

**COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF SAMBURU**



**THE HANSARD**

**Wednesday, 16th June, 2021**

**The Assembly met at the County Assembly chambers at 2.30 pm**

*Temporary Speaker, (Hon. Doris Lenkirasi) in the Chair*

**PRAYER**

## **STATEMENT**

**MCA Lodojek Ward**, (Hon. Jerias Leshoomo): Thank you Madam Speaker. There is a response from the Department of Education and Vocational Training and I hereby read the statement from the CEC.

“The Clerk County Assembly of Samburu,

Through The Acting County Secretary and Head of Public Service,

Reference: Response on request for statement.

Reference is made to the request by the County Assembly of Samburu to the County Department of Education and Vocational Training to provide statement with regards to Department’s preparedness for implementation of the new Competency Based Curriculum (CBC) in primary education in the County.

Madam Speaker, the Constitution of Kenya 2010 provides for every child including education as enshrined in the bills of rights. Article 53 of the Constitution highlights key fundamental rights of the child such as rights to a name

Article 53 of the Constitution of Kenya highlights key fundamental rights of a child such as the right to a name and nationality from birth, free and compulsory basic education, basic nutrition, shelter, health care, be protected from abuse, neglect, harmful cultural practices and all forms of violence.

Additionally, Article 54 guarantees their rights to access education, institutions and facilities for all children with disability. Also, realization of Department’s mandate and objective in line with these provisions that the Department wishes to respond as follows:

**1) Whether the Department has prepared teachers for implementation of competency based curriculum in County pre-schools.**

Madam Speaker, the Department in collaboration with partners in fulfilling the partner’s mission to provide, promote and coordinate quality education and integration of science, technology and innovation towards sustainable social-economic development has prepared the ECD teachers and

equip them with the knowledge to implement the new curriculum. This is witnessed by the trainings that have been carried in the three sub-counties as attached as an appendix.

The teachers and learners have also been equipped with training materials as prescribed by the new curriculum. The equipment required are to facilitate the lessons shown in the table below:

Madam Speaker the table shows the learning area, lessons per week (Mathematics, Languages, environmental activities, psychomotor and creative activities, religious education activities and PP1

Madam Speaker, H.E the Governor of Samburu County launched the exercise of distribution of the CBC materials worth Kshs.5 million as shown in the attached report. However, the training is continuous exercise mores on the new curriculum the Department seeks for a budgetary support to be able to fully train the teachers and be able to fully train the teachers and provide the necessary learning materials for all learners.

**2) Whether the Department has prepared teachers on technological skills for implementation of the Competency Based curriculum.**

As well stipulated in the competency Based Curriculum training manual, digital literacy is a core component and there is need for its integration. However, ICT training adaptation in pre-primary schools is a resource intensity exercise that calls for availability of ICT equipment.

The Department has not done much in preparedness of teachers as regards to technological skills for implementation of CBC owing to various challenges.

Madam Speaker the challenges that the CEC pointed out includes:

**RESOURCES**

The pre-primary education programs has been inadequately resourced in terms of financial human capital and physiological resources thus;

**(A) Financial Limitation.**

Low Budgetary allocations for equipping of early childhood education centers. Lack of provision for capitation grants at the pre-primary level as well as infrastructure support grants, this is

compounded by the inability of the Department to meet the cost of pre-primary education services due to Departmental ceilings.

**(B) Physical and infrastructural facilities.**

Most pre-primary schools have inadequate physical facilities like enough class rooms, electricity or solar connectivity. Additionally, the Department's integration of ICT lacks connectivity of such like educational cloud by the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development.

**(C) Human Resource Development.**

Pre-primary education in the County over the years have been faced by inadequate personnel with requisite skills to handle holistic care and support for pre-primary learners.

**(D) Lack of scheme of services for pre-primary school teachers.**

Other personnel in the sub-sector resulted to poor remuneration, low staff moral and high alteration of trained teachers. The Department thus is committed to embrace all educational innovation for interest of the child if enough ones are available.

**3) The pupil to teacher ratio and whether it has met the required ratio.**

The County Government of Samburu through the Department of Education and Vocational Training has invested a lot in provision of quality education programs. One of the core mandates of the Directorate is to advice County Public Service on training of ECD teachers and drawing of the requisite indents on the same. The National Pre-Primary Education Policy standards guidelines clearly stipulate that the teacher child ratio in regular primary class shall be 1 to 25. And the Assistant Teacher shall be required to teach each primary class, children with special needs shall be as follows. Madam Speaker, there are categories of special needs plus standard needs and it is stipulated in the report.

Madam Speaker, according to the CIDP the department plans to recruit 90 teachers every financial year. However, the department has not recruited the teachers required to be deployed to 563 ECD centers. The Directorate prepared a master plan at the inception of the devolution which states that "The department shall be required recruit and employ 1500 to all ECD centers" but so far only 530 have been recruited. It has a deficit of 970 teachers. The 2020/2021

enrollment numbers stand at 40, 677. This means that the teacher to child ratio 1/76 thus contravening the policy requirement. The department requests this Hon. House, County Assembly of Samburu to allocate more funds to enable the department to recruit more teachers as required by the law.

4. The plans the department has in developing the appropriate infrastructure since the new curriculum content requires the modern classroom, smart boards, laboratories creative centers technologies at all levels. The curriculum is already in place now after grade 3 yet infrastructure was never put in place. According to the department CIDP, it plans to develop the inadequate appropriate modern infrastructure in all ECD centers. The number of classrooms to be constructed per every financial year is 45. However, the department's development funds ceiling has reduced drastically from 151,859,696 to 103,996,617. This implicated negatively on the department and has led to inability to address the needs of the infrastructure needed for the new curriculum.

According to the preprimary pedagogy, preprimary curriculum shall comprise of 5 activities areas; language activities, mathematical activities, environmental activities, psychomotor creative activities religious educational activities. At the preprimary context, we have learning and corrective corners for the young learners to interact with during indoor activities as they are keen on curious not laboratories. Pertaining technological digital literacy is a core competency in competency based curriculum. The training has a compliment for ICT integration. However, the ICT training and adaptation in preprimary is a resource intensive exercise that calls for ability of ICT support equipment that have to be met for effective adaption of educational technology such as investment included such as electricity connection to schools and availability of technology devices such as computers among others.

Kindly free to consult more if any point of concern is not fully articulated. Thank you Madam Speaker that is the end of the response.

**Specially Elected MCA, (Hon. Zamzam Ismail):** Thank you Madam Speaker. I have one concern to make about this report. It is like the department is asking the Assembly to increase funds for recruiting more teachers. Madam Speaker, I think the Assembly is not mandated to increase funds. It is the department to sit down and make their budget for recruiting the teachers.

So when they are asking the Assembly to add more funds for recruiting teachers, I think there is some disconnect there. Thank you Madam Speaker.

**MCA Suguta Marmar Ward**, (Hon. Shadrack Lesoipa): Thank you Hon. Speaker. Madam Speaker, from the concerns that were read by the Hon. Member for the Lodokejek Ward, you know this House has several roles as stipulated by the County Government Act. We normally legislate, we oversight, we represent and we also participate in the budget making process. So I think the department is in order because we have the authority or mandate to make approvals that come to this House. I am very sure there was a time the department of Health came crying to the Assembly and we managed to give a whopping 100 million for the construction that is ongoing. So I think the writer of the response, is totally in order to request so that they can be able to fill the gaps pertaining the human resource that is wanting in the department. So I think there is no disconnect in that statement. Thank you.

**MCA Lodokejek Ward**, (Hon. Jerias Leshoomo): Thank you Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, the department tried to respond to the statement which was raised in the House. But it seems Madam Speaker they are just pointing the challenges that the department is having thinking that the Assembly can allocate funds to them. Secondly, I think from the statement we have now realized that there are a lot of challenges in the department that hinders them from doing or implementing some of the programs that we had requested in their statement. For example, Madam Speaker, they talk of financial limitations, low budgetary allocation for equipping of early childhood education centers. Madam Speaker, we are all aware that since the introduction of the new curriculum, there is PP1 I don't know PP2 and they need to be having two classes per ECD center. And Madam Speaker, what the CECM is saying from the statement that they lack funds to implement such curriculum. Two, they talk of physical/infrastructural facilities like the classroom for the PP1 and PP2 to cater for physical stricter within our County. In my opinion, I think the Committee on Education and Vocational Training should make a visit and meet the CECM to know on how to support the Department so that they can implement the program, thank you.

**Specially Elected MCA**, (Hon. Silapia Lenamatiyo): Thank you Madam Speaker, I stand to raise my concerns as per the response.

Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member who brought the response is urging this House to consider the Department in Budget allocation. Madam Speaker the ECD centers have had no food for the last two months while the Department needs more money even after wasting it and the food in the stores is expired and are not recommended for human consumption.

Madam Speaker I do not see the need for adding more money to the Department as requested, let them seek for a way forward to solve that. Madam Speaker how can the Department of Education and Vocational Training recruit more teachers while the ones employed at the ECD center are doing nothing? Some centers do not have any pupils but have white elephant classrooms.

Madam Speaker I urge the Hon Members to let the Department to look for a way forward to provide quality education to our children even if it is at one location, thank you.

**Specially Elected MCA, (Hon. Zamzam Ismail):** Thank you Madam Speaker for giving me this chance again. Madam Speaker Early Childhood Education is a level of education where our babies learn.

Madam Speaker, I think the response tabled in this House is not very sufficient, I urge the Committee to get serious because there is we get the educational foundation of our children; the Department should bring a substantive statement to this House because I think there is a lot of laxity in the Department of Education and Vocational training.

I want to echo the sentiments of Hon. Silapia concerning ECDs classrooms; Madam Speaker, we are aware that our children learn in pathetic classrooms all across the County and I give Lpartuk ECD center as an example, that classroom is almost falling down, the Department should get serious on these matters, thank you Madam Speaker.

**Chairperson Committee on Education and Vocational Training, (Hon. Shadrack Lesoipa):** Thank you Madam Speaker, sometimes it is very dangerous to make reckless statements without knowing the consequences. It is not parliamentary for a Hon Member to stand on the floor of this House and mislead the House and those we represent here that the food we supplied to our children is expired.

Madam Speaker as we Speak we have no evidence of an expired food that was mentioned on the floor of this House so the Hon Members should table their concerns as per rules and procedures of this House, the Hon. Member better withdraw the malicious statement.

Secondly Madam Speaker, I am not very sure in which part of this County that we do not have children in ECD centers as purported because as per my understanding and from where I come from is that a single classroom is not enough and the ratio read here is 1 to 76 if the Hon Member know statistics and ratios, this means one teacher teaches an average of 76 children.

Madam Speaker I think this is a very thorough report that I have ever tabled since I became chairperson of the Committee on Education and Vocational Training. Sometimes you should take time to read what was provided before you purport for a more substantive response while I do not where you will get a more substantive response more than this here maybe probably in heaven.

This is a bulk report and I think that this the most thorough report that I have ever read since I became the Chair of Education. Sometimes take time and read what was provided before purporting to get a substantive answer because I do not know where you would go and get that substantive more than this, maybe in heaven. It should not be a tradition to stand and say that the report is insufficient before reading the report. You should familiarize yourselves with the Statement sought for you to scrutinize a report without misleading. Having structures in the County Government for ECD purposes and even the quality of human resource requires budgetary allocations, we cannot go to Wamba North as an example with the land mass as it is and have one ECD class that purported to be quality and expect us to be doing justice to the people of that vast ward in this County. We need resources though they are never enough we must have to look at our children in a manner that suggest we care for their nature and the environment that they learn in since they are the future of this County and the Country at large. I urge the hon. Member to withdraw unless approval of the inspection that is there otherwise it is a dangerous Statement that may lead someone to substantiate with approval and not by word of mouth so that you can be able to take the next action thank you.

**Specially Elected MCA, (hon. Silapia Lenamatia):** Madam Speaker I will not withdraw my Statement. I stand with it as before. I think I stated that the last two months' pupils have been to

school without enough food yet we have information that food is in the stores. The Member is standing here telling us that the ECD centers are going on well and that they have all the quality food and instruments that they are supposed to get.

*(Point of Order Madam Speaker)*

**Specially Elected MCA**, (hon. Silapia Lenamatia): Protect me Madam Speaker.

**Temporary Speaker**, (hon. Dorcas Lenkirasi): Sit down.

**MCA Suguta MarMar Ward**, (hon. Shadrack Lesoipa): Madam Speaker I think that the rules and traditions are that when a Member stands kindly let them substantiate the claims before this House with an approval that can be read by anybody but as long as it is hearsay I beg the hon. Speaker to beg the evidence tomorrow for us to discuss, it is against the rules of this House to discuss hearsay, thank you Madam Speaker.

**Temporary Speaker**, (hon. Dorcas Lenkirasi): Hon. Silapia what do you have to say on your defense?

**Specially Elected MCA**, (hon. Silapia Lenamatia): Madam Speaker I stand to withdraw but what I saw in the Social Media is that there is food in the stores and have not been distributed to the schools until today, what are you trying to tell us as a Chair of the Education Committee that we allocate more money yet our children for the last...

**MCA Suguta MarMar Ward**, (hon. Shadrack Lesoipa): Madam Speaker she is going out of the Statement that was asked.

**Temporary Speaker**, (hon. Dorcas Lenkirasi): You are out order hon. Lesoipa.

**Specially Elected MCA**, (hon. Silapia Lenamatia): ...yet our children have never received any food from the department, are we getting quality education in the ECD centers? The Statement states that we allocate more money so that they can employ more ECD centers, do we have quality education in these centers for us to allocate more funds?

**MCA Suguta MarMar Ward**, (hon. Shadrack Lesoipa): Thank you Madam Speaker. I would like to ask the hon. Member to give a specific school and on which date did they have no food.

Sometimes you stand and claim that there is a school with no food yet you never brought any complain to this House even from a teacher from these ECD centers. We have the dates of the supplies. We will mislead this House when we work on hearsay and propaganda. I need your guidance that the Member should go to a specific school and bring the information that when last was the supply of food done with signed documents by responsible people for us to start from that point; otherwise we are starting another Statement that was not even there. We need the Member to bring a complaint for us to follow, we ask for your guidance.

**Temporary Speaker,** (hon. Dorcas Lenkirasi): Hon. Silapia from what the Chair has said it is prudent that you go get the proper information. It is good for the House to know so that when the Committee follows on such things they know exactly what they are handling.

Thank you Madam Speaker. I will do that next week.

**Temporary Speaker,** (hon. Dorcas Lenkirasi): Good. Hon. Members from the concerns of Members and also the Statement then I think that it is good for the hon. Chair on the Education Committee to consider these matters and go deeper and work with the department so that at least we see what to do because the children are our future and we have to make them comfortable, thank you.

Hon. Members the time being 18 minutes to four o'clock and there being no other business this Assembly now adjourns until Thursday afternoon 17<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 2:30 pm.