

# THARAKA NITHI COUNTY ASSEMBLY

## THE HANSARD

16<sup>th</sup> March 2021

*The County Assembly met at the  
County Assembly chambers in Kathwana at 10.30 a.m.  
[The Deputy Speaker (Hon. John Njagi Mucee) in the Chair]*

### PRAYERS

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Honourable members, let's get seated.

### MOTION

APPROVAL OF COUNTY FISCAL STRATEGY PAPER FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR  
2021/22 AND COUNTY DEBT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY PAPER  
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2021/22

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Yes, chair.

**Hon. Muchiri:** Thank you honourable Speaker. I stand to move the Motion on the Approval of County Fiscal Strategy Paper for The Financial Year 2021/2022 And County Debt Management Strategy Paper for the Financial Year 2021/2022.

That; pursuant to the provisions of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 section 117, the County Assembly adopts the County Fiscal Strategy Paper for the Financial Year 2021/2022 and County Debt Management Strategy Paper FY 2021/2022 laid on the table of the House on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2021 without amendment.

Mr. Speaker allow me, on behalf of the members of the Select Committee on County Finance, Budget and Appropriation, to go through the report of the committee on the County Fiscal Strategy Paper for the Financial Year 2021/2022 and County Debt Management Strategy Paper Financial Year 2021/2022.

Mr. Speaker Sir, on behalf of the members of the Select Committee on County Finance, Budget and Appropriations, and pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 242 it is my pleasant duty and privilege to present to this honourable Assembly the Report of the Committee on the Tharaka Nithi County Fiscal Strategy Paper for the Financial Year 2021/2022.

Allow me to say that we went through the fiscal strategy paper and the debt management strategy paper. We were guided by the law. We considered whether the executive followed the Standing Orders and the PFM Act.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the Committee wishes to sincerely thank the Offices of the Speaker and the Clerk of this Assembly for the support extended to it in the execution of its mandate. The Committee also wishes to extend its appreciation to the Chairpersons of the respective Sectoral Committees of the Assembly who took time to review the CFSP, met with their respective line Departments and who made time to appear before the Committee for purposes of submitting their recommendations on the CFSP.

Finally, I wish to thank the Members of the Committee on Finance, Budget and Appropriations who sacrificed valuable time from their families and constituents to participate in the activities of the Committee including attending meetings at extended hours. I take this opportunity to sincerely express gratitude for their input and valuable contributions during the consideration and deliberations of the County Fiscal Strategy Paper for the Financial Year 2021/2022.

I started by saying that on the issue of the legal basis we looked upon the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 that the CFSP adhered to. We also looked at the County Assembly of Tharaka Nithi Standing Orders, i.e. Standing Order number 242 when it comes to the time of submitting the document to this House, i.e. by 28<sup>th</sup> February; it was submitted.

After considering the legal basis, we went through public participation. Pursuant to article 118 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 the committee facilitated public hearing as follows:

- i. Chuka/Igambang'ombe at Chuka Trans-nation Hall on 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2021;
- ii. Tharaka at Marimanti Tharaka CDF Hall on 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2021; and
- iii. Maara at Chogoria Sub-County Hall on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2021.

Members of the public i.e. Civil Society, Non-Governmental Organizations, professional groups, youths, women groups, persons living with disability, traders and faith based organizations were encouraged to participate.

Copies of the County Fiscal strategy paper 2021/2022 were to be obtained from the Office of the Clerk or the Tharaka Nithi County Assembly website and Views or memoranda on the Fiscal Strategy Paper 2021/2022 were to be hand delivered or emailed to Tharaka Nithi County Assembly on or before 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2021.

The public did not turn out for the public participation maybe due to the pandemic; also because I think the issue of the CFSP is not well known by the community and also it could be because of the trust the public has in this honourable House; that the House is going to take part in representing them. The Committee also did not receive any memoranda on the County Fiscal Strategy Paper for the Financial Year 2021/2022.

Mr. Speaker, we had the submissions by the County Assembly sectoral committees. I had earlier thanked the committees for the good work they did. The Committee met with the County Assembly sectoral committees on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 to hear their views on the departmental ceilings of their respective dockets. The Committees noted that the current ceilings could not meet all the departmental needs but due to the constraints on the resource envelope the departments will have to prioritize the most pressing needs. The committee reports are annexed to this report.

The committee on finance, budget and appropriations observations and findings on the county fiscal strategy paper for the financial year 2021/2022;

Compliance with the Provisions of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012;

Section 117 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 provides the basis for the preparation, consideration and adoption of the County Fiscal Strategy Paper. It provides that:

- (1) The County Treasury shall prepare and submit to the County Executive Committee the County Fiscal Strategy Paper for approval and the County Treasury shall submit the approved Fiscal Strategy Paper to the County Assembly, by the 28<sup>th</sup> February of each year. We received it by then.

Mr. Speaker allow me, because of time and because everyone has the document with them, to say the compliance with the legal deadlines for compliance was met. The committee observed that the CFSP Financial Year 2021/2022 was approved by the cabinet, there is an attached letter to show that, on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021 and submitted to the County Assembly on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021 and subsequently tabled on the Assembly on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021. The executive, having submitted the document on 26<sup>th</sup> February, met the deadline. The submission of the CFSP Financial Year 2020/2021 to the County Assembly was thus compliant with the provisions of Section 117(1) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012.

Compliance with the Provisions as to Form and Content of the County Fiscal Strategy Paper;

Section 117 (2) (3) and (4) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 as read together with Regulations 25 and 26 of the Public Finance Management Regulations, 2015, and Standing Order No. 242 of the County Assembly of Tharaka Nithi Standing Orders, prescribes the form and content of County Fiscal Strategy Paper. They essentially provide that a County Fiscal Strategy Paper must entail the following:

1. The CFSP must be aligned with the national objectives in the Budget Policy Statement (BPS);
2. The CFSP must specify the broad strategic priorities and policy goals that will guide the county government in preparing its budget for the coming financial year and over the medium term;
3. The CFSP must give the financial outlook with respect to county government revenues, expenditures and borrowing for the coming financial year and over the medium term;
4. The CFSP must give an assessment of the current state of the county economic environment; and
5. The CFSP must contain expenditure ceilings for each Department of the County Government.

The Committee notes significant improvement in the form and structure of CFSP, 2021 compared to the previous CFSPs submitted to the County Assembly for consideration and approval and commends the County treasury for the improvement. We noted this with a lot of concerns since this is our fourth CFSP and it is true we are moving forward now when it comes to the preparations of these documents.

Alignment with the Budget Policy Statement Paper, 2021;

Mr. Speaker, fiscal planning is the height of enhancing economic development within the County Governments. In order to achieve rapid economic transformation through tapping into the National Government's fiscal planning framework, it is important for the County Governments to align their budgetary framework with the fiscal planning framework of the National Government.

Tharaka Nithi County Government has aligned its priorities to the Big 4 agenda which includes food and nutritional security, affordable housing, manufacturing, and universal health coverage. The realization of these national goals will help in actualizing the Vision 2030 agenda. The County Government has prepared the county economic development planning documents which are aligned to the National Government's Medium-Term Plan (MTP III) and the Big 4 agenda.

Specification of the broad strategic priorities and policy goals that will guide the county government in preparing its budget for the coming financial year and over the medium term;

The County Fiscal Strategy Paper Financial Year 2021/2022 strategic priorities are anchored on fostering sustainable development that promotes inclusive economic growth and opens economic opportunities for a better future for residents in the County. The CFSP covers the following broad priorities;

- a) Transform agriculture for improved production and productivity.
- b) Ensure access to quality and affordable health care services. The health department has taken the largest share in the CFSP and that shows us that it will be the same in the budget.
- c) Provide efficient, affordable and reliable infrastructure and services for sustainable economic growth.
- d) Promote quality, inclusive, diverse, accessible education and promote cohesion.
- e) Create conducive business and tourism environment.
- f) Attain efficient, equitable and sustainable use of land resource, spatial planning and development of urban areas.
- g) Ensure provision of efficient and effective public service delivery.
- h) Strengthen the democratic arena and fostering good governance.

Mr. Speaker, on the compliance with the requirement for Public Participation, as I had said earlier was done. We had requested for memorandum but we did not receive any.

On the issue of compliance with publicizing the County Fiscal strategy paper upon its submission to the County Assembly, it was done.

Allow me to say that the following conditions were complied to. i.e. the county treasury on the issue of submission, the issue of the County Government's recurrent expenditure shall not exceed the County Government's total revenue. It is complied to.

Over the medium term, a minimum of thirty percent of the County Government's budget shall be allocated to the development expenditure. It is complied to in the document.

The County Government's expenditure on wages and benefits for its public officers shall not exceed a percentage of the County Government's total revenue as prescribed by the County Executive member for finance in regulations and approved by the County Assembly.

According to PFM regulations of 2015, exceed 35% of the total County Revenues. This is a bone of contention always but it is not complied to. We advised the Executive to seriously have a look at this so that we can comply in the next budget.

Over the medium term, the Government's borrowings shall be used only for the purpose of financing development expenditure and not for recurrent expenditure. This is not applicable since the County government does not intend to borrow to finance its expenditure in the medium term.

The county debt shall be maintained at a sustainable level as approved by the County Assembly. This is also not applicable still because we are not borrowing.

A 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. The taxes will be determined in the Finance Bill, of 2021.

On the issue of performance;

Financial Year 2019/2020 Budget implementation and Revenue performance;

During the Financial Year 2019/2020, the County Government approved budget was Kshs 5.12 billion comprising of Kshs. 3.45 billion and Kshs 1.67 billion allocations for recurrent

and development programmes, respectively. As I had said earlier there was compliance with very many parameters except a few.

This being a projection, allow me to go through the budget projection for Financial Year 2021/2022;

County Government projects to prepare budget estimates amounting to Kshs. 5,393,785,007 of which Kshs. 3,566,699,698 (66% of the total budget) is projected for recurrent activities and Kshs. 1,827,085,308 (34% of the total budget) on development projects. We have it in a table 9 on page 30 and Table 10 on page 31 of the CFSP and it is complying with the 30-70% rule because we are at 66-34%.

To finance this budget, the County expects to receive Kshs. 4,214,198,393 (78.13% of the total revenue sources) being an equitable share from the National Government, Kshs. 829,586,614 (15.38% of the total revenue sources) from grants and the County expects to raise Kshs. 350,000,000 (6.49% of the total revenue sources) from own source revenue. Table 5 on page 26 of the fiscal strategy paper provides detailed information on revenue sources.

According to the Draft Budget Policy Statement 2021 Tharaka Nithi County is proposed to receive Kshs. 4,214,198,393 from equitable share which presents 6.8% growth of equitable share revenue as compared to the current Financial Year 2020/2021.

On conditional grants the County is going to lose funding on grants for user fees forgone Kshs 8,218,119, fuel levy Kshs 115,085,841, and youth polytechnic grant 60,799,894.

Spending priorities and sector ceilings for the financial year 2021/22;

Health Sector;

The health sector, which includes medical services and public health and sanitation, has been allocated Kshs. 2,023 million in the financial year 2021/2022. The allocation comprises Kshs. 1592 million for medical services and Kshs. 431 million for public health and sanitation. The allocation will comprise Kshs. 1,423.4 million and Kshs. 277.9 million for medical and public health recurrent activities, respectively, and Kshs. 322.9 million to support infrastructure.

Our roads are in a pathetic state and although I think the county has improved tremendously it needs to be improved further because we need roads for the people to access markets for their produce.

The agriculture sector has been allocated Kshs. 571.4 million for financial year 2021/2022 of which Kshs. 122.2 million has been allocated for recurrent activities and Kshs. 449 million for development programmes. Under this sector, livestock, veterinary, and fisheries development programmes will be funded to the tune of Kshs. 128.4 million comprising of Kshs. 91.4 million for recurrent and Kshs. 37 million for development.

Water, environment and natural resources sector has been allocated Kshs. 171.4 million towards water services, irrigation, and environment programs. This comprises Kshs. 56.4 million for recurrent activities and Kshs. 115 million for development projects.

On infrastructure, the Government will concentrate ongoing tarmacking of roads, and continuous expansion and improvement of feeder roads, completion of ongoing Governor's residence construction. Others include expansion of electricity connection in with REA, purchase of modern ICT equipment, and improving networks. The total resource allocated to this sector in financial year 2021/22 is Kshs. 482 million of which Kshs. 375.6 million is for development and Kshs. 106.4 million for the recurrent vote.

In the Youth, Sports, Culture, and Tourism sector, the County Government has allocated Kshs. 25 million towards youth empowerment programme. The Government will focus rehabilitation of vocational training centres.

The energy and housing sector has been allocated Kshs. 146.3 million where Kshs. 35.3 million will be spent on recurrent activities and Kshs. 111 million on development activities. The County Government will prioritize completing county headquarter offices, educate citizens on renewable sources of energy, and extend grid power to various facilities and households in partnership with the National Government.

The education sector has been allocated Kshs. 353.2 million of which Kshs. 278.2 will be spent on education and vocational training while Kshs. 75 million has been allocated for Youth, Sports, Culture, and Tourism.



The public administration sector has been allocated Kshs. 1,252.6 million in financial year 2021/2022. The allocation for the administration sector comprises Kshs. 144.3 million allocated to the office of the Governor, Kshs 137.9 million for Public Administration and Devolution Affairs, Kshs 473.4 million allocated to Finance and Economic Planning and Trade, Kshs 473 million for the County Assembly, and Kshs 23.9 million for the County Public Service Board.

Trade and Revenue sector will receive an allocation of Kshs. 177.6 million.

Lands, Physical, Planning, and urban development sectors have been allocated Kshs 264.2 million in financial year 2021/2022; the allocation comprises 94.2 million for recurrent expenditure and Kshs. 170 million development projects. the Government will focus on completing Kathwana modern market, completing cabro paving at Chogoria town, tarmacking of Marimanti town, and waste management. Waste management is an area that we need to improve on since our towns are growing and we have a lot of waste that is coming from our towns and we need to look at it.

The County has allocated Kshs 9.2 million towards Environment and Natural Resources sector during financial year 2021/2022. The Government will prioritize tree planting, policy formulation implementation, natural resource exploration, and awareness to aid conservation.

Mr. Speaker, committee Observed the following;

On budget implementation for the financial year 2019/2020 and the first half of the financial year 2020/2021, the fiscal strategy paper shows that the Government cannot raise enough revenue to implement its budget. During the financial year 2019/20, the Government was unable to absorb revenue amounting to Kshs 234,134,443 despite being unable to raise enough revenue to implement its budget fully. Despite a good performance by own-source revenue in recent years, the Government has been unable to meet its target in any financial year.

Honourable Speaker, the submissions by the County Assembly Service Board;

The County Assembly Service Board noted that during the adoption of the Annual Development Plan for the financial year 2021/2022, the County Assembly had proposed an Allocation of Kshs 500 million for recurrent activities and Kshs. 170 million for development

projects, whereby the Assembly Service Board wishes to complete the construction of Speaker's residence and progress in the construction of County Assembly Chambers.

The County Fiscal Strategy Paper Financial Year 2021/2022 has allocated the County Assembly a ceiling of Kshs 473 million of which Kshs 423 million has been allocated to recurrent activities and Kshs 50 million for development projects.

The Assembly Service Board expressed concerns that Kshs 50 million allocated to development projects will not be sufficient to complete the construction of Speaker's residence and be able to construct a chamber for the Members of the County Assembly.

On recurrent budget, the County Assembly is capped at 423 million as per the County Allocation of Revenue Act of 2020 (CARA). The County Assembly is hopeful that the 2021 CARA will provide a higher ceiling for the Assembly which will see its recurrent budget ceiling go up from the current Kshs 423 million.

Therefore, the Service Board recommends an additional Kshs 50 million to increase the current development allocation to Kshs 100 million to enable the County Assembly to construct a decent chamber for the honourable Members.

Mr. Speaker the committee also received submissions by the County Executive Committee Member in charge of finance. I will however go directly to the policy recommendations.

Policy Recommendations;

From the findings, observations and conclusions the Committee draws the following policy recommendations:

1. That the County Treasury strictly adhere to the provisions of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 and its regulations, 2015;
2. That the County Government implements the recommendations of the Committee on wage mitigation to ensure that the wage bill is below 35% of the total County Government revenue in line with the provisions of the Public Finance Management Act regulations, 2015;
3. That the County Government should address issues leading to the under absorption of revenues;

4. That the County Government come up with proper legislation that will enhance the collection of its own source revenue to meet its targets and enhance its revenue streams; and finally
5. That the County Government should review its local revenue strengths to avoid being over-ambitious leading to over projection.

Fiscal Recommendation;

The Committee recommends that the County treasury considers an increment of the County Assembly Development Ceiling by Kshs. 50 million during the Budget preparation for the financial year 2021/2022 upon the resolution of the issues touching on the construction of the County Assembly chamber and offices and in case of an increment of the County allocation in the Counties Revenue Allocation Act 2021.

Committee Recommendation;

The Committee on Finance, Budget and Appropriations recommends that the House approves:

- i. The County Fiscal Strategy Paper for the Financial Year 2021/2022 without any amendments; and
- ii. The County Debt Management Strategy Paper 2021 without amendments.

Honourable Speaker those are the committee recommendations. In our documents we have the public participation details, the committee's recommendations.

I thank the members of various committees once again for giving us the opportunity to serve them. They submitted their submissions and they did very well. In their submission they said that resources will never be enough and the little that has been allocated in their departments be used to the maximum.

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

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you Chair.

*(Hon. Kinegeni stood in his place and bowed to second)*

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you honourable Kinegeni. I now propose the question that; pursuant to the provisions of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 section 117, the County Assembly adopts the County Fiscal Strategy Paper for the Financial Year 2021/2022 and County Debt Management Strategy Paper Financial Year 2021/2022 laid on the table of the House on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2021 without amendment. The floor is now open for debate. Yes, honourable Kinegeni.

**Hon. Kinegeni:** Thank you Mr. Speaker sir. I rise to support the Motion. As the chairman has said, I am one of the members of Budget committee, that report is ours, so I am here to own it and support it.

So I support. Thank you.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you honourable Jones Kinegeni, member for Mwimbi. Yes, honourable Nyaga Derebia, member for Muthambi ward.

**Hon. Derebia:** Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the report of the committee. I want to thank the committee because they have compiled a very elaborate report showing what each sectoral committee recommended. As I have heard in the conclusion they have recommended no alteration because it is giving us the highlights of the next budget year 2021/2022 which is our last budget for implementation.

I support that we adopt the report.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you honourable Nyaga Derebia. Yes, honourable Samuel Muthini Karangi.

**Hon. Karangi:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I stand to support. I think the support could be unanimous since there is no proposed amendment and any honourable member who had issues has all the time to consult the committee and come to an agreement.

So I fully support the report.

**Hon. Deputy:** Thank you. Yes, honourable Asumpta.

**Hon. Asumpta:** Thank you Mr. Speaker sir for this opportunity. I stand to support the Motion on the report. I support, thank you.

**Hon. Speaker:** Thank you honourable Asumpta. The floor is still open for debate.

I now put the question.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

Next order.

#### ALTERATION OF THE ASSEMBLY CALENDAR

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Yes, the mover.

**Hon. Karangi:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I stand to move the Motion on the alteration of the Assembly calendar.

Aware that; the Tharaka Nithi County Assembly Standing Order 39(4) provides that the Assembly may by resolution, alter its Calendar or the adjournment date.

Noting that; the County Assembly is in the process of considering the Tharaka Nithi County Alcoholic Drinks Control Bill, 2020 and the Tharaka Nithi County Water Services Bill, 2020, Bills that are essential to the service delivery of the County Government.

Now therefore the County Assembly resolves to alter its Fifth Session Calendar and adjourns for Part I short recess on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2020.

Mr. Speaker every member is aware that we have very important Bills in this House, i.e. the Alcoholic Drinks Control Bill, 2020 and the Tharaka Nithi County Water Services Bill, 2020, which need our attention for efficient service delivery for our people. I beg this House to support this Motion so that we extend for just one week, i.e. up to next week on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 so that we can consider these Bills which are important to this County.

With that I move and request honourable Derebia Wilson Nyaga to second.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Yes, honourable Derebia.

**Hon. Derebia:** Thank you Mr. Speaker I second the Motion on the alteration of the Assembly calendar despite the fact that the members who sponsoring these Bills are absent in this House today. I am wondering how serious they are with the Bills. I support because honourable Muthini is my friend.

*(Laughter)*

I want to be sincere. We cannot come here to alter the Assembly calendar on your behalf as a committee and the Sponsor of the Bill is not present.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Yes, honourable member for Karingani.

**Hon. Muchiri:** Honourable Speaker, although my friend just concluded his submissions allow me to say that he withdraws the comment that the members are not here. I am a member of the trade committee and we are here with quorum. Honourable Gataya is here and so is honourable Kinegeni. I can also see a representative of the committee on water honourable Speaker. Thank you.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Noted, yes honourable Derebia continue.

**Hon. Derebia:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I had already concluded. There is no need to give more input because I support the Motion.

*(Laughter)*

But I am saying that the sponsor of the Bill must be there so that we can seem to be very serious when conducting the business of this House. That was the only concern. I have no problem with the Motion.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you honourable Derebia, member for Muthambi ward. Honourable members I now propose that the County Assembly resolves to alter its Fifth Session Calendar and adjourns for Part I short recess on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2020. The floor is open for debate. Yes, honourable Muchiri.

**Hon. Muchiri:** Thank you honourable Speaker. I stand to support the Motion so that we can alter our calendar. It is true that we have two Bills with us as committees. I am a member of the committee on trade which is dealing with the Tharaka Nithi County Alcoholic Drinks Control Bill, 2020. The same committee dealt with the CFSP and due to time constraints it could not have concluded the report on the Bill. The same Bill will help this county when it comes to revenue collection remembering that the people who deal with alcohol had taken this county to court because we did not have the Bill. We had requested to bring the Bill on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020.

It is important to note with concern that committees also committed to respond to statements on 23<sup>rd</sup> so we need to consider that. We need to sort out some of these issues before we go on recess. The statements need to be dealt with before as well as the Bills.

I therefore support so that as we write the report we will have time to go through the Bill. Allow me to say that we are going to adhere to the health departments regulations on Corona virus so that we can help our county to grow.

I support, thank you honourable Speaker.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you honourable Muchiri. Yes, honourable Bonifacia Njeri Kigwari.

**Hon. Bonifacia:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I stand to support the Motion. The Alcoholic Drinks Control Bill, 2020 involves one of the product that brings revenue to the county. We need to sometimes be serious and be responsible and do what we were elected to do by being selfless leaders and we need to be flexible.

Even though the chair of the committee on water is not around, but today was a day when schools are being closed and so most parents went to pick their children from school.

*(Laughter)*

In the morning honourable Margret called me, she went to collect her child from school and so we need to understand the situation. We need to understand the others who are affected. As such it is good to be a parent we need to understand. I support the Motion, thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you honourable Bonifacia. Yes, honourable Asumpta.

**Hon. Asumpta:** Thank you Mr. Speaker sir. On behalf of that committee on water I am here and also we are two members. I support the Motion to alter the calendar so that we can tackle the parts which are left especially the public participation so that the Bill can be considered by the House since it is important for our people. Water is very important in our community.

I support Mr. Speaker sir.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you honourable Asumpta. Yes, honourable Mwenda Gataya, member for Mukothima.

**Hon. Gataya:** Thank you chair. I am a member of this important committee. I support the Motion.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you. Where is the mover to reply?

**Hon. Karangi: Thank you.** I thank the honourable member for supporting this Motion. The members of this House are very decent people and I believe that wherever other colleagues are they are doing something important to this county and this nation. We need to understand some things. Tharaka Nithi county yesterday registered the highest Covid-19 cases since the outbreak. 42 cases. Looking at the age of honourable Margret I think she is in the age bracket of the people who are most venerable. It is good we excuse old people so that they can avoid crowded areas Mr. Speaker because of health concerns. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you honourable Muthini Karangi. I now put the question.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Honourable members, there being no other business on the Order paper the House stands adjourned until the next sitting.

*\*\*\*The House rose at 11.15 a.m.\*\*\**