



OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BOMET

THIRD COUNTY ASSEMBLY

ASSEMBLY DEBATES

DAILY HANSARD

The Assembly met at the Main Assembly Chamber,

Dr. Joyce Laboso Centre at 9:30 a.m

Third County Assembly- Second Session

Wednesday Morning 25th October, 2023

(The Assembly met at 9:30 a.m in the

County Assembly Mini Chamber at County Assembly Buildings)

[Hon. Deputy Speaker (Hon. L. Rotich) in the Chair]

PRAYER

Hon. Deputy Speaker (Hon. L. Rotich): Welcome members for this morning's sitting.

I don't know if we have the quorum.

MOTION

Hon. S. Changmorik (Longisa ward, UDA): Hon. Deputy Speaker, as we continue with this important motion, I want to thank the motion mover and the committee for education. As we are aware that the motion mover is not in I want to give my statement because I was continuing yesterday with this motion.

This is a very important thing that we want to revive our VTC in our county; there were two issues that we wanted and I thank the committee for their recommendation but I'm worried if this recommendation will be implemented. Number one Hon. Deputy Speaker, is the issue of the development account that we want to involve our public through the Board of Management (BOM) chair to be one of the signatories in those accounts. You find that the Chief Officer (CO) for Education, the director for vocational training, and the principal of the school are signatories to that account. Hon. Deputy Speaker, I am worried about the accountability of the money in that account.

Another issue Hon. Deputy Speaker that I want to address is that I find the account is also being used to pay the *bodaboda* people who are transporting milk to ECDE centres. The same money for transporting milk to different ECDE centers is the money being wired to that account and the same account we don't know anybody from the public among the signatories; they are only the office that is holding the money and I'm worried about that.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, after they have given the money for development to the VTCs and Hon. Members can bear me witness to this, they just follow the money by giving them the way they are supposed to use it so the powers to the committee or the board are not vested in them, the powers

are being controlled by the Department of Education of which I am not agreeing according to the law when you read the government Act you find that the reason why we have the board of management everywhere is to man and have powers to monitor and evaluate the money being used in those facilities.

Hon. Deputy Speaker through our able chair and his committee which I thank for the work they did on this research; I want them to follow the implementation of this important institution in our various wards so that we can remove those people. I don't know why we have two people; I am really worried that we have almost three staff getting a salary from this county being the signatories without anybody from the public. On that matter, we also want these polytechnics to have money for development so that they can have the face of the country, this is our people who are enjoying this facility by getting in youths who are idle and want to make it important that we use, the polytechnics can do so many things even making some empowerment for women, men and youths which we can get from this institution.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, I want this report to be implemented and the recommendation to be followed because it is a very important document. Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker (Hon. L. Rotich): Hon. member from Longisa Ward, you said that you are worried that the report will not be implemented, what is worrying you?

Hon. S. Changmorik (Longisa ward, UDA): Hon. Deputy Speaker adopting the report by this Hon. Assembly, the implementation of the recommendation of the committee is very important and we want the committee to follow the recommendation it has made in the report. If left the executive cannot implement as we have said that these accounts to be changed, to incorporate our people also the money being wired in these facilities to be followed to make what we are supposed to do. I am worried about the implementation of the recommendation so maybe the chair on the right of reply can give us how he is going to follow the implementation of the recommendation of the report.

Hon. R. Cheptoo (Rongena/Manaret ward, UDA): Thank you very much, Hon. Deputy Speaker, allow me to appreciate the committee on education for their recommendation on the report that was asked. Maybe I can add to the issue concerning the signatories in our various vocational training colleges. In the last financial year, our VTCs were given some money and in my ward I have 2 VTCs that we were able to construct in one of them we were able to construct a gate, and the remaining money we were told was used to pay salaries for the tutors who have been employed by BOM. I am very much concerned with our tutors especially in my ward because one of the facilities has three courses that they are offering and I'm requesting the committee on education that they are supposed to have the committee go around all the VTCs to see the required

courses that should be offered in our VTCs because only the manager and maybe the people from the department of education are the ones deciding which courses are to be offered.

What they are supposed to use especially the machines, one of my VTCs is offering driving and mechanics but it is so unfortunate that the vehicle they are using is no longer moving and they don't have even spare parts. So this should be a serious issue where we should give them money for maintenance and even for spare parts.

Also, some VTCs have boarding facilities and those who have boarding facilities should also consider the safety of our students in those various facilities. Finally, I just want to say most of the board members it seems they are not involved in the issue of money, when the money has been put in the account only the manager and I think the CO from the department are the ones concerned. They are so reluctant because I asked one of them to give the breakdown of the money that was given in that VTC but he didn't have any information. So we feel that one of the board members should be the signatory and we also have the coordinators of ECDEs, I don't know why the coordinators for ECDEs are only dealing with ECDEs, it should be included with VTC so that they can oversee what is happening in our various VTC otherwise thank you so much.

Hon. J. Kipkirui (Singorwet ward, INDEPENDENT): Thank you very much, Hon. Deputy Speaker, for this opportunity. I want to support the motion by the Hon. Chair of education Hon. Ernest Rotich. Hon. Deputy Speaker, I must first of all thank the members of this committee which I'm proud to be part of for the commitment that we made that we have to work very seriously on this question that was raised by Hon. Changmorik.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, I must say that this is one of the best reports to be brought to this Hon. Assembly because we went a step ahead from one VTC to another to do some fact-finding so that we bring to this Assembly a report that is not only comprehensive but contains the content of the questions asked by the statement seeker that is Hon. Changmorik.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, this question of VTCs remains a cornerstone which we must as an Assembly resolve to give priority in terms of funding and support so that we actualize the dreams of most of the youths and most of the people who want to seek some skills or training in these institutions. As a devolved function, VTCs deserve the great attention of the county government of Bomet therefore the issue that has been raised in this committee, I am very happy that the department is also very serious about it and we are all reading from the same page.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, the few challenges that our VTCs are facing such as staffing, independence, bursaries distribution or disbursement, the few courses offered, and registration are some of the issues that we have sat on a round table with the CEC, and the rest of the officers in the department and we have a very clear plan to ensure that these issues are resolved.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, for us to have these VTCs running efficiently and effectively we must ensure that we have qualified instructors who will be giving the required technical skills to our trainees. I must say that all of us especially the members who have been elected endeavor to ensure that most of the youths in this county are empowered and I believe that the best empowerment that we can accord our youth is training.

There is a clear justification that most of the youth do not qualify to join universities, most do not join colleges and therefore this is a very important institution that we must empower our youth through therefore I urge the rest of this Hon. Assembly that come the next budget let us consider allocating sufficient funds to these particular institutions so that they can run very effectively and efficiently. Regarding the question of independence, I think during the last conversation with the CECM, we had recommended as a committee that within 2 months, they should be able to develop a policy framework that should give us a clear outline of how the members of the board can be incorporated so that they become signatories in these development accounts as most of us would wish to say. I am very happy that for the first time, we have bursaries for the students in TTCs which is a very great step for us. I think this one deserves a loud applause because by offering bursaries, we are doing what the constitution envisages us to do as a county government therefore as we look forward to dispersing these bursaries, we must also be able to walk around during functions or during *barazas* that we attend as political leaders so that we challenge most of the youth to join these institutions. Surprisingly enough, when we went around the members of the Education Committee could attest, that most of these institutions have very low enrolment and therefore it is a challenge to all of us that let us publicize or sensitize our youth to join these institutions. Of concern to me is now this issue of registration of these VTCs. We must ensure that we are enrolling students to institutions that have been registered because registration implies that they will be able to sit for the exam within the institution and it implies also that, the institution has been licensed to operate or offer the particular courses that are in that institution. So I think this is what we as a committee have to relook at and ensure that all the VTCs within our county have been registered. The courses also offered, there has to be a basic minimum number of courses offered in these institutions so that we offer a variety that will also be able to attract these students to the particular institutions. During our rounds check, we found that some of these VTCs still offer courses that I can say are outdated so let the CEC and the department come up with clear courses that are not only competitive but will also be able to connect our youth to the job market. Something also of concern which I think as a committee we should be able to undertake is to ensure that the fee charges across all these institutions are uniform. It is worth noting that you will go to an institution that is at the far end of Sotik, charges are a different figure. If you come to central or

another institution in Konoin you will find the figure varies so I believe that should we resolve these issues here, then we shall have done to the expectation of this Hon. Assembly. Let us join up together as members of this county assembly, let us give vocational training colleges the support that it requires so that we realize the mandate that we were accorded. Otherwise, I want to support this motion and urge all the members that let us support the adoption of this report. Thank you very much.

Hon. Deputy Speaker (Hon. L. Rotich): Hon. Member from Sigor ward.

Hon. P. Mutai (Sigor ward, UDA): Thank you Hon. Deputy Speaker for this chance, I wish also to congratulate the committee for the comprehensive report they gave us yesterday on this issue of TVET. It is my happiness that when we are discussing the issue of TVET, we are at home because we are discussing the matter that is based on devolution. I think the committee on education chaired by Hon. Kipkemoi from Mogogosiek Ward gave us a comprehensive report yesterday and they touched on some issues that have been affecting our TVETs at our various wards. I wish also to highlight a few things that are affecting some TVETs ...

point of order

Hon. R. Rutttoh (MCA Chemaner ward, UDA): I just want to request the Hon. Member just to use the word VTC not TVET. It is not a technical college; it is a vocational so that you cannot confuse the *wananchi* from the ground. Thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker (Hon. L. Rotich): Kindly take note of the two.

Hon. P. Mutai (Sigor ward, UDA): Thank you, I can even use the word polytechnic because they are equally the same. I wanted to say that the education in the county government is the replica of the national government. When you see the VTCs, we do not have a structured system in part of education. We do not have the coordinators as hon. member from Rongena Manaret raised a few issues on having the coordinators. When you find some of the coordinators in our wards, they do not have management skills because some of them were ECDE teachers. They were given to act as the coordinators. We do not have a structured system on the side of education when it comes to the county government. There are some issues I wanted to raise on the board of management of ECDEs, I wanted to say that we should have autonomy or an independent body being the signatories, taking full control of the VTCs as like the secondary and the Primary or the national education system, we should be having also the Board of Management in the VTCs designed curriculum is what we should also be having in our VTCs and we have capitation and the structured fees maybe having a fees structure controlled by the department of education in the county government but should be if not the same, somehow close to equal fees structures in each institution. Some of the principals or the managers are in an acting capacity so they do not have a

mandate to be in full control of those VTCs. There are some other issues also that we should as this Hon. Assembly, we should assist the department in coming up with. One of them is the structured system, and another one is the priorities we have some funds allocated to VTCs but when you find them, they rush in constructing gates while the overall fence in that institution is in poor condition so we have priorities and conditional funds. Some funds should be given by the county government in conditions either for development or for tuition. I wish also to thank the team for this comprehensive report we say that the report should be adopted by the members and we come up with a clear way to make these institutions work in our villages. Thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker (Hon. L. Rotich): It seems members have deliberated that this motion began yesterday so thank you members for deliberating on this report. Before I give a chance to the motion mover to reply to some of the issues which have been raised, I have also read the report and there is the usage of the words BOG and BOM. In the report are they used to mean the same thing? Or different. So when you will be addressing this Assembly on the reply Hon. Member kindly clarify the same. You have noted the issues raised by the members on how the report will be implemented, some members showed less faith in how this report will be implemented.

point of order

Hon. R. Cheptoo (Rongena/Manaret ward, UDA): I am seeing Hon. Bernard Langat moving when you are speaking. Kindly guide us on this.

Hon. Deputy Speaker (L. Rotich): Hon. Langat. It is reported that you are moving around when the chair is speaking. Kindly let us observe a lot of decorum and we conduct ourselves as Hon. members. Thank you.

Hon. R. Ruttoh (Chemaner Ward, UDA): I have a point of information for the Assembly. I want to inform you. As you touched on the BOM and the BOG, I also want the chair on education to briefly explain though it has been noted in the report it is not too clear to indicate the criteria by which the BOM and the BOG are selected in the community because you can find for example where I come from, you can find the BOM are concentrated on a village which means the policy which is existing at the moment if it is requiring that it should be picked on geographical areas, it means that the policy is not being followed in the ground and therefore when the chair will be clarifying and giving a reply, he should also indicate that we will do a follow up to see that the policy which is existing should be ensured that it is working and should be uniformly used across the county not just a particular area. Thank you very much.

Hon. Deputy Speaker (Hon. L. Rotich): Hon. Ernest kindly take the floor on the right of reply.

Hon. E. Kipkemoi (Mogogosiek ward, UDA): Thank you very much for the opportunity that you have given me to give a reply to the various concerns that have been raised by the Hon. members

of this Assembly. Hon. Speaker, first I want to take this opportunity to thank this Assembly for the support that they have given this motion resulting in the adoption of this report by this Assembly. The contribution by the Hon. Members has shown the weight that this report has and so that I may respond to the concerns of the Hon. members, one is a request by Hon. Kipchirchir from Kipsonoi who showed interest in supporting us in coming up with the policy framework to support this VTC. I wish to welcome the support of Hon. Kipchirchir in coming up with this bill the bill is already under drafting by the legal team of this Hon. Assembly and we welcome his support to ensure that we have this policy in place.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, the other request by the Hon. Member from Kapletundo Ward, Hon. Nathan Kibet is for us to visit Chebilat VTC in his ward. We will visit in due course. Hon. Deputy Speaker. I welcome the partnership request by Hon. Changmorik between Mogogosiek Ward and Longisa Ward. We will work and partner together to ensure the two wards excel in terms of oversight and representation.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the implementation of this report, I confirm to this Assembly that since this report has taken time to be tabled, some of the issues we raised in this report have been implemented. I believe that the CECM has shown that she will implement this report even before we adopt it in this Assembly. I assure you that this report will be implemented since she has already shown signs by giving us bursaries which we passed in our budget and some other changes in our VTCs.

I have also taken time to listen to the Hon. Members discussing the issue of curriculum. It is indeed true that we do not have a proper curriculum for the VTCs. What we rely on is the Basic Education Act which was passed by the National Assembly. There is a need for a Bill to standardize the working arrangement of the VTCs across the county.

I appreciate the comments by the Hon. Members on coordinators and quality assurance. We therefore need to reconsider our decision during the preparation of our next budget. You remember that we had allocated funds to quality assurance unfortunately that money was reallocated elsewhere.

There was a comment from the Hon. Member from the Rongena/ Manaret ward on the auxiliary support that is given to the VTCs. When we did our visits, we found out that these VTCs lacked tools and equipment to use in learning. We will still implore the CECM to continue looking into this to ensure that this auxiliary support reaches our VTCs. We are happy that some VTCs have had these funds. We will still request the department to ensure that all our VTCs are given auxiliary support. Hon. Deputy Speaker, if you visit our public works and transport department, many

vehicles are lying that are no longer serviceable. We would request that these vehicles be towed to our VTCs to be used in teaching courses like mechanics.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the issue of standardizing our fee structure. Hon. Deputy Speaker, if you look at the report, we have given the CECM until the close of this calendar year she should have come up with a standardized fee structure. This is important because this Assembly will sit to ratify the forms and the bursary act for the VTCs that will ensure that our trainees are given bursaries. Before that, we will want to have a standardized fee structure that will cut across.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Hon. Members have shown concern with signatories. It is indeed true that you can be on this side giving and also on the other end implementing and sighting. That is why we want to give these VTCs the autonomy to run their finances, especially on development. We engaged the CECM on the same and she promised to give that autonomy. We will assist her by coming up with the Bill that I mentioned. We will also inquire what Hon. Changmorik raised on how these accounts are run and communicate to this Assembly in due time.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, you raised an issue on the BOM and BOG. The word BOM in full is Board of Management and BOG is Board of Governance. These are two terms that are used interchangeably. They mean the same people. When it comes to VTCs, initially we used BOMs but we currently use BOGs.

Finally, Hon. Deputy Speaker, I laud my Committee for the work they did. Crisscrossing the county and conducting site visits was not easy. There was a day we travelled until it got dark and we were worried about our security. In fact, in the future, Hon. Members should be given security because of the nature of our work. I also thank this Assembly for their time. This is probably the most discussed report so far because everyone has had something to say about it.

I commend the CECM in charge of Education, Hon. Agnes who is doing a great job. If all CECMs were like her, this county could be far. She consults the Committee; she listens and looks to find ways and means of implementing policies passed in this Assembly. I challenge the other CECs to work with us so that we read from the same script. They need to copy what Hon. Agnes is doing. Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you.

(Question put and agreed to)

Hon. Deputy Speaker (Hon. L. Rotich): I take this opportunity to recognize the members of the public who are in the public gallery; Mr. Hillary Rotich and Mr. Joel Ruto. Welcome and thank you for having time to be in our Chamber.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Deputy Speaker (Hon. L. Rotich): There being no other business, this Assembly adjourns to today, 25th October 2023 at 2:30 p.m.