

THARAKA NITHI COUNTY ASSEMBLY

THE HANSARD

10th June 2020

The County Assembly met at the

County Assembly chambers in Kathwana at 9.30am

[The Speaker (Hon. D.J. Mbaya) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

Hon. Speaker: Honourable members, good afternoon and welcome to this sitting, next order.

PAPERS LAID

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS
ON THE THARAKA NITHI COUNTY GOVERNMENT BUDGET
ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2020/2021

Hon. Speaker: Yes, honourable Godfrey Murithi, the chairman committee on budget and member for Karingani.

Hon. Muchiri: Thank you honourable Speaker. I rise to lay on the table of the house the report of the committee on finance budget and appropriations on the Tharaka Nithi county executive and County Assembly budget estimates for the financial year 2020/2021.

(Paper laid on the table accordingly)

Hon. Speaker: Thank you honourable Godfrey Muchiri. Next order.

NOTICES OF MOTION

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE BUDGET AND
APPROPRIATIONS ON THE THARAKA NITHI COUNTY GOVERNMENT
BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2020/2021

Hon. Speaker: Yes, honourable Godfrey Murithi, the chairman committee on budget and member for Karingani.

Hon. Muchiri: Thank you honourable Speaker. I rise to give notice of the following motion. That, this Assembly adopts the report of the finance, budget and appropriations committee on the Tharaka Nithi County Executive and County Assembly budget estimates for the financial year 2020/2021 tabled in the Assembly on 5th May, 2020.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you honourable Murithi Godfrey Muchiri. The notice of the motion pursuant to Standing Order number 67 has been duly acknowledged. Next order.

MOTION

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE BUDGET AND
APPROPRIATIONS ON THE THARAKA NITHI COUNTY GOVERNMENT
BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2020/2021

Hon. Speaker: Yes, honourable Godfrey Muchiri, the chairman committee on budget and member for Karingani.

Hon. Muchiri: Thank you honourable Speaker. I rise to move the motion that, this Assembly adopts the report of the finance, budget and appropriations committee on the Tharaka Nithi County Executive and County Assembly budget estimates for the financial year 2020/2021 tabled in the Assembly on 5th May, 2020.

Mr. Speaker with your permission allow me to skip the introduction, committees mandate

...

(Interjection; point of order)

Hon. Speaker: Yes, honourable Justin Kithinji, member for Magumoni. You stand on what Standing Order?

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Hon. Kithinji: Thank you Mr. Speaker. How are the members supposed to interrogate and debate the report of the Budget committee when we don't have it?

Hon. Speaker: Yes, honourable Muthini?

Hon. Karangi: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Due to the Corona virus pandemic, we have been receiving reports and documents digitally through our phones and we received the report last evening.

Hon. Kithinji: Mr. Speaker sir I did not receive it.

Hon. Speaker: Yes, honourable Denis Mutwiri, member for Mugwe.

Hon. Denis: Thank you Mr. Speaker. According to Standing Order number 49 we are supposed to be provided with these documents 12 hours before the sitting of the Assembly starts. I did not receive the report in that time to be able to read it and understand it properly.

Hon. Speaker: Yes, honourable Margret Gitari, do you have the report?

Hon. Margret: Mr. Speaker I also do not have the report.

Hon. Speaker: Yes, honourable Bonifacia Njeri.

Hon. Njeri: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Incidentally I got mine from the message box at the County Assembly so maybe they didn't look at their boxes.

(Laughter)

Hon. Speaker: Order members! honourable Njeri, Order! Yes, Honourable Mwenda Gataya.

Hon. Gataya: Honourable Speaker we all know where we are. This is an era of academics and I think there was a guidance on this honourable house to how we are supposed to receive documents. So the house business committee has this message on this report of the Finance, Budget and Appropriations committee. It is there and I think everybody has it.

(Loud consultations)

And those that are saying...

(Continued loud consultations)

Hon. Speaker: Honourable members!

Hon. Gataya: Honourable Speaker protect me. Can I be respected?

Hon. Speaker: Yes.

Hon. Gataya: I am on the floor. So basically unless you want to introduce some unnecessary politics, every member in this house is in possession of the report.

Hon. Speaker: Yes, honourable John Njagi Mucee.

Hon. Njagi: Thank you Mr. Speaker sir, I just wanted to wait and see if the report is in my phone and I have found it there but maybe someone could have had a phone that has no bundles. Second, these electronic messages are simple, the concern can just send again to avoid this wasting time so that we can go ahead, thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Honourable Njagi on the issue of airtime, of course pursuant to the provisions of the SRC and the directions thereof, all members are supplied with airtime.

(Honourable Kithinji attempts to catch the eye of the Speaker)

No you already spoke honourable Kithinji.

Hon. Kithinji: Mr. Speaker but I was mentioned dishonourably.

Hon. Speaker: Honourable Justin Kithinji I will give directions.

Hon. Kithinji: Mr. Speaker allow me please. There is a member who dishonoured me by saying that it looks like some MCAs are...

Hon. Speaker: That is another subject honourable Justin Kithinji. And I have given directions. Honourable members I have listened to the point of order raised by the

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honourable member for Magumoni and I have also consulted the secretariat and I have also listened to the majority of the members. I have no reason not to believe the members of the secretariat that the report is duly forwarded in the usual manner that other documents are forwarded to the honourable members I do direct the honourable member for Karingani, the chairman budget to proceed and continue with his report.

(Applause)

Hon. Muchiri: Thank you honourable Speaker. On behalf of the Members of the Committee on Finance...

(Loud consultations)

Protect me Mr. Speaker.

On behalf of the Members of the Committee on Finance, Budget and Appropriations and pursuant to the provisions of Section 131 of the Public Finance Management Act 2012, and Section 37 of the Public Finance Management regulations 2015 it is my pleasure and duty to present to the House, the Committee's Report on the County Executive and County Assembly Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2020/2021.

Hon. Speaker: Honourable member for Karingani.

Hon. Muchiri: Thank you honourable Speaker. You see I was interrupted before I continue but now I seek the leave of the house before...

Hon. Speaker: You have to understand, honourable member for Karingani that matters concerning budget are emotive. You must give members their space. Kindly proceed.

Hon. Muchiri: Thank you honourable Speaker. Allow me to seek the leave of the house so that I can move the motion on the report of the select committee on Finance, budget and appropriations committee on the Tharaka Nithi County executive and Assembly budget for the financial year 2020/2021.

Hon. Speaker: Do you have 2 members in support.

Hon. Muchiri: Honourable Speaker I have honourable Kabii and honourable Gataya.

Hon. Speaker: Yes, honourable members.

Hon. Kinegeni: Mr. Speaker I support.

Hon. Speaker: Yes, honourable Gataya do you support that the leave of the house is granted?

(Honourable Gataya stood in his place and bowed to indicate support)

Hon. Speaker: Honourable members pursuant to the provision of Standing Order number 3 and with the sympathy of the Speaker, there being two members in support, the leave of the Assembly is hereby granted. Kindly proceed.

Hon. Muchiri: Thank you honourable Speaker for granting the leave of the House. I rise to move the motion that, this Assembly adopts the report of the finance, budget and appropriations committee on the Tharaka Nithi County Executive and County Assembly budget estimates for the financial year 2020/2021 tabled in the Assembly on 5th May, 2020.

It is my pleasure On behalf of the Members of the Committee on Finance, Budget and Appropriations to appreciate the honourable members for the support that they have given the committee during this particular time when we are going through the budget. I also thank the honourable members of the committee on budget for the time they have sacrificed especially during this particular time we have Covid-19. I also want to thank the office of the clerk for the good work they have done, especially the clerk of the committee. We have worked tirelessly so that we can have this report in this House.

With that Mr. Speaker allow me to skip the membership of the committee, the committee mandate since every one of us is aware of that. I will go straight to the background.

The Public Finance Management Act, 2012 Section 131 provides that the County Assembly shall consider the County Government Budget Estimates with a view to approving them, with or without amendments, in time for the relevant appropriation law

and any other laws required to implement the budget to be passed by the 30th June in each year.

The Budget Estimates for the County Assembly and the Executive for the Financial Year 2020/2021 were tabled in the House on 5th May 2020 and committed to the Committee on Finance, Budget and Appropriations pursuant to Section 131(2) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 and Standing Order 243 for consideration.

The Committee held eight meetings where it met twice with the County Executive Committee Member in charge of Finance and the County Assembly Service Board.

On behalf of the Committee, once again, I have the honour and pleasure to present the Committee's Report on the The Tharaka Nithi County Assembly and County Executive Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2020/2021.

In the committee we are guided by the legal requirements. Allow me to go through the legal requirements that we follow.

The Public Finance Management Act, 2012 provides guidelines on the budgeting process.

Section 131 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 provides that:

(1) The County Assembly shall consider the County Government budget estimates with a view to approving them, with or without amendments, in time for the relevant appropriation law and any other laws required to implement the budget to be passed by the 30th June in each year.

(2) Before the County Assembly considers the estimates of revenue and

expenditure, the relevant committee of the county assembly shall discuss and

review the estimates and make recommendations to the county assembly, and in finalizing the recommendations to County Assembly, the committee shall take into account the views of the County Executive Committee member for finance and the public on the proposed recommendations.

(3) An amendment to the budget estimates may be made by the County Assembly only if it is in accordance with the resolutions adopted regarding the County Fiscal Strategy Paper and if—

(a) any increase in expenditure in a proposed appropriation, is balanced by a reduction in expenditure in another proposed appropriation; and

(b) any proposed reduction in expenditure is used to reduce the deficit.

(4) Where a Bill originating from a Member of a County Assembly proposes amendments after the passing of budget estimates and the Appropriations Bill by the County Assembly, the County Assembly may proceed in accordance with the resolutions adopted regarding the County Fiscal Strategy Paper and ensure—

(a) an increase in expenditure in a proposed appropriation is balanced by a reduction in expenditure in another proposed appropriation; or

(b) a proposed reduction in expenditure is used to reduce the deficit.

(5) Not later than twenty-one days after the County Assembly has approved the budget estimates, the County Treasury shall consolidate the estimates and publish and publicize them.

(6) The County Executive Committee member for finance shall take all reasonably practicable steps to ensure that the approved budget estimates are prepared and published in a form that is clear and easily understood by, and readily accessible to, members of the public.

The public Management Act Regulations 2015;

Section 37 of the Public Finance Management Act regulations, 2015 provides that:

(1) Where a County Assembly approves any changes in the annual estimates of budget under section 131 of the Act, any increase or reduction in expenditure of a Vote, shall not exceed one (1%) percent of the Vote's ceilings'.

- (2) *The County Executive Committee member shall submit a copy of the budget estimates approved under paragraph (1) to the National Treasury within 14 days of its approval.*

The Tharaka Nithi County Assembly Standing Orders;

Standing Order 243 of the Tharaka Nithi County Assembly Standing Orders provides that:

- (1) *The Member of County Executive Committee responsible for finance and the accounting officer of the Assembly Service Board shall, not later than 30th April, respectively submit to the Assembly Budget Estimates and related documents specified in law for the County Government, and Assembly.*
- (2) *The County Executive Committee Member responsible for Finance shall submit other related documents as provided for under section 130 of the Public Finance Management Act in respect to the County Executive Budget Estimates submitted under paragraph (1).*
- (3) *Provided that the Budget Estimates shall not be admissible, unless the respective estimates for County Executive and the Assembly contained in the overall Budget Estimates are in accordance with the ceilings approved by the Assembly in the County Fiscal Strategy Paper.*
- (4) *The Leader of the Majority Party or a member designated by the Assembly Business Committee shall, within three days of submission of the Estimates and the documents contemplated under sections 129 and 130 of the Public Finance Management Act lay in the Assembly the documents.*

Which were laid.

- (5) *Upon being laid before the Assembly, the Estimates shall be deemed to have been committed to each Sectoral Committee without question put, for each such committee to deliberate upon according to their respective mandates.*

I want to thank the honorable members, especially the sectoral committees because they brought their reports and we considered what they brought with a lot of attention.

- (6) *Each Sectoral Committee shall consider, discuss and review the Estimates according to its mandate and submit its report and recommendations to the Finance, Budget and*

Appropriations Committee within twenty-one days, after being laid before the Assembly.

I have said they did that.

(7) The Finance, Budget and Appropriations Committee shall consider and review the Estimates and make recommendations to the Assembly, taking into account the recommendations of the Sectoral Committees, the views of the Executive Committee Member in charge of Finance and the public.

We have done that also. We involved the public and there were memoranda that were brought.

Hon. Speaker: I have directed that the lights be put on so that you can read your report well.

Hon Muchiri: Thank you honourable speaker even though I was comfortable. I am not that old my eyes are okay.

(8) The recommendations of the Finance, Budget and Appropriations Committee shall include a schedule showing the proposed ceilings for each vote in respect of the recurrent and development expenditures and the respective proposed expenditures for each program.

(9) The Assembly shall, on a motion, that 'This Assembly adopts the Report of the Finance, Budget and Appropriations Committee on the Budget Estimates for the County Executive, and Assembly tabled in the Assembly on ...' consider the Report and adopt it.

(10) Upon the Assembly resolution on the Report-

(a) The recommendation for increase or reduction on any particular Vote as resolved by the Assembly will serve as notice of intention by the Chairperson of the Finance, Budget and Appropriations Committee to move the particular amendments on the concerned Vote in the Committee of Supply.

(b) The Speaker may require that an appropriate Addendum be made to the Estimates as tabled to reflect the amendments made by the Assembly on the Estimates or respective Votes.

(10) The Clerk shall, within three days submit the resolution of the Assembly including a schedule containing the respective ceilings for each vote to the County Executive Member for Finance.

Mr. Speaker those are the legal requirements that guided us while going through the budget. Allow me to say we have the overview of the budget estimates for the financial year 2020/2021 for the two arms of the government namely; the County Executive and the County Assembly.

The budget estimates for the two arms of government namely, the County Executive and the County Assembly were tabled in the County Assembly on 5th May 2020 having been submitted to the County Assembly in line with the provisions of Section 129 of the Public Finance Management Act 2012. Having been submitted and in line with the provisions of Standing Order 243 the Estimates of Revenues and Expenditures stood committed to the Sectoral Committees and the Finance, Budget and Appropriations Committee for consideration and reporting.

The provisions of Regulation 37(1) of the PFM (County Government) Regulations 2015 dictate that *“Where the County Assembly approves any changes in the annual estimates of the budget under Section 131 of the Act, any increase or reduction in expenditure shall not exceed 1% of the Vote’s ceilings”*

The committee looked at the extent to which the submitted budget conforms to the Constitution provisions, the Public Finance Management Act, previous resolutions of the County Assembly on various budget documents and the County Assembly Standing Orders.

Section 130 (1) details the key documents that should accompany the budget estimates. These include the following:

- i. A summary of budget policies including revenue, expenditure, debt and deficit financing;
- ii. An explanation on how the budget relates to fiscal responsibility principles and the financial objectives; and

- iii. Memorandum by the County Executive Committee Member for Finance explaining how the resolutions adopted by the County Assembly on the County Fiscal Strategy Paper have been taken into account.

With regard to the format of the Budget, the budget estimates should include:

- i. A list of all County government entities that receive funds appropriated from the budget of county government;
- ii. Estimates of revenue projected from the equalization fund over the medium term;
- iii. All revenue allocations from the national government over the medium term, including conditional and unconditional grants;
- iv. All estimated revenue estimated by broad economic category;
- v. All estimated expenditure by vote and by programme, identifying both recurrent and development expenditure;
- vi. Loans made to the government including an estimate of principal, interest, and other charges to be received by the county government in the financial year in respect to this loans;
- vii. Information regarding payments to be made by the Government that does not require national legislation authority; and lastly;
- viii. Statement by the County Executive Committee Member for Finance specifying the measures taken by the county government to implement recommendations made by the County Assembly with respect to the budget for previous year or years.

Mr. Speaker, we have a schedules of how we are to work on the budget. And Mr. Speaker because we have already worked on it allow me to skip it.

Hon. Speaker: Kindly proceed, permission granted.

Hon. Muchiri: Honourable Speaker the County Treasury has by and large complied with the requirements of the law on the documents that should ideally be submitted together with the estimates for the financial year 2020/2021.

A Look at the Overall Budget for FY 2020/21;

County total proposed budget for the Financial Year 2020/2021 is Kshs. 5,179,465,196, comprising of Kshs. 3,462,014,388 (67 per cent) and Kshs. 1,717,450,808 (33 per cent) allocation for recurrent and development expenditure respectively.

Revenue Analysis;

To finance its budget, the County Government expects to receive Kshs. 3,861,300,000 from the equitable share, Kshs. 993,165,196 as loans, grants and donations and to raise Kshs. 325,000,000 from its own source revenue.

Recurrent expenditure;

The total proposed recurrent expenditure is Kshs. 3,462,014,388 comprising of Kshs. 1,950,306,906 (56.3%) to be incurred on personnel emoluments and Kshs. 1,511,707,482 (43.7%) on operations and maintenance. Health sector (which includes medical services, Public health, and sanitation) has the highest recurrent budget allocation at Kshs. 1,556,813,901 representing 45% of the total recurrent budget.

Development expenditure;

The proposed development expenditure is Kshs. 1,717,450,808 representing 33.2% of the proposed budget. Roads, Infrastructure, Public Works and Industry led in allocation at Kshs. 495,085,840 followed by Agriculture and Cooperative Development at Kshs. 457,959,659.

We have a table, and I believe the honourable members are following. We have each department, what it was allocated in the CFSP, the proposed budget 2020/2021 and the deviation from the CFSP. The committee goes through the CFSP to see if there is any deviations; and if there is any the CEC has to explain to the committee with a written memorandum. With your permission Mr. Speaker, I will not read that because it is a table and figures. We already have the CFSP and the budget and we have considered both of them.

Row Labels	CFSP 2020 BUDGET CEILINGS	PROPOSED BUDGET ESTIMATE S 2020	DEVIATI ON FROM THE CFSP 2020
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Livestock, Veterinary And Fisheries Development	130,066,278	130,055,800	(10,478)
Administration And Public Service	265,629,829	269,529,734	3,899,905
Agriculture and Cooperative Development	565,652,420	574,380,937	8,728,517
County Assembly	500,000,000	420,000,000	(80,000,000)
County Public Service Board	22,789,381	22,762,798	(26,583)
Education And Vocational Training	298,499,636	310,811,468	12,311,832
Energy & Housing	11,758,017	19,257,500	7,499,483
Finance And Economic Planning	233,429,574	376,662,130	143,232,556
Lands, Physical Planning, Urban Development, Housing And Environment	295,513,712	315,588,712	20,075,000
Medical Services	1,499,792,076	1,356,980,245	(142,811,831)
Office Of The Governor And Deputy Governor	135,783,542	143,803,042	8,019,500
Public Health And Sanitation	330,946,518	280,946,518	(50,000,000)

Roads, Infrastructure, Public Works and Industry	474,090,363	557,606,440	83,516,077
Trade and Resource Mobilization	115,056,557	115,080,802	24,245
Water Services and Irrigation	191,600,756	194,460,109	2,859,353
Youth, Sports, Culture And Tourism	69,182,961	91,538,961	22,356,000
Grand Total	5,139,791,620	5,179,465,196	39,673,576

We have the departmental analysis;

Analysis indicates examples of sectors which failed to comply with the County fiscal strategy paper guidelines thus affecting other sectors and also the sectors that were affected by these deviations.

One we have the County Assembly;

County Assembly proposed budget is Kshs.500 Million comprising of Kshs.400 Million and Kshs.100 Million for recurrent and development respectively. County executive intends to allocate Kshs.420 Million to County Assembly against the fiscal strategy paper 2020 recommendation. Such reduction will affect the development expenditure of the County Assembly. Currently County Assembly has a commitment of unpaid certificates amounting to about Kshs.37 Million in relation to construction of the County Assembly chambers and Offices at the County Headquarters. The County Assembly is also required to construct an official residence of the Speaker by the end of FY 2020/21 which is budgeted for at Kshs.20 Million.

Second we have Health Sector;

Medical services

The Medical services department proposed budget for FY 2020/21 is Kshs. 1,356,980,245 against Kshs. 1,499,792,076 in the County Fiscal Strategy paper, 2020 ceiling resulting to a variation of Kshs. 142,811,831.

Public Health

Public health and sanitation proposed budget for FY 2020/21 is Kshs. 280,946,518 against Kshs. 330,946,518 County Fiscal Strategy paper 2020 ceiling resulting to a variation of Kshs. 50,000,000

In this view the following programs will be affected negatively as follows in comparison to Financial Year 2019/2020.

Programmes	Sub programme	2019/20 budget	2020/21 projected estimates	Remarks
General Administration, planning and support services	Human resource management	Kshs. 1,275,768,572	Kshs. 929,693,954	Decrease of budget for human resources in terms wages and salaries.
	Procurement of medicine, medical and other suppliers	Kshs. 191,400,000	Kshs.174,180,571	Decrease in budget of procurement of drugs and other suppliers.

Preventive and promotive health services	HIV & aids support services	Kshs. 3,600,000	Kshs. 1,300,000	Decrease of budget for HIV & Aids support service
	Reproductive maternal and child birth	Kshs. 1,100,000	Kshs. 900,000	Decrease of budget for maternal and child birth.
	Environment health services	Kshs. 17,650,000	Kshs. 9,562,200	Decrease of budget for environment health services

Third in Water services and irrigation;

The Water, Environment and Natural resources sector proposed budget is Kshs. 194,460,109 which represents 75% growth in expenditure from the current financial year 2019/20. This sector has deviated from the County fiscal strategy paper ceiling by increasing its proposed expenditure by Kshs. 2,859,353.

Fourth in the Agriculture, Industry and Cooperatives;

Proposed budget for this sector is Kshs. 574,380,937 which represents 82% growth in expenditure from the current financial year 2019/20. High growth rate can be attributed to

increase in conditional grants in this sector. This sector has deviated from the County Fiscal strategy paper,2020 ceiling by increasing its proposed expenditure by Kshs. 8,728,517.

Fifth in the Youth, Sports, Culture and Tourism;

Proposed budget for this sector is Kshs. 91,538,961 which represents 49% growth in expenditure from the current financial year 2019/2020. This sector as deviated from the County Fiscal strategy paper ceiling by increasing its proposed expenditure by Kshs. 22,356,000

Sixth in the Finance and Economic Planning;

Proposed budget for this sector is Kshs. 376,662,130 which represents 30% growth in expenditure from the current financial year 2019/20. This sector as deviated from its County fiscal strategy paper ceiling by increasing its proposed expenditure by Kshs. 143,232,556.

Seventh in Roads, Infrastructure, Public Works and Industry;

Proposed budget for this sector is Kshs. 557,606,440 which represents 90% growth in expenditure from the current financial year 2019/20. This sector as deviated from the County Fiscal Strategy Paper, 2020 ceiling by increasing its proposed expenditure by Kshs. 83,516,077.

Eighth in Education and Vocational Training;

Proposed budget for this sector is Kshs. 310,811,468 which represents 36% growth in expenditure from the current financial year 2019/20. This sector as deviated from fiscal strategy paper ceiling by increasing its proposed expenditure by Kshs. 12,311,832.

Ninth in Energy and Housing;

Proposed budget for this sector is Kshs. 19,257,500 which represents 33% decline in expenditure as compared with financial year 2019/20. This sector as deviated from fiscal strategy paper ceiling by increasing its proposed expenditure by Kshs. 7,499,483

Tenth, in the Office of the Governor and Deputy Governor;

Proposed budget for this sector is Kshs. 143,803,042 which represents 2% growth in expenditure from the current financial year 2019/20. This sector as deviated from fiscal strategy paper ceiling by increasing its proposed expenditure by Kshs. 8,019,500.

In conclusion, the presentation of the budget estimates for the Financial Year 2020 -2021 marks the culmination of the budget cycle that commenced with the consideration and approval of the Annual Development Plan for the year 2020-2021. Budgets implement government annual agendas by giving life and fiscal health to approved plans and policies. The Committee is called upon to consider the tabled estimates with an aim of the County Assembly approving them with or without amendments. In such consideration the Committee is required to be faithful in verifying that the budget has been aligned to approved plans and policies, it has lived within the tenets of the underpinning law, the resources being requested have been accounted for in the PBB and it has observed the principles of equality and equity. Before making any recommendations on annual financial estimates the Committee is required to take into account the views of the Sectoral Committees, the public and the County Executive Committee Member for Finance.

Honourable Speaker, we have the submissions by the county executive committee member in charge of finance on the budget estimates for the financial year 2020/2021;

Pursuant to Section 130 of the Public Finance Management Act 2012, the County Executive Committee Member in charge of Finance and Economic Planning made the submission below:

Key Budget Policies;

The main budget policies that have guided the preparation of the 2020/2021 budget are outlined in the strategy put in place to identify the priorities to be funded in the medium term 2020-2023 in the 2020 Fiscal Strategy Paper approved by the County Assembly in March 2020. The strategy that was adopted involved prioritization of key sectors and functions in order to:

- Maintain a balanced budget where total expenditure is equal total expected revenues hence no need for a deficit in financing measures;
- Ensure that development priorities give attention to ongoing and stalled projects, county flagship projects and operationalization of completed projects. This essentially entails giving priority to software development aspects than to brick-and-mortar;

- The general goal is to gear expenditure towards mitigating and responding to the vagaries of the COVID 19 pandemic which include strengthening operations of our healthcare facilities, establishing an intensive care unit in the upcoming outpatient block at Chuka Referral Hospital and stepping up our pandemic monitoring strategies by strengthening the capacity of Community Health Workers (CHVs);
- Linking programs and intended objectives with clearly defined inputs, outputs and outcomes through performance monitoring, evaluation and reporting;
- Ensure cash flows, procurement and implementation/work plans are harmonized to ensure coherence in execution of core functions taking into account resource constraints;
- Ensure public participation and feedback mechanism is strengthened through enactment of a Tharaka Nithi Public Participation bill and policy thus giving the public priority in governance and when selecting projects for funding, and;
- Debt Financing Policy - The County Government has no plans to obtain medium-to-long-term debts, however it will ensure the short term (operational) debts arising from unsettled supplier accounts (pending bills) are settled promptly.

Fiscal Responsibility Principles;

In line with the Kenyan Constitution, the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act, 2012, the PFM regulations, and in upholding the principles of Public Finance Management, the County Government has adhered to the fiscal responsibility principles as set out in these statutes as indicated below:

- (a) Ensure adherence to the ratio of development to recurrent of at least 30:70 on annual basis and over the medium term, as set out in the legal framework- Section 107(2) of the PFM Act 2012

(Loud consultations)

Honourable Speaker I kindly need your protection.

Hon. Speaker: Honourable Members kindly consult quietly. And while at it also ensure that you maintain the guidelines on Covid-19.

Hon. Muchiri: In line with the Kenyan Constitution, the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act, 2012, the PFM regulations, and in upholding the principles of Public Finance Management, the County Government has adhered to the fiscal responsibility principles as set out in these statutes as indicated below:

Ensure adherence to the ratio of development to recurrent of at least 30:70 on annual basis and over the medium term, as set out in the legal framework- Section 107(2) of the PFM Act 2012. In the in the financial year 2020/21 budget the development to recurrent ratio is 33:67.

- (b) Regulation 25 (1) (b) of the PFM (County Governments) requires that County wage bill shall not exceed 35% of the total revenue hence the County Government will respect ratios guiding the wage levels. The allocation to salaries in the financial year 2020/2021 is 37.7% of the total county budget hence need for CPSB to put in place elaborate measures to address the same in the medium.
- (c) Tharaka Nithi County Government will make prompt payments for contracted good and services. In the proposed budget for FY 2020/2021 the County Departments have prioritized and made provisions for payment of overdue supplier payments arising from previous financial years.
- (d) The County Government's recurrent expenditure shall not exceed the County Government's total revenue. The total recurrent budget in the financial year 2020/2021 will be about 66.8% of the total county revenues.
- (e) Over the medium term a minimum of 30% of the County Government's budget shall be allocated to the development expenditure. In the FY 2020/2021 and medium term, the projected county allocation for development is 33.2%.
- (f) Over the medium term, the government's borrowings shall be used only for the purpose of financing development expenditure and not for recurrent expenditure. The County Government intends not to obtain commercial loans. However, pending supplier payments from previous financial years shall take precedence and be settled promptly.
- (g) The county debt shall be maintained at a sustainable level as approved by county assembly; The proposed budget for FY 2020/21 contains no debts financing and hence no repayment plan.

- (h) The fiscal risks shall be managed prudently. The fiscal risks identified in the 2020 CFSP will be mitigated using the proposed framework and further measures shall be employed for emerging risks.
- (i) Reasonable degree of predictability with respect to the level of tax rates and tax bases shall be maintained, taking into account any tax reforms that may be made in the future. Through the Finance Bill 2020, the County Treasury will continue to institute fiscal discipline that fosters stability and enhances predictability of taxes, fees and charges levied by county government.
- (j) Ensure there are sound fiscal policies and uniform practices for managing county resources.
- (k) Ensure that there is equitable sharing of burdens and benefits of the use of resources and public borrowing between the present and future generation. Thus, the County Government shall make prudent policy decisions today so that it does not impose an unnecessary debt burden on future generations.
- (l) Ensure that the development portfolio is not crowded out by increasing wage burden.

Honourable Speaker we have the Financial Objectives;

The financial objectives for the County government have been implemented as explained below with respect to the County Fiscal Strategy paper and the prevailing emerging economic needs. Honourable Speaker because this table is from the Budget I think the members have gone through it.

Department	Recurrent CFSP Ceiling	Development CFSP Ceiling	Total Ceiling	Sum Of Proposed Recurrent Budget FY 2020/21	Sum Of Proposed Development Budget FY 2020/21
County Assembly	400,000,000	100,000,000	500,000,000	400,000,000	200,000,000
County Public Service Board	22,789,381		22,789,381	22,762,798	
Finance and Economic Planning	196,469,877	36,959,697	233,429,574	239,419,880	130,000,000

Livestock, Veterinary and Fisheries Development	87,098,778	42,967,500	130,066,278	87,088,300	4
Medical Services	1,397,679,214	102,112,862	1,499,792,076	1,275,867,383	8
Office of Governor and Deputy Governor	135,783,542		135,783,542	132,803,042	
Public Health and Sanitation	330,946,518		330,946,518	280,946,518	
Trade and Revenue	115,056,557		115,056,557	115,080,802	
Water Services and Irrigation	51,230,988	140,369,768	191,600,756	51,216,109	14
Youth, Sports, Culture and Tourism	43,907,961	25,275,000	69,182,961	43,507,961	4
Energy and Housing	11,758,017		11,758,017	4,257,500	1
Agriculture, Cooperatives and Industry	116,692,761	448,959,659	565,652,420	116,421,278	45
Education and Vocational Training	242,754,444	55,745,192	298,499,636	242,173,771	6
Environment And Natural Resources	23,013,728	-	23,013,728	23,013,728	
Lands, Physical Planning, Urban Development,	84,329,984	188,170,000	272,499,984	84,404,984	20

Public Administration and Devolution Affairs	265,629,829		265,629,829	269,529,734	
Roads, Infrastructure, Public Works and ICT	62,573,272	411,517,091	474,090,363	73,520,600	49
Grand Total	3,587,714,851	1,552,076,769	5,139,791,620	3,462,014,388	1,71

Allow me to go directly to the Financial deviations that the committee noticed.

Hon. Speaker: Permission granted kindly proceed.

Hon. Muchiri: Honourable Speaker, the notes for the deviations in the financial objectives are as follows;

- a) The general variations in the recurrent ceilings for the departments are due to the rationalization of the personal emoluments following restructuring of county payroll.
- b) The increase in the development allocation for the department of Finance and Economic Planning is due to the provision for Level II grant of Kshs. 137.2 million from the Kenya Devolution Support Program funded by World Bank. This follows meticulous performance where the County Government scored 86% Annual Capacity Assessment for financial year 2018/2019.
- c) The decrease of the Medical Services and Public Health budgets is due to the reduction in recurrent budget as a result of the review of the loans and Conditional grants and other donor funding to the sector. In my previous statement I said that there are deviations from the CFSP and that is why we are explaining the reason for the deviations.
- d) The allocation to the office of the Governor increased after the transfer of legal services from the department of Public Administration and Devolution Affairs.
- e) The allocation of Roads, Transport and Public Works increased by 26% due to inclusion of the ICT Department following the changes in the administrative functions.

- f) The development budget for the Department of Energy and Housing is due to provisions for rural electrification projects targeting key areas such health facilities.
- g) The increase in development budget for Lands, Physical Planning and Urban Development is due to provisions for pending bills and completion of ongoing projects multi-year which are expected to receive their funding in the next financial year 2020/2021.
- h) The allocation to the department of Education and Vocational Training increased due to the increase in the conditional grant for the Youth Polytechnics.
- i) The variation within the other departments were within the allowable limits of less than 3%.

Consideration of County Assembly Resolutions;

The County Treasury has considered and implemented the recommendations proposed by the County Assembly during approval of Annual Development Plan for 2019, County Fiscal Strategy Paper 2020 and Annual Budget Estimates FY 2019/2020 as follows:

- a) The County Government has allocated Kshs 3 million to Kamonka Irrigation project has recommended by the committee;
- b) The County Treasury has endeavored to comply with provisions of Public Finance Management Act 2012 and the Public Finance Management (County Government) Regulations 2015. This commitment is primary and through the Public Finance Management Reforms Committee comprising of all heads of County Treasury has continued to review and promote strict adherence to the stipulations thereof; and
- c) The County Treasury initiated the establishment of a committee on wage-bill mitigations which forwarded the special report to County Executive for adoption and consideration. The report has since been approved and forwarded to County Public Service Board for implementation. The immediate results from the implementation of the report shows that the wage-bill is projected at 37% in financial year 2020/2021 a decrease from 44% reported in the financial year 2018/2019 audited financial report.

Revenues by broad economic classification;

The county government intends to raise its revenues from the key sources as shown below;

The sources of revenue are also in the budget and with your permission because members have gone through them I will skip them.

Hon. Speaker: Permission granted kindly proceed.

SOURCE OF INCOME	CODE	REVISED ESTIMATE FY 2019/20	ESTIMATES FY 2020/2021	2021/2022 PROJECTIONS	2022/2023 PROJECTIONS
LAND AND RATE	R001	2,240,000	681,873	715,966	751,764
PLOT RENTS	R002	7,490,000	3,874,878	4,068,621	4,272,053
SINGLE BUSINESS PERMIT	R003	20,720,000	30,340,657	31,857,690	33,450,575
CESS FEE	R004	68,880,000	38,584,597	40,513,827	42,539,518
MARKET AND SLAUGHTER	R005	48,720,000	22,131,191	23,237,751	24,399,638
VEHICLE PARKING	R006	53,900,000	27,444,220	28,816,431	30,257,253
HOUSE AND STALLS	R007	4,200,000	4,033,356	4,235,024	4,446,775
PLAN APPROVAL FEES	R009	4,480,000	2,400,100	2,520,106	2,646,111
WEIGHTS AND MEASURES	R010	2,800,000	393,535	413,212	433,872
PENALTIES	R011	980,000	1,144,579	1,201,808	1,261,899
LIVESTOCK SALES	R012	3,920,000	4,870,326	5,113,842	5,369,534
MT. KENYA LODGE/LOCAL TOURISM	R013	-	1,264,696	1,327,931	1,394,327
TRANSFER APPLICATION & ADJUDICATION	R014	3,220,000	2,323,156	2,439,313	2,561,279
SEARCH FEES MINUTES EXT	R015	3,220,000	246,889	259,233	272,195
ADVERTSIMENT	R016	7,000,000	2,110,790	2,216,329	2,327,146
MISCELLAREOUS	R018	5,600,000	46,552,168	48,879,777	51,323,766
PULIC HEALTH/PLAN APPROVAL	R019	560,000	921,788	967,878	1,016,271
Liquor Inspection	R022	6,160,000	24,391,644	25,611,226	26,891,788

June,10 2020

Tharaka Nithi County Debates 2020

HSSF (Hospitals/Dispensaries)	R023	95,480,000	107,211,158	112,571,716	118,200,302
Medical Examination	R025	3,080,000	2,733,909	2,870,604	3,014,134
Physical Planning	R026	-	914,589		
Veterinary Services	R027	-	368,098		
Cooperative Services	R028	-	61,802		
TOTAL LOCAL REVENUE		350,000,000	325,000,000	339,838,286	356,830,200
NATIONAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING		-			
Equitable Share of National Revenue		3,924,600,000	3,861,300,000	4,054,365,000	4,257,083,250
LOANS, GRANTS AND DONATIONS		-			-
DANIDA		10,875,000	11,160,000	11,718,000	12,303,900
Compensation for forgone user fees		8,218,119	8,218,119	8,629,025	9,060,476
Road Maintenance Fuel Levy		111,402,375	115,085,841	120,840,133	126,882,140
World Bank - Transforming Health Systems		40,049,752	101,448,239	106,520,651	111,846,683
ASDSP Grant		15,518,809	12,178,726	12,178,726	12,787,662
Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture (KCSAP)		152,374,180	320,000,850	320,000,850	336,000,893
KDSP Grant Level I		30,000,000	45,000,000	45,000,000	47,250,000
KDSP Grant Level II		44,545,853	137,242,250	137,242,250	144,104,363
KUSP - UDG		68,049,846	50,000,000	50,000,000	52,500,000
Conditional Grant - Leasing of Medical Equipment		131,914,894	132,031,277		-
Conditional Allocation for Development of Youth Polytechnics		55,638,298	60,799,894	60,799,894	63,839,889
TOTAL NATIONAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING		4,725,336,806	4,854,465,196	4,927,294,529	5,173,659,255
GRAND TOTAL FUNDING		5,075,336,806	5,179,465,196	5,267,132,815	5,530,489,456

Expenditure by vote and economic program;

Row Labels	Sum of BUDGET FY 2019/20	Sum of PROPOSED BUDGET FY 2020/21	Sum of PROJECTED ESTIMATES FY 2021/22	Sum of PROJECTED ESTIMATES FY 2022/23
County Assembly	400,650,000	420,000,000	441,000,000	463,050,000
2100000 Compensation to Employees	170,500,000		-	-
2200000 Use of Goods And Services	207,286,000		-	-
2600000 Grants and Other Transfers		400,000,000	420,000,000	441,000,000
2700000 Social Benefits	8,000,000		-	-
3100000 Acquisition Of Non-Financial Assets	14,864,000	20,000,000	21,000,000	22,050,000
County Public Service Board	15,895,433	22,762,798	23,900,938	25,095,985
2100000 Compensation to Employees	9,395,183	12,542,798	13,169,938	13,828,435
2200000 Use of Goods And Services	6,150,250	9,270,000	9,733,500	10,220,175
3100000 Acquisition Of Non-Financial Assets	350,000	950,000	997,500	1,047,375
Finance and Economic Planning	262,896,200	376,662,130	395,495,237	415,269,998
2100000 Compensation to Employees	38,938,000	55,534,280	58,310,994	61,226,544
2200000 Use of Goods And Services	132,758,200	145,885,600	153,179,880	160,838,874

2800000 Other Expenses	8,000,000	20,000,000	21,000,000	22,050,000
3100000 Acquisition Of Non-Financial Assets	83,200,000	155,242,250	163,004,363	171,154,581
Livestock, Veterinary and Fisheries Development	85,308,485	130,055,800	136,558,590	143,386,520
2100000 Compensation to Employees	67,981,447	68,940,772	72,387,811	76,007,201
2200000 Use of Goods And Services	17,077,038	40,353,028	42,370,679	44,489,213
3100000 Acquisition Of Non-Financial Assets	250,000	20,762,000	21,800,100	22,890,105
Medical Services	1,555,718,898	1,356,980,245	1,424,829,257	1,496,070,720
2100000 Compensation to Employees	1,273,068,572	928,693,954	975,128,652	1,023,885,084
2200000 Use of Goods And Services	268,150,326	147,575,500	154,954,275	162,701,989
2600000 Grants and Other Transfers	-	124,899,670	131,144,654	137,701,886
3100000 Acquisition Of Non-Financial Assets	14,500,000	155,811,121	163,601,677	171,781,761
Office of Governor and Deputy Governor	140,986,311	132,803,042	139,443,194	146,415,354
2100000 Compensation to Employees	62,716,975	44,916,991	47,162,841	49,520,983
2200000 Use of Goods And Services	72,120,336	81,986,051	86,085,354	90,389,621

2600000 Grants and Other Transfers	4,700,000	2,500,000	2,625,000	2,756,250
3100000 Acquisition Of Non-Financial Assets	1,449,000	3,400,000	3,570,000	3,748,500
Public Health and Sanitation	26,410,000	280,946,518	294,993,844	309,743,536
2100000 Compensation to Employees	-	197,158,637	207,016,569	217,367,397
2200000 Use of Goods And Services	22,410,000	19,198,225	20,158,136	21,166,043
2600000 Grants and Other Transfers	-	60,389,656	63,409,139	66,579,596
3100000 Acquisition Of Non-Financial Assets	4,000,000	4,200,000	4,410,000	4,630,500
Trade and Revenue	106,197,394	115,080,802	120,834,842	126,876,584
2100000 Compensation to Employees	86,501,802	86,501,802	90,826,892	95,368,237
2200000 Use of Goods And Services	19,195,592	24,579,000	25,807,950	27,098,348
3100000 Acquisition Of Non-Financial Assets	500,000	4,000,000	4,200,000	4,410,000
Water Services and Irrigation	48,265,700	194,460,109	204,183,114	214,392,270
2100000 Compensation to Employees	28,935,200	31,901,059	33,496,112	35,170,918
2200000 Use of Goods And Services	4,830,500	4,988,800	5,238,240	5,500,152

3100000 Acquisition Of Non-Financial Assets	14,500,000	157,570,250	165,448,763	173,721,201
Youth,Sports,Culture and Tourism	46,847,875	91,538,961	96,115,909	100,921,705
2100000 Compensation to Employees	27,458,000	24,442,236	25,664,348	26,947,565
2200000 Use of Goods And Services	12,169,875	11,845,725	12,438,011	13,059,912
2600000 Grants and Other Transfers	7,220,000	32,220,000	33,831,000	35,522,550
3100000 Acquisition Of Non-Financial Assets		23,031,000	24,182,550	25,391,678
Energy and Housing	25,696,455	19,257,500	20,220,375	21,231,394
2100000 Compensation to Employees	6,210,455	-	-	-
2200000 Use of Goods And Services	12,486,000	4,057,500	4,260,375	4,473,394
3100000 Acquisition Of Non-Financial Assets	7,000,000	15,200,000	15,960,000	16,758,000
Agriculture, Cooperatives and Industry	101,569,738	574,380,937	603,099,984	633,254,983
2100000 Compensation to Employees	81,263,008	94,826,158	99,567,466	104,545,839
2200000 Use of Goods And Services	19,286,730	21,234,120	22,295,826	23,410,617
2600000 Grants and Other Transfers		387,194,659	406,554,392	426,882,112

3100000 Acquisition Of Non-Financial Assets	1,020,000	71,126,000	74,682,300	78,416,415
Education and Vocational Training	197,744,534	310,811,468	326,352,041	342,669,643
2100000 Compensation to Employees	110,302,993	151,846,409	159,438,729	167,410,666
2200000 Use of Goods And Services	23,058,562	21,824,660	22,915,893	24,061,688
2500000 Subsidies	-	-	-	-
2600000 Grants and Other Transfers	64,382,979	68,502,702	71,927,837	75,524,229
3100000 Acquisition Of Non-Financial Assets	-	68,637,697	72,069,582	75,673,061
Lands, Physical Planning, Urban Development, Environment and Natural Resources	70,658,233	315,588,712	331,368,148	347,936,555
2100000 Compensation to Employees	33,380,000	63,571,676	66,750,260	70,087,773
2200000 Use of Goods And Services	35,778,233	44,047,036	46,249,388	48,561,857
2600000 Grants and Other Transfers	-	8,800,000	9,240,000	9,702,000
3100000 Acquisition Of Non-Financial Assets	1,500,000	199,170,000	209,128,500	219,584,925
Public Administration and Devolution Affairs	149,730,789	269,529,734	283,006,221	297,156,532

2100000 Compensation to Employees	76,060,789	160,589,534	168,619,011	177,049,961
2200000 Use of Goods And Services	33,670,000	28,940,200	30,387,210	31,906,571
2700000 Social Benefits	40,000,000	80,000,000	84,000,000	88,200,000
Roads, Infrastructure, Public Works and ICT	56,231,053	568,606,440	597,036,762	626,888,600
2100000 Compensation to Employees	14,170,253	28,840,600	30,282,630	31,796,762
2200000 Use of Goods And Services	33,590,625	88,070,000	92,473,500	97,097,175
3100000 Acquisition Of Non-Financial Assets	8,470,175	451,695,840	474,280,632	497,994,664
Grand Total	3,290,807,098	5,179,465,196	5,438,438,456	5,710,360,379

Hon. Muchiri: Honourable Speaker we have the submissions by the County Assembly Service Board on the County Assembly budget estimates for the financial year 2020/2021;

In its submissions the County Assembly Service Board highlighted that the Tharaka Nithi County Assembly Budget had been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 and the County Government Act, 2012 section 12(7) which puts the responsibility to prepare annual financial estimates for County Assemblies on the County Assembly Service Board (CASB). This responsibility has further been delegated to the Clerk of the County Assembly under Section 129(3) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012.

The mandate of the County Assembly Service Board is derived from Section 12 of the County Government Act,2012 and section 4 of the County Assembly Service Act,2017 which stipulates the following:

- (a) Providing services and facilities to ensure the efficient and effective functioning of the County Assembly;*
- (b) Constituting offices in the County Assembly Service, and appointing and supervising office holders;*
- (c) Preparing annual estimates of expenditure of the County Assembly Service and submitting them to the County Assembly for approval, and exercising budgetary control over the service;*
- (d) Undertaking, singly or jointly with other relevant organizations, programmes to promote the ideals of parliamentary democracy; and*
- (e) Performing other functions- (i) necessary for the well-being of the Members and Staff of the County Assembly; or (ii) prescribed by national legislation.*

The Key Highlights of the Financial Year 2020/2021 County Assembly Budget Estimates;

The financial estimates have been prepared in consideration of the expenditure ceilings provided under the County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP), 2020. The CFSP proposed an expenditure ceiling of Kshs. 500 Million for the County Assembly being recurrent of Kshs. 400 Million and Kshs. 100 Million for Development expenditure.

Item	Approved Estimates 2019/2020	Proposed Allocation	Remarks/ Comments
Recurrent	400,650,000	400Million	This contains the following programmes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Management of County Assembly Affairs-Kshs. 141,351,304 2. Finance management Services Kshs. 42,169,246 3. Administrative Services Kshs. 48,040,000 4. County Assembly legislation Kshs. 125,701,079

			5. Coordination and supervisory services (Office of the Speaker) Kshs. 5,880,400 6. Procedures & Oversight Services Kshs. 26,857,971 7. Staff Mortgage Kshs. 10,000,000 Grand Total = 400,000,000
Development	10M	100M	1. Residential building (speaker's residence, retainer wall and renovations) Kshs. 20,000,000 2. Non-residential building- County Assembly building Kshs. 80,000,000 Grand Total = 100,000,000
Total	410,650,000	500M	

Further, we have specific highlights;

Further, the County Assembly Service Board highlighted some of the activities that the County Assembly will be undertaking in the Financial Year 2020/2021 as follows;

1. Construction of Speakers official residence.
2. Construction of County Assembly building.
3. Preparation of the and implementation County Assembly strategic plan.
4. Construction/ refurbishment of Members Centre, equipping of the committee rooms and Construction of County Assembly perimeter wall.
5. Purchase of motor vehicle.
6. Recruitment and promotion of staff.
7. Management software.

Additionally, the County Assembly will be undertaking the standard activities which include Medical and general Insurances, continuous capacity building for Members, and Staff, strengthening the oversight function of the County Assembly among other operational activities.

Context of Budgeting Intervention;

The County Assembly Service Board stated that their objective was to “facilitate the Members of the County Assembly to efficiently and effectively fulfill their constitutional functions in a representative system of government by upholding and ensuring the autonomous status of the County Assembly in its corporate relationship with the County Executive and other stakeholders is maintained”. The 2020/21 financial estimates will focus on the continued legislative, oversight and representation functions.

County Assembly Strategic Priorities for Financial Year 2020/2021;

The following are the broad strategic objectives and priorities for the County Assembly in 2020/21 financial year.

- a) Enhancing the legislative process in the County Assembly;
 - Production and publication of bills and the subsequent laws enacted by the County Assembly.
 - Capacity building for members on methodology for legislative scrutiny and legal practices.
- b) Improving the oversight function of the County Assembly;
 - Conduct quarterly trainings and workshops on the oversight function and areas of oversight under the mandate of individual committees.
 - Develop strategic plans for each Committee of the County Assembly.
 - Provide competent, timely and adequate technical secretariat support to both the Assembly Committees and plenary at all times.
 - Facilitate participation of stakeholders in the oversight processes at committee stage.
- c) Enhancing the representation role of the Members of the County Assembly
 - Continuous capacity building for Members on their representation role as Members of the County Assembly.
 - Promote Members welfare in terms of medical insurance cover, and gratuity benefits.
- d) County Assembly Service – Human resource development;
 - Capacity building of County Assembly Service Board on corporate governance.

- Promote staff welfare; medical cover, mortgages and retirement benefits.
- Implement the staff training plan based on training needs assessment report.
- e) Infrastructure and facilities;
 - Establishment of Members Centre, library service and a Resource Centre
 - Construction of Speakers residence
 - Construction of County Assembly building
 - Provide adequate office space and equipment to Members and staff of the County Assembly

We have the submissions by the County Assembly sectoral committees;

Standing Order 243 (5) provides that upon being laid before the Assembly, the Estimates shall be deemed to have been committed to each Sectoral Committee without question put, for each such committee to deliberate upon according to their respective mandates.

Standing Order 243 (6) further provides that each Sectoral Committee shall consider, discuss and review the Estimates according to its mandate and submit its report and recommendations to the Finance, Budget and Appropriations Committee within twenty-one days, after being laid before the Assembly.

In adherence to the guidelines issued by the National Emergency Response Committee(NERC) on public gatherings due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Committee on Finance, Budget and Appropriations directed that the sectoral Committees would make their submissions on the Tharaka Nithi County Government Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2020/2021 through submission of written submissions.

The following committees' recommended that the Budget Estimates of their respective dockets be approved without any amendments:

- i. Committee on Trade, Tourism and Cooperatives;
- ii. Committee on Education Science and Technology;
- iii. Committee on Land, Housing and Physical Planning;
- iv. Committee on Public Service and Administration;
- v. Committee on Transport, Roads and Public works;

- vi. Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries; and
- vii. Committee on Youth, Culture and Social Services.

The Committee on Health Services made the following recommendations to the Assembly committee on Finance, Budget and Appropriations;

1. That the allocation set for Kibunga Hospital be removed and the amounts reallocated to:
 - i. Ksh, 2 million completion and Equipping of Tonya Dispensary
 - ii. Ksh. 2million Construction of Kithura Dispensary
2. That the Ksh. 2 million allocated for Wiru dispensary be equally shared with Munga dispensary.

The Committee on Finance, Budget and Appropriations noted the Committee's recommendations, however the committee was of the view that Kibung'a Hospital served the entire Tharaka North and Tharaka South Sub-Counties and thus its funding cannot be reallocated to just one ward. The committee further noted that Kibung'a was one of the major hospitals in the region thus there was need to elevate it.

Water, Environment and Natural Resources;

The Committee on Water Environment and Natural resources made the following recommendation to the Assembly committee on Finance, Budget and Appropriations;

1. That the allocation of Ksh. 4 million for Ngokaki irrigation project be shared equally with Mugiaki irrigation.

On the issue of public participation on the Tharaka Nithi County government budget estimates for the financial year 2020/2021;

We had written memoranda;

Pursuant to the provisions Article 196(1)(b) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, Section 131 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012, the Tharaka Nithi County Assembly Standing Order 243 and in adherence to the guidelines issued by the National Emergency Response Committee (NERC) on public gatherings due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Tharaka Nithi County Assembly informed the general public that the public participation on the Tharaka Nithi County Government Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2020/2021 would be

conducted through submission of written Memoranda through a newspaper advert appearing in the Star and the Daily nation newspapers on Thursday 14th May,2020. Additionally, the advert was placed in a local radio station. Members of the general public, civil society, NGOs, Professional groups, youths, women groups, persons living with disability, traders and faith based organizations were encouraged to participate.

Copies of the Tharaka Nithi County Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2020/2021 were to be obtained from the County Assembly website: <Http://tharakanithica.go.ke>. Or the County government website: <Http://tharakanithi.go.ke>.

Views or memoranda on the Budget Estimates for the FY 2020/2021 were to be hand delivered to the respective Member of County Assembly ward office, Office of the Clerk or emailed to tharakanithicountyassembly@gmail.com on or before 29th May, 2020 by 4.00pm. Soft copies were however preferable through the provided email.

The Committee was in receipt of three memoranda (as annexed to the report) from:

- a) The Tharaka Nithi society of Persons Living with Disability;
- b) The Deputy Governor; and
- c) Munga Sub-Location Development Forum.

- a) Memorandum by the Tharaka Nithi society of Persons Living with Disability;

The Committee noted the concerns raised by the society of the people living with disability and made the recommendation on a provision for the people living with disability.

- b) Memorandum by the Deputy Governor;

The Committee noted the concerns raised by the Deputy Governor, however the committee noted that the issue on construction of the County Assembly Chamber and offices had been resolved at a meeting held between the County Assembly Service Board and the County Executive Committee Member in charge of Finance. The committee further noted that the other items were on donor funding that are guided by the conditions laid out by the donor.

- c) Memorandum by Munga Sub-Location Development Forum;

The committee noted the views of the people of Munga sub-location, nevertheless due to the budget constrains the committee is to consider the items in the subsequent budgets. The roads will however be scheduled in the County Roads equipment program.

We also had oral submissions live on radio;

On Thursday 28th May, 2020 the Chairperson Committee on Finance, Budget and Appropriations was live on Mwendantu FM radio from 8. 00p.m to 9p.m (a vernacular local radio station) to discuss and hear views from the public on the County Government Budget Estimates for the Financial year 2020/2021.

The people were very attentive when it came to the live radio broadcast. They sent messages and the views were also brought through calling the radio station. I happy because we did not result to live broadcast because it was our will but because that is the way the situation is because of Covid-19.

The Committee observations on the county executive and county assembly budget estimates;

The Committee upon scrutiny of the Budget Estimates, raised various concerns and sought clarification from the County Executive Committee Member in charge of Finance and Economic planning. Below are the committee's concerns and the CECM's responses.

- a. The committee noted that the basic salaries code in the recurrent budget of the department of Land, Physical Planning, urban development, Environment and natural resources had been captured as '2110105-Basic salaries-members of parliament' instead of '2110101 Basic salaries –Civil service'. That one was an error. The CECM appreciated the Committee's keen eye and noted that the error had been rectified.
- b. The Committee also noted that the item Kanyuru dispensary in annex 1b equipping of dispensaries using KSDP level II grant under Finance was in Marimanti ward and not Magumoni ward. The Committee noted that that was an error that had since been corrected.
- c. The Committee noted that pending bills to be paid in the FY 2020/21 had been provided for in various department and sought clarification on the pending bills to be settled. In her response the CECM noted that in preparation of the Budget Estimates for the Financial

year 2020/2021 the County Executive had given priority to the ongoing projects, the stalled projects, operationalization of the completed projects, pending bills and lastly new projects. She added that there were pending bills that were ratified and termed eligible in the Auditor General Special Audit Report. She added that the ratified historical pending bills from the previous government would be cleared by the end of the current financial year. She however noted that there were other pending bills totaling to Kshs. 400million that are still undergoing review and thus pending bills were a continuous process.

- d. The committee noted that there were no annexures of the following programs:
- i. Access/bridges roads maintained under RMLF (key county trunk roads) with an allocation of Kshs. 115,085,840;
 - ii. Bridges and footbridges with an allocation of Kshs.25million;
 - iii. The ECDE classes to be constructed with the allocation of Kshs.31,678,000;
 - iv. The vocational training centers to be rehabilitated with an allocation of Kshs. 36,959,697.

The annexures were provided as annexed to this report.

The Committee was concerned that there was no provision for the people living with disability in the Budget Estimates apart from a small allocation in the recurrent budget. In her response the CECM noted that the allocation goes towards the People living with disability day on 3rd December of every year. The Committee noted that there was need for a further allocation to cater for the assistive devices and empowerment of the people living with disability.

- e. The sub-program on ‘Contribution to KCSAP’ in the department of Lands and urban development the target areas were said to be in Igwanjau and Nguruki which are just adjacent to each other. The Committee requested the CECM to consider revision of the target areas. In her response the CECM informed the Committee that they would revise the target areas to Nguruki and Marimanti market.
- f. The committee noted that there was provision of Kshs.7million per ward towards maintenance and improvement of ward roads, however the Committee felt that the allocation would not be adequate considering the current status of the ward roads. The

Committee requested the CECM to consider increment of maintenance and improvement of ward roads to Kshs.10 million and above.

- g. At an earlier meeting the Members of the County Assembly had raised concerns that the three stadiums had continually been funded in the previous years yet they were plagued with various issues. The Committee requested to be provided with a status report that includes a breakdown on the actuals that have been paid towards construction and improvement of the three stadiums.
- h. The Committee raised concerns on the programme ‘installation of mobile market stalls at Kiracha which is on a road reserve. The Committee was concerned that this appeared as a double standard as the County Government had in the recent past demolished stalls on the road reserve in Chuka and Chogoria. The Committee sought a clarification on the project from the CECM.

(Applause)

In her response the CECM explained that the allocation included fabrication of Containers, ground work and construction of an ablution block among others. She noted that Kiracha was the entrance of Tharaka Nithi and thus the face of the County. She further articulated that the stalls would be mobile to ensure that they are moved in case of an expansion of the road. She added that the construction of standard market stalls for the traders would be extended to other parts of the County in the subsequent financial years.

- i. The Committee noted that the County Government had envisioned the construction of five classes in each ward per financial year. The Committee was concerned that the allocation towards construction of ECDE classes was inadequate. The Committee requested the CECM to consider increment of the allocation towards construction of ECDE classes to include new classes. The CECM appreciated the Committee’s concerns and views, however she noted that due to the effects of COVID-19 on budget and revenues of the County among other factors, the County Government had prioritized completion of ECDE classes that had stalled in the past before embarking on construction of new classes.

- j. The Committee sought to be provided with a breakdown of vehicles to be procured with the allocation of Kshs.27million in the docket of Health Services. The CECM informed the Committee that the said programme was being funded by the World Bank through a programme dubbed ‘Transforming Health Care’ and thus the vehicles would be procured as per the Donor’s requirements.
- k. The Committee sought clarification on the item ‘other infrastructure and civil works’ to be financed at Kshs.25million in the docket of Finance from the CECM. The CECM informed the committee that the Funds were towards the retention account of the retention money of Contractors with various contracts in the County.
- l. The Committee sought Clarification on the Executive block to be expanded at a tune of Kshs.10million in the docket of infrastructure and public works and further why the allocation for the completion of the main office block had not been included in the Budget Estimates. The CECM informed the committee that allocation was for completion of the expansion of the office block at the Governor’s office. She added that the allocation for the main office block was in the ministry of public works as the County Government was not a direct executor of the fund.
- m. The Committee noted that in the County Fiscal Strategy Paper for the Financial Year 2020/2021 the County Assembly had a ceiling of Kshs.100million in the development vote yet it had been factored as Kshs.20 million in the County Executive Budget Estimates. The deviation had not been explained in the CECM’s submissions. The Committee further noted that the County Assembly had prepared its Budget Estimates with the Ceilings as set out in the CFSP. The CECM noted that she had not received any official communication that the issues surrounding the contract on construction of the County Assembly Chamber and Offices at the County Headquarters had been resolved.

In light of the above the Committee held a joint meeting with the County Executive Committee Member in charge of Finance and the County Assembly Service Board on Monday 8th June, 2020. It was noted that though the County Assembly allocates funds to the County Assembly Chamber and Offices the Controller of Budget would not be able to execute it due to the issues surrounding the matter as this happened in the past in the

Financial year 2017/2018. It was agreed that there be established a taskforce comprising of the public works officers and representatives from the County Executive and the County Assembly as interested parties to look into the matter and advice on the way forward in resolving the issues amicably. It was agreed that once the issues had been amicably resolved the County Assembly building would be considered in the subsequent supplementary budgets.

Honourable Speaker, allow me to go through the recommendations that the committee makes to this honourable House.

Hon. Speaker: Kindly proceed. Permission is granted.

Hon. Muchiri: The Committee on Finance Budget and appropriations recommends that the County Assembly approves:

- a. The County Assembly Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2020/2021 with the following amendment:
 - i. That the item ‘Non-Residential Buildings-County Assembly Building’ with an allocation of Kshs.80million be deleted.
- b. the County Executive Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2020/2021 with the following amendments:
 - i. That equipping of Kaanwa dispensary maternity in Mariani ward and completion and equipping of Tonya dispensary in Marimanti ward are included and prioritized in the programme ‘equipping of dispensaries using KDSP level II grant under Finance;
 - ii. That the item ‘rehabilitation and upgrading of Kairuni Stadium’ allocation be reduced by Kshs.1.5 million; that the item ‘rehabilitation and upgrading of Kathwana Stadium’ allocation be reduced by Kshs.1.5million; that the item ‘rehabilitation and upgrading of Marimanti Stadium’ allocation be reduced by Kshs.1.5million;
 - iii. That the item ‘youth empowerment (Trade Fund Act)’ be increased by Kshs.4.5million to also include the people living with disability and the craft centres;

- iv. That the item ‘completion and equipping of maternity block at Kaare dispensary’ includes ‘construction of a laboratory at Iruma dispensary’ at the same amount;
- v. That the item ‘completion of dispensary block, fencing and equipping Wiru dispensary’ in annex 1a completion of dispensaries also includes ‘Munga dispensary’ with the same amount.
- vi. That the item ‘Nkorongo’ in Mariani in annex 2a proposed borehole drilling areas be deleted and replaced therefor with ‘Kiathi(TVET)’
- vii. That the item ‘Ngokaki irrigation project’ in annex 2c allocation be reduced by Kshs.2million and the same amount is allocated to Mugiaki irrigation project.

Honourable Speaker, it’s the Committee’s humble submission that the County Assembly adopts its report on the Budget Estimates for the County Executive and Assembly for the Financial year 2020/2021 Tabled in the Assembly on 5th, May, 2020.

Those are the committee’s observations and recommendations and it is my humble request that this assembly approves the committee’s recommendations.

With that, I move and request honourable Kabii to second. Thank you honourable Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you member for Karingani, honourable Godfrey Murithi. Yes, honourable Jones Kinogeni honourable member for Mwimbi.

Hon. Kinogeni: Thank you Mr. Speaker for the opportunity you have given me to second the motion by my Chairman. I have heard what he has read and I thank the committee for the good job. I second.

Hon. Speaker: Honourable members allow me to propose the question that this Assembly adopts the report of the finance, budget and appropriations committee on the Tharaka Nithi County Executive and County Assembly budget estimates for the financial year 2020/2021 tabled in the Assembly on 5th May, 2020. The floor is now open for debate.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

Honourable members allow me, before the commencement of the debate, to say the following. That following the guidelines issued by the ministry of health on the rules to be observed for all public gatherings during the Covid-19 pandemic, I had in my communication dated 20th April 2020 directed that the Assembly shall proceed as much as possible to expedite its business and spend the least time possible for each sitting and also hold the sitting consecutively.

Honourable members, noting the important exercise before us and notwithstanding the provisions of the Standing Order 41 on hours of meeting, I do direct that the morning sitting do run up to 12.30pm in strict accordance to our Standing Orders and thereafter we shall proceed to hold our second sitting of the day.

The floor is now open for debate. Yes, honourable Jones Kinegeni, member for Mwimbi.

Hon. Kinegeni: Thank you Mr. Speaker sir. As the chair of the budget committee has read this is the time to build Tharaka Nithi County. This is the 2020/2021 budget, I have been following it and I have seen that they have catered for my people and the people of Tharaka Nithi. So I am here to support the budget as it is.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you honourable Jones Kinegeni, yes honourable Karen Karimi.

Hon. Karen: Mr. Speaker I am standing to seek for clarification from the member who has read the report.

Hon. Speaker: Permission granted honourable Karen.

Hon. Karen: On page 41 of this report Mr. Speaker where it says the committee sought to be provided with a status report that includes a breakdown and the actuals that have been used towards the construction and improvement of the stadiums. The committee has not given us the report if they were given them. I would like to seek clarification where they got them so that I can have a sober judgement of the report Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Chair budget, do you wish to respond now or do you wish to do so while you make your reply pursuant to Standing Order 106(4)?

Hon. Muchiri: Mr. Speaker with that clarification that is why we have removed all those amounts from all those stadia and we are waiting for them so that maybe the committee can do the oversight part of it as we follow up as the committee of Budget. We sought that clarification and because it was not availed with have removed that amount from the stadia.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you honourable Chair. Yes, honourable Karen Karimi do you now wish to contribute to the debate?

Hon. Karimi: Thank Mr. Speaker. I am happy I have got the clarification because if the chairman had said he will answer the question later it would have affected my judgement of the report but since he has clarified I will need some more time I will contribute to the debate later after I digest.

Hon. Speaker: Honourable Karen that is within his right and pursuant to Standing Order 106 (4). Thank you. Honourable members I will be giving one chance to the side on my right and the next to the other side. So I am now on the right side. Yes, honourable Asumpta Gabriel.

Hon. Asumpta: Mr. Speaker allow me to contribute to the debate while I am sitting.

Hon. Speaker: Kindly proceed we understand your circumstances.

Hon. Asumpta: Thank you Mr. Speaker sir. I support the motion on the report. I thank the committee which came up with this report because they considered all the needs of the people of Tharaka Nithi County especially people living with disabilities which is a constituency by itself. I thank the committee also for sitting and considering these people because they are always left out and since the department of youth and social services is the department which should care for these people living with disabilities I commend and award them marks on how they considered people with these conditions and the memorandum which they delivered to the County Assembly. Thank you Mr. Speaker sir.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you honourable Asumpta Gabriel. Yes, honourable John Njagi Mucee?

Hon. Njagi: Thank you Mr. Speaker sir. Before I even contribute allow me to thank the chairman budget committee. He has done it in a smart way, the report, and they have worked

tirelessly. I am rising up to support the report. The budget is a process. This budget report says that while the sectoral committees were given this budget, they went and wrote a report and the departments said it was okay. Further, when the CO and CECMs were called the questions asked by honourable members were answered and the budget making process was all inclusive. For this reason, as the member for Ciakariga ward I support.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you honourable John Njagi Mucee, member for Ciakariga. Yes, the Majority leader, honourable Peterson Kathenya.

Hon. Kathenya: Thank you honourable Speaker, I rise to support this report. But before that I would want to applaud the Chairman budget committee. He has done a very good job and I have read it all through. I also applaud the committee. As far as I am concerned, and the people that I represent the budget is fully inclusive and it will serve the entire Tharaka Nithi county. In that case I support, thank you Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you honourable Peterson Kathenya, member for Gaanga. Yes, honourable Wilson Nyaga, member for Muthambi and the minority leader.

Hon. Derebia: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I stand to support. I wish to also thank the chairman of the budget and appropriations committee for the work well done. The report is self-elaborate even when you compare what was given to us here by the CECM Finance they are in concurrence. I support the report fully because they have stated somewhere that they will first complete the uncompleted projects. Those are the things which are thorns in our flesh. I support Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you honourable member for Muthambi. Yes, member for Nkondi, honourable Gitonga Leonard.

Hon. Gitonga: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the motion on the budget report. At the same time, I want to thank the chairman of the budget committee and the honourable members of the committee. Just like honourable Njagi has said, the budget is a process. It is not a one-off affair. It is a process that starts with the preparation of the ADP the CFSP and then it come to this time that we are here which is the tail end of the budget process.

I support this budget because the estimates are adhering to what this house passed sometime back in the CFSP and where there are deviations it has been explained. The explanations are concrete and they are holding water. A lot of emphasis has been placed on this budget about the stalled projects or the ongoing projects. Most of the funds in this budget have been focussed towards completing those projects. Once these projects are completed we expect improved service delivery to the people of Tharaka Nithi. At the same time some of these projects have a direct economic impact to the people of Tharaka Nithi. Once they are completed we expect the economic situation of the people of Tharaka Nithi to get improved substantially.

It is worth noting that some of these projects that have been allocated funds, let's say the ATI at Itugururu, we expect that once it is completed and equipped our farmers will get a place to train from and once that training takes place we expect the farmers to go back to their places and implement what they have learned and in the end ensure that they have improved their livelihood. So in this budget we have projects that are starting, others are ongoing projects and it is worth of us to support this process. I support Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you honourable Gitonga Leonard, member for Nkondi. Yes, honourable Justin Kithinji, member for Magumoni.

Hon. Kithinji: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to start by congratulating the budget and appropriations committee because they have come up with a very big and a good document. It is flowing and they have tried to comb all the areas and they have not even pretended to ignore the memoranda that were presented by the members of the public.

But the devil is always in the details. Looking at the figures...

Hon. Speaker: Honourable Justin Kithinji I am not interrupting your speech but you can now confirm that I directed the secretariat to send you the report on your personal mobile phone.

Hon. Kithinji: Mr. Speaker my problem was that you have not provided us with the gadgets. This is my personal gadget. It is actually a donation from my wife.

(Laughter)

I should not be using it to conduct public business.

Hon. Speaker: I now understand you if that was the issue. Can you confirm that you have received? Kindly proceed honourable Kithinji.

Hon. Kithinji: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I was saying that the devil is in the details. The county government of Tharaka Nithi is under obligation to obey the guidelines which are set by the national government without cheating or without being cunning. I will elaborate my point. When you look at the overall budget of 5.1 billion, I don't think the other figures are very important, they have talked of the recurrent expenditure as being 3.4 billion and development expenditure as being 1.7 billion. The recurrent is totalling to 67% of the total budget and there is an indication that development expenditure is 33% of total expenditure.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to go downwards where they have now elaborated the sources of this money. They have talked of getting some amount from the exchequer and that is okay. There is an indication of getting close to 1 billion from loans, grants and donations. This is the third year that we are in this house. I have never heard of donation towards this county from anywhere. We have never approved any provision for the county to get any amount of loans. When they indicate that they will get some loans I don't know how that one will happen because as per now there are no provisions for that. Somebody should not tell me that we gave **the dead** people an opportunity to trade with banks. It was only meant for that and it was only 25 million.

When we look at our own sources of revenue, they are talking of 325million in this financial year. The target for year 2019/2020 was around 300 million. Monies that they were unable to raise. Businesses are currently down. As you are aware, the open air market, that are the hugest source of income in this "own source", category are already closed. When somebody dreams of getting 325 million that is a total lie. When you take this 325 million plus the 999 million from loans and donors that comes to around 1,111,000,000 billion. If we assume, and of course I am a mathematician and mathematicians always work with assumptions, if we assume, and it is likely that these people will only collect around 200 million from own-source of income, that leaves us with a deficit of 1.5 billion. If we assume again that we will not get this money from donors, grants and loans, frankly speaking, we are only left with 594

million for development which is coming to 11.47%. way far below the 30% legal requirement. Let us not lie to the citizen of Tharaka Nithi that we will give them service looking at what is in this budget.

Mr. Speaker, we have so many unfinished projects. I will quote some. In Magumoni we have a water facility called Mukui-uri-Mbugi. In the previous budget 2019/2020 there was a provision for the construction of the intake. When you look at what is happening now there is no provision for more money. That one becomes a white elephant and the people of Magumoni will only be left with unfinished structures. During the year 2018/2019 there was a provision of 8.5 million in every ward. In Magumoni, the contractor who was given the contract dilly dallied with whatever she was supposed to do and most of the projects that she started are still hanging. There is no provision whichever to fund those unfinished projects. So when we start talking about wanting to acquire more it leaves a lot of questions.

Mr. Speaker, allow me now to get into the recurrent expenditure. In the recurrent expenditure they are talking of salaries that will get around 1.9 billion. When you look at the operations, they are providing close to 1.5 billion. You now ask yourself, in operations what is all this that is going to consume all this amount of money. It is like we are having double allocation for salaries. That is if you are earning two hundred thousand at the end of the month it is expected that you still spend some more two hundred thousand. Is it realistic?

In the budget, there is some provision of some non-financial assets. The CECs who came to the committee's meeting were not able to explain what they meant and what they intended to do with the acquiring of non-financial assets. I have listened keenly to the chairman while he was presenting his report and he has not been able to explain to us what is meant to be done with these funds that are provided to acquire the so called non-financial assets. Looking at that there are discrepancies. They could have become more realistic in their attempt to achieve the 30-70 rule.

Mr. Speaker, in the budget there were provisions to procure tractors.

(Interjection)

Hon. Speaker: Yes, honourable Samuel Muthini.

Hon. Karangi: Mr. Speaker, going by the ruling you made that we are...

(Interjection)

Hon. Speaker: Yes, honourable Susan.

Hon. Susan: On what Standing Order is he rising on?

Hon. Karangi: I am rising on the fact that I have been given the opportunity Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Honourable Muthini what Standing Order are you relying on?

Hon. Karangi: Mr. Speaker I am relying on your ruling which you made earlier that we are finishing the debate at 12.30pm. by the way you are giving so many minutes to an individual member it seems some of us will not contribute to the debate Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Honourable Muthini you are out of order. It is for the chair to manage the time.

(Applause)

Hon. Kithinji: Thank you Mr. Speaker for coming to my rescue because I am not here to rubber stamp things I am here to set things straight. You know just like voting, when it comes to voting I am supposed to vote as the people of Magumoni see the direction I take. I should be given enough time to talk about this budget so that they feel they are represented.

I was on the procurement of tractors. I do not deny that we have two granaries, or storage facilities. The one in Mitheru and another one at Mukuuni and I know another one is being built in Mukothima. We have not yet planted grass...

Hon. Speaker: My only concern honourable Kithinji is are you reading a speech or are you referring to notes because if you are reading a speech that is contrary to our Standing Orders.

Hon. Kithinji: Mr. Speaker I am not reading a speech. Remember whatever I have is in soft copy and I am afraid I have nowhere to refer. That is the problem. Whatever I am reading was read and it is in the budget.

I was saying there a provision for procurement of these graders. We have not yet planted grass. When I listen keenly to the CEC, he categorically said that they will be moving with these graders to where the farmers are to assist the dry their grains. I wondered whether this CEC has ever been to Mukuuni or in Mitheru where we have those storage facilities. They are as big as this room. It is not possible to transport them to the farmers. It is not practical.

Mr. Speaker, there is an increase in the allocation to the Governor's kitty. The funny reason that has been given is that the legal department has been moved to the Governor's office. Whether that is true or not a question arises. Are we anticipating so many cases? Could we already be in many cases?

(Laughter)

You know we are in the wards. Whatever is happening daily you find people talking and saying we have been employed under special programs. Programs that we cannot justify. I want to believe that these people are getting money to pay these kinds of ghost workers from the Governors official kitty. So it cannot be justified...

Hon. Speaker: Honourable Kithinji with tremendous respect as you continue with your debate allow me to bring to your attention the provision of Standing Order 110: *“Neither the personal conduct of the Governor, nor the conduct of the Speaker or of any judge, nor the judicial conduct of any other person performing judicial functions, nor any conduct of the Head of State or Government or the representative in Kenya of any friendly country or the conduct of the holder of an office whose removal from such office is dependent upon a decision of the Assembly shall be referred to adversely, except upon a specific substantive Motion of which at least three days’ notice has been given.”* Kindly respect the office of the Governor.

Hon. Kithinji: Thank you Mr. Speaker I am properly guided. I am not talking of the Governor. I am talking about a vote head under the office of the Governor and the deputy Governor.

Hon. Speaker: Kindly proceed.

Hon. Kithinji: I am talking of that vote head. That there is increase in that vote head of the Governor and the deputy Governor. Whatever is being added there I do not know.

Mr. Speaker, we have issues of pending bills.

(Loud consultations)

You cannot talk to me about time. You will be given your time to contribute to the debate. There is the issue of pending bills. You know that is where you go wrong. It is important even if you don't like what I am saying that you hear it. The people of Tharaka Nithi need to hear it.

Hon. Speaker: Honourable Kithinji time is also of essence. Regard being taken to the situation that we are in I have given you an additional 5 minutes conclude.

Hon. Kithinji: Thank you Mr. Speaker. When you look at the pending bills issue it has been brought here time and again. We were convinced during the last supplementary budget that we have already cleared the pending bills. When a CEC comes in and puts a provision for 400million to pay pending bills where are these pending bills coming from? Would it be that after the ratification was done there are some people who have gone back again to renegotiate for these pending bills? That is my question. You cannot keep on using our money to pay pending bills.

Mr. Speaker, the youth of this county have been taken for granted for far too long. There were some funds meant to empower them during the current budget, it has not happened. Now there is some pretence that we want to empower them again using the trade fund. The Tharaka Nithi Trade Act does not give provision for youth empowerment. It is meant for the particulars which are well spelt within the provisions of the Trade Act.

Mr. Speaker, we were told that there was a memorandum form the Office of the Deputy Governor. My question is, isn't the budget prepared by the County executive? So why should we have a memorandum from the Office of the Deputy Governor?

(Laughter)

Mr. Speaker with that and taking into consideration your earlier directions I oppose this budget. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you honourable Justin Kithinji, member for Magumoni. The floor is still open for debate. Yes, honourable Denis Mutwiri, member for Mugwe.

Hon. Denis: Thank you Mr. Speaker. First I salute your diligence because when we were complaining that we don't have that report you gave your directions and we were able to get it. But on the same note our Standing Orders 49 (2) require that we be provided with Standing Orders and the business to be conducted 12 hours before we sit. I am calling for your diligence because of the nature of this debate that we should consider all level of balancing because...

Hon. Speaker: For expedience you are referring to Standing Order number?

Hon. Denis: Number 49(2). *The Order Paper shall be published in the Assembly website and shall be made available to members, at least twelve hours before the Assembly meets, but a supplementary Order Paper shall be made available at least one hour before the Assembly meets.*

Hon. Speaker: And that was done. To save time, in your speech you have referred to the ruling I made earlier. If I made a ruling on that surely why would you want to belabour? You also appreciate the rest of the Standing Orders. You cannot discuss the Speakers ruling.

Hon. Denis: We know the process that is supposed to be followed in the budget. When we called the Cos and CECs here we had a total of 1.2 billion allocated to non-financial assets in all the departments. We requested that each and every CO or CEC to clarify on the nature of these allocations. If I can quote one of the CEC, he said that if this assembly feels that these allocations are not giving value for money to the people they can be reallocated. Due the Covid-19 pandemic we are aware that we keenly and softly tried to follow the regulations which we appreciate. In the sectoral committee, and we are happy that the question about the stadium was raised because we provide the report from the CEC, the complaint was that the projects that were being funded from the first year are the same projects that are being funded each and every financial year. Because we had those conflicts we were requesting that even

before we allocate money we need to be furnished with a record of proper expenditure that has been utilized in this stadium.

We are all aware that funds allocated to feeder roads are not enough. In the CEC finance speech, she put it very clear that we are lacking proper schedule for movement of county road equipment. To the best of my knowledge, that schedule might not be availed because the county equipment are there to be used by some offices to ensure that wherever the equipment are needed at any given time, they are available. I don't know whether they will come to Mugwe one time but at times they pass through when there are issues to be addressed. That is the reason the elected members of this Assembly were requesting that we allocate enough money for our feeder roads so that our problems can come to an end. The budget has not tried to look at that.

We are aware about the recurrent budget and the increment of the wage bill. Since the time we came in this Assembly Mr. Speaker the Tharaka Nithi county wage has risen with more than 600 million. These figures can be confirmed. In the finance CEC speech, she never addressed the issue of wage bill.

As I stand here as a young legislator I look at the youth in our county and the struggle that we have been undergoing in every budget cycle. Every time we have had allocation for youth empowerment that money is reallocated during the supplementary budget. The obvious reason that is given is that we cannot spend this money because there are no regulations and policy...

(Interjection)

Hon. Speaker: Yes, honourable Mwenda Gataya.

Hon. Gataya: Thank you honourable Speaker I was alerting you that the time is running out.

(Laughter)

Hon. Denis: Mr. Speaker I believe you have given us the amount of time to be used.

Hon. Speaker: Honourable Denis Mutwiri you have an additional five minutes. Make proper use of them.

Hon. Denis: Thank you Mr. Speaker I confirm I will use those five minutes.

That is why I am talking about the 25 million allocated for trade fund and an additional 3million that the committee has requested to be added in an amendment. I cannot stand and say that they are going to benefit our youth Mr. Speaker because I know what is entailed in the trade fund. It is for this reason I feel that this budget is not youth friendly. It is not friendly to people living with disabilities. In the year 2018 we passed a sports policy which has not been implemented. There is no allocation to ensure that sports are streamlined in our county.

I respect the opinion of every person. We have allocated 41 million for boreholes. I am very keen about the figures. This Assembly is aware that we had 105 million that we were referring to as a scandal. The committee of Public Investment is aware. That report has never found its way in this Assembly.

(Interjection)

Hon. Speaker: Yes, honourable Bonifacia Njeri. You want to rise on what?

Hon. Njeri: Point of information.

Hon. Speaker: Do you need that information honourable Denis?

Hon. Denis: No Mr. Speaker.

(Laughter)

Hon. Speaker: Yes, chairman, honourable member for Karingani.

Hon. Muchiri: Honourable Speaker I am the mover of this motion and in the report we have stated very well the memoranda that we received, the committees that brought their recommendations and we considered them. But when an honourable member is rising and talking about the youth department and he the chairman of that committee and he never

brought any recommendation I feel that there is need to have a direction on that. Thank you honourable Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Honourable Denis Mutwiri member for Mugwe, with tremendous respect kindly confine yourself to the debate before the house.

Hon. Denis: Thank you Mr. Speaker I wish to say that when we invited the CEC he sent the CO on his behalf and it was a full house. We raised the issues that I have just said here and on the day that we were to meet with the finance CEC the CEC for youth department sent an apology and these issues are the issues that are in our report.

(Interjection)

Hon. Speaker: Yes, honourable Erastus Kinyua, you stand on what?

Hon. Kinyua: I thought he had completed so I was trying to catch your attention.

(Laughter)

Hon. Speaker: Honourable Denis you have a minute remaining.

Hon. Denis: Yes, I was very keen on time and my last issue ...

Hon. Speaker: Honourable member for Karingani.

Hon. Muchiri: Honourable Speaker being the mover of this motion I just need some clarification because I even have the committee's recommendations. Today I carried all the recommendations to the budget committee and also the memoranda so that I can be very smart when it comes to these issues. With your permission allow me to read the committee's recommendation. The committee said, "the committee was satisfied with the response of the County executive committee member in charge of Youths, sports, culture and tourism on the department's budget for the financial year 2020/2021 and recommends approval without amendments. Even the amendments we propose we propose as the committee on budget.

(Loud consultations)

Hon. Speaker: Yes, honourable Kithinji.

Hon. Kithinji: Mr. Speaker I am seeking your guidance on whether the chairman budget is in order to say that we brought a report. That was as per that time. Today a motion is before this house. We are at liberty to debate it the way we wish until when the question will be put. Anybody is at liberty including honourable Muthini to change his mind. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

(Laughter)

Hon Speaker: Honourable Justin Kithinji, that is why I gave you abundant time to do that. Continue honourable Denis.

Hon. Denis: Mr. Speaker it is the County Assembly that wants to approve 10 million to go and do some construction in a road reserve bearing in mind the problems that we have been having in Karingani about the demolitions of Kiosks in the road reserves.

Hon. Speaker: Your time is up honourable Denis.

Hon. Denis: Mr. Speaker being in the era of academics we have one thousand TSC teachers that were recruited and there is no budget to ensure that those people are paid according to the government standards. We cannot hire people and pay them less than what is required.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you honourable Denis Mutwiri, member for Mugwe. Your time is up.

Hon. Denis: And for that reason Mr. Speaker I strongly oppose the budget.

Hon. Speaker: Yes, honourable Mwenda Gataya, member for Mukothima.

Hon. Gataya: Honourable Speaker, we are mixing a very important document with politics. I am a member of the committee on budget. I am happy that our chair has given a very eloquent narrative on all the provisions that are captured in this very important document. You know lies are substituted with truths. So when a member stands and says that everything is a lie we expect that member to provide some truths.

Hon. Speaker: That is not parliamentary language honourable Mwenda Gataya.

(Loud consultations)

Hon. Gataya: Thank you. So Mr. Speaker this document that we have in front of this House is very captivating and exhausting and we as a committee under the guidance of our able chairman we have had this budget combed in all the departments and sectors to ensure it captures the aspirations of the people of Tharaka Nithi. I do not want to go into details because the document is in the open.

This document has also adhered to the provisions of the PFM Act 2012. In this era of Covid-19 the county is geared towards the prevention of this epidemic. It is my humble submission that this Assembly considers passing this budget for the people of this County.

I have heard one member say that the youth of this county were not taken care of. I know there is a member who is representing youth in this county. I have heard another member say that the people with disability were not taken care of in the budget. I heard a member who represent that group say that they are taken care of. I strongly support this document honourable Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you honourable Mwenda Gataya, member for Mukothima. Honourable members we agreed to give opportunity to members from alternates sides. Yes, honourable Margret Gitari, member for Chogoria.

Hon. Margret: Thank you Mr. Speaker...

(Interjection)

Hon. Speaker: Yes, honourable Gitonga Leonard.

PROCEDURAL MOTION
EXTENSION OF SITTING TIME

Hon. Gitonga: I am sorry Mr. Speaker, with your permission and taking note on the debate that is happening here and the seriousness of this matter I rise to move that pursuant to the provision of Standing Order number 41 (3)(a) the house extends its morning sitting by 30

minutes so that members can have ample time to debate the motion on the floor. I request the honourable majority leader to second.

(Honourable Katherya stood in his place and bowed to second)

Hon. Speaker: Honourable I now propose the question that pursuant to the provision of Standing Order number 41 (3)(a) the house extends its morning sitting by 30 minutes. The floor is now open for debate.

Regard being taken to the mood of the house I now put the question.

(Question put and agreed to)

Proceed honourable Margret Gitari.

Hon. Margret: Thank you Mr. Speaker, first of all I want to thank the committee for making today's debate in this house very lively by bringing the budgetary estimates for 2020/2021. And before I conclude...

Hon. Margaret: Mr Speaker before I make my conclusion, I just want to say that we are here and I have always said that we are here with a purpose Mr Speaker and the purpose is to make Tharaka Nithi County great. We are here to see that the so called Ciambai is taken care of on the ground. As I was generally going through the budget, I read the report from the Chair budget I realized that since the time we came here and today, we are now talking of a budget of 5.1 Billion Mr Speaker. By the time we came here, we were talking of a budget of 2.8 Billion. When I look at the distribution of the resources, I can see that the recurrent is consuming the development budget. Why am I saying that Mr Speaker. I am saying this because it is known that not less than 30% should go to development. Since the time we came here, if it is a ward road in Chogoria ward, I have been doing one. The budget has been going up but I have been doing one road. That means that the development budget that should be felt on the ground, that Ciambai should be seeing what is happening on the ground, Mr Speaker it is not the case. When I look at the health sector, when I was elected as the MCA Chogoria ward, I found so many incomplete structures in the name of health facilities. Today I have been able to be given 1 million for only Baragu

dispensary. I have dispensaries from Kiamuchai which has got a building that is at roofing level and it has never been completed. I have a building in Wiiru dispensary, I have another one at Kiriani, Mutindwa, and Munga. All these dispensaries have got incomplete buildings Mr Speaker. I don't know how I will go back to the voters to tell them and I have been there for five years and we have not been able to complete the stalled projects Mr Speaker. When you look at the Education sector, we started constructing these ECDE classes and there is 30 million to continue constructing the same classes. There are some wards which are disadvantaged and we should be talking about equity and not equality. When I look on the distribution of money for water services, you find that there are wards which have not been given anything as far as water services is concerned Mr Speaker but you find there is a ward with a borehole, there is a ward with water for the community, there is a ward with water Kiosks and other wards with nothing Mr Speaker. This budget is not equitably distributed, this budget is not Ciambai friendly because Ciambai is yet to see a light at the door step on what is happening. When we call the CECs here to explain a few issues and some of them do not explain, we are left with no alternative but to come to this house. This is the protective arm of my tenure for five years. This is where I can speak and Chogoria ward people can say Yes the MCA spoke and said that we are not getting services that we are supposed to get. When I look at the money that we were allocated for the maintenance of ward roads in 2018, it was 8.5 Million. That budget was 2.8 billion but today with 5.1 billion, we are allocated 7 million. All the roads in our wards are in a very bad state Mr Speaker. 7 million in Chogoria ward is a drop in the ocean. People in Chogoria ward are now contributing money to repair their roads. They are buying stones to put on the roads Mr Speaker. As we debate about a budget, let us not debate about a budget because we want to please each other. Let us debate about a budget so that the Executive can understand that we need money so that the person on the ground can feel it. We cannot continue with wage bills increasing every now and then. For the last three years the roads have not been maintained. Why can't we have staff to maintain these roads. In my ward I have got three roads that were done but they are now bad as if nothing was done Mr Speaker simply because they are not maintained. As we pass or not pass the budget, let us understand that we are talking for the benefit of Tharaka Nithi County voters. The Chairman talked about our assembly construction Mr Speaker. We are going

to live in this make shift for five years Mr Speaker? We have been encroached here that we cannot speak the way we used to speak because there are buildings allover Mr Speaker. I do not see us constructing that building in the near future Mr Speaker.

(Interjection by Hon. Speaker)

Hon. Speaker: You have an addition of five minutes.

Hon. Margaret: Thank you Mr Speaker. I will even talk for less than five minutes. So Mr Speaker when I look at the budget, it is as per the annual development plan, it is as per the CFSP but it is not evenly distributed according to Ciambai's expectations on the ground. With that, I cannot be convinced that I can pass a budget when my people on the ground are complaining. The youth called me another Day and I had nothing to do. Let it go on record that we have got nominated MCAs who are representing the youth and the youth are complaining. How are they going to take care of the youth? It is the high time they bring a motion to this house so that we can pass a motion to help our youth. The youth forms 70% of the County population. When we are talking about a budget being good, we must think about the people we represent. We represent those people whole-heartedly so that when we go back to them, we tell them what we have been able to do and what we have not been able to do. Since other members also wants to contribute, because of the many reasons that I have given here, I do not support this budget Mr Speaker. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you Honourable Margaret. Yes, Honourable Susan Ngugi.

Hon. Susan: Thank you Mr Speaker Sir, I am an advocate of the constitution of Kenya Mr Speaker Sir, for any budget or anything that touches on public funds, must go to public participation. It is in this county, in like two weeks ago we saw a big meeting in fact a crowd gathered here in the name of coming for their recruitment letters. If this county prioritizes in public participation, they could have gone around in every ward at least recruiting some few representatives to go through public participation so that they can take their views. They did not even care posting the budget in the County website. How would have the public accessed the budget which is supposed to be in the public domain Mr Speaker. I am sure if all these representatives wanted to be very honest, they could say that

the public could have taken their views to the MCAs offices. Personally I have not received any just because the public was not aware what was going on. We were not able to provide them even with either hard copies or soft copies for them to go through. I am lucky that I served in the last regime as an administrator and in the last regime we started with a budget of around 1.9 billion and they were able to lay the foundation of this County and by the end of their term, they were at about 2.6 billion Mr Speaker yet they were able to do whatever they did. They were able to achieve so much despite the fact that we thought otherwise Mr Speaker Sir. We are not talking about 5.1 billion. It really pains me, when I look at this budget. It is this regime that came in and started sacking important officers especially the village administrators in the name of reducing the wage bill. Then what happened? This time, they have a wholly 3.4 and above billions for recurrent expenditure whereas the development fund is only about 1.7 billion whereas many staff have been sacked, and remember, the village administrators are very well anchored in our constitution. It is like the people in this County do not really care about the constitution, they don't

(Interjection by Hon. Speaker)

Hon. Speaker: Honourable Susan Ngugi, I am not gagging the debate but as much as practically possible, confine yourself to the debate before this house.

Hon. Susan: Thank you Mr Speaker Sir.

(Loud Consultations)

Kindly protect me from the consultations.

Hon. Speaker: Honourable Members, let's consult quietly.

Hon. Susan: We only have one Chair.

Hon. Speaker: I give Honourable Susan the support that she needs to represent her people.

Hon. Susan: Let them know that I only receive orders from the Chair.

(Interjection by Hon. Derebia)

Hon. Derebia: Mr Speaker with your permission, I am standing in regard to CORVID-19 regulations.

Hon. Speaker: Yes

Hon. Derebia: When the other Honourable members was contributing earlier, Honourable Susan could not allow her to contribute without wearing the face mask. Let her also wear the face mask to abide by the CORVID-19 regulations by the ministry of health.

Hon. Speaker: Honourable Susan, you are a key advocate of CORVID-19 protocols and you should not be seen.

(Loud Consultations)

Hon. Susan: In fact, Mr Speaker Sir, I seek for your permission because

(Interjection by Hon. Speaker)

Hon. Speaker: Permission declined.

Hon. Susan: I am short of breath Honourable Speaker.

(Interjection by Hon. Speaker)

Hon. Speaker: Sergeant at Arms, if she is out of breath, then let's have the two other Honourable members sit elsewhere for the time being.

(Laughter)

Honourable Anita and Honourable Wilson kindly sit elsewhere.

(The Sergeant at Arms moves at his place and relocates the two

Honourable members to other seats)

(Laughter)

Kindly proceed Honourable Susan.

Hon. Susan: Thank you Mr Speaker Sir. I was saying if we are now talking of almost about 3.5 billion being recurrent expenditure, and only 1.7 billion going to development, it is like the MCAs in this Assembly are just13:05 its like even the people who brought us here we will not be regarded as their representatives Mr Speaker Sir. When I went through this budget, it is like a copy-paste of a budget from another county or from the National Government Mr Speaker Sir bearing in mind that last year, we had a budget with salaries for MPs. If the members can go through this budget in almost every page, there is a place under human resource there is a vote-head that reads, “ Maintenance of machinery and land.” And I am wondering whether lands and machinery are under human resource but in every page there is some allocation. Mr Speaker Sir, I stood here and I looked at all the members representing the people of Tharaka Nithi County and especially the members representing the lower part of Tharaka Nithi County pass a budget that does not care so much about the Agricultural crops in the lower part especially the Ndengus. When the CEC went through the budget yesterday, she said that coffee and tea are going to be their Agricultural flagship projects. I am left wondering what are the Agricultural flagship projects for the people of Tharaka in the lower part of this County who do not grow coffee and tea. Ndengu farming is the cash crop for the people of Tharaka and the people living in the lower parts of this county especially people from Mwimbi and Igamba Ng’ombe and when you see that such crops are not taken care of, you are left wondering now the people from the lower parts of Tharaka Nithi County, what is their Agricultural flagship projects in the Agricultural sector Mr Speaker Sir.

(Interjection by Hon. Speaker)

Hon. Speaker: Honourable Susan Ngugi, you now have additional five minutes. Make use of it.

Hon. Susan: Thank you Mr Speaker Sir. I wish someone could just donate some minutes to me. Now that they said they are going to look at pending projects, we have dispensaries like igakiramba, Kasarani, and many other projects that are pending in Marimanti ward, I am surprised

(Loud Consultations)

I really got shocked

(Loud Consultations)

Hon. Speaker: Honourable members, let's consult quietly.

Hon. Susan: When we were here for about two days looking on the pending bills budget Mr Speaker Sir, there is an ablution block in Kibung'a level four hospital, it had been allocated some money about 10 million. The facility is complete with everything in place. There is another allocation of 3 million. The CEC concerned, the CEC Finance and everyone else was not able to convince this house where the 3 million was going to. When the committee requested the budget committee to reallocate the funds, they were not able to Mr Speaker Sir. There is also a lab in Marimanti ward allocated 5 million. When we called the CEC of health, he said that the 5 million was meant to buy a bio-digester and an incinerator. I am just wondering whether now this time an incinerator will now cost less than 5 million and we very well know that incinerators in this County costs 34 million Mr Speaker Sir. There are MCAs in this house who are nominated to represent gender, people with disabilities, youth and so forth Mr Speaker Sir. There is also a committee on the same. Mr Speaker Sir, I am the current Chair women caucus. When I went through this budget and I was not able to see anything allocated.

(Loud Consultations)

(Interjection by Hon. Speaker)

Hon. Speaker: Honourable Samuel Muthini. Kindly consult quietly.

Hon. Susan: I have not seen anything allocated for women, I have not seen anything allocated for children, the money that has been mentioned here for people living with disability, it's not budgeted for. We are not even able to know how much goes to youth, people with disability, or what is it for especially for people living with disability. In my community, we believe that men are the heads of the family Mr Speaker. I have never seen a man who goes around with the wife And the wife allows the man to sell a cow or a piece

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of land and the man pockets everything. When we see other counties, in fact you are left wondering whether if the counties would allow transfers, some of us would have sought for transfers to other counties. When you allocate such money and you are left with nothing, we need to check out which other areas have been left out. I know my time is up
Mr Speaker Sir,

(Interjection by Hon. Speaker)

Hon. Speaker: I give you an additional two minutes for the interest of gender.

Hon. Susan: Thank you Mr Speaker Sir.

(Laughter)

I move on by saying, the nominated MCAs in this house, each member was nominated to represent a certain group. There are those nominated to represent gender, youth, people living with disabilities. Even as they pass or they defend this budget for those who are going to defend it. What is there for them. Gender refers to men and women and boys and girls. What is there for boys and girls, what is there for men and women, especially the marginalized women

(Laughter)

The whole of Turima location, doesn't have any dispensary Mr Speaker. There is a time we visited the area with His Excellency the Governor and his team. They requested for construction of a dispensary. The community was able to show the Executive where they wanted the dispensary to be constructed. I don't know what happened Mr Speaker Sir. I am here to represent them and say that the people of Kathura are yet to see a dispensary. From Kibung'a level four to Kathura is more than 10 kilometers and it is a constitutional requirement that every sub-location must have at least one dispensary Mr Speaker. So when you see a place like Kathura lacking a dispensary and many other sub-locations like kasarani. We are always told that this county is very aggressive to ensure that double revenue is collected. Yesterday I saw a post in the social media that Ndagani people were

being harassed by our revenue officers. It is a requirement that every citizen pays tax. I agree with that. Why is it that the people of Tharaka Nithi pays tax in fact almost double. We have always been told that the loopholes have been sealed and if so, why is it that the people who pays revenue,

(Interjection by Hon. Speaker)

Hon. Speaker: You have one minute remaining Honourable Susan Ngugi.

Hon. Susan: Thank you Mr Speaker Sir. I am actually concluding. I am an advocate of truth and honesty Mr Speaker Sir. This budget has not gone through public participation. I would want to prepare the Honourable members that from next week, I don't know whether I will be arrested or not, but I will do a post-public participation in the whole county and sensitize our people on what is really happening Mr Speaker Sir. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you Honourable Susan Ngugi. Yes, Honourable Charles Nyaga.

Hon. Nyaga: Thank you Mr Speaker Sir. Let me first congratulate the budget committee for job well done. Mr Speaker, when we came here in 2017, we started with a supplementary budget and I remember very well

(Laughter)

Mitheru ward was awarded 330 million for tarmacking. That road up to today has never been tarmacked. I don't want to repeat what other Honourable members have said. Let me say that as a house, we will be judged personally and collectively including you Mr Speaker.

(Laughter)

Let me say this, I have always been saying that figures don't lie. In this county of ours, there are certain indicators or parameters that we can operate and see whether the figures tally. We will always get last year's budget, and this year budget. There is no one and I am challenging the Honourable members who has ever given the Executive the spending of votes by man per year so that we can tally the figures with what we have spent. We have

computers and this is a five minutes' job. The money spent by vote-head by man per year totaling to what we have spent. That is something to watch. We have exceeded in some areas and I can say one of them is revenue collection which we have automated but we have not received equivalent services. We have exceeded in artificial insemination (AI) that one I can attest. I can say that in my ward, AI is working excellently. Mr Speaker, I don't want to talk of non-financial assets because someone talked about them. If we remove that 1.2 billion or a portion of it, I believe that the recurrent expenditure can be far much good and we can boast of our percentages. Let me say that the budget committee is made up of two Honourable members from Chuka Igamba Ng'ombe, two Honourable members from Tharaka constituency and one Honourable member from Maara Constituency.

(Laughter)

Mr Speaker, if you look at the budget, that one can speak for itself. Finally, let me bring to your attention that the Honourable member for Magumoni which is a state ward, is having an Harambee on 30th of August to repair his ward roads. If a state ward is having an Harambee Mr Speaker, what is happening in other wards.

(Laughter)

Mr Speaker, I will end up there and also tell you that I invite you in that Harambee because you are also one of us. Thank you Mr Speaker and I stand to oppose.

(Laughter)

Hon. Speaker: Yes, Honourable Karen Karimi.

Hon. Karen: Thank you Mr Speaker, I stood earlier to seek clarification and I believe after having some minutes of flash-back and digesting, I flash-backed when we started this assembly Mr Speaker, and being human beings Mr Speaker, I have been listening to the debate and guided by the oath that I made when I started my work here, I would want to say that sometimes we are not honest Mr Speaker. I have been adversely mentioned here by virtue that I am one of the nominated members in this house. I want to stand and say, "Yes", I am nominated to represent the youth. I have heard that the wage bill is totaling to

3.2 billion. The number of youths that are consuming into that wage bill, is the highest. I am ashamed if I stand here and say that the wage bill should be reduced so that the youths can go home.

(Applause)

I don't know what I would want to say this morning but I would be wrong by not supporting this budget knowing very well, it's also touching on the Executive and the Head of Executive was elected by the people of this county Mr Speaker. His Excellency the Governor knows very well that after two years, he will still go back to those people and show them what he did for them. Is it my business if he goes back to those people with nothing. It means, the budget he brought to this house Mr Speaker, it is worthy to do some development that he will go back to the people of Tharaka Nithi and show them what he did. The same case to the members of the budget committee, same case to the members who have supported the budget. I also believe this budget has development in every ward. Members who are representing the 15 geographical wards, mine is not geographical. I represent people from different wards Mr Speaker. If they have seen in their wards, it's noble since it has development in this budget Mr Speaker. Who am I not to give them that chance so that they can have something to present to their people. Thank you Mr Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Thank you Honourable Karen. Yes, Honourable Njeri.

Hon. Njeri: Thank you Mr Speaker, kindly consult quietly

(Interjection by Hon. Speaker)

Hon. Speaker: Kindly consult quietly and avoid a lot of movement within the Chamber regard being taken to CORVID-19 regulations. Yes Honourable Samuel Muthini.

Hon. Karangi: I wanted to bring to your attention that we have three sides in this assembly.

Hon. Speaker: I am soon coming to your side Honourable Muthini. Kindly proceed Honourable Njeri.

Hon. Njeri: Thank you Mr Speaker, I rise to support this budget, as legislators, we are bound by the law and we act as per the constitution and as such we have a responsibility to represent our people. Currently, after the heavy rains, all the feeder roads are in a mess. Our Ciambai's and Wanjikus cannot carry their food to the market, many bodaboda youths are breaking their legs because of poor feeder roads. So Mr Speaker it is very unfortunate that as the representatives of the people, some people wants to drag the progress of the county. There is an urgent need to pass this budget so that the feeder roads can be worked on, our machines can get fuel so that the feeder roads can be graded. Unless we say that we are going to build shelter so that once the roads are graded, they will not get damaged. We expect damage of the feeder roads after every time we have heavy rains.

(Interjection by Hon. Speaker)

Hon. Speaker: Yes Honourable member for Karingani.

Hon. Muchiri: Mr Speaker, there is need to tell the Honourable member that we are not in a hurry. We have time up to 30th June but let her contribute and confine to what the budget entails because the roads are captured in the budget. Thank you Honourable Speaker.

Hon. Njeri: Mr Speaker, I think the Chair budget did not listen to my speech keenly.

(Interjection by Hon. Speaker)

Hon. Speaker: Honourable member, kindly confine yourself to the debate before the house. Kindly proceed.

Hon. Njeri: Yes, I am talking about the budget. That is why I am saying that we need to pass the budget so that our machines can get money for fuel, the money allocated for feeder roads can be utilized and the feeder roads are repaired. We need to pass the budget so that all the other works can be done. Mr Speaker, if anybody understands English which

I believe they do, my speech is very well confined within the budget. Mr Speaker, I strongly support the budget. When the current regime took over, there was huge amount of pending bills. We had to do supplementary budget as per the presidential directive to pay the pending bills and that is why we have had interruptions. I congratulate the Chair budget and the entire committee for doing a good budget. I also congratulate the CEC finance and her team. We have managed to perform well when it comes to payment of pending bills which is a continuous process. Mr Speaker Sir, I strongly support the budget. We need to stop politicizing this very important matter. We are the representatives of the people.

(Interjection by Hon. Speaker)

Hon. Speaker: You have one minute remaining.

Hon. Njeri: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Let us stop politicizing budget, let's stop politicizing issues and matters are like life to our people. We have a responsibility as elected and nominated legislators. We are here to represent our people. Let's stop politics. Let's be serious and work for our people. As such, I support this budget so that we can move on and work for our people. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you Honourable Njeri. I will now give a chance to Honourable Anita, then Honourable Millicent, then Honourable member for Gatunga then I will finish with Honourable Erastus Kinyua.

Hon. Anita: Thank you Honourable Speaker. First, I laud the budget committee for sitting down without caring whether someone went to Nairobi and came back having CORVID-19 infection. They managed to sit and gave us this budget. Mr Speaker, whether elected, nominated, appointed or selected, I believe we are in this house for a common goal and the good of the people of Tharaka Nithi county. I would wish to correct what my colleague one Honourable Njeri has said. We are here because of a political process. The budget is also a political process because the Governor is a politician who was elected by the people of Tharaka Nithi County. We are here because we went through an electoral process and that is why we were elected and others nominated. Mr Speaker, sometimes I love this

house and I also love politicians. A politician will say I am ending and say next before I finish and will end up finishing until he/she finishes. We sat here with the CEC, Cos. I have gone through what the Chair budget presented to this house, and one thing that I love with this budget, is that the Executive and the Governor sat down and decided he does not want when he or the person who takes the office in 2023 to find white elephant projects like we found when we took over from the previous regime. He has allocated money for the completion of these projects so that at least we can go back to electorate with something that has been completed. I also heard the committee allocated money for youth, people living with disability. We have members who represent certain electoral wards and others who have been nominated. The reason why I support this budget, is because of page 37. I believe we have nine sectoral committees. When we sat here with the CECs, seven of our sectoral committees including mine that talked of the reduction of the wage bill but the Chair has not captured. Seven committees decided that we pass without amendment. So I don't know why we are complaining. Mr Speaker, the committee on trade, tourism and cooperatives, committee on education, Land, public service, transport, agriculture, youth, culture and social services, agreed that our budget should be passed without amendments and that was after we listened the CECs and after what the Chair has clarified after the committee on budget sat with the CEC and what she clarified before the committee. Mr Speaker, the committee on health and water gave their recommendations and I have seen the Chair put it very clearly the recommendations that the committee had suggested. We have a lot of things to be done, we have CORVID-19 to take care of, we have famine and the locusts have invaded our crops. We have a lot of things to be taken care of by this budget Mr Speaker. I believe it is better for us to pass this budget which is catering for various wards. For instance I am very proud of Mariani where I come from. There is a maternity ward that was constructed by Honourable Petkay Miriti when he was the area MP and it has been a white elephant but the Governor is planning to revive it. Our people have been giving births on the roads when they are carried by bodabodas. I stand to support this budget and may be most of us did not know what we were doing when we were doing our committees submissions and I think we should better get serious from today. With that, I support.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you Honourable Anita. Yes, Honourable Millicent. You will have two minutes because you are a member of the budget committee.

Hon. Muggana: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Being a member of the committee I have very pertinent issues I need to mention.

Hon. Speaker: Kindly proceed.

Hon. Muggana: Thank you. First I want to thank you Honourable Speaker for giving me this chance, secondly, I want to laud my Chair for job well done. You have become very conversant even in scrutinizing the reports so I am very proud of my Chair. I also want to congratulate the budget committee members for their dedication they have given in coming up with this report. Some of us have gone to the radio, some of us have even been met along the roads to be interviewed, and on this remark, I want to thank all the members because I respect my colleagues irrespective of their opinions. We all represent different interests and they all matters. I support this budget of course this goes without saying. Initially, I was a serious critic of the former regime because of the chamber. The chamber we are dwelling in right now and we are still dwelling in the same chamber not by mistake Honourable Speaker. We are trying our best as a Government .i.e. the Executive and the Assembly to build a chamber. This budget has captured very pertinent issue on the construction of the chamber and I feel very excited about the resolution that came up and through my Chair,

(Interjection by Hon. Speaker)

Hon. Speaker: Yes, Honourable Karen. You wish to rise on what.

Hon. Karen: I want to seek clarification Mr Speaker from what Honourable Millicent has said about the chamber and the 80 million that I saw somewhere but has been removed.

Hon. Speaker: I will give the Chair budget time to respond and he will address that.

Hon. Muggana: Thank you Honourable Karen for the concern. Honourable Speaker, I was just saying that there is a committee that has been established to look at the progress of the chamber and I request the house to engage the committee since the committee is supposed

to give a report in two weeks time so that we can start the process of getting money that is already in the budget to start constructing our chamber. On the youth, there has been very serious allegations. I am calling them allegations because I cannot substantiate some, that the youths have been ignored and owing to the fact that I am very passionate about the youth even if I am not nominated to represent the youth, I want to say that I support this budget because when we did not get money for the stadium, we still have money especially, personally and collectively for craft centers that we passed a motion on in this house. Having one craft center already started then we have several following, by the time we are done, every constituency will have a craft center that will cater for the youth. If the members can remember those who did not walk out, whatever is involved in a craft center is well included. On PWDs, I am aware through the consultations with their representative, their programs that were brought to the committee have been taken care of. On women whom I represent together with men and children, there is an allocation that has not been broken down that every member can follow up to get the program. I am aware that I have severally tabled motions on programs regarding women empowerment and there is money for that. On dispensaries, I am aware that there is a department that went round and looked at the audit report mapping all the areas with dispensaries in this county. Sometimes, even if we are saying that the budget is political and whatever, sometimes it is good to be objective. You cannot build one dispensary here and the next one very close. I am very impressed by Honourable member for Marimanti who has been very compassionate about a dispensary that I am also aware of by the name Tonya dispensary whereby the distance from this place to Kibung'a is very far for them. Sometimes when we are arguing for

(Interjection by Hon. Speaker)

Hon. Speaker: Honourable Millicent you are running out of time. You know I have always given you the freedom to debate but kindly conclude because I need to give the mover at least five minutes to respond.

Hon. Muggana: I stand guided Honourable Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: We have three more members who are yet to contribute.

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Hon. Muggana: I was saying that we have been able to cater for Kaanwa dispensary and Tonya dispensary. I am not going to talk about the memoranda because of time but I wanted to respond to the Honourable member for Magumoni about the loans and the donations but because of time, I can engage him on one on one. On pending bills,

(Interjection by Hon. Speaker)

Hon. Speaker: There is always another time.

(Laughter)

Hon. Muggana: Of course since I am also a member from Magumoni in a different way.

(Laughter)

Honourable Speaker I want to conclude by saying, I actually had so many issues I wanted to help my Chair in responding and considering that I am the vice Chair of the committee but because of time. Finally, I want to say, critically tell my sister who I respect very much and we normally sit close to one another, she talked about the elected and the nominated. This really pinches me a lot. If a member is elected through a popular vote and not affirmative action and the elected member is evaluated by actions, mediocracy and performance. Sometimes, if we bring issues to do with elected or nominated in this house, we will go to levels that are not very good. Sometimes I get very fierily.

(Interjection by Hon. Speaker)

Hon. Speaker: Honourable Millicent for the purpose of our debate, I have never given any preference to anyone whether elected or nominated and with that, your time is up.

Hon. Muggana: Honourable Speaker I want to conclude by saying that I support this budget with a lot of conviction and we will always work together whether elected or nominated.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you Honourable Millicent. Yes, Honourable Mutegi Rugia.

Hon. Mutegi: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Allow me to congratulate the Chairman for budget and appropriations committee and his team. This debate is quite good. The budget that has been brought to this house by the Chair, is the best budget among all the other budgets that have ever been brought to this house. This is a house of politics and everybody was brought here by politics. Politics is usually interesting. Even in my ward, it has been captured by this budget Honourable Speaker. Ki want to tell members to encourage the youth to work. When I was a youth, I was working.

(Laughter)

Honourable Speaker protect me.

(Loud consultations)

Hon. Speaker: Honourable members let's not have interruptions because we have only ten minutes remaining.

(Loud consultations)

Kindly proceed.

Hon. Mutegi: The youths have brought a lot of blame games in this Honourable house. In the last year's budget they were given some amount but I have never seen even a ball in my ward. So even these allocations for the youth, should be twenty thousand not the amount allocated.

(Laughter)

(Interjection by Hon. Speaker)

Hon. Speaker: Yes, Honourable Karen. You want to stand on what.

Hon. Karen: Mr Speaker with all due respect, I cannot sit here as a youthful member and accept being insulted that we are lazy. That is very bad Mr Speaker. We are not lazy. Let the Honourable member withdraw that statement.

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(Laughter)

Hon. Mutegi: Honourable Speaker, the Honourable member has not listened keenly to what I said.

(Interjection by Hon. Speaker)

Hon. Speaker: Honourable Mutegi Rugia. Kindly confine yourself to the debate before the house.

(Laughter)

Hon. Mutegi: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I have not said that the youth are lazy. I have said let us encourage our youth to work. That is what I have said. If you have not heard, let me repeat again.

(Laughter)

Let us encourage our youth to work because even when personally I was a youth, I used to work hard. Honourable Speaker we have so many problems in our various wards. We have old men in the villages, we have women who does not even have even a borehole within their area. So they are suffering a lot. Even our energetic youth who can go to fetch water for quite a distance. So Honourable Speaker, I rise to support the budget. It is good. We all know how politics works. When one loses in politics, it is so painful but when one wins, it is so enjoyable. I wish to tell my brothers this is a lot of politics and we shall not repeat so since this budget is also political from the look, we are going to support it,

(Laughter)

And it is very good. Thank you Mr Speaker.

(Laughter and Applause)

Hon. Speaker: Thank you Honourable Mutegi Rugia. Yes, Honourable Erastus Kinyua. You are a member of the budget committee so I expect you will take one or two minutes.

Hon. Kinyua: Thank you Mr Speaker. I have a few issues to comment on.

(Interjection by Hon. Speaker)

Hon. Speaker: We have only nine minutes remaining and I need to give the mover some time to respond.

Hon. Kinyua: This is a house of rules and order.

(Interjection by Hon. Speaker)

Hon. Speaker: Kindly let's Consult quietly.

Hon. Kinyua: Mr Speaker, when members were contributing, even chairmen of some committees whereby the rules and the standing orders are very clear on budgeting process Mr Speaker. On page 37, we have our seven committees whereby they submit their scrutiny with recommendation that they have nothing to recommend or do anything in the budget Mr Speaker. With all powers to increase or reduce their budget in the respective sectoral committees Mr Speaker. Somebody pointed out that and I know even the Chair knows that the wage bill is well articulated on page 15 Mr Speaker, whereby the CEC finance said that the wage bill has dropped from 44% to 37%. It is good when someone is reading the report because you can miss out on issues which are well explained in the report Mr Speaker. As I have said, the budget is a process and there is a report that comes quarterly. This is called budget implementation report and it comes from the office of the Auditor general. It comes quarterly and I emphasise that all members should be getting that report and we go through it to see what has been done for the last three months. So Mr Speaker when a member says that the report has not covered the implementation, that report only comes from the auditor general.

(Interjection by Hon. Speaker)

Hon. Speaker: Honourable Erastus, you have always been precise and concise. Let's spare some time for your chairman.

Hon. Kinyua: Thank you Mr Speaker. I am winding up by saying that I am a member of the budget committee and I am supporting the report with amendments because the last three years, my cars have been grounded because of ferrying people at night to Chuka general hospital but in this report, I can see that when Kaanwa dispensary is operational, we will not be taking people to Chuka General hospital Mr Speaker. I support the budget Mr Speaker. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Honourable Samuel Muthini. I expect you in one sentence to say whether you are supporting or not but I am not gagging the debate. We are running out of time.

Hon. Karangi: Thank you Mr Speaker. I will be very brief. First, it's to confirm that I am a nominated MCA, brought here by Jubilee party to represent the interests of the party first and then to represent what is mandated to me by the constitution and I am aware of it Mr Speaker. On that note, I want to say that this budget is the best budget that I have ever seen since we started the Muthomi Njuki led Government. I fully support it and also try to inform my brother and my friend Honourable Kithinji that budget is a document that has projections on where to get revenue and in the event that we do not get it, or in case we have pandemics like Corona Virus, we do a supplementary budget whereby we adjust figures to suit the budget and the people of Tharaka Nithi county. Lastly Mr Speaker, on the issue of farming, this is a continuous process that has been funded since 2017. These are projects which were given some allocation but to be completed within a span of few years. Thank you Mr Speaker. I strongly support.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you Honourable Samuel Muthini. Honourable members, pursuant to the provisions of standing orders 106(iv), I now give time to the mover in one minute to respond.

Hon. Muchiri: Thank you Honourable Speaker.

(Interjection by Hon. Speaker)

Hon. Speaker: Honourable Chair, I don't want us to vote outside the time limit.

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Hon. Muchiri: I want to be very brief Honourable Speaker because some of the issues that have been raised have already been responded to by my fellow committee members but it is actually good to answer them. I want to take the shortest time possible. First of all let me thank Honourable members for their heated debate. In fact that is why it is called the Assembly. If we normally come here to say yes or No then we move out, it could not have been the Assembly. I respects everyone's opinion and I am very happy because of all what the Honourable members have said. I just only want to briefly comment on the issue of the recurrent and the overall budget. I want to answer the issue raised by one Honourable Kithinji,

(Interjection by Hon. Speaker)

Hon. Speaker: Honourable Chair, your time is up. Kindly allow me to put the question.

Hon. Muchiri: Thank you Honourable Speaker and I thank the Honourable members.

Hon. Speaker: Honourable members, allow me now to put the question that this Assembly adopts the report of the finance, budget and appropriations committee on Tharaka Nithi County budget estimates for the County Executive and the County Assembly for the financial year 2020/2021 tabled in the Assembly on 5th May 2020.

(Question put and agreed to)

Honourable members, there being no other business in the order paper, the house stands adjourned until the next sitting.

*****The House Rose at 1:00 PM*****

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