

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF ISIOLO

6.8.2025 2.30

Third Assembly – Fourth Session

THE HANSARD

Wednesday 6th August, 2025

Assembly Building

The Assembly met at 9.00 a.m

[The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Peter Losu) in the Chair]

PRAYER

Hon. Temporary Speaker: Order Clerk.

MOTION

THE CONSTRUCTION OF WELL-EQUIPPED ECD CLASSROOMS AND EMPLOYMENT OF NEW EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHERS

Hon. Halima Gole (Cherab): Thank you Hon. Speaker. I stand to move a Motion on the Construction of well-equipped ECD classroom and employment of new Early Childhood Teachers: That aware that Education, Vocational Training, Gender, Youth, Sport and Labor are functions of the County Government according to the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya 2010;

Further aware that Article 43 of Constitution of Kenya, 2010 states that every Citizen has Economic and Social Development right which include reasonable standards of sanitation, adequate food of acceptable quality, clean and safe water in adequate quantities, social security and education among others;

Appreciating that County Executive has put up ECD centers throughout the County and continuously putting up new ECD centers to promote Early Child Education;

Further appreciating that County Executive primarily has employed substantial Early Childhood Teachers throughout the County;

Concerned that the current quality of classrooms constructed is wanting, lacking basic component that facilitate Early Childhood Development such as and not limited to modern sanitation, kitchen and kitchen wares, sufficiency of water, playgrounds with paly swings, fences affecting social security of the child, plans for physically impaired among others, hence not meeting the standards education need of Early Childhood learning environment required to develop holistic learners' physical and mental abilities;

Further concerned that many trained Early Childhood Teachers are yet not employed, while a number of constructed/established childhood centers do not have the required child to teacher ratio, hence affecting the attention that every child requires in the development of his or her Early Childhood learning.

Therefore, this House resolves that the Executive Committee Member for Early Childhood Education, Vocational Training, Gender, Youth, Sport and Labor to construct well equipped classrooms with modern studying facilities, early childhood centers and employ more ECD teachers to improve the performance of education of early learners.

Thank you

Hon. Temporary Speaker: Secunder.

Hon. Meja Golicha (Chari): I stand to Second the Motion.

(Question Proposed)

Hon. Temporary Speaker: The Motion is for debate. Mover.

Hon. Halima Gole (Cherab): Thank you Honorable Speaker for giving me this opportunity to further elaborate on the Motion. Early Childhood Education is a basic level of beginning for any child and it is very critical at that state. This is a stage that the first contact whereby the child is beginning a life in education; and anything that have some negative effect at this juncture may affect the child forever. So this is a critical stage, the ECD whereby we have group the PP1, PP2; these are the ages between 4 to 6. So this is a state that is very delicate and ECD is

DISCLAIMER: The electronic version of the Official Hansard Report is for information purpose only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor

a devolved function. It is entirely the responsibility of the County Government to ensure that all the facilities required at this basic level is provided. In our County, we are faced with a lot of challenges in ECD especially at the periphery areas, the Wards where most of the staff, experience some hardship and sometimes it's not very friendly for the teachers posted their, because there are no social amenities. And people, usually the teachers and other employees do not enjoy being in those centers.

More so, the the issue is that the recruitment of teachers which are done are not in good numbers to enable those furthest centers to benefit and most of the ECDs in those centers lack even a single ECD teacher. A single ECD teacher can manage over 100 ECD learners and the environment have no seats, no blackboard, the ground is dusty, its not cemented, in most cases; because mostly the structures are temporary, those at the periphery. Even those which are constructed well within the town centre and even the trading centers, mostly there are no chairs, and other facilities for teaching; because right now the Competency Based Curriculum requires a lot of input for learners and now the burden ends up with the parents being the ones who are struggling to avail those requirements. On the employment, I remember the recruitment at the beginning of our term, there was over 70 which were to be recruited, there was advertisement. Later on, the recruitment was done selectively; some of our centers like in Merti my Ward, if there was employment which was even done, I can say that it was not done transparently. It was done in a very secret manner and whoever is posted, I remember up to now the schools in the lower Cherab lack the ECD teachers. Most of the ECD teachers lack basic facilities like chairs. Myself there was a time that a school in Mataarba requested me to buy mats for the kids to sit, if it is comfortable in a learning environment, because the kids are forced to sit on when there's not that spacing and it's not comfortable for anybody to be in that and some even sit on the stones. The classes, some of them are temporary, you see that there are holes letting in the cold affecting the kids, the dust, the wind and everything else. So it's not a comfortable environment and mostly the classes are not constructed. We Budgeted for those classes, some of them were even tendered, but it ended up not being constructed. Personally in this House, I requested for status of those classes, including even there was a dispensary which was tendered and the constructor was given even the LPO and everything; up to now all those which were tendered were not done.

I think it is time that the County gets serious with ECD. It's a basic for education whereby it is a beginning which can make this child to either like or dislike school. Some of the dropouts are related to the beginning of how the child began at school in the early stages of their life. So, we are also urging that the ECD teachers who are existing who lack proper skills and are not given refreshers and other courses which will enlighten them to be able to catch up with current curriculums and the changes which are dynamic. So we are expecting the sector to be funded well and to be serious with the ECD classes. Also, the school feeding program for the kids, is very important. All this motivate the child to come to school and keeps the enrollment to retention rates, whereby this kid knowing especially that when they come to school, apart from the learning there are other factors which motivate them, the feeding program is one of the factors which really encourages the retention at that ECD class level. So, we are expecting that the issues of feeding program, given there were feeding programs which were nicely drawn and even you see in the social media that the County Government is providing feeding programs, but on the ground the reality is not the same, because whatever is given as a feeding program is not sufficient. There was a time one of the teachers in my Ward called and when I confirmed whether they received any feeding program, they said that the porridge which they were given were bitter and they could not give it to the kids. All such things, someone gets for maybe a very low price and then they dispatch without confirming, then it means that the feeding program is not adequate, four bags for one school, how long can it last? So the quantity and the quality are very important at this juncture. So, we are urging them to be serious with all the feeding, the recruitments, which I think if it is done, the number is very minimal. We have several of our young youths who have trained as ECD teachers and still they are waiting for the employment; while there is need, us at the County level, are not concerned with recruitment.

Generally, I say that this ECD Motion needs to be taken seriously by the Department of Education and they should act on all these concerns that we have raised in this House, so that they are able to look on the issues of recruiting more teachers within the CBD, at the Wards and also at the furthest where there are those challenges; with more of a motivation to those teachers who teach in the hard to reach areas because, in some Counties those workers not only the ECD teachers, but those who work in those hardship areas, there are some modalities which are

put, like they work for 3 Years, then their salaries are topped, they get paid on time, they are trained and so many other motivating factors, which for that period you know the ECD teacher or any worker at that center discharges his role very efficiently. So, the top of factors and even the basic ones of construction of the classes needs to be serious; and when somebody is given the tender and they have not done the construction, it's good to revisit in the consecutive tendering in the other Year, because if this Year they have not done and then there is no carry forward and we assume that in the past Year they have done it, then it means that opportunity is gone. I remember in Godha we were supposed to construct the ECD class in the Year 2023 and many others and we were to construct the dispensary in Lakole, which was not also done and I know even who took the LPO and won the tender. We are asking the County Government Sector for Education to consider ECD as a very basic, delicate stage in learning and they have to put efforts in all those factors that I mentioned. I welcome the input of the Members. Thank you.

Hon. Temporary Speaker: Thank you Hon. Kiambi.

Hon. Kiambi Salesio (Wabera): Asanti sana Mheshimiwa Spika kwa kunipa hii nafasi nichangie hii ajenda ambayo ni mzuri sana ya kusaidia watoto wetu wadogo. Nafikiri Mheshimiwa Gole ameongea karibu kila kitu, hakutaka kutuachia maoni zingine tuseme pia, lakini bado nitaongezea. Kwa mambo ya ECD, walimu wale wamekuwa *trained* katika hii *course* ya watoto wanahitajika kwa wingi. Kwa sababu kufunza watoto wadogo huwa ni ngumu sana. Kwa hivyo, hawa walimu waweze kuandikwa kazi. Kujengwa kwa madarasa, hii Kaunti iko na makosa, kwa sababu tangu 2023, *local contractors* hapa Isiolo, wakifanya kazi hawalipwi, ndio kila mtu anakataa kuweka pesa yake kwa hii kazi. Hivyo, ningehimiza kazi ipatiwe watu wa Isiolo na ikifanyika iweze kulipwa, kwa sababu ni wengi hawajalipwa hapa Isiolo, wale wa nje huwa wanalipwa lakini wa hapa hawalipwi. Sijui ni *criteria* gani inatumika watu wa hapa hawalipwi na wa nje wanalipwa. Hata kazi haifai kupewa watu wa nje, inafaa wapee kazi watu wa Isiolo ili pia wafaidike. Pia ukiwa Gavana, hata wewe lazima ufanye kitu fulani ile utakumbukwa nayo. Kama huko Meru, Kiraitu alikuwa anapeana maziwa na aliweza kukumbukwa na hiyo. Sasa hapa Isiolo, hata uji ile tulikuwa tunaweka pesa kwa Bajeti imepotea. Na unajua wakipata uji hawa watoto watafurahia hata kuenda shule na wanaweza kataa hata kuenda shuleni kama hawatapata hiyo uji. Hiyo makosa irekebishwe na

Executive ili watoto wapate uji na pia madarasa zijengwe kwa wingi, na iwe inalipwa. Kwa sababu kuna watu kama kumi wamenieleza hawajalipwa.

Kazi yoyote ikifanywa na mtu wa hapa Isiolo ilipwe. Kwa sababu nakumbuka hata hii *dispensary* iko hapa Mwangaza imefanyiwa *renovation*, ule kijana alitumia pesa zake hajalipwa. Na hiyo hospitali haina hata viti na ilhali mtu anafurahia amejenga *dispensary* na hata ukienda hakuna viti. Kwa hivyo, madarasa zijengwe na kuwekwa viti ili watoto wale wadogo waweze kusoma. Asanti.

Hon. Temporary Speaker: Hon. Kamila.

Hon. Kamila Warsame (Nominated): Thank you Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity. I stand to support the Motion on the construction of well-equipped ECDE classrooms and employment of new Early Childhood Teachers. It is good for the understanding of people who are watching this Session live and even the Honorable Members present in the House to understand the basic concept of the ratio of teachers to pupils as far as the ECDE is concerned. Mr. Speaker, the required ratio for a teacher to pupil ratio actually is supposed to be one teacher to 45 pupils, that is 1 to 45 or 1 to 40 Mr. Speaker. But currently what we are experiencing in our Wards and even at those centers Mr. Speaker, with this growing population Mr. Speaker, we can't say that we have only 45 or 40 pupils in a class. I am saying so from my background experience as a teacher. I recently exited the teaching profession Mr. Speaker and I understand what is taking place in those centers. Right now as we are speaking, it is 60 to 70 pupils, not below that. But when we are talking of this Mr. Speaker, one teacher to that ratio and yet when we go to these centers Mr. Speaker, this teacher might even fall sick Mr. Speaker, because of aging, he or she might retire, but what are the strategies or plans that are underway to give attention to these learners is what is really a concern Mr. Speaker and without fear Mr. Speaker, I am saying the County Government of Isiolo is really sleeping on their jobs. The reason am saying this is Mr. Speaker, the last time the teachers were employed in this County was in 2018. I don't know what has happened recently, because I have heard there were teachers to be employed to the Ngaremara and Oldonyiro Wards exempting other Wards; I don't know whether we have even achieved that, because of the problem that occurred earlier and if they have been employed, it has not come to the attention of this House.

Mr. Speaker, we have not had such kind of plans, because if from 2018 up to date if teachers have not been employed then we are not taking this matter seriously and we understand the ECDE is devolved and we must and shall take care of this concern seriously. Mr. Speaker, the other thing, when we came to this House when we were sworn into this position Mr. Speaker, we found the Budget of 2022/2023 untouched, we prepared our own Budget as this Third Assembly 2023/2024, allocating some good amount of money for construction of classes Mr. Speaker; whereby that money was not appropriately spent, it was misappropriated Mr. Speaker, because when we allocated classes for each Ward, there were classes which were constructed and the others which were not. The Members in the House can bear me witness; for the few constructed, the contractors up to date have not been paid and the money was spent Mr. Speaker. That is why we have seen public resources are really misused in this County. For the Year 2023/2024 likewise Mr. Speaker, we have allocated the money and there is nothing which has been done. Mr. Speaker this is a very sad situation for people of Isiolo.

Mr. Speaker, providing those learners with the required facilities, tables chairs, books, crayons is another aspect; if they don't have classes and teachers Mr. Speaker, those are the essentials which we are supposed to have first so that we can come to other issues. If they don't have teachers Mr. Speaker if the teacher falls sick, those children are being left out, injuring one another; some even starve because of thirst and other things. The children of Isiolo, especially the ECDE pupils are really suffering. We really need extra teachers, not even one per those classes, we need two of them just in case of sicknesses or even retirement, the other teacher can handle the pupils; but leaving children like animals, even animals cannot be left like that, leave alone the children who have fathers and mothers Mr. Speaker. So, this matter is very important and I am saying Mr. Speaker, issue of CBC which Today we don't call it CBC, we are calling it CBE, Competency Based Education requires impacting the required skills for these learners. Remember this teacher is required to handle one child for a period of time to impart or to explain, for that child to get that concept. How can this teacher achieve her or his objective at the end of the day with 60 or 70 learners in one class? Mr. Speaker, that is what is resulting in the general performance of Isiolo County; we are not getting students scoring good marks because they have poor foundation. If they have not

gained good foundation, Mr. Speaker, there is nothing which they can get at the upper level of education.

Mr. Speaker, we must first strengthen the foundation so that this child can grasp those concepts. If it is a matter of reading, you strengthen it or manipulating the skills they have, they should start practicing it at that level, so that they can grow. But leaving the three quarter of the class, I can say a teacher can only handle a quarter out of those students, the rest are just left like that. What do you expect at the end of the day? How does this child achieve their dream as far as what they want to become in the future can be realized? It can't be realized Mr. Speaker because of the foundation. Let us take this matter of ECDE seriously, if we really want to empower ourselves and our community, because the only thing which can equalize each and every one in the society is through education. If the education sector dies, everything in this Country will die. That is why you are seeing people are misleading others with information, because our people don't understand. Yesterday, I was listening to the radio station, whereby a purported Speaker is explaining to communities something which does not exist, because they know that our people don't have that background of information. If they really had it, they could not be misled.

Mr. Speaker, education is very important. Let us take it seriously. Let us build more classes in our Wards or County. Let us employ more teachers. Upgrading these teachers from their job groups where they have started earning their salary is another motivation. If the teacher is stagnated in one job group for a period of Six or Seven Years, Mr. Speaker, how do you think this teacher can deliver their content? He/she is demotivated and doesn't have the interest of even imparting that knowledge Mr. Speaker. Employing, empowering, motivating them by upgrading their job group is another factor Mr. Speaker. Let us focus on this Mr. Speaker, I belong to the Committee of Education Mr. Speaker, I know how the County Government have slept on this. Let us do something and change the strategy to improve this County. Thank you.

Hon. Temporary Speaker: Hon. Nicholas.

Hon. Nicholas Lorot (Burat): Asanti sana Mheshimiwa Spika, kwa kunipatia nafasi hii kuunga hii Hoja mkono. Imeingia kwa wakati unaofaa na ambayo

imeletwa na Mheshimiwa wa Wadi ya Cherab. Mheshimiwa Spika, tumetunukiwa hii nafasi na raia wa Isiolo kuweza kuwaongoza kwa hii kipindi na ni lazima tuweze kuwa na ile moyo wa kupenda na kujali. Mheshimiwa Spika, si vyema au vizuri wakati unapeleka watoto wako katika shule nzuri, na watoto wa Wananchi waliokupigia kura wakiwa wanasomea katika hali mbovu na chafu. Shule ya Chekechea, hapo ndipo watoto huanzia masomo na asipopata msingi bora katika Chekechea, maisha ya huyu mtoto kuwa nzuri siku za usoni itachukua muda.

Mheshimiwa Spika, tuna Bajeti ya kutosha kutoka Serikali Kuu kutokana na ule mgao. Tumekuwa tukiweka kila Mwaka Bajeti ya kujenga madarasa mawili katika kila Wadi. Bajeti ya 2022/2023, mimi niliweza kupata darasa moja na ikajengwa, 2023/2024 Mheshimiwa Spika ilikuwa na madarasa mawili, moja ilikuwa pale Ezimit, ile ya Game bado mpaka wa leo haijamalizwa na yule *contractor* na hiyo Bajeti iko pale. Nilisema hiyo *contract* iweze kuwa *cancelled* ndio mtu mwingine aweze kutunukiwa. Mheshimiwa Spika, Mwaka huu wa 2024/2025 nilikuwa na madarasa mawili, moja niliweka hapa Uhuru na ingine pale Kakeli. Hayo madarasa hadi leo hazijajengwa na Bajeti imepita. Na hapo ndipo tunauliza hizo pesa ambazo tunaweka kwa Bajeti zimeenda wapi na madarasa hazijajengwa? Na ukipata katika ripoti za COB zinaonyesha hiyo Bajeti imetumika, ni nani ametumia? Mheshimiwa Spika tunahitaji kama Waheshimiwa tuweze kuamka katika kazi yetu kuhakikisha Bajeti iliyotengwa kwa barabara, kwa madawa; tuweze kufuatilia tuhakikishe hiyo Bajeti imetumika vilivyo.

Mheshimiwa Spika, ni aibu wakati kama huu kuanzia Mwaka wa 2013 hadi wa leo, Isiolo Kaunti imepata pesa nyingi sana na ukiangalia hali ya msingi kama ya madarasa na hali ya walimu, ni aibu sana kama watu wa Isiolo. Na ndiposa nimetangulia nikasema, sisi tumetunukiwa ile nafasi tuwe na ile huruma ya kuweza kujali hizi familia zingine kama unavyojali familia yako. Kwa sababu sio vyema wakati unajigamba na kusema watoto wako wanasomea shule kubwa ambayo unalipa Milioni Moja au Miwili kwa muhula moja, ilhali ule wa masikini hakuna kitu anasoma kwa kukosa mwalimu ama darasa, ni mbaya sana mbele ya Mwenyezi Mungu. Ukiangalia kwangu Mheshimiwa Spika, mimi pale nilikosa mwalimu, hata niliomba mwalimu moja pale Ezimit hakukwa na mwalimu na watoto walikuwa wanaketi chini kwa sakafu. Nilikuwa naambiwa na wazazi niwanunulie viti. Mheshimiwa Spika, ule mshahara tunapata hapa ni mdogo,

hatuna hiyo Bajeti. Hiyo Bajeti iko pale ambapo *Executive* wanafaa kutumia kwa sababu ya kuweza kuwanunulia watoto viti. Inakuwa sasa wewe ndiye unaambiwa uwanunulie watoto viti ya kuweza kukalia, ni aibu sana na sura mbaya. Kwa hivyo, tungeomba *Executive* mweze kuogopa Mungu na kuweza kuwajibika katika kazi yenu. Tukiweza kupitisha Bajeti, mweze kuitumia kuweza kuwafanyia wananchi wa Isiolo haki, kuweza kuwajengea shule mzuri na kuwawekea walimu. Hivi leo hatuna walimu kwa shule nyingi. Mwalimu akiwa mmoja peke yake, wakati atagonjeka akipata shida, ni nani atawasomesha hawa watoto? Hawa watoto watakosa masomo na watapitwa na hii muda. Mheshimiwa Kamila amekuwa mwalimu na anajua hiyo hali. Unajua katika hiyo hali, walimu hugonjeka ama apate shughuli zingine kwa vile ni binadamu na anapokosekana na ni mmoja, tunaona hawa watoto watakosa hiyo elimu.

Kwa hivyo, tunasema tunataka walimu waajiriwe, waongezwe kwa sababu tuko na Bajeti ya kutosha. Madarasa ambazo tunaweka katika Bajeti yetu zijengwe ili watoto wetu wasiweze kusomea chini ya mti kwa jua ama wakati mvua inanyesha. Pia Mheshimiwa Spika, tunataka tuongeze Bajeti yetu kwa mambo ya *fencing*, zile shule zimejengwa, tuweke *fence*, kama ile yangu haina na hawa watoto wadogo wakicheza pale, kuna wanyama kama vile Punda inakimbia hapo, wajengewe *fence*; pia wawekewe maji katika hizo shule, kwa sababu kama hawana maji na ni watoto wadogo, na hiyo ni kitu muhimu sana kwa maisha ya binadamu, hivyo wawekewe maji, *fence* na viti itakuwa ni vizuri. Kwa hivyo Mheshimiwa Spika, mimi naunga hii Hoja mkono na iweze kutekelezwa, la sivyo, watoto wetu watakaa katika hali mbaya. Tunahitaji waweze kupata masomo ya msingi, kwa sababu itaweza kuwasaidia hapo mbele hawatakuwa na shida. Asanti sana Mheshimiwa Spika.

Hon. Temporary Speaker: The Mover you have two minutes to reply, because you took a lot of time earlier.

Hon. Halima Gole (Cherab): Thank you Honorable Speaker. I thank the Members for their important inputs, and in summary, my message to the Executive Education Sector and the Committee at the Assembly is that, we know that in this ECD, some basic few classes which are built lack basic facilities and there were some which we budgeted that is not done and we know there are some recruitment which are done underground selectively with a lot of favours. We want this status

report from the Department. Also we urge the Department to ensure that the recruitment of the teachers is done within this Year, because I think this is the only Financial Year that we have within this Year, if I'm not wrong; this is the Financial Year between 2025/2026 that is funded, so we are expecting that some recruitment which are critical at the periphery schools like the Bassa are carried out. We have some schools like in Abakabale in Bassa, Alango which was displaced and Yamicha, the structures cannot allow the kids to learn, it's not conducive. So, we are expecting them to put up those structures whether it is to start with the temporary classes that has everything and then plan for the permanent ones, but there should be some emergency measures for the learning to continue, because those areas completely there's a lot of pressure. We presented these things to the respective Department, but there was no action for a long time. We expect them to react. I budgeted in this Year for Bassa, Biliqi, for one class. In Mataarba, I budgeted for it because it sunk during the rainy season and also for Godhrupa, none which was done and it was removed in the Supplementary Budget the other time which was slotted around; the Budget was removed and the Budget for Roads topped up.

I hope that maybe this Budget which was alleged to be passed in the Assembly and now it is being challenged in the in the Court, comes back to us, so that now we slot back those classes which are a need to our people. Also, some other programs like the feeding and the recruitment of teachers which are very critical, has to be in that Budget. So, we are expecting the Committee Members in the Assembly representing this ECD Education Sector to take up this concern and further follow up with the respective department, so that we are able to see this being done. Thank you Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity.

Hon. Temporary Speaker: Thank you Members. I now I put the question; That aware that Education, Vocational Training, Gender, Youth, Sport and Labor are functions of the County Government according to the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya 2010;

Further aware that Article 43 of Constitution of Kenya, 2010 states that every Citizen has Economic and Social Development right which include reasonable standards of sanitation, adequate food of acceptable quality, clean and safe water in adequate quantities, social security and education among others;

DISCLAIMER: The electronic version of the Official Hansard Report is for information purpose only. A certified version of this Report can be obtained from the Hansard Editor

Appreciating that County Executive has put up ECD centers throughout the County and continuously putting up new ECD centers to promote Early Child Education;

Further appreciating that County Executive primarily has employed substantial Early Childhood Teachers throughout the County;

Concerned that the current quality of classrooms constructed is wanting, lacking basic component that facilitate Early Childhood Development such as and not limited to modern sanitation, kitchen and kitchen wares, sufficiency of water, playgrounds with paly swings, fences affecting social security of the child, plans for physically impaired among others, hence not meeting the standards education need of Early Childhood learning environment required to develop holistic learners' physical and mental abilities;

Further concerned that many trained Early Childhood Teachers are yet not employed, while a number of constructed/established childhood centers do not have the required child to teacher ratio, hence affecting the attention that every child requires in the development of his or her Early Childhood learning.

Therefore, this House resolves that the Executive Committee Member for Early Childhood Education, Vocational Training, Gender, Youth, Sport and Labor to construct well equipped classrooms with modern studying facilities, early childhood centers and employ more ECD teachers to improve the performance of education of early learners.

(Question Put and Agreed to)

Next Order.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Temporary Speaker: The House stands adjourned until today afternoon at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 3.30 p.m.

