

KERICHO COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THE HANSARD

Second Assembly

Fourth Session

Wednesday, 24th June 2020

(The House met at 9.30 a .m.)

[Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): Let's proceed.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): Honorable members we have received a letter dated 23rd June 2020 from Kenya Revenue Authority this is reconciliation of tax arrears.we are in receipt of your letter dated 6th April 2020 on your request to pay Ksh. 12,933,738 in six instalments has been accepted. Kindly note that the first instalment of Ksh. 2,153,956 should be made before 30th June 2020 as opposed to July 2020 as per your proposal. Kindly see the attached.

This is a letter that is addressed to the County Assembly of Kericho in respect to tax arrears of Ksh. 12,933,738. Thank you.

Next Order!

NOTICES OF MOTION

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): Yes there is a notice of motion in respect to the budget report, Chairman Budget!

Hon. Albert Kipkoech: (Chairman Budget and Appropriation Committee): Thank you Mr. Speaker for this opportunity. I wish to give notice of the following motion, That this House approves the Report on the Budget and Appropriation Committee on the Kericho County Budget Estimates for Financial Year 2020/2021, thank you. Next Order!

STATEMENTS

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): Thank you, there is a statement by Hon. Paul Chirchir, you may raise the statement.

Hon. Paul Chirchir: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir for giving me an opportunity this morning session. I wish to seek a statement from the Committee on Water regarding the Kiboibei and Kiptunoi water projects specifically on the following;

1. How much was appropriated to the said projects?
2. What is the engineer's bill of quantities estimates for each of the said projects?
3. Status of the said projects?

Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Next Order!

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): Thank you Chairman Water? In absence of Chairman Water I direct that it should be reported back to the Assembly within two weeks in respect to statement that has been sought by the Hon. Paul Chirchir. Majority Leader you shall inform the Chairman Water Committee.

Next Order!

**MOTION BY THE CHAIRMAN BUDGET AND
APPROPRIATION COMMITTEE**

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): Chairman Budget and Appropriation Committee you may start from page 4

Hon. Albert Kipkoech: (Chairman Budget and Appropriation Committee): Thank you, Mr. Speaker before I wish to give notice of the following motion that this House approves the Report on the Budget and Appropriation Committee on the Kericho County Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2020/2021

2.0 Legal Framework of the Budget making process

Mr. Speaker Sir ,the FY 2020/2021 budget estimates have been prepared pursuant to Article(196)(1)(b),Article 201(a),Article 220(1)(a) and PFM Act 2012 Section 128 sub-Section 20, the PFM (County Government) Regulations (31) of 2015 and Kericho County Assembly Standing order 221(5)

The preparation of the Budget Estimates was guided by the following policy document and pieces of legislations:-

- The Approved Kericho County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2018-2022;
- County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP) 2020;
- Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF);
- Annual Development Plan 2020/2021;
- Interdepartmental consultations through Sector working groups(SWGs);
- The National Government Blue Print as outlined in Vision 2030 and Big Four Agenda of the President; and

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- Budget Policy Statement.

The principle of public finances as laid down in Article 201 of the Constitution where openness and accountability including public participation in financial matters has been adhered to. Resource allocation in fiscal year 2020/2021 has been directed to programs that will contribute to strategic objective as firmed up in the Seventh Fiscal Strategy Paper 2020. The FY 2020/2021 budget estimates is projected to support strategic interventions programmes among all the programmes facilitated through the departments of the County government of Kericho.

2.1 Public participation on Budget Estimates for FY 2020/2021

Mr. Speaker Sir, as required under Article 196 of the Constitution, the Budget and Appropriations committee was required to conduct public participation. However, due to the COVID -19 pandemic the committee was not able to conduct public participation but instead the budget estimates were uploaded in the County Assembly website for stakeholders and members of public to peruse and give feedback.

3.0 Budget Estimate for Financial Year 2020/2021

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The total revenue projections for the Financial Year 2020/2021 is **Kshs 7.160**billion comprising of **Kshs 5.44 billion** from National government transfers as equitable share, **Kshs 499 million** from local revenue sources, **Kshs 466.3 million** generated by County and Sub County hospitals as Facility Improvement Fund (FIF) and NHIF refunds and conditional grants of **Kshs 203.1 million**, for which is RMLF of **Kshs 162.2 Million**, User Fee Reimbursement of **Kshs 18**

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million, Development of Youth Polytechnics of Kshs **22.8** million, and donor funds amounting to **Kshs 547.7 million**, has been factored in FY 2020/2021 Budget Estimates.

Mr. Speaker Sir, The total allocation was apportioned to recurrent and development expenditures as follows:

a) Recurrent Expenditure

The total budgetary allocation for recurrent in the year 2020/2021 is a total of **Kshs 4.319** billion constituting **60 %** of entire County budget. This covers compensation to employees as well as operation and maintenance expenditure.

b) Development Expenditure

The projected development budget estimate is **Kshs 2.841** billion proportion of **40 %** of the total budget.

c) Personnel Emolument

The total Personnel Emoluments is projected to be **Kshs 3.026** billion which represents **49%** of the total revenue excluding conditional grants and donor funds against the acceptable rates of **35%** stated in the Kericho County Wages and Benefits regulations, 2016.

4.0 Examination of Budget Estimates for FY 2020/2021

Mr. Speaker Sir, in reviewing the budget estimates for FY 2020/2021, the committee on Budget & Appropriation held committee sittings on dates between 10th June to 22nd June 2020 and held consultative meetings with CEC Member for Finance and Economic Planning on 15th June 2020 to defend the departmental budget estimates and make clarifications on variances that deviated from the CFSP 2020. It is important to note that the submission of the budget estimates for FY 2020/2021 included the budget estimates for the County Assembly.

4.1 Overall Budget Estimates for the FY 2020/2021

Mr. Speaker Sir, the total budget for the FY 2020/2021 stands at **Kshs. 7,160,112,403** out of which **Kshs 4,318,825,143** is earmarked for recurrent expenditures constituting **60%** of overall budget and **Kshs. 2,841,287,260** for development initiatives constituting **40%** of overall budget.

4.2 Financing of the 2020/2021 Budget

Mr. Speaker Sir, the 2020/2021 budget estimates projected that the County would receive **Kshs. 5,443,800,000** as per CRA Equitable share, **Kshs. 499 million** as local revenue collections, Facility Improvement Fund at **Kshs. 466,386,930** and Conditional grants and donor funds amounting to **Kshs. 750.9 million**.

5.0 Departmental Budget Estimates

The specific details of the Budget Estimate FY 2020/2021 per department are as stipulated below:-

A. County Assembly

For Oversight, Legislation and representation expenses, the County Assembly recurrent expenditure stands at **Kshs 628.2 million** in line with budget policy statement and CRA ceilings for FY 2020/2021. The development expenditure is **Kshs 13 million** funded from the exchequer for construction of County Assembly Speakers residence at **Kshs 10 million** and construction of Kitchen, water closet and security office at **Kshs 3,783,193** for the County Assembly. The staff and car loan mortgages scheme was allocated **Kshs 25 million**.

B. Public Service Management and Administration

The recurrent and development vote has been allocated **Kshs 297 million** and **Kshs 5 million** respectively. Recurrent vote includes **Kshs 32 million** allocated for recruitment of enforcement officers.

C. County Public Service Board

The County Public Service Board has been allocated **Kshs 61.5 million** as recurrent expenditure.

D. Office of the Governor & Deputy Governor

The Offices of the Governor and the Deputy Governor has been allocated **Kshs 98.3 million** as recurrent expenditure.

E. Finance and Economic Planning

The recurrent vote has been allocated **Kshs. 238 million** whereas the development vote has been allocated **Kshs 327.5 million** to carry out programmes and projects under this department as per the CFSP 2020. Additionally, **Kshs 170 million** has been set aside for on - going projects under strategic interventions funded in the previous Financial Years and have been issued with LSOs/LPOs, across the county including Kipkobop water project that was recently initiated and it was not in the strategic interventions program.

The Kenya Devolution Support Program was enhanced by **Kshs 102 million** as per credit number 5765-KE as per ACPA 4 results.

To mitigate unforeseen happenings and disasters, the Committee appropriated **Kshs 30 million** under Emergency Fund.

F. Health Services

The recurrent vote for health services has been allocated **Kshs 1.954 billion** and development expenditure of **Kshs.493.7Million** to carry out programmes, projects and medical supplies for medical, promotive and preventive services for Kericho County.

G. Agriculture, livestock and Fisheries

The recurrent and development expenditure was allocated **Kshs. 152.9 million** and **Kshs.359.9 million** respectively. Enhancement of industrial crops vote under this department is to be shared equitably among the 29 Wards of Kericho County.

H. Education, Youth Affairs, Culture and Social Services

The recurrent budget was allocated **Kshs 430 million** and the development vote has been allocated **Kshs. 247.6 million**. A line item under purchase of sports gear and accessories be considered during the supplementary under recurrent vote since it is appreciated by the CFSP 2020 yet not provided for as it was earlier placed under development in the CFSP 2020.

The Committee appropriated Kshs 30 million for the recruitment and promotion of ECDE caretakers in the FY 2020/2021 in the recurrent vote.

Under the construction of ECDE Classrooms and ablution block, Kshs 151 million was set aside to be equally shared among the 29 Wards. However, the committee in consultations with members of respective Wards ceded allocations from the line item of constructions of ECDE classrooms towards the following:-

- i. Kshs 2 Million towards construction of Leldet Youth Polytechnic in Kamasian Ward
- ii. Kshs 3 Million each towards construction of a social hall at Kapkatet and Kipchebor Wards;
- iii. Kshs 2 million for construction of a dormitory at Kipkoiyan Youth Polytechnic in Kapsuser Ward
- iv. Kshs 1 million towards construction of a youth polytechnic at Kedowa Kimugul ward
- v. Kshs 1 million towards completion of Roret social hall in Kisiara Ward
- vi. Kshs 1 million towards construction of Chelilis Youth Polytechnic in Chemosot Ward.

I. Public Works, Roads and Transport

The recurrent vote has been allocated **Kshs97.3 million** whereas the development vote has been allocated **Kshs 998 million** in the FY 2020/2021. **Kshs 683 million** has been appropriated

equally among the 29 Wards for construction of county roads out of which **Kshs 11.9 million** will specifically cater for emergency roadworks across the County under this vote.

J. Trade, Industrialization, Cooperative Management, Tourism and Wildlife

The recurrent vote has been allocated **Kshs 63.9 million** whereas the development was allocated **Kshs. 34million**.The vote under trade and market development was allocated **Kshs.26 million** to be shared equally among the 26 wards. Kshs 3 million from Kipchebor, Kipchimchim and Kapkugerwet Wards was allocated to co-finance World Bank project for construction of a modern market in Kericho Town.

K. Water, Environment, Forestry, Energy and Natural Resources

The recurrent and development votes have been allocated **Kshs. 118.4 million** and **Kshs. 219 million** respectively as per the CFSP 2020.

L. Lands, Housing and Physical Planning

The recurrent and development votes have been allocated **Kshs. 109.6 million** and **Kshs. 114.24 million** respectively in the FY 2020/2021 under this department

M. Information, Communication and E-Government, Youth Affairs and Sports

The recurrent vote has been allocated **Kshs 68.3million** while the development vote has been allocated **Kshs 28.4 million**.

6.0 Committee Observation

The committee made the following observations as follows:-

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- i. That there were notable variances in the budget estimates received by the County Assembly;
- i. That despite the challenges posed by COVID – 19 pandemic, the County Assembly observes that revenue targets can be attained;
- ii. That Fiscal discipline should be observed all times to avoid penalties outlined in Section 107 (2) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 as far as equitable share is concerned;
- iii. The Kenya Devolution Support Programme was enhanced by Kshs 102 million;
- iv. That the approved budget estimates seems not to be publicized by the concerned CEC;
- v. That the departments have always received approved budget estimates late thus hampers implementation of procurement plan and on-going projects.

7.0 Committee Recommendations

The Committee on budget and appropriations recommends as follows:

- i. That in preparation of the County Budget Estimates the departmental CECs should consider and observe the County Fiscal Strategy Paper relating to that Financial Year and other legislations;
- ii. That the receivers of revenue under the guidance of Finance and economic Planning works hard to meet the revenue targets despite the challenges of Covid –19 Pandemic;
- iii. That each accounting officer initiates procurement procedures as early as possible to facilitate the implementation of development projects in this county. Disciplinary action shall be taken against individual Chief Officers should they fail to initiate and implement the budget as passed by this honorable House. In undertaking the procurement processes, the County Treasury shall adhere to provisions of Section 33 of the public procurement and Asset Disposal Act, 2015;
- iv. That each County Chief Officer adhere to the provisions of Section 149 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 to the letter and that each departmental CEC adhere to Section 107 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012;

- v. That the CEC Member in charge of Finance and Economic Planning should publish and publicize the approved budget estimates as per section 131(5) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012;
- vi. That the County Assembly sectoral committees should make sure that the approved budget estimates is actioned by the respective departmental CECs.

Allow me to tell members that we received Unspent Balances for financial year 19/20 today in the morning and I hope you have a copy and just allow me to read the developmental figures and recurrent figures so that at least later on we will accommodate in our estimates

8.0 Acknowledgement

The Committee wishes to thank the Offices of the Speaker and the Clerk of the Assembly for the necessary support extended to it in the execution of its mandate. The budget making process would have been in complete without the involvement of key stakeholders namely; the County Executive Committee Members led by the CECM Finance and Economic Planning, members of the public whom the committee is grateful for their invaluable input.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

It is my pleasant duty, on behalf of the Budget and Appropriations Committee pursuant to Standing Order 221 (6) to table the Report of the Kericho County Budget Estimates for FY 2020/2021 for consideration by this Honorable House.

Otherwise thank you Mr. Speaker and I wish to call upon Hon. Hezron Ngetich to second Thank you

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): Majority Leader?

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Hon. Hezron Ngetich: (Majority Leader): Thank you Mr. Speaker for this opportunity I have gotten so that I can second this motion on the report Kericho County Budget Estimates for Financial Year 2020/2021, first I want to acknowledge the work done by the on Budget and Appropriation Committee for the tireless work they did and ensure that no stone was unturned as you know budget is a tedious work and it needs dedication. I want to thank the committee for consideration on the key big four agendas of the President while appropriating funds when you see the department which took large chance of allocation mainly department of Health and Roads which are the key department in our country and again I would like to thank the committee for addressing the unspent balances. This report analysis of unspent balances is a guide going forward because there are some departments that when we allocate funds even if we allocate the resource they cannot spend. I am so shocked a department like Trade which normally receives not much allocation cannot even exhaust because up to now we have a lot of unspent balances. On such departments like Roads and Public Works which carries a large junk and am so sure that most are committed it just waiting to be paid. But departments like Agriculture and Trade which should commence the procurement of works on the onset of the financial year, I would like to thank the Committee because on their recommendation they made it clear that all the Chief Officers would be responsible. On the recommendation No. 3 that each accounting officer initiates procurement procedures as early as possible to facilitate the implementation of development projects in this county. Disciplinary action shall be taken against individual Chief Officers should they fail to initiate and implement the budget as passed by this honorable House. I like that recommendation. If we as the body that is responsible for oversight ,if we will stick and hold these people responsible I think the development in this county will rise. Having analyzed this unspent balance it is a wakeup call because budget is a consultative process I think it is in good reason that we should negotiate for. If you look at these unspent balances that is a lot of money which is unspent on recurrent and all of us understand what happens when recurrent money is not spent, it affects our bigger basket of the financial year and yet here we have been crying saying that we didn't meet the revenue target and again we have some big projects like strategic intervention, Kipkobob water project in Bureti which is lacking funds not mentioning

other projects like Ainamoi Sub County Hospital which needs funding not forgetting the forgotten Kisiara Pineapple Plant which needs a lot of funds. Right now we need to build the Assembly and we have the money here lying in recurrent instead of us using this money, it is being returned to National Treasury. I think we need to sit and advise the Executive. We sometimes need to sit and consider the marginalized like we did on Agriculture. If you see other departments like roads, education we appropriated money equally but when we come to Agriculture, we appropriated money equitably. That shows that even us in marginalized areas we want the people to get the value for money and improve other areas which are below because there is no need for us to allocate money for industrial crops and building tea buying centers in areas that don't grow tea. So I think you should be gentle and considerate enough to allocate some money equitably at least for areas like Kipkelion, Soin and part of Ainamoi. Otherwise I want to thank the honorable members the committee and the whole House for giving us the humble time as we were deliberating on this. I also want to thank your office Mr. Speaker and the office of the Clerk for the support we received. I will not forget the secretariat that is very dedicated to ensure that the committee gets facilitated with any information they require. So with those few remarks, I wish to second this motion thank you.

(Question Proposed)

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): We shall have Hon. Anthony Ruttoh. But Before that we shall have Hon. Alex Bett.

Hon. Alex Bett: Thank you very much Mr. Speaker for giving me this opportunity to make a contribution on motion by Budget and Appropriation committee. First and foremost let me take this opportunity to congratulate the committee on Budget led by very able Chair Honorable Albert Kipkoech from Soliat ward. Indeed this is a budget that was prepared putting in mind the needs of the common Mwananchi and for the first time I think in this House we have prepared the budget basing it on CFSP. I think I am one of those people who are very happy today because when I go through the budget at least I am glad because some of the things that we have been agitating for have been addressed. When you look at the areas which are really touching

common Mwananchi like roads, water, health, those are areas which have taken large junk of revenue allocation. The only area that I am also surprised for the first time has been brought into light is the area of unspent balances. We have been thinking that there is no money in some of these departments but unfortunately today as we go through the list that we have heard, we are forced to think otherwise. Our thanks go to our Chairman for Budget for pressing some of these departments to come up with unspent balances but in the past some of these balances have been hidden. When I look at areas like agriculture and see a huge balance recurrent balance of forty one million indeed I think as our Majority Leader has put it we need to have another supplementary budget so that we appropriate some of these balances but I would wish to congratulate some of the departments who have been spending and have been working tirelessly to make sure that the funds we give is put into use. One of those areas is the health services. We realized that health services usually have huge allocation but today in development we can see only a balance of seventy two million that is actually a plus. We would want to urge this House that in future any appropriation to department should be based on their balances at end of the financial year. There is no need of lumping a lot of money to a department that is almost defunct. The same happened to agriculture that was having balances on development of one hundred and ninety eight million. This house should be tougher on some of these departments. I think it is high time that we put them in to accountability so that areas that we think have been putting their monies in to proper use should be added more money like water, roads. We should urge that more monies should be put in that areas I would want to differ with the Majority Leader who said that we should share monies in future equitably. I want to say that in the past two financial years we have been doing equitably but for this time we having only I think one more budget before our term is ended. Can we be allowed so that we be sharing this thing equally so that at least some of us who have been having strain budget especially on roads may also have something to do for next two financial years. I would want to urge that even as we go for that supplementary budget there is something that has been in my heart and I had shared even with the honorable members and that is the area of milk factory in our county. We are not supposed to be a county with all the rains and all the livestock that we have and unfortunately we don't have a milk factory, the other

day I watched a documentary on TV from one farm from Kapsoit and he was appreciating the fact that he has a lot of milk that he produces and the price for milk range between Ksh 45 to 60 per litre but unfortunately the part that he pointed out was that all that money he collects is not easy to make in to use because he cannot take it to bank and he cannot use it to borrow any loan or he cannot use it as a security. So what he was urging is that there should be a place to take the milk for a whole month then at end of the month he can may be take feeds on credit for his animal it could have been even better. I am sure most of us are livestock breeders like Hon. Chirchir from Kapsoit is one of the best example when it come to the animal breeding. Can we in future as we go to the supplementary budget some of these monies which is hanging here in recurrently can put it into use. Let us help our farmers and ourselves too because I am sure some of us as we retire those are some the areas we will major in. Mr. Speaker Sir, I want to support this budget and want urge the other honorable members to support it. Let us debate on it with maturity and let this document pass. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): Thank you, the Honorable Collins Biegon!

Hon. Collins Biegon: Thank you Mr. Speaker sir for giving me this opportunity, I think I would want also to congratulate the budget committee for a job well done together with the secretariat for having this budget pass in due time and having it ready in the manner that it is. I would want to comment on the unspent balances. It very unfortunate that some of the departments that the Majority Leader mentioned that there are departments that are too big or too small but still having unspent balances up to today and I think as much as we want to blame the CEC or CO of this department I think the buck also stop at us the sectorial committees because once we pass this budget we are the body that can oversight these monies and its use. So we cannot just sit down wait until we pass another budget and then complain that the department has not used its money.

Number two is that it is a sectorial committee we were elected by our people to make sure that we do development in our wards in a manner that will be beneficial to our people. So every sectorial committee, every Chairman of each sectorial committee your chairman on behalf all the

members that are elected and on behalf of our people of Kericho County, let us not just sit down and wait until we pass another budget and then complain once this passage of this budget is done. By July all the sectorial committees should have started working and call the CEC so that we are aware of the procurement plans so that we move together until such a point we have complete absorption of the monies that we pass here. So I think that is very important and each sectorial committee should change the way to operate and become very strong and also on part of the implementation committee I think you have a lot of work Chairman so that you see to it that we don't have such kind of unspent balances come next financial year.

Lastly I will want to thank all the members of budget committee because we have a request that this time we share the resources equally but equitably and equally. We are not very far much apart because the issues that we have been complaining also as members of those wards in quote that other members we feel we are ahead of them is issues of priority. Let me use an example of town may be I may not have too many roads that I am opening but even garbage collecting alone is a lot of money that is needed. I talked to environment director yesterday and is telling me that the dump site is full and we only have a maximum of two years to use that dump site. There will be no space however much they are trying to move it so there has to be discussion also as much as we want a lot on roads or water also want a lot on sewerage and the garbage collection so it matter on priority. So equitable and equality is almost the same thing. As we are discussing just the way you want for water I want for tea buying centers so when I give you thirty million for water I want fifty million for tea buying centers because I am having the tea. So it is a matter of sharing the county cake or sharing the resource that come to county because all of us are accountable to the people. I give eighty million, I get ten million so what value do I add to my people I think going forward as we discuss, let it be an issue of priority. If your priority is water let us subject this budget to discussion so that we use the monies that come to your ward toward water if may priority is agriculture and tea buying centers let skew my money toward those priorities so that we can solve my people's problems. Otherwise Mr. Speaker I rise to support this motion entirely thanks you.

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): Thank you. Honorable Anthony Ruttoh.

Hon. Anthony Ruttoh: Thank you Honorable Speaker for giving me this opportunity so that I can also contribute.

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): Yes Honorable Chief Whip!

Hon. Gilbert Ngetich (Chief Whip): Thank you Mr. Speaker I think you had initially indicated that wearing a mask is compulsory. I am surprised to see Hon. Anthony coming here and he is above sixty wearing a mask carelessly amidst this corona issue. I request that you make Honorable Anthony to care for his health before the budget thank you Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): Thank you the Honorable Anthony I am informed that you are beyond sixty it is important for you to put on the mask properly.

Hon. Anthony Ruttoh: In addition to that Corona virus spares nobody irrespective of age. Thank you so much Ho. Speaker for giving me this opportunity so that I can contribute to this very important issue. First and foremost I want to comment the good work that was done by the committee on budget led by our able Chair Honorable Albert Kipkoech. I want to appreciate the good work that was done because of the following recruitment and promotion of ECD teachers. Setting money for recruitment and promotion of ECDE teachers is a very important. I think we know initially ECDE teachers were paid by the community where the schools are but I want to say that this budget is very important in the sense that it has considered recruitment and promotion of ECDE teachers. Another very important thing again is that a lot of money was allocated to the department of health roads. These are two key departments that are very important as far as raising living standard of our people. Unfortunately Mr. Speaker I have very pertinent issues as far as unspent balances in our county...

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): Yes the Honorable Cheruiyot Bett! What is it?

Please proceed on honorable Anthony Ruttoh.

Hon. Anthony Ruttoh: Honorable Speaker it is unfortunate that we have a lot of unspent balances in our county and yet we have so many projects that have not been initiated in our county. So I want to agree with honorable members who have said that immediately we start the next financial year 2020/2021 each sectorial committee should summon our respective CECs and COs of respective departments so that they can explain to us the reason why there are so many unspent balances in their departments. Another reason why we have a lot of unspent balances in our county is because of procurement process; in fact our departments are very slow as far procurement process is concerned.

Lastly I want to agree with Majority Leader by saying that resources in this county should be shared equitably. The reason is that we come from Kericho County but we are not provided with the same resources due to the geographical factors and many other things. So I disagree with sharing of resources equally. When we go to Kipkelion for example our wards are expensive while others are small for example in Kipkelion ward, I have five locations while other wards have only one location. So in future I want to say resources should be shared equitably so that at the end of the day our sub counties or wards come up in terms of development. So I want to end there Honorable Speaker by saying that I support the approval of this particular budget thank you so much.

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): Thank you so much Hon. Anthony. The Honorable Ann Tonui! The Honorable Dennis Kirui!

Hon. Dennis Kirui: Thank you very Much Mr. Speaker for giving me a chance to contribute, in supporting this motion. I want to say the following;

Number one, I want to congratulate the Budget and Appropriation Committee led by the Chair in doing such a wonderful work. This budget cuts across every department and resources have been shared well in the entire department and more so based on the absorption rate of each department. I am very sorry to mention this that some of the departments are not even able to spend the donor funds for example, like the honorable Alex Bett talked of a milk processing

plant, it got my eye because there is what we call ASDSP in Agriculture . Mr. Speaker it goes to more than Ksh 41 Million and they have not spent these money, reason Mr. Speaker is because the COs or rather the CECs are slow in matters relating to procurement and that is why I join hands in supporting what the earlier Honorable members have said that immediately the financial year starts all the sectoral committees should follow up on this matter of procurement.

Mr. Speaker let me say something about this ASDSP in Agriculture, there is Ksh 41 Million; the committee on Agriculture should be involved fully in determining on how this money should be shared amongst the wards, though it is driven by the proposal given by the members of the public. The committee on Agriculture should spear head the sharing of this money, for members this ASDSP is Agricultural support program, it is funded by a donor and we should leave this money to the department to decide on how they are going to spend the money rather it should be an agreement between the committee and the department on how this money should spend.

Lastly I want to differ with the Honorable Member Alex Bett who earlier said that resources should be shared equally. I differ with that because wards are not the same in matters of topography, square kilometers and population. So resources in future and even if possible starting with this budget should be shared equitably, so that the other wards that are marginalized, that have not developed should come up and be at bar with the other wards.

I only want to note, May be it was typo in page nine under ECDE, item no(iv) where it says “Ksh. 1 Million was set aside towards construction of a youth polytechnic at Kedowa/Kimugul ward” because I was sitting in this budget committee what I said as the honorable member from that ward is that Kshs. 1 million should be set aside for renovation of a social hall in Londiani and not construction of a youth polytechnic. Mr. Speaker is it realistic that Ksh 1 million can construct a youth polytechnic? I beg to support. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): Thank you, the Honorable Dennis Kirui, the Honorable Grace Koech!

Hon. Grace Betty Koech: Thank you very much Honorable Speaker for giving me this opportunity to rise and support the report on the budget estimates. I want to thank the Committee and the members for the work they have done. I don't want to repeat so much but I want to make some few observations on the unspent balances. I want to say that I want to urge the committee that in the near future if it will be possible to invite or call up on the relevant CECs or COs to come and explain during the budget process if it is possible so that this issue of unspent balances should not be interrogated during the plenary session. The committee members are the ones who were supposed to give us the reasons why this one was there. So If it possible through the in the near future for the committee to invite the relevant CEC members to come explain, it will be better.

Secondly, I want to make a contribution while I appreciate the allocation of the Ksh 30 million which has been appropriated towards this recruitment of the ECDE caretakers. I would like to seek a clarification and am happy my chairman Education is here. Whether the scheme of service has been put to effect because if we talk of promoting and recruiting these ECDE caretakers without the implementation of the scheme of service, in the first place, these ECDE caretakers are being recruited on contractual basis. So their terms of service are to be reviewed every two years though I am not sure. So we cannot talk of promotion of these ECDE caretakers before confirmation. So how I wish to note that the scheme of service be implemented because this will act as guide line. This one will give us the direction to know how many are in this particular grade so that they are going to be promoted from this grade to the next one and then secondly we will get to know that this is the number that we have in this job group and when we are recruiting we know the number that is required, so that is the kind of direction I want to know. When we put it this way, you cannot promote somebody whom you have not confirmed, that one cannot work. Thank you Honorable Speaker. I want to thank the committee I know they have done a very good job, thank you very much.

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): Thank you, the Honorable Erick Bii!

Hon. Erick Bii: Thank you Honorable Speaker for this opportunity you have given unto me just to support the report from the committee on Budget and Appropriation. I want to thank the committee members chaired by the Honorable Albert Kipkoech. Even though during the process of doing the budget I was chased miserably but nonetheless the report has come to the House and I want to say that they have done a great work.

(Loud consultations)

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): The Honorable Erick Bii please proceed!

Hon. Erick Bii: Thank you Mr. Speaker, well, when I look back at that time during the budget process the Honorable Cheruiyot Bett was around and I believe he has send his apologies. I am not a member to the Budget Committee but actually I wanted to be co-opted as a member so that I give the report on the youth and the people I represent in this county but none the less I was told that I should also seek an invitation but that is not the issue right now. The report has come to the House and we want to support this report. The financial year 2020/2021 is the second last in this House and we should be aware of each and every thing we are passing in this house will haunt us , because we are remaining with only two financial years that is 2020/2021 and 2021/2022. So this report from the committee is a very good report and I want to make my comment that in the department of Public Service Management where the enforcement officers have been allocated some funds, the department should have a clear framework because we are going towards the end of our term and I don't know whether theses enforcement officers will stay forever if there is no clear framework and guidelines. I want to request that we sit down immediately after this budget is passed so that we can see way forward if we are putting funds every year for these enforcement officers, have we put the guidelines and directives? So that immediately we are out of this House, these enforcement officers should stay forever and should be given terms which are good, permanent and pensionable or it depends on our directives.

Secondly, the Health Services department, we have seen and actually as we speak right now there is this COVID-19 pandemic and there are several issues that are going on in the department

of Health. I have seen the funds are well captured but there is also an improvement of health workers, there are some health workers who are being employed right away and we want also to see if these health workers were to be employed on contract, will it be sustainable? Are we going to sustain the health workers? So funds are good amount and it will sustain them for a while, what shall we do as Honorable House that makes and allocate funds in the budget? What are we going to do so that we improve their salaries? I know as a committee member these health workers are earning around Kshs 30,000 on contract basis. This amount is so small that even me personally before I came to this house, I was getting around Ksh 50,000. So I want to ask as a Honorable member as we budget this amount, can we see also how we can sustain them or we can give them a better wage so that they can earn their life and proceed with their life.

Lastly the honorable members have discussed and I don't want to repeat, there is an issue of unspent money, I think there is no need for a person who doesn't utilize the funds which has been given by this Honorable House, the person who delays in using the money should be removed from the office. Let the said person come and tell us why they have not spent the said money at the right time. So that we should not be getting some money hanging, or being taken to back to the Treasury and I know one thing now is that the revenue collection will be poor. I don't know what will happen after this pandemic because the county procedures are shaky and things are not going in the right direction. I don't know whether we are going to be given funds as per the revenue collections. So let's urge the executive so that they do their work to continue collecting revenue, so that as we budget we have the money which has been given by the Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA) otherwise I want to support this report. Thank you

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): The Honorable Erick Bett!

Hon. Erick Bett: Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me this chance and I wish to support this motion for today. I only have just emphasis because today we want to give new life to new budget because we are going to pass today. Mr. Speaker let me take you to the committee recommendation and my focus in on number three and number six because I think it has a lot of emphasis as the Chair of the Committee on Implementation. Once you pass this report, the

committee recommendation becomes our documents in follow up the resolutions of the House. So I wish to say that number three “that each accounting officer initiates procurement procedures as early as possible.” This has been a problem across the board because if you look at unspent balances you realize that it is because of laxity. When we were reviewing the estimates we were able to meet the Chief Officer for Agriculture and we were worried because the time she came before the committee she could not explain why they have taken time to requisition the items in the budget line. So Mr. Speaker we really wish to be very keen on number three to make sure that they are requisitioned in time. Number six, the last recommendation says “that the county Assembly sectoral committees should make sure that the approved budget estimates is actioned by the respective departmental CECs” this one I want to emphasize and call upon the sectorial committees because the committee on implementation will not work alone. We need to work together and make sure that by the first quarter at least by end of September 2020, we should at least do a road map, a sketch map in terms of what each department is doing to requisition for these particular items because it has been a huge problem.

Mr. Speaker I also wish to inform this Honorable House that, it has been a concern on the issue of equitable share of resources and there is a bill am sponsoring called the Kericho County Revenue Allocation Bill 2020 already published, so I want to inform members who have been having issues to do with sharing resources, that there is a bill already and will be discussing very soon. So once it comes to the committee stage, I want to urge those members who feel like we should share these resources equitably so that they can give their input and once passed, this bill will put to an end this issue of sharing resources in terms of equitably or equally. Mr. Speaker Sir I wish to support the motion and say that may we have the best financial year ever, thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): From my list, the Honorable Cheruiyot Bett, we shall thereafter have the honorable Hesbon Tonui and Beatrice Tonui.

Hon. Cheruiyot Bett: Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving the people of Ainamoi a chance to also have a say in the budget estimates. I thank the committee on budget for a work well done; I want to thank the chair most sincerely because of his devotion to this committee. I also want to take

this opportunity thank the secretariat especially the Budget officer and the research officer because these are the people who have always been there doing the paper work. This is a very good budget and I think if the County Executive is going to implement this budget then I have a lot of hope that come 2022 out of the 47 members who are here at least 5 of us coming back but as it is I think the chances are almost zero because there no more work that has been done in our various wards and you know if you get a lot of new members coming back , you will also have chances of coming back as the Speaker because when we have new members it will be hard for all of us. So I think what the members have said is that we need to put the executive into account and implement the budget the way it is. Mr. Speaker as the chair for Education Committee, I have always said that this is a department that has suffered more than any other department because of the changes and the instability that I have experienced in this department because we have heard for a period of three years; we have more than four COs being shown the way and also CECs, they have been changed every other time. In fact as we speak now we already have a new CEC in this department. The CEC that was approved I think three weeks ago in this County Assembly for ICT has already been given a letter to be the CEC in charge of education, so that has been a major challenge in the department that I lead at the county assembly. That is why we always have a lot of issues in this department. However I have always tried my best to lead oversight in this department and in a year or so at least we have seen some kind of development. The Honorable member of Chemosot can attest to this, because at least some things are being done in almost every ward. So Mr. Speaker we will put them to account. For the 30 million for recruitment and promotion of ECDE caretakers, Hon Grace Betty is a member of this committee wants the clarification and I know may be she has gone out and may be when she comes back; Ksh 30 million is very small amount of money. We are faced with the challenges of getting more funds for these caretakers; they are not even teachers, because we have not employed them as teachers. The scheme of service is already out but the executive is adamant, they don't want to implement the scheme of service but once the scheme of service is implemented then we put them as permanent and pensionable. Because they have served as casuals for almost seven years. I want to urge the honorable members, that you might not know the next Assembly, the next

members of County Assembly, the next government, and the next governor for example because we need to look for funds so that we employ those already in service on permanent and pensionable and also increase the recruitment of new others as casuals. The basic education Act requires that we should have two ECDE teachers for PP1 and PP2. We should also have two ECDE classrooms. That is what the basic education Act requires in fact should not even be two ECDE classrooms it should be depending on enrollment of children in those classes; because the basic education Act requires one teacher to be teaching a class of 25 pupils Mr. Speaker. But when you go to various schools you will realize a teacher is teaching around 80 or even 100 so we still have a long way to go and it is only this County Assembly to appropriate more funds so that we employ more put those already in temporary employment under permanent and pensionable terms. So I can assure you that Ksh 30 million is a drop in the ocean but what can we do and yet the resources are limited? So we will begin with that and I want to thank the members of Budget and Appropriation committee because at least for once we enhanced, as we will at least recruit some but the best thing is we put them on permanent and pensionable. I also want to urge you that we should also increase funds for polytechnics. I want to thank the few members from Chemosot, Kapkatet, Kapsuser and Kisiara this are the members who hived some of the money meant for building ECDE centers in their wards to at least improve existing polytechnics. We should not because both of them are our priorities in education. We should not be taking money from another deserving area under the same department and move to other department, we should be putting aside money for polytechnics differently and for ECDE centres differently. You are alive to the fact that currently there are very few vacancies in the white collar job and the future of this country depends on this other tertiary colleges and polytechnics because the rate of unemployment in this country is very high. We need to take most of our youths to these polytechnics so that they get skills that they will use to uplift their lives in future because of kind of challenges this country is facing. So may be in future we need to appropriate funds for building or improving the existing polytechnics because we also need ECDE centres, but I want to thank few members who got there and put them to polytechnic. Lastly going by what the honorable members have discussed here, the spirit of the Constitution is that some areas

are more developed than others. The chair of finance is here, respected Bishop Hon. Alex Bett, is good in finance but I don't know what happened today because you can never share resources equally, the spirit of the Constitution is that resources should be shared equitably. Hon Vice chair for budget at least had some good information because it is the areas of priority where you cannot share resources equally. Even in our community there is a saying that rivers are not the same. You cannot for example in my sub county, my ward is 67 square kilometers and I am the leading in terms of jurisdiction, we have a ward for example where honorable Chair Implementation comes from, his ward is 20 square kilometers but also when it comes to population in his ward, may be population is a bit higher compared to my ward. So we should be sharing resources equitably know the bill if he brings that bill it will assist us those members that we feel aggrieved. Even the national government if you look at commission on revenue allocation has some criteria for giving out money to various counties. One of the criteria is poverty index, County like Kericho cannot be compared to a county like Turkana. Because Kericho County is somehow more developed than Turkana County that is why they are getting higher allocations. They are using population also, the number of people in that county and area of jurisdiction covered. So we don't want to travel the route that the Hon Alex Chair finance want us to travel that we share resources equally, but should be equitable. We also need another bill, if in the bill honorable Chair Implementation doesn't capture all what we want, we need ward development fund, so that you prioritized what you want to do in your ward that would even solved this issues of fighting for this resources that we should share equally, but I know the honorable members will look at that and may be provide a solution. Finally Mr. Speaker on the issue I want to say that we do not have a flagship project in this county, it is unfortunate because the governor will leave office without a tangible flagship project like other counties have done. In my view the only flagship project is the Green Stadium which has been face lifted and it is the only flagship project that this government will leave in this county. We had the airport that never ever picked up, we had the infamous or the famous 'Lesebet' case that took around Ksh 200 million of tax payers' money but no case has been filed. So I think the governor should pull up his socks and at least do some flagship projects like the one honorable Chair Finance has said

that we should have a milk factory in this county. Feeding program is another key area, if we introduce a feeding program in this county then it would necessitate the county government to at least put up may be a milk processing plant so that at least we get the milk from such factory to feed our children.

Otherwise with those very many remarks on behalf of the people of Ainamoi I want to say that Trade department never utilized funds because of may be CEC who was there but I have a lot of hope. From where I sit, I am informed that the Hon. Birech is now in charge of trade. And I know the 34 million that have been appropriated to that department will be spent as soon possible because he delivers. So I know the trade department that we have been complaining about has been injected with new blood. And I know Birech is a good man he is a friend of mine and I know will turn around the department to where it is supposed to be. Thank you Mr. Speaker and I support this report.

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): Thank you, the Honorable Hesbon Tonui!

Hon. Hesborn Tonui: Thank you Mr. Speaker for allowing me to rise and support the motion on behalf of people of Cheplanget ward whom I represent. This budget from the unspent balances, we want to say in future or in this financial year 2020/21 we want this fund to be utilized. So I want to support my colleagues by saying that I border Bomet and Nyamira County, so in future we need ambulance in Bureti SubCounty. We have this new ambulance to be bought this financial year which goes to Roret which is under Roret Division. And in Kapkatet sub county hospital we have got an ambulance that is Bureti division but in Cheborge division where I represent we have no ambulance. So Mr. Speaker I would like to support my colleague Hon Alex we have been spending this balances equitably in all the financial years from 2017/2018, 2018/2019, 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 but I urge the honorable members the last financial year that is 2021/2022 let us share this resources equally. So Mr. Speaker if we are allocated Ksh 2.8billion for the next financial year that 2021/2022 when we divide among the 29 wards, every ward should get 96 million. So if all of us wants to come to this house come the year 2022 let us allow this house to share equally. Because in Bureti we have got this pineapple plant, it is a very

big project, Kipkobob water project, if we can put Ksh 21 million per year and is a project of Ksh 246 million so we can end up dissolving this parliament before we have completed that project. So I have seen most of the departments here have got unspent balances from the development budget. There is no need to allocate a lot of money and the department end up not utilizing the money given to them. So this financial year as my colleague the Majority Leader said, that let us see this financial year that the Executive starts doing their part so that we can do our part also, that is oversight. So I rise to support this motion.

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): Thank you, the Honorable Beatrice Tonui.

Hon. Beatrice Tonui: Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me this chance to support, but before that I want to seek clarification on the issue of pending bills. I can see the budget has not factored in and I have heard many people complaining of unpaid work done. I have heard a lot of contractors crying here and there they have not been paid for work done not this *mahewa*, the work that they have done nicely, I seek clarification. Number two I want to support Hon. Alex on the issue of milk factory. That one will help all of us especially we women. Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir.

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): Thank you, Hon. Gilbert Ngetich!

Hon. Gilbert Ngetich: Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me this opportunity to represent the people of Kisiara ward. To also support the budget and congratulate the committee members for work well done lead by able Chair Hon. Albert from Soliat ward. This budget which of course will determine the fate of us elected members. I'm very much appreciative when I see recommendation number three, which has been reiterated so much by the many honorable members. It is the way to go that will really have this people accountable, the CECs and COs from the onset, we have to start it now, and we have to start as we pass this budget. We need to have time to also follow up on a plan to implement on the very budget. Because this budget will take us to some levels when implemented fully. I was also seeing an issue on unspent balances, and I'm seeing departments which have been listed and the first ones claiming that they are

having no money that is trade and agriculture but we are seeing they do have unspent money, meaning there some people sleeping on the job and we have to put them to be on toes. As Hon Collins said it is not only the CECs and departments and COs, you will also be liable that we actually follow them through departmental committees. The department of agriculture should pull up their socks, committee members should also pull up their socks. I'm sure you know that I'm the majority whip and I am coming up with new changes in the two departments, this one is unquestionable I will bring the changes and you will read to the house and I am very sure the changes will alleviate the work of which should be done by the department. I'm sure the department of trade and agriculture which of course have no work done. Thank you Mr. Speaker I know this thing we really need to deliver as Hon. Cheruiyot Bett has said. It is the department of education that will actually make us have some light, the caretakers will be taken care of but now, where is that money? We really have a stringent budget, we did a lot of balancing which of course we like this caretakers, in future let us consider them and have them permanently employed in this county. Let me appreciate the members, who have really mentioned the project in Kisiara that is pineapple plant, which has been a song since 2013. I am however grateful that there is some work being done, there is some work remaining still which of course needs some funding.

I appreciate and I support Hon Alex that we need to have a factory especially placed in Bureti Sub County because we do have some milk even though in small amount. Eventually when we add up we will have milk to process. I'm very sure that in the long run we need to have this in our side. As Hon. Collins said, the issue of equitably will come up because now we will have money for milk factory and other areas will have money for their priorities. But for now let us work on the equally sharing of resources, which of course you know last year We had equitable sharing of resources which I am very sure some wards benefited especially the marginalized wards I want to congratulate the honorable Majority Leader for the work done out of the equitable sharing of resources from the last fiscal year. He has really done some good work compared to other wards, which of course that is where we can improve our county at large. Thank you Hon Speaker and May God bless this Assembly and this county as we progress. Let

me urge honorable members to be careful and wear masks because I'm very sure you know we have reported about two or three COVID-19 cases, which of course we may not know the environment we are living in because as we depart in the evening no one knows where each honorable members goes to. So we need to be extra careful irrespective of that age. Thank you so much.

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): thank you, the honorable Albert you may respond.

Hon. Albert Kipkoech: Thank you Mr. speaker for this opportunity, I want to thank members for supporting this motion and I want to remind you that next week after the approval of appropriation bill we need to call the COs and procurement officers, so that we participate this time round in preparation of procurement plan. So that we can know which type of project can be done in first quarter, second and third quarter until all this money is absorbed. Otherwise on the issue of pending bills there is a committee working on pending bills headed by Hon. Josiah and basically immediately they give us the report that is when now we consider in putting some money for pending bills. Otherwise Mr. Speaker thank you for this opportunity.

(Question put and agreed to)

(Adjournment)

The Speaker (Hon. Dominic Rono): Hon Members the assembly is adjourned till 2:30 in the afternoon. Thank you.

(The house rose at 11:30am)