

THE HANSARD

Thursday 29th August, 2024

Assembly Building

The Assembly met at 2.30 p.m

[The Deputy Speaker (Hon. David Lemantile) in the Chair]

PRAAYER

STATEMENTS

STATUS OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTIONS WITHIN THE COUNTY

(HON. HALIMA GOLE)

Hon. Halima Gole (Cherab): Hon. Speaker, Pursuant to the provision of Standing Order (45) (2) (c) of the County Assembly of Isiolo Standing Orders, I wish to request for a statement from the Chairperson of Early Childhood Education, Vocational Training, Gender, Youth, Sports & Labour regarding status of Vocational Training Institutions within the County;

Hon. Speaker, Vocational training (village polytechnics) is a devolved function of the County Governments as contained in Schedule 4 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010;

Hon. Speaker, Vocational training institutions has the potential to help address unemployment issues by providing students with the skills needed for employment, even without obtaining a secondary school certificate;

Hon. Speaker, embrace a holistic approach that can empower students to achieve well-rounded development, maintain work-life balance, enhance their County's economic and social progress;

Hon. Speaker, the chairperson should inquire into and report on: -

- a) Number of tutors currently employed by the County;
- b) Status of enrolment;
- c) Courses offered.

Honorable Speaker, about the vocational training, Kenya is now a developed Country, which is now targeting mostly the issues of industrialization, which needs skills and it usually gives our young people employment opportunities. As you see in our County, young people are already deep in vices; I can mention a few, like human trafficking, drug and substance abuse, and livestock rustling, just to mention but a few. Now, if maybe we engage these young people into these technical schools and provide them, instill that important knowledge in them, there will be people who are potential for employment in terms of, at the times when our area is now undertaking the industrialization, just like Abattoir and the rest of the anticipated development in the County. With all this in mind, it's good for the County Government to enhance and make the institution have enough facilities that will help these young people enroll more and train diverse technical skills and knowledge, so that these young people, when they come out of that college, they are useful to themselves and to the society, and the issues of vices that we mentioned will be minimized. So, with this in mind, I want us to know the stated inquiries from the Chair, as soon as possible. Thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: As per the Statement, the Honorable Member is requesting the Chairperson of Early Childhood Education, Vocational Training, Gender, Youth, Sports, and Labor. So, the Chairperson for the Committee is none other than Hon. Waithaka. As for the Statements and the questions that have been asked include, that you should inquire into and report on: -Number of tutors currently employed by the County, Status of enrolment, Courses offered. So, Chair, those are the three questions that we need answers, and I believe that the Member has not provided a

time frame. Maybe you can have a liberty of giving the time that you can afford, but we have to conclude to get the result for it. Thank you.

Hon. David Waithaka (Bulapesa): Mr. Speaker, I have listened keenly to the Statement, these ones are also pertinent questions that need to be answered; so I am asking possibly for three weeks, the most, because some of the information need to be gotten from even in Public Service, those as an employer, they need to give us the information, the number of students.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Are you comfortable with it?

Hon. David Waithaka (Bulapesa): You know; I don't want to give you a time frame that I will not fulfil. I want, even the people that we are giving this job, to do a thorough job so that I don't come here with half-baked answers. That's why I need also to know and see whether we have done it. So, please, it is my humble request, that I be given three weeks. It is my humble request that I be given three weeks. I didn't say a month; I talked of three weeks, which I feel it is reasonable.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: That is the third week. You have to report back on 26th of September, 2024.

STATEMENT

STATUS OF FISHERIES GROUND DUE TO THREAT OF ENCROACHMENT

(Hon. David Waithaka)

Hon. David Waithaka (Bulapesa): Mr. Speaker, I have just seen this thing now. I wasn't consulted so I don't feel it is right to make a Statement that I didn't have any idea. So I feel Honorable Speaker we should jump this one, because I also need to know the repercussions. I don't know, So, I think it is for Agriculture Sector. But for that reason I mean before these things are brought to this House, the concerned people should be involved. But let this one be the last time this happens.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: So it is not your Statement?

Hon. David Waithaka (Bulapesa): Yes, it is not my Statement.

MOTION

MITIGATION OF PERENNIAL FLOODS IN MERTI TOWNSHIP

(HON. HALIMA GOLE)

Hon. Halima Gole (Cherab): Thank you Honorable Speaker, for giving me another time. I stand to move a Motion, Mitigation of perennial floods in Merti Township. Mr. Speaker, That Aware that, Disaster Management is a shared devolved function between the County and the National Government according to the fourth schedule of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010;

Further Aware that Aware that Merti Township which is in Cherab Ward is prone to flooding during rain seasons when it rains up Stream of Ewaso Ngiro River throughout the year;

Concerned that, over 2000 households has been displaced and their houses completely submerged;

Further concerned that, although the heavy rain has subsided for a while, the Ewaso Ngiro river has completely changed its course where now the river passes in the middle of the town even during the dry spell;

Appreciating that, the County Executive has set aside emergency fund to mitigate if such disasters occur;

Therefore, in view of the above-mentioned circumstances, this house resolves that the County Executive Committee Member for Finance, Budget and Appropriation to initiate the following urgent measures; -

- a) Resettling affected households through the support of the County Government;
- b) Provisions of relief food to the affected families;
- c) Establishment of social amenities to the affected families;
- d) River to be diverted to its original course through construction of gabions & dykes.

Honorable Speaker, this Motion is a real -life situation. As I stand here now, Merti Township especially is under flood. This is not a rainy season. But it is under flood. In the recent rain, Merti town was submerged. Like settlements, the homes of 2,000 residents were all lodged in water. You know the nature of the houses in our area, because of the social status of the communities, are temporary houses, where the house at the bottom is made with soil combined with the poles. The moment the water comes in, normally the soil dissolves, meaning that the whole house is eroded. That is the kind of situation, and you know the poles are dug into the ground with no concrete. So, meaning that there is no proper foundation that withstands such kind of water. Completely, the Ewaso Nyiro was passing inside, and all over the upper area of Merti Township. And the 2,000 households that are affected, is overwhelming to be supported in terms of relocating them, assisting them, and refuge, taking refuge at various areas was very difficult because, you know; those are the areas with no rental houses and where there are, they have no capacity to rent. So, most of them live in religious institutions, in Government premises, and some are taken in by the families. Up to now, those families are still taking refuge at those various areas. And to make the matter worse, after the rain stopped, thinking that at least now they can go back to their houses, some of them making some makeshift homes, still, just recently, some one week ago, another phase of flood started. So, the situation is really disastrous, and it is badly off at the Merti Township. The only possibility, if there is no intervention from County and National Government that will help divert the river into its source, it means that we are going to completely lose the area to the water, and now the relocation of the people in the upper area of Merti, is going to be very difficult for the community who are vulnerable and may not be able to resettle by themselves.

So, what is important now at this juncture is that we are asking Government, you know we passed the Budget with a fund, you know how much fund we approved here as County Assembly of Isiolo, we passed over Kshs. 100 million disaster fund, and we expect now is the time; disaster doesn't happen always and it doesn't happen to every corner of the County, it happens in selected areas, and if it happens, I think we have enough resources to help these people to resettle or even to find opinions of the experts and divert the river into its course which is possible. So, me I am crying as the area MCA for Cherab. The situation is really bad. We cannot manage by ourselves. The communities are trying very hard to contribute. There was a time

when they also tried in the first instance. Some contractors were brought very late. I don't know whether they received the money. I am yet to follow up and see whether they received the money meant for the intake to be at least, to be closed so that the water cannot be flowing into the area. But the contractor came when it was raining, and I am sure that activity was not done to its best. So, if the contractor was not paid, because I know they did not accomplish the kind of activity which they were meant to do. So, it is either for those contractors to go back and help the community being spearheaded by the Department of Roads, or if the first phase were done and maybe by mistake the payment were done, which I don't think it is just to pay them because they have not done what they are supposed to do, then they should rethink and do that urgently before the other rain comes. Because right now due to the climatic change, in Isiolo, we receive rain which is not normal. We are not in the rainy season, but we receive rain and the weather, as you see, is cool and there are clouds all over, and maybe that is an indicator that the rain may start early. So, with that in mind, I am urging the County Government of Isiolo to help our people, either resettle them upstream or to divert the river to its normal course and to take care of the intake, that busted and allowed the water flow into the township. Thank you.

Hon. Salesio Kiambi (Wabera): Seconded.

(Question Proposed)

Hon. Francisco Letimalo (Nominated): Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me this chance to support the Motion. I think on Tuesday we also had almost a similar Motion and it was about floods in the whole County. I think this time it is particularly for Merti. We heard the other time Honorable Mokku saying that Ewaso Nyiro has become nomadic, that it is changing; it is going from here to there. I think that's what's happening now in Merti. The other day we also received reports from Merti that most of the schools have not been opened it took a long time because of these floods. Hon. Gole is telling us today it's not raining but there are floods in Merti. I think this is very serious. Mine is to ask the Government whether it has taken any steps since, because the first time we were told that some schools will not open especially in Merti town, several schools did not open and even books and all the items required were destroyed. Now I thought maybe we were supposed to get some reports for what has been done by maybe the Government to avert this, but we are not seeing anything. So, year in year out we are always talking about these floods

and we are not seeing anything taking place. I think on Tuesday, I suggested that we need now to even call the CEC concerned with the Committee on disaster to tell us what's happening. Because it's the same thing in Ngaremara and all these other places, inside Isiolo town when it rains there is a lot of floods and all this. So should we continue talking about all these things all the time? And there is nothing taking place? I don't think so, because we are being displaced, this water is destroying businesses, killing lives; and yet nothing is happening. We are not seeing anything that is taking place. We are not seeing anything from the Government or I don't know, even the NGOs, where is the Red Cross nowadays? I've not heard of the Red Cross of recent. Is it dead or what? I don't know, maybe we need to know all these organizations and Government what they are doing when all these things are happening. Like the other day in Ngaremara, it was Honorable MCA who was removing money from his own pocket to buy food for the communities, which is very bad. So, mine is to urge Members of this House, this is becoming monotonous and if nothing is being done, I think it is us now to do something. I think we are quiet; we should do something to ensure that at least something is seen to be working to try to save those people who are being affected by floods. At least try to save those people who are being affected by floods. So, I think the concerned Committee and the main office, we need to know this. Sincerely we need to know what's happening as far as the issue of floods is concerned. Thank you.

Hon. Rahima Abdikadir (Nominated): Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I rise to support the Motion. It's a very good Motion, but Mr. Speaker Sir, I'm so saddened. It's so disheartening; it's so bad actually from the Executive. When something like this happens to our community and every time we allocate a lot of money towards emergencies and disasters. Every Budget and Supplementary Budget we wouldn't miss this. When our people like this suffer every time. And I even wonder why the concerned department, why are they always reactive? Why aren't they being proactive? Because it is not something which has happened like once. It is something which has been happening, we hear the same thing in Sericho, Merti, Ngaremara. If someone is sleeping on his job, we should understand what is really hampering these people to assist our people. Because why should we allocate money and then this money is not even assisting our people. Mr. Speaker Sir, it is so bad and absurd actually. Actually, as also Members from this House, we are also sleeping on our job. Because this our job and we are supposed to know what this money does; the

money we allocate for emergency, 2% is supposed to do these things. On top of that, we have emergency monies. A lot of money is allocated towards this cause but nothing is being done. Our people are really suffering, they are hampered by the Climate change. Animals are gone, no livestock, because we are 100 percent dependent on livestock Mr. Speaker Sir, but nothing is being done. When emergencies like this strikes us, we are not in a position to assist ourselves. When the Government, the people who hold these offices, who have this mantle of even spending this money, Mr. Speaker Sir, they see our people sufferings. So, it's not a matter of business as usual. It's not going to be business as usual, Mr. Speaker Sir. Why should we allocate money and we are not even doing the oversight ourselves? The ball stops with us at every time, Mr. Speaker Sir. So, let us not discuss something that is very shameful. We just hear, see, and feel, but nothing is done. Have we even called this department to ask them, What is really hampering? What happened to the money we allocated to you? Have we ever done that, Mr. Speaker Sir? So, some things here we are not supposed to even discuss in this House. Whatever we have given is supposed to be implemented. If there is a gap in the provision of the Budget, we are supposed to allocate a lot of money. That's why I repeat again, someone is sleeping on his job, Mr. Speaker Sir. We see the Climate change is here with us. The department concerned is there. They are supposed to prepare early in advance, So that, whatever strikes our people is even noted from far. This water doesn't come overnight and then it stays, it has been there for some time. We hear through the social media, we have the department concerned Mr. Speaker Sir. Mine is just a note, we are supposed to crack whips Mr. Speaker Sir, we are supposed to do our oversight roles so that whatever happens on the ground we are aware to what is happening Mr. Speaker Sir. I support the Motion and thank you Hon. Gole for bringing this up and I think this one is going to be a wakeup call for all of us so that we do our jobs, even if we were not doing it before, this is going to make us do it. Thank you.

Hon. Nicholas Lorot (Burat): Mheshimiwa Spika, nasimama kuunga Hoja mkono. Nimeangalia Hoja hi na imekuja kwa wakati unaofaa. Sisi ndio huwa tunatengeneza na kupitisha Bajeti yetu. Na wote tunajua kwa kweli kuna zile pesa za dharura ambayo ni milioni moja na kumi. Swali langu la kwanza ni dharura ipi hiyo pesa inasaidia, kwa sababu tukiangalia wakati wa njaa, tunasikia inaenda kununua chakula; lakini wakati kama juzi ambapo tulikuwa na njaa na mafuriko na hii Bajeti tulikuwa nayo na haijasaidia wananchi, hii Bajeti inaenda wapi? Kwa hivyo ni

wajibu wetu kwamba, Waheshimiwa wa hii Bunge waamke tujue ile pesa ambayo tunatengea wananchi wetu inawasaidia, kwa vile hakuna vile wananchi wanaumia na Bajeti iko na baada ya mwaka kufika mwisho hiyo Bajeti imetumika. Kwa hivyo hatutakuwa tunasaidia wananchi wetu kama tutanyamaza, ni lazima tuongee; kwa sababu sisi tumeletwa hapa kusaidia wananchi kwa sababu wote hatungetoshea kuingia hapa kwa hii Nyumba ndiposa wakaweza kutuchagua sisi kuwakilisha hawa raia ambao wanangojea kusikia sauti yako ukiongea. Mheshimiwa Spika, ukiangalia hiyo mkondo ya maji haihitaji pesa nyingi, kwangu naona kama Bajeti ya milioni kumi inatosha kuelekeza hayo maji kwa ile mkondo wake wa kwanza. Sio pesa nyingi na ilhali tuko na Bajeti ya kutosha. Kama tutasaidia wananchi vile tumesema, tutakuwa tumenyamaza wakati wa mvua kwa sababu saa hii tuko na nafasi ya kufanya; tuna miezi kama mbili mvua irudi. Na kama haitashughulikiwa kwa wakati ambayo inafaa, mvua ikija tena itapata watu katika ile hali ya awali na hawa watu ni masikini. Mtu ameng'ang'ana kujenga nyumba yake ya matope na kulea watoto ambao wako shule tofauti; mvua ikija inaharibu makao yao na hawana pa kwenda. Ni hatia sana kwetu kama tutaendelea kunyamaza na wale masikini wanaumia na kuna pesa imetengewa kusaidia watu. Tunataka kuona hii pesa ikisaidia watu wakati wa ukame na mvua. Kama Ngaremara walipoteza watu wawili na shida ya Ngaremara ni kidogo. Ungewekwa bawa moja nzuri alafu mkondo wa maji uweze kuelekezwa huko, mji wa Ngaremara haungeweza kuumia. Lakini kwa sababu hii itakuwa hata ni dhulma kwa Mungu kama umepewa hiyo nafasi na rassilimali ya kusaidia wananchi wawe wakila hizo pesa na Mwananchi anaumia. Kwa hivyo, tunataka hizo pesa kama Waheshimiwa tuamke tuweze kuuliza; tuko na mitandao, tunaweza kuongea na kutetea wananchi wa chini. Kwa sababu haya ni mambo hata Mwenyezi Mungu atatuuliza kama hatutatongea na kuogopa. Kwa vile tulikubali na kuchukua jukumu ya kwamba mimi nitasimama, nitatetea na kuwakilisha watu wangu katika Bunge, lakini unaponyamaza na kusema nitanyamza na sitaongea, haungekubali hii kazi. Ni vizuri hata ujiuzulu.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: I think you as a Member addressing the media is another thing. We need to give our views in this House.

Hon. Nicholas Lorot (Burat): Asante Bwana Spika. Unajua mambo zingine inachoma, ndiposa saa zingine tunatoka nje kidogo, lakini ni vizuri kurekebisha.

Nimesema hivyo kwa sababu mimi katika Kamati yangu nimeitisha Hoja zilizomaliza miezi sita. Na Hoja nyingi haijajibiwa. Ndio maana tunaona tunaongea hapa vitu vingi lakini hakuna yale yanajibiwa na watendaji. Ndivyo tulisema tunataka kubadilisha Kanuni za Kudumu ya kwamba walae Waziri wahusika wasipojibu maswali tunayowauliza, waweze kuja katika hii Nyumba na kuulizwa maswali. Na kama mtu hawezi kazi Mheshimiwa Spika, anfaa kuonyeshwa mlango kwa sababu tumepewa hiyo mamlaka ya kutumia na kunyorosha Kaunti yetu. Sisi ni watu ambao tumepewa mamlaka lakini hatuyatumii. Ni lazima sisi tuamke kama Waheshimiwa kuhakikisha wananchi wanapata haki yao. Kwa hiyo, mimi naunga hii Hoja mkono. Asante Mheshimiwa Spika.

Hon. David Waitthaka (Bulapesa): Thank you Honorable Speaker. I feel today that my earning will be rightful, because I have worked. I believe it is really sad for all of us When we stand here as Honorable Members, and all what we do is just to lament. We have talked about this thing of Merti, Ngaremara, Sericho and also even Bulapesa. Every time we do give money for disaster management, hundreds of millions but I am dismayed to note, even when there is a small disaster like fire, they come to Bulapesa with two kilos of flour, and one litre of oil and you wonder surely what happens with the money. In some other Country, people are able to reclaim land from the sea; in seventies people were doing it even in Holland, they were able to reclaim their land from the sea. What is this small thing that is disturbing our people in the 21st century? Surely, there is something that is wrong with us. We are not inventing the way. Everything is there, the money is there. I believe we have also got the manpower. And if we don't have the manpower in Isiolo, we can get it in Kenya. It has been done. Also, we have people reclaiming their land. Our people are suffering. Well, I understand where I originally come from we are very generous, we have donated our water that is also disturbing our people downstream. We also need to make sure that we make use of that water properly. We should not be crying. We should be happy, because we would have mitigated that long time ago. That rain coming, we could be using it to help our people. But why do we look so vulnerable and we cant do it. Because when God blesses our people, it seems like it's a curse. There are places where they want rain, they want water. Surely, this House has Hon. Rahima has rightly said, we need to wake up. Every time we come to this House, I think we start with a Prayer, that Prayer is going to eat us. We talk to God before we start this House. Can we do the right thing for our people? I said the other time on

Monday I said I am poignant when I see what is happening. I feel sad that we look as if we are helpless; surely we need to do something to help our people. People who are relying on us. Can you imagine a family of 12? You know people are also endowed, they are strong, they can bring big families. An elder with his children, all of them seeking shelter, it is painful. And it is also shameful to us as Members of this House that we have not lived to the expectation of the people. We should stop lamenting and work without fear or favor. What God brought us to do, let us do it; the people of Merti are not living in their houses, it is wrong. It cannot cost more than Kshs. 10 million like my brother Hon. Lorot has rightly put it. Let us put that money into that place and make sure that our people are comfortable. Mr. Speaker, with those few remarks I am grateful for giving me the chance to air my sentiments.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: I see you have appointed your own media. You are not allowed to do that. I think we are supposed to have an official media in the House. Because we might not have control of whatever you are recording.

Hon. Halima Gole (Cherab): You know we don't have a media person here. This is a critical issue.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: We can request them to come. I think the clerk will address that and request for Media to be present

Hon. Halima Gole (Cherab): Thank you, Honorable Speaker. I rise to summarize the matter of the flood in my Ward, which is Merti Township. I mean, it's Cherab Ward. In summary, I thank the Members who contributed to this Motion. Secondly, I take this matter as a very critical matter because since April this year, when the first flood washed away over 2, 000 households in Merti Township and made them homeless, up to now, there is no tangible intervention from County Government of Isiolo. In first instance in April it was the only time that they brought a little food, and that was the end of it. I thank the National Government; they brought in some iron sheet, like a thousand iron sheet, and some household utensils, which helped like 83 households out of 2,000. The rest did not receive any support. Red Cross assisted with a few tents and blankets, and up to now many households are still taking refuge, as I said, in various areas, Religious institutions, Government premises, and with families. And to make the matter worse, another flood has started again, and these people are really frustrated, not knowing where to run to. They have

made an ADHOC Committee from among themselves. They have visited various areas where the river busted, and they have made their proposal to various members who are related to the various leaders, as a call for help. But up to now, they have not gotten any leader that has responded. So this matter is really serious, and up to now, the community members raised per household some little money, like Kshs. 300,000, which you know is just too little to be able to mitigate that disaster. Even right now, when I was coming, I was talking to the Chair, and they were even talking of now using the casuals to dig trenches which I disagreed because it will not help anything. So this is the much desperation that our community have. And I thank Honorable Rahima and the rest of the Members, who have shown really good leadership and concern about this Motion. And I ask you Members, colleagues, I know it's not only Merti, but right now it's the one in critical situation, but all areas that were affected by flood need some assistance. Let's stand up together and be able to address this issue. As I already said, let's call the concerned department CEC, get some answers from them, then we can sit and make some way forward on how to address this issue. Because we know the money is with the Government, we approved the money and the money is there. Why doesn't this money help these people? From April, imagine, these incidents happened. No one is talking about it. Only little food was provided at that time, you know what happened at those times between me and the Government. It is not because I am maybe against the Government, but these are the people, I tried to raise proposals to various organizations, which some I got help. So this is it, I am asking us to stand up together and assist in this situation. Our communities, the roads, the schools, some toilets, and several areas need to be renovated and the community supported to resettle back to normalcy. Others to be relocated, there are many areas of concern that need to be addressed. So thank you so much for the time and the inputs from the Members.

Hon Deputy Speaker (Hon. David Lemantile): Thank you, which department does this thing fall under?

Hon. Halima Gole (Cherab): It is the Department of Special Programs, which is under Finance and the Office of the Governor.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Okay. Let us note that. So let me put the question. That Aware that, Disaster Management is a shared devolved function between the County

and the National Government according to the fourth schedule of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010;

Further Aware that Aware that Merti Township which is in Cherab Ward is prone to flooding during rain seasons when it rains up Stream of Ewaso Ngiro River throughout the year;

Concerned that, over 2000 households has been displaced and their houses completely submerged;

Further concerned that, although the heavy rain has subsided for a while, the Ewaso Ngiro river has completely changed its course where now the river passes in the middle of the town even during the dry spell;

Appreciating that, the County Executive has set aside emergency fund to mitigate if such disasters occur;

Therefore, in view of the above-mentioned circumstances, this house resolves that the County Executive Committee Member for Finance, Budget and Appropriation to initiate the following urgent measures; -

- a) Resettling affected households through the support of the County Government;
- b) Provisions of relief food to the affected families;
- c) Establishment of social amenities to the affected families;
- d) River to be diverted to its original course through construction of gabions & dykes.

(Question Put and Agreed to)

MOTION

ESTABLISHMENT OF MODERN VILLAGE POLYTECHNICS CENTERS WITHIN THE COUNTY

(Hon. Rahima Abdikadir)

Hon. Rahima Abdikadir (Nominated): Mr. Speaker, that, aware that constitution of Kenya under Article 43(1) (f) guarantees every person a right to education;

Further aware that, village polytechnics and home craft centers is a function of the County Government according to the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution;

Appreciating that, the County Government has constructed four village youth polytechnics in the County to equip youth with technical skills and knowledge to create employment and earn a living;

Concerned that, perennial understaffing, equipping and marketing skill-based courses offered have undermined the attainment of the purpose of the village polytechnics, like a case of Merti, Oldonyiro village polytechnics;

Further concerned that, previous attempt by the County Government to staff the polytechnics by advertising for polytechnic tutors, conducting interviews but the recruitment had not been concluded;

This House urges the County Executive Committee Members for Early Childhood Education, Vocational training, Gender, Youth and Sport to:

- i) Fast track recruitment of adequate staff for the Youth polytechnics to enhance attainment of its objectives; and
- ii) Equipping the village polytechnics within the County and market the skill-based courses offered;
- iii) Conduct sensitization programmes that encourage youths to enroll in the polytechnics to gain necessary skills to enhance their employability.

Mr. Speaker Sir, this Motion is very important to all of us, especially from this County. You understand the level at which education -wise we are in. Concerning the poverty level of the County, and the transition levels of the kids who have left the high school to transit to the National Universities is very low. This village polytechnic stands a better place to help our people, because not every person is given that talent and skills to go to University, what will happen to those people who are left, who did not earn that big grade to go to University, Mr. Speaker? So I said this village polytechnic is best place for those kids who are unable to transit to University with big grades, Mr. Speaker. So I think when this thing, according to the bullets here, is going to be revamped and the staffing done and a lot of civic education done at the village level is going to assist our people. Because as of now, even in Countrywide, village polytechnics holds key industrial growth across the Country; because not every person is going to be employable, but when you have a skill which you have attained at the village polytechnic, it's going to give you that opportunity to not even employ yourself, but also to employ others. If I give you advantages of the polytechnics, there are so many. You see, even we have a generational gap nowadays, because of the drug menace which is hampering in our community, when we take these kids to these village polytechnics even the level of those kids who are taking this Marijuana, is going to go down. Also, as I earlier said the poverty level, some people are very bright, but they are unable to go to Universities, but they can get those skills to help themselves, Mr. Speaker, and even help the communities at large. They can do plumping, they can do the home science thing we used to do there, they can bake these cakes, they can do breads, Mr. Speaker, so that these skills is going to help them, electric courses. And if you even look around yourself now, if you look for someone to do some small electrical work for you at the house, no single person comes from Isiolo County. And this is a skill which is required every day at household level, so is Plumbing. So I think this stands to be a very good thing if it's going to be implemented well. And I think the Members in the House are going to support this Motion so that it sees the light of day. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Francisco Letimalo (Nominated): Thank you, Honorable Speaker. I also rise to Second and support the Motion. According to me, it's as if we pastoralists, this issue of polytechnics is not an important thing to join or to be a student in it. And I

don't know why. But it shows that it is us who have not carried some self-generation as far as these polytechnics are concerned. Because I know in Oldonyiro, the enrolment is so low, it's below average. Nobody wants to join. Also, the other day we were traveling to Merti, and there's a structure there. We were told it's a polytechnic, but nobody lives in it. It's a white elephant, it's growing to be a white elephant. So, I think the main thing we are required to do ourselves is to do some civic education for our children, who have not made it to either Secondary or University, because so many of them are at home and they even don't want to join these polytechnics. They start at Oldonyiro Polytechnic, but those guys who have not gone to Secondary school or University are really not interested. So, I think ours here is to create, make sure publication is undertaken to request these children at least to join these polytechnics, instead of going to become cattle rustlers, to go to Nairobi, to become watchmen there. It's good to gain skills. And this polytechnic, I am sure the incentive of Ksh.30, 000 per child is still there, and that's a very good incentive which is given to each child who joins the polytechnic. And that is to at least give them that morale to continue with whatever skill he or she is interested in the polytechnics. We are actually having this as a big problem. The polytechnics are there, like in Oldonyiro and those other places, even here in this place in Uhuru primary. But I don't know, maybe it is better off in Isiolo town than it is in our villages there. In those villages of ours, they don't want to do it. But maybe it is our duty, not only Members, but everybody to sensitize our communities so these children can join these polytechnics. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Maybe before I propose a question, I just need to pass something here, so that we should understand why some things are not supposed to be done here at the Assembly. I am trying to read this Standing Order 229 on the First Schedule. External media 6.(1) In these Rules, "external media Assembly" refers to any media Assembly other than the Isiolo County Assembly Broadcasting Unit. (2) No external media Assembly or other person may broadcast any proceedings of the Assembly except as received from the broadcast feed provided by the County Assembly Broadcasting Unit or with the permission of the Speaker. (3) A media Assembly that receives a broadcast feed from the County Assembly Broadcasting Unit shall broadcast it without any manipulation or distortion. (4) No camera or other recording or broadcasting equipment shall be allowed in the Assembly without authorization. (5) Accredited journalists shall be allowed access

to designated areas for purposes of following the proceedings and taking notes and any journalist so allowed shall observe the Standing Orders and these Rules.

Breach of broadcasting Rules 7(1) any person who fails to comply with these Rules shall be liable to such penalty as the Assembly may on the recommendation of the County Assembly Broadcasting Committee; may consider appropriate.

That is exactly what is guiding us that we should not use our cameras and phones to record the proceedings; and the consequences for breaching this is as stated in the Breach of rules number seven. So we should all follow the rules of the House.

(Question Proposed)

Hon. David Waithaka (Bulapesa): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I am grateful. I want to support today's Motion brought by Honorable Rahima Abdikadir and looking at it, I remember when we joined this House, we called the County Public Service Board, and we talked about employing tutors in our village Polytechnics. And you know we are wondering why we don't have even students in some of our Polytechnics, they don't have tutors. The people who are usually there, they are just volunteers. They have stayed there for even more than three years without being paid. Others are even deserting. They had hoped to be employed. So, without any pay, how do you expect a person to give good service? So, the problem is with us as a County. We have not taken seriously to train our people and also the courses that we will be giving our people, whoever takes them, how employable are they? You know, there are some courses, even the Universities are saying, you take your son or daughter to the University, he comes back, he stays in the house, and look at someone who has never been to school. Look at the people who got those worthy technical courses. Those people, even in this Country, are one of the richest people. Some of them did not even finish class eight, but since they took a good course, they are millionaires of today. Others have started big garage, others have started even big farms, and others have big hotels. So, it simply means, even if we are starting our polytechnics, we need to make sure that we look for courses that even our people in our society, our culture; because I went to Oldonyiro, and after looking at those nitty gritty, I realized that a Moran being taught how to cook, it is not a man's work to cook, in our African culture, and especially a Moran. So, how do you expect and you have taken that course as a very serious course, and you say people are not

joining, and you have brought a course that people see it as degrading. But if digital, I think a Moran would very much want even to be a mechanic, an electrician. I remember recently, I brought a young man from Meru. I wanted to do some of these things in my house, and I asked him, where did you go to college? He told me, I went to Meru Polytechnic, I did electrical. At the same time, but within two hours, that young man had got seven thousands shillings from me, I don't even earn that money as an MCA in Isiolo County Assembly. And getting him was a problem. So, imagine he came from Meru, so he had to make sure that he had several works to do here Isiolo; what about if the young man was coming from this place, you know, we are losing our jobs, and we are complaining that our young people don't have jobs. But how are we preparing or planning for them to get those jobs? I said the other time, we have abattoir, how have we trained our people to get those jobs? You'll be lamenting, these people are not from here, but our sons and daughters in Isiolo who are supposed to get those job have no necessary qualifications. So who are doing that disservice? It is us as a County because we are not giving our people the needed skills to perform properly. That is food for thought. because we'll be complaining, you know where I come from, Bulapesa, but I was very impressed by my young people. If you go to Uhuru Polytechnic, so many people wanted to join, even they were unable because the numbers were limited. You know, even as parents, we need also to educate our young men and women. We have taken as if, having a degree from University is the way to riches. Let our people know that even taking your child to a Polytechnic, they can also do well and even do a degree, still while working, it has been done. So, we need a complete mind change, if we are to move forward. Thank you Hon. Speaker once again.

Hon. Halima Gole (Cherab): Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the Motion. The village Polytechnic is a very important institution within the community, and mostly our pastoral community, you know, they don't value education much, because of maybe the illiteracy. Most of these young people who have completed schools, form four, mostly they come back to town and because of their young age, they can engage in very disastrous activities and damage themselves. But with the presence of the village Polytechnics within the community, these people can reduce the vices and we can instill the knowledge and skills that helps them for the future. With that, the County Government needs to make this village Polytechnic an important subject or an important department within the Education sector. Mostly when you see

allocation of Budget for this department, it is very little to support even employing the tutors, and even running the facility. We are the Members of County Assembly, who are usually charged with approving these Budgets. As Honorable Member for Bulapesa said, it's a food for thought. What is our responsibility here? Because the buck stops at us. At the end of the day, people will charge us with what we have done. They don't maybe ask the Governor or the rest, but as a Member who is serving at that grassroots level, we are the ones if things are not going on well, even in the social media, you can see how people are talking negative about us. It's because we slept on our job. We need to wake up. Secondly, is to raise the Budget for this department, so that it's able to provide the services which are required. Thirdly, is about the pastoral lifestyle. Most of this community like Cherab, Sericho, Garbatulla, Nagremara and Oldonyiro are all pastoral communities. In most of these places, the kids, after completing school now, they may not have somewhere to stay to go to get benefit from those facilities. Some of them come from farthest end, like Dadachbasa, because this Secondary schools are, at least we thank God and the community, the schools are everywhere, in Basa, in Korbesa, in Merti. So after completing those schools, before they get enrolled into Institutions of Higher education, they can do this for six months and have that skill instead of coming into town and engaging in other things. So I'm saying one is about boarding facilities, within these polytechnics, so that at least they have somewhere to stay. The other one is about feeding program for them, because these kids, as you know, there are some seasons mainly within us where the people suffer due to drought, because the communities cannot feed their families. So, it's important that we consider constructing, boarding facilities, to support kids from far areas, so that they are able to enroll in those polytechnics and also the feeding program. Thank you.

Hon. Rahima Abdikadir (Nominated): Thank you Members for supporting and contributing to the Motion. I think it's a very valid Motion, which touches virtually the lives of our youth. I appreciate the points raised, but I also urge the Members of the County Assembly, who are present here, and also who are not present, to do a lot of sensitization, because I understand we are the people well placed with the communities. We are with them at our doors always. Let's encourage our youths to attend these polytechnics. Citing that if these people, go to these village polytechnics and attend various courses they get from here, I think, story of looking for the Governor, for the MCA, for the Women's representative, and the Senators to give

their kids jobs, is going to be another story, because they are going to employ themselves and also help the community in terms of providing the necessary services and they are going to be engaged so that they will not think of doing bad things. We've seen people with Degrees and Masters who are just in their houses. But these people who are going to attend these various courses, I'm sure they are going to be the richest in the community. Having said that, Mr. Speaker Sir, I'm going to leave with the following quote, from Chanakya. "Education is the best friend, an educated person is respected everywhere, Education beats the beauty and youth, your beauty will disappear, your youth will disappear, but education is going to be with you". Why I used this quote, Mr. Speaker Sir, when someone goes to this village polytechnic, if you are plumber, you are not going to be told you've reached 60 years and you are going to retire. If you, you've studied tailoring, you are not going to be told you've retired and leave this job. You are going to do that job in your house and still get paid. Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir and thank you to my colleagues for supporting this Motion.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Honorable Members, I put the question now, that, aware that constitution of Kenya under Article 43(1) (f) guarantees every person a right to education;

Further aware that, village polytechnics and home craft centers is a function of the County Government according to the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution;

Appreciating that, the County Government has constructed four village youth polytechnics in the County to equip youth with technical skills and knowledge to create employment and earn a living;

Concerned that, perennial understaffing, equipping and marketing skill-based courses offered have undermined the attainment of the purpose of the village polytechnics, like a case of Merti, Oldonyiro village polytechnics;

Further concerned that, previous attempt by the County Government to staff the polytechnics by advertising for polytechnic tutors, conducting interviews but the recruitment had not been concluded;

This House urges the County Executive Committee Members for Early Childhood education, vocational training, Gender, youth and sport to:

- i) Fast track recruitment of adequate staff for the Youth polytechnics to enhance attainment of its objectives; and
- ii) Equipping the village polytechnics within the County and market the skill-based courses offered;
- iii) Conduct sensitization programmes that encourage youths to enroll in the polytechnics to gain necessary skills to enhance their employability.

(Question Put and Agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Honorable Members, the House remains adjourned until next Tuesday 3rd September, 2024 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 4.10 p.m.