM Education was walking in, he arrived in a special way with volumes of material and I think Members in this House were shocked and perplexed wondering what was going to transpire in the next few minutes, but what we witnessed, he gave a very brief but concise response to the questions that were raised.

(Laughter)

When you see a doctor walking in with those kinds of materials, some of us will almost disappear through the air.

I want to agree with Hon. Kennedy Wanyama and Hon. Barasa Mukhongo, that one of the core mandates of the County Government as per schedule four of the Constitution is the issue of VTCs. As a House and I want to remind my fellow Honorable Members that the budget process is ongoing, let us put a lot of emphasis and focus on the core mandate of the county government.

The issue of VTCs is key and I believe each and every Honorable Member is affected in one way or another. If we started listing issues that are affecting VTCs in this County, I know each and every speaker will want to make a contribution. A course like Food and Beverages... how I wish that it was introduced in Khasoko in the three VTCs. Food and Beverages I think is not being taught in Mungore VTC, Khasoko VTC and Sango VTC because food is dear to members of Khasoko.

The point I am trying to make is that we need to have standardization of the curricular in the VTCs; we cannot have few courses being taught in Chwele/Kabuchai, two courses being taught in Khasoko, three courses being taught in Mitua/Soysambu. Let us have a standard way and even when we are posting these instructors. I am referring to what Hon. Opwora has said, let us have a clear way, they are now advertising, they want to employ instructors, but in this VTCs we need a number of instructors so that all these courses they are referring to get done those respective VTCs. Otherwise without standardization of the curriculum, we are still going to face challenges where a tutor or an instructor as Hon. Mukhongo has put it is being paid for a whole year, but he doesn't have students to attend to. It is very unfair.

To the department, why is it that they take too long. If an instructor is earning salary for three or four months with no students, yet students in Chwele/Kabuchai who need the instructor are suffering for more than a period of two years, I think the department must also wake up and invest in supervision so that they make follow ups to know where instructors are just attending to this institutions, yet they don't have students to teach.

Finally on the issue of the budget, you know when the CECM Finance said that there are bursaries... that he is going to fund VTCs through bursaries. I was very worried because from

where I sit, the bursaries are only meant to pay for fees for the needy students, but what about the infrastructure in these VTCs. If we don't have a system for example co-curriculum activities in the VTCs, how are we going to improve them? Let us have a calendar for sporting activities or co-curricular activities for the VTCs in this county so that we make our people in Bungoma appreciate that even those people in the VTCs are enrolled in courses that are marketable and they are also going to get equipped with skills.

Otherwise if we say that we are going to wait for the bursary alone, CECM you are going to make very little progress. I challenge you and the department to come up with measures and I think members of the Committee of Education are equal to the task; we are going to work hand in hand to ensure that we uplift the education standards in the County.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you Hon. Benjamin Jeremiah Otsiula, Chairperson, Education and Vocational Training, Advocate of the High Court and Member of the County Assembly representing Khasoko.

CECM you can make your remarks so that we can move to another question.

Dr. David Wamamili (CECM, Education and Vocational Training): Thank you Chair, let me start where the Chair of the Education Committee has stopped, these volumes here Hon. Chairperson is as a result of my appearing here last month and you directed that we go round all the 89 VTCs and I came with this document just to confirm; and I think I will leave it here as a confirmation that we went round and it is very much detailed.

(Applause)

Thank you Honourable Members and one by one very quickly, Hon. Wanyama and I think Hon. Mukhongo has mentioned it. Hon. Makari spoke in tongues; I may not know how to respond but when it comes to bursary, what it meant is that we are talking about what we have... what we have incidentally is 10 to 30 per cent and this money comes from your own kitty of the Ward bursary to help the VTCs so you have the freedom along that. What we did Hon. Wanyama is that this is the money that we are having and we will make sure all VTCs get this money and the management can now make a decision on how to help the VTCs move on. At the end I will plead with the House that truly we have a role to play as Honourable Members. The money we are getting from the County Government may not be enough, I will be pleading that we find a way of encouraging an able bodied young man, young lady who is doing masonry, why can't he/she go out and do something and pay for lunch and in the process contribute to their own kitty.

Hon. Linda talked about gender and she finished everything. Hon. Makari, just allow me talk about timelines only and nothing more about the bursary. Timelines, and allow me just to say that...

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. *Waziri*, I will not allow you digress... stick to the issues!

Dr. David Wamamili (CECM, Education and Vocational Training): Well guided, thank you. Hon. Mukhongo was very clear that we need to do a lot of work and I want to confirm that when I came here, I was directed and my team went round all the VTCs. The document is here, we shall be going through it and I will leave it behind so that you can confirm the issues...

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Leave that document Hon. CECM and just handle other matters. You will lay that document at the end as you complete so that we can do the necessary.

Dr. David Wamamili (CECM, Education and Vocational Training): So that is the much I can say as far as the concern from Hon. Mukhongo goes and I think he also mentioned about some of our institutions. The same for Hon. Opwora and Hon. Mukoyandali; that we may have an institution where there are students and there is instructor and another instructor is elsewhere where he is just being wasted. It is true and I want to confirm that this document has it. It was our first elaborate quality assurance activity and it is true we have confirmed and Honourable Members something may come up soon and next week we shall be shuffling these instructors to go where there are students and in case of anything, we remain in touch.

I think I have mentioned about what Hon. Opwora raised and the challenge that Hon. Mukoyandali gave us. I think the chair talked about us waking up and we are not sleeping *Mheshimiwa*; but the true position is that, unless you come up because you are the people who guide the Executive, there is nothing we will do if *waheshimiwa* (Honourable Members')... You know I come from two places Mihuu and Tuuti/Marakaru and when we go for these functions, you will allow me *waheshimiwa* just to say what is in my heart.

If *Mheshimiwa* says that move to the VTC everything is paid, these boys go there and they don't bother, they go in and out. We have tried there is an activity going on at Mteremko and the learners are even doing *mjengo* (menial jobs) and contributing to their own kitty; so all that I am pleading for is that we shall do what we can, this money it is you giving them, but let them be encouraged to also do something for themselves because ours is to give them skills. Somebody who is getting a skill should not just sit like a Form One who is learning History and Geography and CRE. For the challenges, we are going to do our best but also we rely on you to guide us and the community on how best to do it.

Just allow me talk about standardization. We will be inviting you to think about Kipskirok, it does not have even a dead engine and we are teaching them about the Motor Vehicle engine there and we have Muteremko where we can have it as a centre of excellence in Motor Vehicle engineering and then we prefer that at Kipskirok we should have carpentry, jewelry and garment making. So we may even go for specialization rather than standardizing. That is what I have. If there is anything I will still have to explain.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you CECM, you can remain at the dispatch, I want to order the Clerks at Table, our DCL to help you lay that document which you went round with so that we can commit the same; you will do it yourself *Waziri* (CECM)

Dr. David Wamamili (CECM, Education and Vocational Training): Thank you, now Speaker, I beg to lay these reports on quality assurance standards that were done in all the 89 VTCs for future action; and this one is a summary of the other documents for a quick look.

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you Hon. *Waziri*, you can take your seat. Honourable Members, a report by the CECM Education and Vocational Training having been laid before this House now becomes the property of this House and stands committed to the Committee on Education and Vocational Training.

(Applause)

Next question...

3. A STATEMENT RAISED BY HON. JOHN IPARA IN RELATION TO LACK OF CLEAR INFORMATION AS FAR AS THE CURRENT STATUS OF TONGAREN AND MILIMANI VTCS ARE CONCERNED

The CECM to respond to the following:

1. How many instructors have so far been deployed on permanent and pensionable terms in Tongaren and Milimani VTCs?
2. What is the current number of students and the capitation that students are allocated in the mentioned VTCs?
3. What are the courses that are offered in the mentioned VTCs?
4. The development projects that have so far been done in the said VTCs from financial year 2018/19 to date; provide the names of the contractors, the cost and the amount spend on those projects.
5. The principals who have so far been posted to the two mentioned VTCs and the period the current ones have been in the said institution.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Yes, once again, our CECM Education, Dr. Wamamili you can come and take up the dispatch and give your responses.

Dr. David Wamamili (CECM, Education and Vocational Training): Thank you Hon. Speaker for the issues raised and I wish to respond;

1. How many instructors have so far been deployed on permanent and pensionable terms?

The total number of instructors deployed to Tongaren VTC is four, while Milimani VTC has three instructors.

Tongaren VTC

Course	Number of tutors
Electrical installation	1
Motor vehicle mechanics	1
ICT	1
Garment making	1

Milimani VTC

Course	Number of tutors
Agribusiness	1
Motor Vehicle mechanic	1
ICT	1

2. Number of students and allocations allocated to the VTCs:

Currently, the two VTCs have 74 students enrolled to different courses as indicated

ICT is a common course offered to all students in the VTCs.

At Tongaren VTC

Course	Number of students
Electrical	6
Motor vehicle mechanics	11
Hair dressing	8
Garment making	5
Masonry	11
ICT	41

ICT has 41 students which simply means that everybody takes it as a common unit.

Milimani VTC

Course	Number of students
Agribusiness	6
Motor vehicle mechanics	1

Masonry	8
Garment making	8
ICT	33

In the 2 institutions we have 74 students.

Capitation: In 2023; what we have given to the students quite recently is Kshs.113,000 in each of the VTCs.

3. Courses offered at Tongaren and Milimani

Six courses are offered at Tongareni VTC and they are garment making, motor vehicle mechanics, electrical, masonry, hairdressing and ICT.

At Milimani VTC we have motor vehicle mechanics, Building technology, Agribusiness, fashion and design and finally ICT.

4. Development projects implemented in the VTCs as from 2018/19 to date.

Tongaren VTC

There was a project in the year 2020/21 by Chikhabe Enterprise. The project is complete and in use, though the finishing, especially the ceiling was poorly done, painting and even the floor was not well done.

Milimani VTC

One classroom that was budgeted in the year 2017/18 was awarded to Renback Building and Construction Company limited who completed the project and is in use. The contractor also constructed one ECDE classroom and a pit latrine at Makololwe and Mabusu Primary Schools.

The total projects cost for the six classrooms and the pit latrine was Kshs. 6 Million.

Thank you Hon. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you Dr. Wamamili CECM Education, now I call upon the owner of the question, Hon. Ipara Okasida, MCA Tongaren/Kiminini Ward.

Hon. Johnston Okasida: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. First of all allow me to commend the CECM for Education. Today he has appeared with a lot of confidence, Honourable Members you will agree with me on that. Let us clap for him kindly.

(Applause)

I know him, he is one of the senior lecturers at the university, we interacted in Eldoret and we want to believe that he will make sure that at least that Department of Education will become one of the most respected departments within the county.

I want to start with the first item. I totally agree with the CECM. Permanent instructors are four in Tongaren and in Milimani there are two. In Tongaren, the four permanent instructors are supplemented by the five- Board of Management employed instructors and two in Milimani.

On item number two, on the number of students and capitations; if you look at the beginning, we are talking about 2018 upwards. Honourable Speaker, I did visit the institution on the 23rd March, 2023 in the morning to confirm the total number of students that we have in the two institutions. In Tongaren, I did find the total number of students enrolled was 63 and on that day those who were present were 34, in Milimani the total number of students registered are 50, on that particular day, it was a sad day for me and the people of Tongaren-Kiminini ward because those who were present were only three out of the 50.

Therefore as the CECM purports that the total number of students of the two institutions is 74, I want to say that that is a wrong figure and it denies the people of Tongaren/Kiminini their stake that they get from the County Government of Bungoma in the name of capitation and development.

Three, courses offered in the two institutions, he has tried, in Tongaren he indicated that there are six and when I did go to the institution and sat down with instructors and the Principal of the institution, they said that they offer eight courses; so out of the list we have been provided by the CECM, two courses are omitted and the two courses are welding and carpentry which you will agree is common in most of our tertiary institutions.

In Milimani VTC, he has indicated there are five courses offered, but on that day, on the 23rd when I did appear, the two instructors that I found in the school, I can also mention the names of the two that I found in the institution; they were Board of Management instructors, George Wanjala Biloli and Enock Juma Mukhebi. They told me they have nine courses; those that are omitted from the list that has been provided by the CECM, one is Entrepreneurship, Electrical, Communication and the last one is Hairdressing which is common in the current era.

While I am still there, I also wanted to propose to the CECM that why can't he encourage our VTCs to introduce a driving course which is common? If you walked from Lwakhakha, Malakisi up to Tongaren/Soysambu, and stopped in any of the markets, you will find that the large population is the rider of motorbikes and most of them if you can carry out a quick head check, you will find that maybe three out of 20 are licensed. Why can't we assist them acquire that license through our institutions?

Item number four, development projects implemented in the VTCs as from 2018/19 financial year to date. You will find that the CECM did take his own discretion and chose 2020/21 where

he talked about Chikhabi Enterprises who did a construction in Tongaren during that period; which he confesses and I want to pick that word confesses; because he admits that most of the works did not measure to standards.

He has not talked about 2022/23 where an administration block is in progress at a cost of Kshs.6 Million; and which was done without public participation of the people of Tongaren, to find out what their priorities are. On Milimani VTC, he has talked about the year 2017/18; he has not given up to date status. In Tongaren, I want to confirm that there is only one classroom that was constructed but based on the response received from the CECM; he has also dragged into this item information that is irrelevant and was not requested for. When you talk about ECDEs and if I were the CECM, what I could have done is get the details and the cost that was used to build that one classroom that is on Milimani Vocational Training Centre,

Unfortunately I want to confirm it is not the making of the CECM; item number five, I want to believe was not given to the CECM, therefore we cannot blame him and I did realized this last week in this House. We actually confirmed that it also did not appear among the items we discussed. So we cannot blame him on that.

Honourable Speaker let me say this, after interacting with the CECM for some years before and seeing the person that today I meet here, I make the following conclusions: the people that support the CECM in the department of Education did not provide the CECM with all the details that are required; and that is why you find that I was also worried when he appeared with bulky luggage. I was saying that today the CECM is going to provide what will knock us down, but unfortunately the people who work under him have let this respected intellectual down by failing to provide the necessary information.

The reason I say this, I want to draw your attention to item number two under Milimani capitation at Kshs.113,000, under Tongeren is Kshs.113,000, when you add the two, the total is not Kshs.126,000; the total is supposed to be Kshs.226,000. Deliberately I want to believe that there are people out to undermine the performance of the CECM. Why not give just a simple calculation, do we blame him? No, it is those who work under him. So let the CECM confirm on item number four both (a) and (b) and also go back to item number two so that we can get the correct figures.

Honourable Speaker in 2018, Tongaren was given capitation of Kshs 945, 000 which the CECM has not been able to provide, in 2019 Tongaren was given again Kshs.221, 000 which the CECM has not provided, in 2021, Kshs.4 Million was provided for construction which the CECM has not made an attempt to give. When a public officer who has the trust of the people of Bungoma County and more so the appointing authority in the name of the Governor appears here with shoddy information, I think he is not assisting and 70 per cent of that blame should go to the officers who work under him and 30 for himself, I rest my case.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you Hon. Ipara. Before the CECM comes, I will want to allow if we have one or two auxiliary questions in relation to the statement raised by Hon. Ipara and CECM as you come, the rhetorical statements by the Hon. Ipara saying that you are not responsible; actually you know you hold everything, he is sending a message to you to be hands on. Those officers who work under you should know that when you come here and you are embarrassed it is very wrong. Let us start off with Hon. Khaoya then Hon. Mukhongo; these two are Barasas and so you must distinguish them by Barasa or Mukhongo.

Hon. Tony Barasa: Thank you Hon. Speaker, first I want to appreciate the owner of the statement Hon. Okasida and also appreciate CECM Education for responding well. What I want to put across is that Vocational Training Centres are a core mandate for the County Government under Schedule four and arising from the statement from Hon. Okasida, it is my prayer going forward that before devolution and promulgation of the Constitution, 2010, we used to have SYPT in these particular schools and remember the National Government in its own wisdom used to give capitation to every student regardless of whether you come from rich family or poor family; As long as you are in any polytechnic across the country, Ksh.15,000 was allocated per person. So, if a school has a population like of Hon. Barasa Mukhongo of approximately three hundred and thirty, you multiply by 15,000, that is the total amount that goes to that particular school.

Here in Bungoma County we are getting our priorities upside down, that you are considering scholarship against the core mandate of VTCs. My prayer is that going forward Hon. CECM and the department of Education, for us to bring life to these Vocational Training Centres, we must focus on improving. If the national government used to give Kshs.15, 000, why can't we give 20 to every student so that we can motivate them come to those institutions.

Then two, the same SYPT that used to be given by the National Government they used to get allocation like Kshs. 1 Million for development purposes and so, for us to grow our VTCs, we must also think about giving tuition and also allocating funds that should go towards development across the VTCs. That is my advice going forward if you really want us to grow the Vocational Training Centres across the County.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you Hon. Tony Khaoya Barasa for your input, Hon. Barasa Mukhongo.

Hon. James Barasa Mukhongo: Mr. Speaker, let me also join my brother Hon. Tony Barasa and the owner of the Statement Hon. Ipara to also say something over the questions and the responses. As a House, I have now come to learn today that when we changed our format of responses from the Executive, we are now getting the real issues. Why do I say so? There are so many Vocational Training Centers with no students and others are overpopulated, but when it comes to allocations from the Executive, they are at those ones who are with low numbers. It is a surprise that Hon. Ipara raised a question that has assisted me. Chwele VTC Hon. CECM, you

know the exact number, it is overpopulated, but there is nothing much being done on the ground. So in your opinion, I will be eager to hear from you. What steps as a County Government are you putting in place to ensure that the Vocational Training Centers that have more numbers are taken care of?

Secondly, my brother Ipara went and did some research; he has given us some figures. That is the direction to go, because when you ask a question you must have something accurate in the head. *Waziri* you need to do something. Likewise, I want now to request you as I finalize my comments that you have done so much, you have even given us a booklet here in the first response. How we wish that you can do the same for the scholarship beneficiaries then we will be done with this issue of scholarship.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Mukhongo...

Hon. James Barasa Mukhongo: Honourable Chair it was just a by the way. But I am encouraging the CECM, you know we are questioning scholarship every now and then but you can see for this one, he took a week to come up with a very comprehensive report. Why can't you do the same? Chief Officer you are now new in the office, please with that knowledge that you have, some of us were hearing about you, please, with your technical team in the department. Very soon we can have a number of scholarship beneficiaries in our various Wards then we will be done as a County Government. For the Members who belong to the government side, we will be very happy and even the opposition will not even raise questions. I rest my case.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you Hon. Barasa Mukhongo. He has said well that we have been hearing about the Chief Officer who is called Nicholas J.T Kiboi; you have heard that. At this moment I want to allow two questions only; one from Hon. Linda Kharakha Mukhanya-Advocate of the High Court, Nominated MCA.

Hon. Linda Kharakha: Mr. Speaker, first I want be on the record well cited, I am Hon. Linda Kharakha Wekesa.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Wekesa?

Hon. Linda Kharakha: Yes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Well...

Hon. Linda Kharakha: For purposes of the HANSARD.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Very well.

Hon. Linda Kharakha: Thank you. I will go straight to my concerns to Hon. CECM. It is on development projects implemented in the year 2018/19, I have a concern on the poorly done structures. I am seeing here the ceiling is falling, painting was poorly done and the floor

cracking. If our mandate is to build and do tenders and construction of VTCs, can we have contractors who are not doing their work properly maybe blacklisted or called upon to redo the work? If this is the state of our students sitting under these kinds of classes, then I am afraid that we are not getting it right as a Department if we have these kinds of structures because they pose a risk to the students.

Secondly, I am happy that in Tongaren we have a good number of students coming up to Vocational Training Centers, but I am still not happy as a department because this is purely the mandate of the County Government to deal with VCTs. Just to note, like the Muyayi Vocational Training Centre had a low turnout and then we are dealing with 74 when we have several students around here who really need this service. I don't know...

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Linda Wekesa Kharakha is it VTC not VCT?

(Laughter)

Because you have to be on HANSARD, as you put it yourself.

Hon. Linda Kharaha: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I think we have been saying it here with Hon. Kaiser and he it got stuck in my head, it is VTC.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Very well, proceed.

Hon. Linda Kharakha: Thank you for the correction, I see Hon. Mukhongo is very happy for the mistake. Okay my concern is VTC which is our main mandate as a County Government.

For the few Vocational Centers, I have seen reports here, we are doing very dismally, and because the CECM is here, we do budgets, we are doing constructions here and therefore the VTCs, but you realize as Hon. Mukhongo has said, there are some that are overpopulated and some that are under populated. So to the CECM, how are you as a Department going to stabilize that so that now those that are overpopulated are getting proper services? You will realize that when they are overpopulated the services are poor or now they are not getting good learning environment.

Also the concern regarding the same is, while I was in the Education Committee, I saw several advertisements put up for building this Vocational Training Centers. In the same breath, what are you as a department doing to ensure that we build these Vocational Training Centers and now being in the news; because you realize like Muyayi we had a low population, Tongaren has a good population, but we are still not getting it right and it is our mandate.

Lastly, I have seen a trend of basic courses in most of the VTCs, whatever courses we can introduce like now in Tongaren to attract other learners in the Institution so that now we are serving our people... sorry for repetition but maybe just for emphasis; that if our mandate is VTC and we are not doing well, what is the way forward? Thank you.

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you Hon. Linda Kharaha Wekesa- Advocate of the High Court, Nominated MCA. Let us have Hon. Waiti Wafula Waiti complete that cycle, then the CECM will respond.

Hon. Wafula Waiti: Thank you Mr. Speaker, also as a matter of correction, I don't have such a long name. I am called Wafula Waiti and that is the name I was given by my mother and she is no more and so I don't know where another Waiti is coming from. Mr. Speaker I am officially known as Wafula Waiti and that is my name.

I have two concerns; One, I was very keen listening to the CECM when he did mention that an institution can only improve after getting the allocation from the bursaries probably of 30% from the ward awarded money for bursaries. Now my question is, don't we have any allocation by the department for flagship projects for our VTCs so that they don't rely on bursaries; and probably that will mean that with no more students in a given institution then capitation cannot allow for any improvement?

Question two, Mr. Speaker, if this Honourable House can be told the plans or measures put in place for regular visits by the Education Officer in charge of VTCs to counter check the day to day activities in our VTCs, just to tell how our centers are doing.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you the Hon. Waiti Wafula Waiti, as per the records of the Assembly, and if you are not the Wafula Waiti Wafula then it means you are missing always.

(Laughter)

It means that Wafula Waiti is always missing, is absent from this Assembly because what we have in the Assembly is Waiti Wafula Waiti. Thank you so much. Let us give Hon. Tony... you had talked... Information? Yes.

Hon. Tony Khaoya: *(On a Point of Information)* Hon. Speaker, riding from the submission by Hon. Linda Kharakha about the issues of maybe blacklisting companies that are not fit or they have done substandard jobs in our county, it is the prerogative of this House for any Member to come up with substantive motion for other companies. It is not a prerogative of the Executive, so we must pick up the matter so that we come up with those sub-standard companies that are not bringing value for money to our people. We pronounce it in this House and it will be implemented by the Executive.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you Honourable Members, we had spoken and we have to adhere to the rules of the Assembly. Sometimes I close my eyes, but kindly take it positively that sometimes I am so flexible for you people. Let us not flout the rules of the Assembly. Bearing that in mind, I close my eyes, the owner of the statement, what was the information?

Hon. Ipara Okasida: *(On a Point of Information)* Honourable Speaker, I am always a player who abides by the rules of the game but what I wanted to inform Hon. Tony Khaoya, when it comes to procurement, we are guided by Procurement and Disposal Act of 2015. Any blacklisting of a firm must be done by the procuring entity and in this case it must be the Department of Procurement and not this House. This House is here to enact laws; that is legislation, representation and oversight.

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: As Members, you are well guided and that is why it is important that we get to hear from every Member. Now, the CECM, you can take the dispatch, make your final remarks as you respond.

Dr. David Wamamili (CECM, Education and Vocational Training): Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I will be very brief and clear that I take responsibility of everything that goes on and let me also further say that even the first question that came up, there was communication even more than once and it was specific about being here on 13th. The document that is at hand, I knew I would be here I think on 23rd or 26th. Consequently, when the work is given to me, I also have to go through it and that is why I am taking responsibility. I didn't even know that I was going to have this response today, but I had the document just in readiness. Consequently I take responsibility.

Allow me state that in response to Hon. Ipara, to a large extent, he gave an advice that I think we have to take. One of them was about courses that can be attractive including driving and I think Hon. Linda has also in her contribution added the same. We take it as an advice and we will see how to work on that.

Hon. Speaker, I also want to mention something about Hon. Ipara; when he mentioned about some courses missing, we have some courses licensed, it may be offered, but when they go to do exams, they may do it elsewhere. So, to some extent, it was about if this courses are licensed in this particular institution or not; and that is how some discrepancies came up.

As I have said, some information may be missing on item four because I think the final submission had not been done as I thought I was to come here on another day; hopefully we will have to take care of that next time.

What Hon. Tony talked about is more of advice; what we are supposed to do and then Hon. Mukhongo has mentioned about what we ought to do to ensure that we improve on enrollment. Allow me state again when we talk about the bursary, there are some wards that have three VTCs, some have one. It is the Member of the County Assembly who will decide, because with that bursary, one could decide that I will distribute this money in a specific manner. If I only have one VTC, that percentage that the Honourable Member will decide between 10 and 30% will go to that one VTC. What we did about VTCs that do not have enrollment, we don't want

them to die but for this first time, we gave Ksh.113, 000 to each of them to see if they can be resuscitated. You are talking about our mandate and it was that we have something given more of a start and as we go on we will see how best to improve on that.

Chwele VTC is now having over 200 students and truly we have some VTCs with less than 10. I think as we keep interacting the way we are sharing, we will have to find out what it is and in the document that I have laid here, we want to find out what is it that is making some VTCs not to move on. I take a very simple example of Kipsikrok and Chepkurkur, they are just neighbors, but while the other institution is doing very well, the other one has no student. I think we are going to improve on our quality assurance as some speakers have said to see how we can improve on this and on this one and it is still with you Honourable Members.

Our budget is very bad and without budget we have the staff and they have even been going out last week. It is just a matter of us doing our work but facilitation has been the problem and I hope that when need arises and we come here for your help, we believe it can be done so that we move on very well. I think *Mheshimiwa* Linda was just talking about the same again, about how we could improve in some areas that have population, others do not have, so I am saying we will go out to find out how best we can do it. Hon. Waiti has concerns about allocation. *Mheshimiwa* I think it is what I have already said that money belongs to you, belongs to the Ward and even if you don't have students in your Ward, that single VTC we are either going to close it down or it receives some money so that it comes up. That is what informs us in our allocations.

For flagship projects; I think is an idea we have to buy and share in the Executive. That we should have flagship projects and this is our mandate. I just pick it the way it is. Hon. Ipara, the owner of the question, the documents are there, the office is open, let us consult more for the betterment of the department.

(Applause)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you so much the Hon. CECM, Dr. Wamamili. Now I step you down and we wish to appreciate the Chief Officer who accompanied him, a teacher of good standing, Mr. Nicholas J.T Kiboi. We step you down and ask the orderlies to escort you out so that we can move to the next item of the Order Paper.

(Applause)

We wish you well in your endeavors.

(The CECM and Chief Officer are escorted out of the chamber by the Serjeant- at - Arms)

(Loud consultations)

Next question is from the Member for Tongaren, Hon. Jonston Ipara Okasida about the scanty information on the roads done in the financial year 2019/2020, 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 to the

CECM, Roads; but as I said, it stands deferred to a later date of 27th. That being the case, we move to the next item on the Order Paper.

Honourable Members, we have no Motions and we have no Bills and therefore that is the last item on our Order Paper.

There being no any other Business, this House stands adjourned to tomorrow, Wednesday 14th, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.

(House Adjourns)